

**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
February 22, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER- 6:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m at the Town Council Chambers located in Boone. Mayor Tim Futrelle presided. Council members present included Mayor Pro-Tem Edie Tugman, Todd Carter, Virginia Roseman, Dalton George, and Becca Nenow. Staff present included Town Manager Amy Davis, Town Clerk Nicole Harmon, Public Works Director Rick Miller, Planning Deputy Director Stacey Miller, Fire Chief Jimmy Isaacs, Police Chief Andy Le Beau, Sustainability and Special Projects Manager George Santucci. Town Attorney Allison Meade was also in attendance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

TENTATIVE AGENDA ADOPTION

Upon a motion by Todd Carter, seconded by Dalton George, Council voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Futrelle announced free tote bags made from recycled cotton were available at Public Works.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one was signed up to speak during the public comment period.

REQUESTED APPEARANCES

ERIC WOOLRIDGE - DESTINATION BY DESIGN

Eric Woolridge of Destination by Design gave presentation regarding the proposed Imagine Watauga plan. At the conclusion of the presentation, Eric asked for permission to be able to share this proposal in March at a public meeting with Watauga County. All were in agreement to allow Eric to move forward with the presentation of the proposal. Priorities noted by members included the toning down of signage at the Greenway, removal of logos on trash cans located throughout town, increased signage, and updated entry welcome signs. Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Tugman, seconded by Virginia Roseman, Council voted unanimously to allow Eric Woolridge permission to be able to share the proposal as presented.

MONICA CARUSO - WATAUGA COUNTY LIBRARY

Monica Caruso presented Council with the Watauga County Library's annual report. A complete copy of the report can be viewed at <http://boonenc.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx>

ADOPTION OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION - DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Tugman, seconded by Virginia Roseman, Council voted unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

1. Proclamation – Developmental Disability Awareness Month - 2023

Proclamation- Developmental Disability Awareness Month- 2023

Whereas: A Developmental Disability is diverse group of chronic conditions that are due to mental or physical impairments that arise before adulthood.

Whereas: The condition is likely to continue indefinitely and limits the individual in 3 or more of the following areas: Self-care, Receptive and expressive language, Learning, Mobility, Self-direction, Capacity for independent living, and Economic self-sufficiency.

Whereas: The condition creates the individual's need for a combination of special, interdisciplinary services, individualized/person-centered supports, and other forms of long-term assistance that are individually planned and coordinated.

Whereas: The disability experience is a natural part of life and is valued as a part of our rich diversity.

Whereas: Disability is a social construct. The 'problem' is not the medical condition that resides within the individual, but the 'problem' is that society does not create welcoming, supporting, and inclusive environments, policies, and/or systems for all to promote equality and acceptance in all areas of life, including schools, places of employment, and in our communities.

Whereas: The most effective way to increase awareness is through everyone's openness to learn and acknowledge that there are systemic barriers that reduce the likelihood of those with disabilities enjoying equitable experiences and living independent, productive lives within their communities.

Whereas: Policies must be developed, attitudes shaped, and equitable experiences be offered to all individuals, including those with developmental disabilities.

Whereas: Citizens should do all in their power to:

- Recognize the value of the disability experience in our lives and the valued role it has in our rich diversity.
- Recognize the barriers presented to those with disabilities across all aspects of their lives.
- Create ways to include everyone, especially those with developmental disabilities, to be fully included in all aspects of life.
- Understand the losses (financial, spiritual, human rights, contributions to community, and otherwise) when our communities segregate and create barriers for those with disabilities.
- Demand policymakers no longer invest in segregation and create inclusive, equitable policies and systems for all.

And, Now, therefore, I the Mayor of the Town of Boone, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

and galvanize efforts that will lead our communities and policymakers to create real system changes so people with developmental disabilities will enjoy equitable, inclusive lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Tim Futrelle, have hereunto set my hand and caused my seal this 22nd day of February, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty- three.

Tim Futrelle, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____(SEAL)
Nicole Harmon, Clerk

COUNCIL MATTERS

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION - ANTI SEMITISM EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Todd Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Virginia Roseman, to approve the Anti-Semitism Education and Awareness Resolution as presented.

