

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**April 26, 2016**

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**THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN** held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of Town Hall, 9 South Main Street, Waynesville, NC.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Gavin Brown  
Alderman Gary Caldwell  
Alderman Jon Feichter  
Alderman Julia Freeman  
Alderman LeRoy Roberson

The following staff members were present:

Mike Morgan, Interim Town Manager  
Woodrow Griffin, Town Attorney  
Amie Owens, Town Clerk

The following media representatives were present:

Mary Ann Enloe, the Mountaineer

1. Welcome /Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gavin Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that there had been several highlighted additions to the calendar including:

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Budget Work Session – special called meeting. Interim Manager Morgan noted that the budget books would be distributed to board members by Thursday, April 28.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – The Whole Bloomin’ Thing Festival in Frog Level, sponsored by the Historic Frog Level Merchants Association

2. Adoption of Minutes

***Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Roberson, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016 regular meeting, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

3. Proclamations

a. National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 5, 2016

Mayor Brown noted that the National Day of Prayer would be Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and that in Haywood County, there would be an observance at Noon on the Historic Courthouse lawn. The Mayor will read the proclamation aloud as part of that service.

b. Letter Carriers' Food Drive – Saturday, May 14, 2016

Mayor Brown explained that the annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive would be held on Saturday, May 14 and encouraged the board and those in the audience to place non-perishable items at their mailboxes in participation.

**B. PRESENTATION**

4. Forest Management in the Waynesville Watershed

Dr. Peter Bates, Associate Professor of the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resources at Western Carolina University (WCU) provided an update regarding Forest Management activities in the Waynesville Watershed. Also in attendance was Paul Carlson who was instrumental in the development of water quality and forest management practices and processes at the watershed beginning in 2004.

Dr. Bates thanked the board for the time to provide the update and reminded members of the three areas of property easements including: a forever wild easement, a section with no easement and working forest conservation easement. Dr. Bates noted that the goal of forest stewardship was to maintain a healthy forest by increasing natural diversity allowing for growth that is more resistant and resilient to future forest stresses. He explained that the area had lost much of the tree diversity; diseases that have changed the species; not having wind storms or frequent fires (called disturbances) has resulted in loss of oaks, chestnut and hickory trees. Mountain laurel is spreading and will crowd out other species.

The goal moving forward is to design treatments that mimic natural, stand-level disturbances and facilitate natural patterns of stand development. Dr. Bates offered two options: 1. Do nothing and allow nature to 'take its course' or, 2. Implement treatments at a scale that represents natural rates of disturbances including the harvesting of certain tree areas and planning and planting other species.

Dr. Bates added that WCU will continue to monitor the water quality at the watershed and reported that the water is some of the cleanest anywhere with minimal turbidity. Alderman Feichter asked, what is turbidity? Dr. Bates noted it was the color of water and how much light is blocked. Turbidity is usually an indication of sediment in the water. WCU and the Town both work with Haywood Waterways to monitor fish and other wildlife statistics within the creeks in the area.

Dr. Bates reminded the board about an issue that was noted at the previous board retreat related to white pine harvesting and how to bring the timber out due to concerns about traveling through the easement. Mayor Brown noted that Dr. Bates could work with easement holders who would need to agree and then come to the town to see about moving forward with another foresting

project. Mayor Brown inquired how the choice for the next treatment area would be made. Dr. Bates explained that he has been looking at certain areas based on the identification and GIS coordinates of where oaks are currently and where the mountain laurels are taking over.

Mayor Brown commented that the board was pleased to work with WCU so that students could use the watershed as a hands-on laboratory for learning. Alderman Roberson inquired how long the recovery would be for the oaks. Dr. Bates answered decades due to the fact that oak seedlings usually die out about 1 to 2 feet tall because they do not get the required light.

Alderman Feichter asked, why are we losing the oaks and hickories rather than other species? Dr. Bates answered that these are fire adaptive species and without fire there is no regeneration.

Mayor Brown thanked Dr. Bates and Mr. Carlson for their successful work in the watershed.

### C. NEW BUSINESS

#### 5. Rolling Street Closure – SARGE’S 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Dog Walk

Mayor Brown explained that the Town had received a request from SARGE’S for their 11<sup>th</sup> annual downtown dog walk on Saturday, August 6, 2016. This event has been approved for the past 10 years.

