Town of Fletcher
Town Council Agenda Review Meeting 4-1-24
Minutes
April 1, 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 Trevor Lance
Councilmember Keith Reed
Councilmember Jim Player
Town Manager Mark Biberdorf

Moment of Silence:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public Comments:

Brandon Olsen of 33 Stoney Brook Court Fletcher spoke on baseball & softball season opening on Saturday and said that they were having a raffle and asking for donations of items for the food pantry.

He also spoke on the recommended budget amendment to use the excess money in the fund balance to pay off excess debt, stating that given current interest rates, that he did not think it was a good idea at this time that it would be better to keep the money in the bank for now.

Approval of minutes - corrections, additions or deletions

Agenda Review Meeting 3-4-24

Regular Meeting 3-11-24

Pre-Budget Meeting 3-19-24

No comments were made at this time.

Council Updates
Mayor Blakley commented on the Easter Egg Hunt and how Parks & Recreation did a great job and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Consent Agenda

Approval of budget amendment # 4 to the FY 23/24 budget ordinance

Approval of budget amendment #5 to the FY 23/24 Budget Ordinance.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf mentioned that on budget amendment # 4, this was to cover additional expenses on the current paving project and also to cover the repair of a guard rail off of Old Cane Creek Road.

On budget amendment #5 is for paying down the balance on two of the loans on town hall that Heather talked about last month.

Discussion Items

Discussion of proposal from Retail Strategies for Town Center project - Lacey Bacchus, Senior Director of Community Partnerships

Lacy Bacchus from Retail Strategies gave a PowerPoint presentation on a proposal for the town center project and answered questions that council had for her about the presentation.

Discussion Followed:

The council has agreed to keep this item on the agenda for more discussion next week at the regular meeting.

Presentation on recently completed pay classification study - David Hill, Piedmont Triad Regional Council.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that Mr. Hill would be here next week to give results from the recent pay study that was conducted and answer questions. He is going towards the recommendation that moves us up in the market area for employees.

Discussion on potential grant resources for cane creek greenway extension - Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf gave a brief overview of the information that Rebekah Robinsion will be discussing next week about extending the cane creek greenway towards the Meritor property.

Discussion Followed:

Presentation of transit feasibility study for Apple Country Transit - Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner for Henderson County

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that he has had some discussions with Jana Bianculli (senior planner with Henderson county) who will be here next week. They are in charge of the money that comes in for Apple County Transit. She has provided a copy of the study and the recommendations.

Discussion Followed:

Town Manager Report

On the meetings with our legislative delegation, I have reached out to them several times trying to set up meetings and have been unsuccessful. I know that councilmember Trevor Lance saw Senator Balkcom at an event recently, and she has expressed that if we could provide more details of what we are looking for, she would work on it. So I am going to put together a list. I am also working on meetings with our congressional folks from Senator Bud's office and Senator Edwards's office.

We have our Shred Event/ Pill Drop event on April 20 in the south parking lot from 9:00 to noon, and we will get the word out on it. I will do a blackboard call.

The council approved a proclamation last month for the Litter Sweep, and we will get information out on that to see if anyone from the public is interested in participating. We will get a list together of the streets that need pickup and provide the bags. The official Litter sweep is April 13 - April 27.

Thank you for a good budget workshop on March 19. The memo that we received from the league that helps us with a projection of our state shared revenue on sales tax, utilities sales tax and powell bill funds that I have shared with you. The next thing is putting together our general fund revenues, and we will get another set of values from the assesors office this month and that will be used for our preliminary final of values. I will be working on our final expense requests with dept heads. With all this information I will work on our draft balance budget for our workshop on May 9th.

Department Reports

March Reports

Adjourn

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Keith Reed motioned to adjourn, and it was seconded by Councilmember Trevor Lance.

Motion all in favor.

Adjourned at: 7:21 pm

Closed Session per NCGS 143.318.11 (5) "Contractual Matters"

Upcoming Events

Regular Meeting April 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm
LGCCA Meeting Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 3:00 pm "Mills River hosting"
Annual Shred/Pill Drop event on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 9:00 am til noon
Agenda Review Meeting May 6, 2024, at 6:00 pm

Budget Retreat Presentation May 9, 2024, at 9:00 am
Regular Meeting May 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm (Multipurpose Room)

Approved.

_____ _____

Date Signed

Town of Fletcher
Town Council Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 8, 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 Trevor Lance
Councilmember Keith Reed
Councilmember Jim Player
Town Manager Mark Biberdorf

Moment of Silence:

Mayor Blakely led the group in a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Blakely led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Brandon Olsen of 33 Stoney Brook Court Fletcher commented on the opening day of baseball and how well it went. They collected 400 lbs of food for the food pantry at Calvary Episcopal Church.

Approval of minutes - corrections, additions or deletions

Agenda Review Meeting 3-4-24

Regular Meeting 3-11-24

Pre-Budget Meeting 3-19-24

Mayor Blakely asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes as presented and, if not, can I have a motion to approve the minutes.

Councilmember Trevor Lance motioned to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Councilmember Keith Reed.

Motion all in favor.

Council Updates

Mayor-Pro Tem Sheila Franklin asked if anyone was attending the Partnership for Economic Development update tomorrow at noon.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that he planned on attending.

Consent Agenda

Approval of budget amendment # 4 to the FY 23/24 budget ordinance

Approval of budget amendment #5 to the FY 23/24 budget ordinance.

Mayor Blakely asked for any comments or suggestions on the consent agenda and, if not, can have a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

Motion all in favor.

