

Town of Mars Hill
MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
 Monthly Meeting

March 7, 2016
 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Chandler; Aldermen Larry Davis, Stuart Jolley, Nicholas (Nick) Honeycutt, Robert W. (Bob) Zink

OTHERS PRESENT: Archie Benton; Lee Mosley; Nancy C. Richter; Alice Moseley; Lee & Rachel Hoffman; Willa Wyatt; Gordon Randolph; Diane C. VanHelden; Jeanne Hoffman; Bernard Coates; Sara Nichols; Scott Pearson; Bruce Frost; Andrew J. Pless; John Gosnell; David Wyatt; Tommy Justus; Larry Leake, Town Attorney; Darhyl Boone, Town Manager

Mayor John Chandler called the meeting to order with the first item of business being approval of the February, 2016, Minutes. Minutes were approved as written on a motion by Nick Honeycutt, second by Stuart Jolley, and unanimous approval.

Bob Zink made a motion to approve the Agenda with no modifications. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously accepted.

The next item of business was a Public Hearing concerning a Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant Application for which the Town will make application for the purchase of the 88 acre Smith farm property for outdoor recreation. Lee Hoffman gave a brief presentation on the proposed project that will connect the 88 acres of property to the Hoffman Foundation property of almost 215 acres making a total of approximately 300 acres for outdoor recreational use. Mr. Hoffman explained that this purchase would help protect the Bailey Mountain, the highest peak in Mars Hill, from development and preserve this natural resource. Mr. Hoffman further explained that the Town has been working on a greenway system and the mapping for this work shows future connections of walks and greenways to this property. Bruce Frost asked if there were houses on this property. Mr. Hoffman explained that there is currently one house on the land. There was a question as to how the property will be patrolled. Darhyl explained if the Town is successful in acquiring the grant and the project becomes a reality, the Town plans to partner with Madison County for future recreational development and patrol of land. The asking price for the property is \$675,000.00 and the PARTF grant will provide 50% of this purchase and local funds will be needed for a match. A funding committee is being developed at this time to begin work on the funding needs to meet the required match. There was more general discussion about the land purchase and the public was in support of this project.

The next Public Hearing was to review an Application for Amending the Zoning Ordinance. Bernard Coates is requesting the Town to rezone approximately 5 acres of property on Parkway View Road from Rural Residential (R-1) to Highway Business (C-2) to allow metal storage buildings for boats, motor homes, campers, etc. The County PIN number for the property is 9757-26-9841 and 9757-36-1776. Nick Honeycutt asked Mr. Coates if he had other properties similar to this. Mr. Coates explained that he did not. Darhyl expressed that the Planning & Zoning Board expressed concern with how the property would be kept maintained and that items would be stored outside. Mr. Coates assured the Mayor &

Aldermen that there will be no item stored outside the buildings. Bob Zink asked if there were any plans for the proposed project. Mr. Coates said there were none at this time but he explained the proposed lay out of the buildings which were 12 to 14 feet in height, six buildings 40 by 100 feet. Bob Zink also explained that the property is located in the Ivy River Watershed and would require approval by the County for building on this property.

With no further discussion or public comment, Bob Zink made a motion to approve the Zoning Amendment Request to rezone the property from Rural Residential to Highway Business. The motion received a second from Nick Honeycutt. The motion carried by a vote of 3 'yes' and 2 'no.' Motion carried.

There was review and discussion concerning the Town's Water Leak Adjustment Policy. No action was taken at this time.

Being no Old Business, the next item was New Business. Stuart Jolley expressed appreciation to Police Officer Chad Wilson for his assistance at the MHU women's basketball game. Nick Honeycutt expressed appreciation for the work by Police Chief Mike Garrison.

Darhyl explained that the Town has received a \$10,000 ARC grant to do improvements on signage, sidewalks, landscaping, etc., for the down-town. This is a dollar for dollar match.

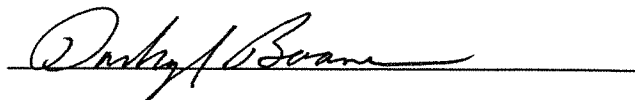
The project to connect the access road at Exit 11 seems to have received approval and the Town is waiting on confirmation when the project will begin.

Under Public Comment, Willa Wyatt explained that the windows and addition on the back of the Rosenwald School is now complete.

A motion was made by Bob Zink, second from Mayor Chandler and unanimous approval to go into Closed Session for discussion of a legal matter.

A motion was made by Bob Zink, second from Larry Davis, to return to Open Session. Motion received unanimous approval.

A motion was made by Bob Zink, second by Larry Davis, with unanimous acceptance to adjourn the meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Darhyl Boone", is written over a horizontal line.