Mayor Futrelle stated that his heart was saddened by the attack on the Jewish community, and that it did not represent what the community stood for which was love, acceptance, and inclusivity. He added that this type of behavior was unacceptable and believed that it was important that Council speak out against it as a part of the community. Mayor Futrelle continued by saying that it was important that the community come together to show its support and solidarity with those who felt like they were persecuted.

Todd Carter stated that he was enraged about the recent attack on the Jewish community. He added that the Jewish community was vital to Boone and that he would always stand up to shut down hate.

Virginia Roseman apologized to the Jewish community and stated that it was her hope that love would outshine hate.

Dalton George stated that it was the duty of the Town Council to spotlight and condemn this evil act and thanked the community member who helped draft the resolution.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tugman indicated that she had heard from many people in the community how appalled they were at the situation and that she found that to be comforting and reassuring.

Mayor Futrelle then read the following resolution into record:

ANTISEMITISM EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, incidents involving antisemitic vandalism and hate have occurred in Boone, NC; and

WHEREAS, a recent incident involved an individual placing a Nazi Flag on the sign of the High Country's Temple; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Boone is fully committed to the safety, security, and equal treatment of all its residents; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism is the centuries-old bigotry and form of racism faced by Jewish people simply because they are Jews; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism includes blaming Jews when things go wrong; calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or extremist view of religion; or making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotyped allegations about Jews; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 14 percent increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and found that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up 60.3 percent of all religion-based hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, according to statistics gathered by the Anti-Defamation League, NC saw a 131 % increase in antisemitic incidents; and

WHEREAS, in response to the rise of antisemitic acts, Catherine Truitt, North Carolina Superintendent of Public Schools, explained that — "The danger of what happens when hate goes unchallenged, and there is indifference in the face of oppression ".

WHEREAS, it is critical that the Town Council of Boone take leadership and stand in solidarity with its Jewish community to send a message that discriminatory and hate-motivated behavior or violence will not be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, in Nov. of 2021, an Act was included in the NC Budget which clearly defines antisemitism and sets guidelines for Holocaust education, and the Town of Boone has the power to support such acts; and

WHEREAS, each individual has the ability to promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, and reject hate and bias in all forms; and

WHEREAS, all persons are encouraged to report any such antisemitic incidents to the proper authorities for investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Boone Town Council affirms its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Jewish community members and to ensuring that Jewish residents and organizations know they are not alone and that the Boone Town Council is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry;'

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Boone Town Council condemns antisemitic acts and statements as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of Boone.

The Boone Town Council joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of all community members, including the Jewish community, and in combating hate crimes targeting Jews.

That the Town of Boone will condemn and prosecute to the full extent of the law instances of hate crimes in our community .

The Boone Town Council urges residents to join us in calling attention to these harms and in denouncing antisemitism, and better educating themselves and each other on the Holocaust. While supporting the adoption of expansions in education related to the Holocaust.

This is the 22nd day of February, 2023

Tim Futrelle, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____(SEAL)
Nicole Harmon, Clerk

APPOINTMENT TO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Virginia Roseman stated that she appreciated the applicant's willingness to serve on the commission, but was concerned at the lack of time he had spent in the community. Members asked the Town Clerk to reach out to the applicant to clarify some responses on his application.

APPOINTMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Dalton George nominated Bhuwan Thapa to serve on the Sustainability Committee. Hearing no further nominations, Mayor Futrelle called for a vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

Bhuwan's term will expire on June 30, 2026.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Dalton George, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Tugman, Council voted unanimously to enter into closed session at 7:46 p.m. pursuant to:

1. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a)(1), to review, approve and seal closed session minutes from Council's prior closed session(s).
2. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with the Town Attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Town Council and obtain legal advice, consider and/or give instructions to the attorney concerning one or more potential legal claims.

At the advice of the Town Attorney, it was decided that no closed session was needed. Upon a motion by Virginia Roseman, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Tugman, Council voted unanimously to exit closed session and adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Nicole Harmon, Town Clerk

Tim Futrelle, Mayor