

**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
March 13, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 in the Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road in Boone. Mayor Futrelle presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Dalton George, Todd Carter, Virginia Roseman, Edie Tugman, and Eric Plaag. Staff present included Town Manager Amy Davis, Town Clerk Nicole Harmon-Church, Public Works Director Todd Moody, Planning Director Jane Shook (remote), Major Shane Robbins, Sustainability and Special Projects Manager George Santucci, Public Works Deputy Director Josh Eller, Police Chief Andy Le Beau, and Cultural Resources Director Mark Freed (remote). Town Attorney Allison Meade was also in attendance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Futrelle announced the following board vacancies:

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

One regular position, Two alternate positions

CULTURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

Three regular positions; One student position

DOWNTOWN BOONE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

One Council-appointed position

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

One regular position

PLANNING COMMISSION

Two regular positions

WORK SESSION

Mayor Futrelle opened a public comment session for people who were in the audience.

Jonathan Miller of Boone spoke regarding his request to repeal the municipal vehicle tax. He asked three fundamental questions: Is the fee assessed equitably? Are residents receiving the maximum benefit from the fee? How is the money from the fee allocated? Mr. Miller indicated that he did not believe citizens were receiving the maximum benefit from the funds received from this tax. He suggested that, instead of using the revenue from the municipal vehicle tax, all of the parking revenue go toward street and sidewalk repairs. Mr. Miller also suggested the Town cease to employ expensive public utilities lobbyists to save money. He completed his comments by asking that a Council member raise this issue as an agenda item at a future Town Council meeting.

Work Session:

Mayor Pro-Tem George brought up the issue of single-use plastics within Town of Boone operation. He acknowledged concerns he had heard from department heads and stated that he looked forward to working to discontinue the use of single-use plastics within the Town's operations by the end of 2025. Mayor Pro-Tem George said there would be an exception for emergency services.

Mayor Pro-Tem George then began discussing the Town-owned property where the Leola Community Gardens are located. Staff noted that the gardens were a condition of the Walmart expansion and that Walmart subsequently leased the property from the Town to fulfill this requirement. She added that the Town reimbursed the garden manager for property insurance each year. Council member George suggested the gardens be renamed to bring more attention to them. Mayor Pro-Tem George indicated that he would like the Town to be more involved with the

gardens and their upkeep. Council member Plaag asked whether the gardens would be eligible for Outside Agency Funding, and Manager Davis answered that they would. Mayor Pro-Tem George noted some concerns from the public about safety since the gardens did not appear to be actively managed. Council member Roseman asked members to consider the gardens' probability of flooding, as well as the frequent use of the nearby bridge by the homeless population for shelter. Council member Tugman suggested that Walmart, as the leaseholder, might be willing to support the gardens financially. Sustainability and Special Projects Manager George Santucci offered funds from his budget to help with the maintenance and upkeep of the gardens. He added that the nearby stream banks were eroding badly and hoped to seek funds in the future for a preservation and restoration project. Mayor Futrelle said that this area would be included in the upcoming stormwater assessment, the findings of which could be used to acquire funding.

Mayor Pro-Tem George stated that he would like to see the Town participate in the No-Mow May initiative again this year and suggested that staff identify tracts of Town-owned land that could be left unmowed throughout the year. Public Works Director Todd Moody answered that there were opportunities to do so but some properties, such as the Boone Cemetery and Daniel Boone Gardens, would have to be mowed. Council member Carter referenced some confusion caused by the lack of mowing last year and suggested that signs be installed on Town properties that would not be mowed. Mayor Pro-Tem George stated that the Bee City program that the Town participates in offers signage for free. Council member Roseman agreed that more education and community outreach about the program was needed. Council member Plaag suggested that a code change may be necessary to allow property owners to leave their grass unmowed during other times of the year. Mayor Pro-Tem George agreed. Attorney Meade read the nuisance ordinance and suggested a code change consistent with No-Mow May. Mayor Pro-Tem George asked staff to continue presenting the proclamation regarding No-Mow May. Council member Tugman suggested that staff plant wildflower seeds at Strawberry Hill and mentioned that the Boy Scouts often worked on trail restoration.

