

**BANNER ELK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
MINUTES**

The Banner Elk Town Council met on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 6:00p.m. in person for Council and staff with public participation. Remote viewing was offered through zoom.

Council Members present: Mayor Brenda Lyerly, David Lecka, Charles VonCanon, and Robert Tufts and, Mike Dunn

Staff present: Town Manager Rick Owen, Attorney Johnathan Green, Zoning Administrator Riley Pudney, and Police Chief Kevin Hodges.

Call Meeting to Order

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Lyerly called the regular Town Council meeting of September 12, 2022, to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lyerly led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Council Member Charles VonCanon opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of August 8, 2022, Minutes

Mayor Lyerly asked the Council to review and approve the minutes from the August 2022 meeting. With no changes made, Councilman VonCanon motioned to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Councilman Tufts. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Stated Agenda

Mayor Lyerly asked if there was a motion to approve the stated agenda. Councilman Dunn motioned to approve the agenda with a second by Councilman Tufts. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor Lyerly opened the meeting to comments from the public who were not on the stated agenda. There were no comments made.

Call for Public Hearing- The Perry House

Zoning Administrator Riley Pudney informed the Council of a request to rezone The Perry House. The current zoning is C-1 and the request is to rezone the property to R-2. The reason for the request would be to increase the buffer requirement for any neighboring commercial developments. Zoning Administrator Riley Pudney explained that it was a straightforward request and asked the Council to call for a public hearing. With no questions or comments, Councilman Tufts motioned to call for a public hearing and was seconded by Councilman VonCanon. The motion passed unanimously.

Council of Government Annual Maintenance Agreement

Manager Rick Owen explained to the Council that this was a request to allow for the Town Manager to enter into a contract with the Council of Governments. The contract would allow for the COG to maintain the data files on the town maps and GIS software. Town Manager Owen stated that the contract was for \$7,000 and that the majority of the expenses could be covered in the current Town budget and would not immediately require a budget amendment. Councilman Tufts stated that the work the COG does is beneficial to the Town and its employees and helps keep records current. Manager Owen agreed. With no further comments or questions, Councilman Lecka motioned to allow for the contract to be entered into and was seconded by Councilman Dunn. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager's Update

Town Manager Owen provided reports to the Council in their packets and stated staff was open to any questions. Town Manager Owen also informed the Council on a change order for the Culver Street Project for the drainage that needed to be installed and the curb and gutter and paving. He stated that the work, which includes speed bumps, repaving and repairing storm drains, will not begin until after the Woolly Worm festival. Councilman Tufts asked if he had an estimate for the change order. Manager Owen said he did not but is working on getting a quote for the work. Manager Owen also stated that the condition of the road will be sufficient throughout the winter, saying that it has been compacted and had been designed to be finished in the future.

Secondly, Manager Owen reminded the Council of the 3rd annual Community Picnic at Lee's McRae's south campus on Thursday the 15th. He said that the TDA and Town are splitting half of the cost of the event. The Town will be utilizing the roadside sign to increase public awareness of the event.

Lastly, Town Manager Owen reminded the Council of the upcoming golf tournament on September 26th. He is hoping to have around 20 teams sign up. He also informed the Council on the Art on the Green events and how the Town received good feedback from the vendors. He believes around \$40,000 was raised from the 4 shows.

Other Business

Councilman VonCanon had three comments he wanted to make to Manager Owen. The first was seeing if the half "parking" space by the fire department could be marked off as no parking due to it being dangerous when someone parks there. Manager Owen agreed and said he will have it painted accordingly. Secondly, Councilman VonCanon was concerned over the overgrowth of the no unmuffled break sign, and it not being seen by trucks. Manager Owen agreed to have the vegetation removed. Lastly, Councilman VonCanon asked why the new crosswalk stripes near the Mill Pond were painted over/covered up. Manager Owen explained that the DOT does not recognize that as an official crosswalk and had the lines painted over after the paving contractor had painted it assuming that it should be there.

Councilman Tufts asked Manager Owen if he would help facilitate bringing back the quarterly meetings between the neighboring towns. Manager Owen said he will discuss it the coming Friday at a lunch meeting with other managers. Councilman Tufts also asked when the Town's tree lighting would be. Manager Owen said that it usually is on the same weekend of the Chamber events, which would be December 2nd.

With no further comments or questions, Councilman VonCanon motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Councilman Tufts. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Mayor Brenda Lyerly

Attested

Approved: