



# Town of Mars Hill

## MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

John L. Chandler  
*Mayor*  
Nicholas A. Honeycutt  
*Vice-Mayor*  
Robert W. Zink  
*Treasurer*  
Stuart L. Jolley  
*Clerk*  
Larry H. Davis  
*Secretary*

### MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Mars Hill Town Hall – Conference Room December 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Mars Hill Town Hall.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor John Chandler; Aldermen Larry Davis, Stuart Jolley, and Robert W. (Bob) Zink. Alderman Nicholas Honeycutt was absent due to a professional obligation.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Nathan R. Bennett, Town Manager; Jamie Stokes, Town Attorney; and Chad Wilson, Police Chief

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Johnny Casey, Madison News-Record & Sentinel; and Brad Guth

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Chandler. Mayor Chandler welcomed those in attendance.

#### Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Chandler asked the Board to review the proposed agenda for approval. Upon review of the agenda, Mayor Chandler called for a motion. **Alderman Bob Zink made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.** Alderman Larry Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the agenda was unanimously approved. (Attachment A)

#### Approval of Minutes

Mayor Chandler asked the Board to review the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 4, 2024, and special meeting held on November 25, 2024. There being no modifications to the minutes, **Alderman Stuart Jolley made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024, regular meeting and November 25, 2024, special meeting as presented by management.** Alderman Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the minutes were unanimously approved.

#### Old Business

Mayor Chandler then moved to address old business.

#### Tropical Storm Helene - Update

Mayor Chandler recognized Town Manager Nathan Bennett to provide an update on the Town response to Tropical Storm Helene. Mr. Bennett advised the Board that all Town operations have returned to normal, but the State of Emergency is still in effect. Mr. Bennett informed the Board that he will complete the recovery scoping meeting with FEMA on December 5, 2024. This will begin the process of identifying potential Helene related projects that may be part of the FEMA public assistance program. This will be an ongoing process for the Town

to be reimbursed for eligible response and recovery costs. Mr. Bennett then advised that a chainsaw crew from the N.C. Forest Service has been secured to assist with tree removal from access roads in the Town watershed. This work is scheduled for December 16, 2024. The Board thanked Mr. Bennett for his report.

There was no other old business.

### New Business

Mayor Chandler then moved to address new business.

### ORDINANCE – Road Closure for Christmas Parade

Mayor Chandler recognized Town Manager Nathan Bennett to provide information regarding an ordinance for the Christmas Parade road closures. Mr. Bennett advised the Board that the Christmas Parade is scheduled for this Saturday, December 7, 2024. The parade route utilizes a number of town roads and streets and as such, the NC Department of Transportation requires a local ordinance establishing the temporary closure and identifying appropriate detour routes. Mr. Bennett presented the details of the ordinance and Chief of Police Chad Wilson provided additional information regarding parade logistics to facilitate the efficient operation of the parade. Upon completion of discussion of the matter, Mayor Chandler called for a motion. **Alderman Jolley made a motion to approve “An Ordinance Declaring a Road Closure for Mars Hill Christmas Parade, Ordinance # 294,” as presented by management.** Alderman Zink seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was unanimously approved. (Attachment B)

### Town Manager Report – Nathan Bennett, Town Manager

#### *General Update*

Mayor Chandler then recognized Mr. Bennett to provide the Town Manager Report. Mr. Bennett provided the Board with a summary of activities and upcoming items of interest. Mr. Bennett reminded the Board that the Christmas Parade is this Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. He also advised that the town-sponsored Christmas Lighting and Decorating Contest is open and accepting online registrations. Applications are due by Sunday, December 15, 2024, and the contest judging committee will evaluate the entries the following week with winners announced by December 20, 2024.

Mr. Bennett then advised the Board that the Town auditor, Gould Killian CPA Group, has notified him the FY 2024 audit is complete and has been timely filed with the N.C. Local Government Commission. Mr. Bennett states that the auditor will deliver a formal presentation at the first of the year, but the auditor stated there were no issues completing the audit, no findings, and a clean opinion was delivered. Mr. Bennett then reported that Precision Safe Sidewalks has been working the past two weeks to complete the removal of sidewalk trip hazards on South and North Main Streets, and Carl Eller Road and Bailey Street. This work should be completed by the end of the week.