Council member Plaag announced that he had been discussing potential parking changes with staff. He stated that one possibility was an incentive program to subsidize employees who choose to bike or walk to work. Council member Plaag noted that this had previously been recommended for Town of Boone employees and said he would like input on the incentive program. Council member Roseman expressed the need for more satellite parking locations and suggested the Council contact the County. She added that this plan would be complicated since most Town employees did not live in town. Council member Carter added that when the multimodal path along Bamboo was complete, it would be easier for people in that area to bike. Council member George indicated that there could be opportunities to work with the Chamber of Commerce. He asked that a poll be created regarding employees' mode of travel so that staff could be better informed. Council member Tugman agreed with Council member Roseman that it felt unfair to ask Town employees to utilize satellite parking or bus systems since it would add significant time to their commute. Council member Plaag reiterated that his proposal was not a policy but an incentive program for those who wished to participate. Council member Tugman also noted that the lack of bike lanes along state-owned roads such as King Street and Blowing Rock Road were not something the Town had the power to address.

Council member Roseman acknowledged that the Town could not restrict the use of plastic shopping bags due to state law but asked whether the Town had the authority to institute a monetary levy on their usage. Attorney Meade answered that the Town did not have that authority but agreed with Mayor Futrelle when he suggested that a business or company could initiate such a charge. Council member Plaag suggested the implementation of an annual sustainability award to acknowledge a business's commitment to sustainability practices.

TENTATIVE AGENDA ADOPTION

Upon a motion by Council member Roseman, seconded by Council member Tugman, Council voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Milner of Boone expressed concern regarding the proposed changes to transitional zoning regulations. He believed that the proposal left ambiguity and that the rules needed to be literal to be effective. James recommended that the Council and staff investigate a text amendment to the ordinance that says at the end of UDO Article 6.02.02 that matters pertinent to UDO Article 6.02.03 were not applicable if the applicant was only going before the Board

of Adjustment for a transitional zone trigger. He reiterated the need for this clarification and for the document to be taken in its literal sense.

Work Session resumed with Council member Tugman asking for clarification regarding the waste fee on water bills that went to Republic Services. Public Works Director Todd Moody answered that although the fee was listed on water bills, the waste fee was not based on the number of water meters but on the structure itself. Council member Tugman asked how a citizen would be billed when their home was classified as single-family with one water meter but had an apartment in the basement. Director Moody indicated that would staff refer to tax records and if it was listed as a single-family residence, it paid one solid waste fee, if it was listed as a duplex, it paid two. Council member Tugman added that trash was often left on the ground next to trash cans and that Republic was not picking it up. Attorney Meade stated that this could not be addressed through fee changes but asked that people in this situation contact Public Works, who would then contact Republic Services to make a complaint.

Council member Tugman stated that Council members and staff did everything they could to ensure the public knew about events and meetings but felt there was still a great deal of people who remain unaware. She asked whether getting a calendar ad in the newspaper made sense. Council member Plaag suggested a monthly email, to which staff answered that one was already being sent out to subscribers. Council member Carter suggested staff inquire about the table tent displays at F.A.R.M. Cafe.

Mayor Pro-Tem George referenced Zoom bombing incidents that had occurred elsewhere in North Carolina where the commenters engaged in hate speech. Attorney Meade stated that she had concerns about shutting down public speakers and noted that hate speech was still allowed as a part of a persons First Amendment rights. She indicated that the only things not allowed to be discussed were child pornography-related and specific, reasonable threats. Attorney Meade went on to say that all speakers had to be treated evenly. Major Robbins added that full or partial face masks could not be prohibited. He stated that his department has experienced First Amendment auditors with no problems.

Mayor Futrelle declared a break at 10:46 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:09 a.m.

ADOPTION OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tem George asked that Consent Agenda Item 8 be moved to Council Items Matter 1 to allow for discussion. Upon a motion by Council member George, seconded by Council member Carter, Council voted unanimously to approve the following items (1-7) on the Consent Agenda:

1. Resolution honoring former Mayor Larry Keeter
2. Resolution honoring former Council member Sheila Yost
3. Proclamation for Women's History Month
4. Budget Amendments

Police Department:

TO: Crime Prevention FROM: Contributions/Donation 010-500-300-513103 010-000-000-482200

Donation check for community care relations. \$100.00 (\$100.00)

Fire Department: TO: Overtime 010-500-350-501201 \$5,557.74 Maintenance-Vehicles 010-500-350-525301 \$5,000.00 FROM: Misc. Revenue 010-000-000-489900 (\$10,557.74)

Reimbursement from swift water deployment for Hurricane Idalia to accounts pertinent.

Administration: TO: ARP Transfer to General Fund 060-420-000-598010 \$127,005.00 Revenue Replacement GF-IT Special Projects 010-411-000-54911 \$127,005.00 FROM: ARP – Appropriated Fund Balance 060-420-000-499900 \$(127,005.00) GF – Transfer from ARP Rev. 010-000-000-498060 \$(127,005.00) Replacement

Description: Use remaining ARP funds for: 1. Generator at Town Hall to support network 2. Replace aging drone with modern equipment 3. Purchase AMI tower/equipment Public Works: TO: Meter Supplies 030-700-802-517101 \$425,000.00 Transfer to Water/Sewer Fund 031-700-000-598030

\$425,000.00 FROM: Appropriated Fund Balance 031-700-000-499900 (\$425,000.00) Water
Capital Reserve Contribution 030-000-000-498031 (\$425,000.00)
To purchase meters and equipment necessary for AMI water meter system.

5. Agreement with NCDOT
6. Boone Water Shortage Response Plan Resolution
7. Contract with JMT Professionals Engineering Services

RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER MAYOR LARRY KEETER

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Boone, North Carolina, has learned with profound sorrow of the death of Larry Gene Keeter, former Boone Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Larry Keeter was for many years a leader in public life within the Town of Boone through his roles as Town Council Member, Mayor, ASU professor emeritus, and teacher; and

WHEREAS, Larry Keeter, a graduate of Berea College in Kentucky, and a professor of sociology at App State, Campbell University, and Emerson College in Massachusetts, knew the tremendous value of education and strove to share his knowledge with others; and

WHEREAS, Larry Keeter distinguished himself through his devotion to the interests and growth of the Town of Boone and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Larry Keeter was instrumental in the creation of a Comprehensive Plan Committee in 1981, the implementation of the Boone sign ordinance in 1980, the approval of the malt beverage referendum, the listing of the Jones House on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, construction of the Greenway Trail beginning in 1988; and

WHEREAS, his ability and devotion to his town, its citizens, and his family enabled him to make substantial and valuable contributions to the Town of Boone; and

WHEREAS, he was an active member of First Baptist Church in Boone, where he served as a Sunday School teacher and deacon; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Boone, North Carolina, does hereby honor the memory of Larry Gene Keeter, former Mayor of Boone, and expresses our condolences to his wife, Ann, daughter Laura, and son Kyle, as well as the rest of the Keeter family and friends on his passing.

This is the _____ day of March, 2024

Tim Futrelle, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____(SEAL)
Nicole Harmon-Church, Clerk

RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER SHEILA YOST

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Boone, North Carolina, has learned with profound sorrow of the death of Sheila Yost, former Boone Town Council Member; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Yost was nominated to serve on the Boone Town Council in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Yost represented the Town in many important roles during her life, including the Appearance Commission and Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Yost served tirelessly on the Jones House, Inc. Committee as Co-Chair and Chair, and played a significant role in the remodeling of the Jones House; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Yost was instrumental in the acquisition of the building that currently houses the Town Council Chambers and Police Department. She was a devoted supporter of the Police Department and advocated for it at every opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Yost was involved in the creation of Junaluska Park, which is one of the Town's most beautiful and well-loved facilities; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Yost was active in the establishment of the occupancy tax and the Tourism Development Authority which is crucial to the area's robust tourism economy; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Yost will be remembered as a resilient, nurturing, and hard-working person by all who knew her; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Boone, North Carolina, does hereby honor the memory of Sheila Yost, former Boone Town Council Member, and expresses our condolences to her husband, Chuck, sons Keith and Corey, as well as the rest of the Yost family and friends on her passing.

This is the _____ day of March, 2024

Tim Futrelle, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____(SEAL)

Nicole Harmon-Church, Clerk

Proclamation Recognizing 2024 Women's History Month

Whereas, March is National Women's History Month, the Town of Boone joins with communities in North Carolina recognizing throughout history the vision and achievements of powerful women that have strengthened our Nation and opened the doors of opportunity wider for all of us, and

Whereas, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation celebrating Women's History Week in February 1980 and Congress passed Public Law 100.9 in 1987 designating March as Women's History Month, and

Whereas, may we recognize the long, storied history of great women helping to realize our Nation's founding promise and highest aspirations. — from the women who took a stand as suffragists, abolitionists, and labor leaders to pioneering scientists and engineers, groundbreaking artists, proud public servants, and brave members of our Armed Forces. May we all continue working to build a world worthy of the dreams and goals of all young girls and women of all ages, and

Whereas, in 2024, we honor the women from diverse backgrounds who have tirelessly worked to dismantle barriers, challenge prejudices, and create opportunities for all individuals, and

Be it resolved that, we, the Boone Town Council, encourage our community and all organizations to celebrate the achievements of women who have dedicated themselves to advocating for equity, diversity, and inclusion, and let us continue to work together to build a more just, equitable, and inclusive world and reaffirm our commitment to advancing these principles in our society.

