Town of Woodfin
Town Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 2025
5:00 pm

ACTION MEETING MINUTES

Council Members Present
Vice Mayor Elisabeth Ervin
Council Member Ken Kahn
Council Member Johanna Young
Council Member Eric Edgerton
Council Member Hazel Thornton

Council Members Absent
Mayor Jim McAllister
Council Member Philip Cohen

Town Staff Present
Shannon Tuch, Town Manager
John Henning, Town Attorney
Gena Powers, Town Clerk / PIO
Sheri Powers, Finance & Budget Director
Ricky Hurley, Planning Director
Jacqui Boykin, Police Chief

The meeting video can be seen in its entirety at:
https://youtube.com/live/mpYF5PtHBs4?feature=share

Vice Mayor Ervin called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Vice Mayor Ervin also acknowledged the swearing in ceremony that took place before the meeting. Officer Jennifer Laird and Officer Demitri Fiscus were sworn in and welcomed to the Woodfin Police Department.

A. Approval of the Agenda

Council Member Kahn made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Edgerton seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 5-0.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the January 21, 2025, regular and closed session meeting minutes.
2. Approval of the January 22, 2025, retreat minutes.
3. Approval of the tax collection report for the period ending December 2024.
4. SDR Contract Amendments
5. Woodfin Tax agreement with Buncombe County addendum.

Council Member Kahn made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Thornton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 5-0.

C. Public Comment– The public is invited to attend this meeting in person or view this meeting on YouTube Live: https://www.youtube.com/live/mW1GYyGFBFc?si=CSgchOZx28g4XwQW . All documents related to agenda items not published on the website may be viewed in advance of the meetings in person at Town Hall, 90 Elk Mountain Rd, Woodfin.

One member of the public spoke asking the Town Council and Town Staff 6 questions concerning the Greenway Project. The questions were are follows:
1. Reference to the funds committed for the Woodfin Greenways Post-Helene: What is the status of the federally committed funds? Who is checking and reporting if they are still committed?

2. Post-Helene: Are there now new construction guidelines that the two Woodfin greenways should incorporate?

3. Woodfin's 2017 Agreement with Buncombe County: Do you have a copy of this Agreement and frequently refer to it? What does it say about Buncombe County providing updates to Woodfin on construction progress, including maintaining a current updated greenway budget? Can the agreement and budget be handed out at the next Town Council meeting?

4. Remind us, who is paying for Buncombe County's work on our greenways, and how much Buncombe County's greenways have cost taxpayers over the last 8 years, including the professionals that Buncombe County has had working on our project? Since 2017 has there ever been an audit of the project?

5. What were Buncombe County's 2024 Woodfin greenway objectives and what was accomplished; and what are the 2025 objectives?

6. In contrast, The Woodin Wave transparency, its reporting, citizen involvement, and oversight with Baker construction seems good to excellent. Why does this same model not exist for the two Greenway projects?

Citizens may address the Board concerning various topics after being recognized by the mayor and are limited to 3 (three) minutes speaking time.

Council members agreed to change the agenda, moving New Business item C.1 to directly after public comment.

D. New Business (1:26)

1. Appointments to the Planning Board of Adjustment and Parks & Greenways Advisory Committee.
   a. Interviews and appointments for the Parks and Greenways Advisory Committee.

Council Member Edgerton made a motion to approve the appointment of all three candidates: Adam Smith, Melissa Drennan, and Katie Cox to the Parks and Greenways Advisory Committee, and amended the rules of procedure or other constraints to allow for the additional candidates to be appointed to the board. Council Member Kahn seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 5-0.

   b. Interviews and appointment for the open position on the Planning Board of Adjustment.

Council Member Edgerton made a motion to approve the appointment of Jerry VeHaun to the Planning Board of Adjustment. Council Member Young seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 5-0.

E. Presentations & Reports (56:30)

1. Town Manager Report - Shannon Tuch
2. Woodfin Police Department Annual Report – Jacqui Boykin, Woodfin Police Chief

F. New Business (Continued) (1:41:30)

1. Ministerial Review of a major subdivision plat for the High Hopes subdivision located off Ben Lippen Rd. and Desperate Ln. The properties are identified as PINs 9629-65-5672, 9629-65-4520, 9629-65-4447 in the Buncombe County tax record. The property owners are Jan and Reese Lasher, and the applicant is High Hopes of Asheville, LLC.

Council Member kahn make a motion to approve the preliminary subdivision plat for 2.8 acres as shown and find that it complies with all applicable technical requirements, subject to the conditions identified by staff. Council Member Thornton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 5-0.

G. Adjournment-

Council Member Kahn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Thornton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 5-0.

Vice Mayor Ervin adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm.

TOWN OF WOODFIN
INCORPORATED
JUNE 1971
NORTH CAROLINA

James C. McAllister/Mayor

Attest:
Gena Powers/Town Clerk