Mr. Bennett then provided information regarding ongoing capital projects and other items of interest to the Board.

### Public Comment

Mayor Chandler then moved to public comment. Mayor Chandler recognized Mr. Brad Guth to provide public comment. Mr. Guth, in his capacity of president of Rotary of Madison County, invited the Board to their meeting on December 5, 2024, to hear an update from the owner of Hatley Pointe, the former Wolf Ridge Ski Resort.

There were no other public comments.

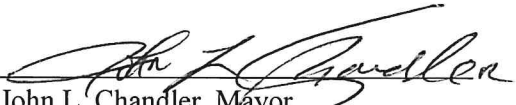
**Closed Session (Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11)**

There was no closed session.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business before the Board, Mayor Chandler called for a motion to adjourn. **Alderman Zink made a motion to adjourn.** Alderman Jolley seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Approved and authenticated this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

  
John L. Chandler, Mayor

ATTEST:



Nathan R. Bennett, Town Manager





ATTACHMENT A

# Town of Mars Hill

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

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*Mayor*

Nicholas A. Honeycutt

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## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING

Mars Hill Town Hall Conference Room

December 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – Mayor John L. Chandler
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: November 4, 2024, Regular Meeting; and November 25, 2024, Special Meeting
4. Old Business
  - a. **TROPICAL STORM HELENE - UPDATE**
5. New Business
  - a. **ORDINANCE** – Road Closure for Christmas Parade
6. Town Manager Report – Nathan Bennett, Town Manager
7. Public Comment

[Policy: Each speaker shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The public comment period is not intended to require the Board of Aldermen or staff to answer any impromptu questions. The Board will not take action on an item presented during the public comment period. The Board may refer inquiries made during the public comment period to the Town Manager to address as appropriate. If necessary, the item may be placed on the agenda of a future meeting.]
8. Closed Session (*Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)*)
9. Adjourn

### Mars Hill Town Hall

280 North Main Street • P.O. Box 368

Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754

Phone: (828) 689-2301 • Fax: (828) 689-3333



# Town of Mars Hill

ORDINANCE #: 294

## AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR MARS HILL CHRISTMAS PARADE

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen acknowledge the long tradition of providing an annual Christmas parade and activities for the pleasure to its citizens, including MHU students, Madison County residents, and neighboring county residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen acknowledge citizens and businesses realize a financial benefit from the Christmas parade; and

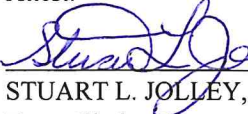
**WHEREAS**, the Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen acknowledge the Christmas parade requires approximately one (1) hour to install signage and traffic control devices, and requires approximately one (1) hour for removing signage, traffic control devices, and litter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF MARS HILL THE FOLLOWING:**


1. That pursuant to the authority granted by N.C.G.S. 20-169 that a temporary road closure is hereby declared during the day and time set forth below on the following described portion of State Highway System routes and Town streets.
2. **Date:** Saturday, December 7, 2024.
3. **Time:** 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
4. Route Subject to Temporary Closure: Beginning at intersection of North Main and Chestnut Street to the intersection of South Main and NC 213/Cascade Street to the intersection of NC 213 and Athletic Street.
5. Detour Route Description: Beginning from Eastbound on NC Highway 213/Cascade Street at intersection of NC Highway 213/ Cascade Street to SR 1560/Park Drive to SR 1559/Woods Ammons Rd to SR 1609/South Main Street to NC Highway 213/Carl Eller Road, all within the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina.  
  
Beginning from Westbound on NC Highway 213/Carl Eller road at the intersection of NC 213/Carl Eller Road and SR/1609 South Main street to SR 1559/Woods Ammons Road to SR1560/ Park Drive to NC 213/Cascade Street, all within the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina.
6. This ordinance shall become effective when signs are erected giving notice of the limits and times of the event and implementation of adequate traffic control to protect participants and to guide vehicles around the event route.

**ADOPTED** this the 2nd day of December, 2024, by the Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Attest:

  
STUART L. JOLLEY,  
Town Clerk



  
JOHN L. CHANDLER,  
Mayor