***Alderman Freeman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Caldwell to approve the rolling street closure of Main Street from Church Street to the Historic Courthouse for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Dog Walk on Saturday, August 6, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

#### 6. Request Use of Sulphur Springs Park for Re-enactment and Celebration of Last Shot Fired (request from Col. William Holland Thomas Camp 2231 – Sons of Confederate Veterans)

Manager Morgan noted that a request had been received to use Sulphur Springs Park for a Sons of Confederate Veterans (SOCV) reenactment on May 6th and May 7th. This is for a memorial get together marking the last shot of the civil war that was fired near that location. The camp would like to hold a function from about 3 pm on Friday the 6th to about 3 pm on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> and plan to fire a few "blank" shots from period rifles (powder only, no bullets) for the recreation of the event about 11 am on Saturday. Police and Recreation have both weighed in and as long as proper notification is provided to the surrounding neighborhood regarding firearms display and the necessary port-a-johns are arranged by SOCV. Manager Morgan added that the group would like to do a 21-gun salute at the gravesite of William Holland Thomas in the Greenhill Cemetery at 2:00 p.m., if there are no additional services taking place.

Mayor Brown asked how the neighborhood would be notified about the shots. Ms. Owens would send out a Code Red alert and post to the town website and social media. The Mayor requested that a door hanger be placed on the homes in the surrounding area as another means of communication.

*Alderman Feichter made a motion, seconded by Alderman Roberson to approve the function at Sulphur Springs Park from 3:00 p.m. May 6<sup>th</sup> to 3:00 p.m. on May 7<sup>th</sup> with approval for the firing of period rifles with no ammunition at 11:00 a.m. in the park and approval for a memorial service at the gravesite of Col. William Holland Thomas with 21-gun salute at 2:00 p.m. in the Greenhill Cemetery if no other services are occurring, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

**D. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

7. Manager's Report - Interim Town Manager Mike Morgan

Town Hall Day

Manager Morgan noted that June 8th is Town Hall Day in Raleigh. If board members would like to attend, contact Ms. Owens to make reservations. Manager Morgan did note that there would be a potential conflict since June 7th is the public hearing for the budget.

Manager Search

Manager Morgan explained that the job posting for the Town Manager position was on several different sites and list serves. He spoke with Dr. Straus who noted that the quantity of applications is not up where he would like, but quality of the applicants is good.

Miscellaneous items

- The Town received the Medford Grant for \$11,800 which will be used for beautification at Chestnut Park.
- The Elysina Avenue project has been completed and the new paved street looks great.
- An article was published in the Asheville Citizen-Times regarding lead in water lines due to the crisis in Flynt, Michigan. The Town has received calls with concerns related to the water. A response was drafted by David Foster, Public Services Director that is posted on the website. There is no lead in the water; none of the infrastructure has lead. Under federal regulations the Town tests for lead. Manager Morgan added that when there is lead that appears in testing, it is from the fixtures in the home rather than the waterlines.

8. Attorney's report – Town Attorney Woody Griffin

Attorney Griffin had nothing to report.

**E. COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD**

Mayor Brown noted that he had received a call about the Waynesville Middle School's National Anthem interruption. There was a misunderstanding that this had occurred in Waynesville rather than at the 9/11 Memorial in New York. The Mayor explained the situation to the caller who apologized for the misunderstanding.

Mayor Brown provided a copy of a public information request received from Walt Logan related to agreements with Lake Junaluska officials. As there are no such agreements, a letter to that effect has been sent. Mayor Brown wanted the board to be aware of this request and the research that was done.

Alderman Feichter noted a letter had been received from Jane Bowman regarding trash pick up that had been forwarded to Manager Morgan, David Foster and Police Chief Bill Hollingsed.

Alderman Roberson inquired about the concern from Sharon Smith related to cows in a neighbors yard. Manager Morgan noted that there was not much that can be done as the neighbor is in compliance with the ordinance. Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director and Fire Chief Joey Webb had met with the neighbor who has the cows and the neighbor is in compliance.

**F. ADJOURN**

***There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Freeman to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.***

ATTEST

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Gavin A. Brown, Mayor

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Michael J. Morgan, Interim Town Manager

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Amanda W. Owens, Town Clerk