Discussion Items

Presentation on recently completed pay and classification study - David Hill, Piedmont Triad Regional Council.

Mr. David Hill of Piedmont Triad Regional Council gave a PowerPoint presentation on the pay classification study that he recently completed and answered questions that the council had for him.

Discussion Followed:

Discussion on potential grant resources for cane creek greenway extension - Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina.

Rebekah Robinson of Conserving Carolina gave an update on potential grant funding for greenway trails. She passed out information on the upcoming grants to council. (see attached)

Discussion Followed:

Council agrees to apply for the Connecting Communities to State Trails grant at this time and will revisit the discussion on the Great Trails State grant at a later date.

Presentation of transit feasibility study for Apple Country Transit - Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner for Henderson County

Janna Bianculli from Henderson county gave a PowerPoint presentation on the study they recently completed on the Apple Country Transit and answered questions that the council had for her on the presentation.

Discussion Followed:

Continued discussion and possible approval of a contract with Retail Strategies.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf gave a brief overview from last week about the presentation from retail strategies and asked the council if they had any questions on the proposed contract.

Discussion Followed:

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to approve the contact with retail strategies.

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

Motion all in favor.

Town Manager Report

I am still trying to set up meetings with our legislators and Councilmember Lance had run into Representative Balkcom, and she had mentioned putting a list together of items that we wanted help with. I put together a chart that you have in front of you (see attached) of these items.

Discussion Followed:

It was suggested to add the license plate readers that the chief was requesting in his upcoming budget.

The Town Manager will update the list to add this item.

The Shred event/pill drop will be in the south side parking lot from 9:00 to noon on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

The Spring Litter Sweep is from April 13 through 27 that DOT promotes and I wil put a call out for people to see if anyone wants to participate we provide the garbage bags and vests.

On the Budget process we are getting closer to finalizing our expenses, estimates, and requests, We are working on revenue estimates right now and the last thing that I am waiting on is the final tax values from the county. I am hoping to have a final draft at the end of this month. My goal is to do this without a rate increase.

The last thing is an update on crown castle and their placement of the small cell wireless faciilites. They have finalized 6 nodes (locations) that would be in town on DOT roads. The

one in Windsor Forrest that has created the most issues has not been specifically decided as of yet that it will be on Fanning Bridge Road somewhere but that have not decided the specific location. I don't have the new map as of yet when I do I will share it with you.

Department Reports

March Reports

Adjourn
Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to enter into Closed Session for "Contractual Matters"

Councilmember Trevor Lance motioned to go into Closed Session, and it was seconded by Councilmember Jim Player. .

Motion all in favor.

Went into the Closed Session at: 7:56 pm
Closed Session per NCGS 143.318.11 (5) "Contractual Matters"
Came out of the Closed Session at: 8:50 pm

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Keith Reed motioned to adjourn and it was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sheila Franklin.

Motion all in favor.

Adjourned at: 8:51 pm

Upcoming Events

LGCCA Meeting Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 3:00 pm "Mills River hosting"
Annual Shred/Pill Drop event on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 9:00 am til noon
Agenda Review Meeting May 6, 2024, at 6:00 pm
Budget Retreat Presentation May 9, 2024, at 9:00 am
Regular Meeting May 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm (Multipurpose Room)

Approved.

Date	Signed

Grant opportunities to expand Cane Creek Greenway

	Connecting Communities to State Trails Grant	Great Trails State Grant
Application Deadline	May	September
Award Notifications	Fall	Early 2025
Award Amount	Up to $500,000	Between $100,000 and $500,000*
Match Required	1:1 or 50%	1:1 or 50%
Eligible Applicants	Only municipalities < 25,000 pop. Connecting to a state trail (14) within 6 miles	Municipalities, counties, nonprofits, regional council of government
Eligible Projects	Unpaved connections to a state trail (14) within 6 miles (construction)	Any trail (planning, design, land acquisition, construction, trail amenities, maintenance)
Funds Available	$1,930.500	$25,000,000

* $100,000 minimum for planning, design, land acquisition for all trails and for construction of natural surface trails, $250,000 minimum for maintenance of paved trail, and $300,000 minimum for construction of paved trails

Town of Fletcher
Requests for Legislative Assistance

Project Name	Organization	Location	Cost Information	Project Description & Cost Share Opportunities
Cane Creek Greenway Extension	Town of Fletcher	Areas along Cane Creek extending from Bill Moore Community Park in Fletcher toward the French Broad River.	$3,000,000 - $5,600,000	The Town of Fletcher has been working for several years with adjoining property owners and Conserving Carolina to extend the Cane Creek Greenway. This would help to create a new leg of our greenway system that could connect with a larger regional system. Funding from the legislature could be used as a potential grant match along with local funding. The Town is also pursuing federal grants for this project.
Fanning Bridge Road Sewer Extension Project	Town of Fletcher	Westfield Road, North Hudson Lane, and Dogwood Terrace located off of Fanning Bridge Road	$700,000 - $900,000	Certain areas of Fletcher do not have sanitary sewer service but could greatly benefit from this service due to struggling septic systems. One particular area that would benefit from the extension of sewer is a neighborhood located off of Fanning Bridge Road. This neighborhood consists of the properties located on Westfield Road, North Hudson Lane, and Dogwood Terrace. The Town has been in communication with the Metropolitan Sewerage District (MSD) to discuss the logistics for extending sewer service to the Fanning Bridge Road neighborhood.