Town of Fletcher
Town Council Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 11, 2024

Call the meeting to order at: 6:00 PM
Those who were in attendance are as follows:

Mayor Preston Blakely
Mayor Pro-Tem Sheila Franklin
Councilmember Jim Player
Councilmember Trevor Lance
Town Manager Mark Biberdorf
Assistant Town Manager Heather Taylor

Note: Councilmember Keith Reed did not attend this meeting.

Moment of Silence:
Mayor Blakely suggested a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance:
Mayor Blakely let the group in the pledge

Public Comments:
No comments were made at this time.

Approval of minutes - corrections, additions or deletions

Agenda Review Meeting 2-5-24

Regular Meeting 2-12-24

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilmember Trevor Lance motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and it was seconded by Councilmember Jim Player.

Motion all in favor.

Council Updates
No comments were made at this time.

Consent Agenda

Approval of proclamation P-24-01 in honor of the spring litter sweep which runs from April 13 - April 27, 2024.

Approval of Resolution R-24-01 for Baabals to lease the concession stand at Bill Moore Community park from April 1, 2024, until August 31, 2024.

Appointment of Susan Heafner as Deputy Tax Collector

Approval of Budget Amendment #3 to the FY 23/24 Budget Ordinance for a prior year adjustment for Mills River Fire & Rescue ($20,226.00) from the recent audit.

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sheila Franklin motioned to approve the consent agenda and it was seconded by Councilmember Jim Player.

Motion all in favor.

Discussion Items

Selection of a candidate to fill an at-large vacancy on the Planning Board.

Mayor Blakely stated that council has their ballots and if there are no other questions at this time please select your preffered candidate and write your name on the ballot as well.

The council submitted their ballots to the mayor for the votes to be tallied.

Councilmember Trevor Lance thanked everyone that applied and said that there was a lot of talent in everyone that applied for this seat.

Mayor Blakely announced that the vote was unanimous for Ms Robyn Mondin.

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to approve Robyn Mondin to fill that vacancy on the planning board.

Councilmember Jim Player motioned to approve Robyn Mondin and it was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sheila Franklin.

Motion all in favor.

Proposal for consulting services from Retail Strategies

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf gave a brief overview from last week on consulting services with retail strategies. The cost is $45,000 for an annual contract. Ms Backus will be here in April to give a presentation.

Discussion Followed:

Use of Town Owned Property for Industrial Purposes

Mark Biberdorf gave an overview from last week on the Meritor property stating that the acreage is about 6.76 acres and that it has been listed with the Henderson County Partnership for $570,000.00. This was based on an appraisal that we did in 2021. There had not been much interest or activity until recently. The partnership had an inquiry and wanted to know if we were still interested in selling and if the asking price was still good. If we wanted to continue to list it, we might want to get the appraisal updated. He suggested pulling the property from the listing (due to lack of interest) and holding on to it in case we need to relocate Public Works and Parks & Recreation to the property in the future.

The council has agreed to remove the property from the listing at this time.

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to remove the "towns" Meritor property from the listing with the Partnership for Economic Development.

Councilmember Trevor Lance stated that he would make that motion, and it was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sheila Franklin.

Question on the motion: Mayor Pro-Tem Sheila Franklin asked if we were approached in the future if there was an interest I am assuming that they would reach out to us.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that yes this just removes it from being an active listing.

Motion all in favor.

Unassigned Fund Balance- Excess Reserves Recommendation

Assistant Town Manager Heather Taylor went over her report on the suggestions on what to do with the excessive fund balance reserves.

Discussion Followed:

Council has agreed to put these funds towards existing debt and there will be an amendment to the budget ordinance on the agenda for the April meeting.

Town Manager Report
On the grant assistance for greenway trails, (Rebekah Robinson with Conserving Carolina) will be here at the April meeting to talk to council about this to see if we want to go after any of these grants.

Discussion Followed:

I am still trying to set up meetings with our legislative delegation about our priority list and I have reached out to Senator Moffitt and Representative Balkcom, and I am having a difficult time setting up a meeting right now. Mayor, I may ask you to reach out to them. The other

one would be with our Congressman's office as well.

The document shred/pill drop event is set up for April 20, 2024, from 9:00 to noon, and we also will have public works available to load up free mulch for anyone who is interested.

Last week I know there were several comments about the pay study and the mayor and several others were interested in meeting with Mr. Hill and that is set up for tomorrow.

Next week on Tuesday is our budget workshop meeting and we will start at 8:30 at 8:00 there will be a light breakfast available.

Department Reports

February Reports

Adjourn

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to go into Closed Session.

Councilmember Trevor Lance motioned to go into Closed Session, and it was seconded by Councilmember Jim Player.
Motion all in favor.
Went into Closed Session at: 6:30 pm
Closed Session per NCGS 143.318.11 (5) "Contractual Matters"
Came out of Closed Session at: 7:20 pm

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to adjourn

Councilmember Trevor Lance motioned to adjourn, and it was seconded by Councilmember Jim Player.

Motion all in favor.

Adjourned at: 7:23

Upcoming Events

Budget Retreat Meeting March 19, 2024, at 8:30 am
Easter Egg hunt Saturday, March 23, 2024 12:00-2:00 pm
Agenda Review Meeting April 1, 2024, at 6:00 pm
Regular Meeting April 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm
Annual Shred/Pill Drop event on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 9:00 am til noon

Approved.

Date	Signed