Now, therefore, be it further resolved that the Town of Boone does hereby proclaim March 2024 as Women's History Month.

This the 13th day of March, 2024.

Tim Futrelle, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____(SEAL)

Nicole Harmon-Church, Clerk

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVING WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service and each large community water system shall develop and implement water conservation measures to respond to drought or other water shortage conditions as set out in a Water Shortage Response Plan and submitted to the Department for review and approval; and WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Water Shortage Response Plan for the Town of Boone, has been developed and submitted to the Boone Town Council for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Boone Town Council finds that the Water Shortage Response Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for the Town of Boone, as well as useful information to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Boone Town Council of the Town of Boone that the Water Shortage Response Plan entitled, Town of Boone – Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP) dated 11/15/2023, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Boone Town Council intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years or as otherwise requested by the Department, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

This the day of , 20 .

Name: Tim Futrelle

Title: Boone Mayor

Signature: _____

ATTEST:

COUNCIL MATTERS

CONSIDERATION OF UPDATES TO OUTSIDE AGENCY FUNDING APPLICATION

Mayor Pro-Tem George began by stating that he and Council member Carter placed this item on the agenda because outside agency funding proved to be some of the most time-consuming work for a small percentage of money. He gave a brief summary of proposed changes to the application, highlighting that he would like to see special consideration given to organizations that were just starting or restructuring. After a brief discussion, Council directed staff to make the following changes to the proposed application and bring it back to the March 27, 2024, regular meeting for final consideration.

1. Funding Parameters bullet point 2 will be rewritten to add a statement regarding start-up grants and new organizations.
2. Funding Parameters bullet point 6 will be rewritten to state that applications must be submitted complete by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the deadline.
3. Funding Parameters bullet point 4 will be removed.
4. The last line of the front page form will be amended to add the word "estimated" between "total" and "budget".
5. The fifth line of the front page form will replace "Budget Income" with lower case letters.

CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Sustainability and Special Projects Manager George Santucci presented Council with the Boone Climate Action Plan. A complete copy of the presentation can be viewed online at https://boonenc.igm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=3723. Upon a motion by Council member Tugman and seconded by Council member Plaag, Council voted unanimously to approve the plan.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO TOWN CODE CHAPTER 35

Mayor Pro-Tem George presented a request to alter the language in Chapter 35.04 of the Town Code to reflect the intent of having a public comment session at the beginning of all public meetings. After brief discussion, Council member Plaag made a motion to approve the text as amended to read: "(8) Meetings of the body or

sub-committee shall **generally** proceed in the following order: adoption of an agenda, approval of minutes, public comment (when public comment is to be accepted), unfinished business, new business, and informal discussion. By majority vote of the members of the body or sub-committee in attendance, the order of business may be altered." Mayor Pro-Tem George seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION OF REPEAL OF CHAPTER 50-291, PARAGRAPH B2

Council member Plaag began the discussion of the potential repeal of Chapter 50-291, paragraph B2 by stating that the most recent change to this section had opened the door to a possible flood of things that would take away the one tiny bit of leverage the Town still had over development adjacent to its borders and that is the availability of water and sewer. He noted that community members expressed great concern during the election campaign about preserving water resources for the long term. Council member Plaag also expressed concern about how much water the proposed new Kill Chill facility would use in its daily operations. He stated that he would prefer, for the benefit of the Town and its citizens, to return to a requirement for annexation if access to the Town's water/sewer system was needed. Discussion regarding potential exceptions to this section of the code ensued. Attorney Meade clarified that the initial changes to Chapter 50-291, paragraph B2 being discussed, were intended to give council authority to grant certain limited exceptions, not mandate that it do so. Council member Plaag then made a motion to repeal Town Code Chapter 50-291, paragraph B2, effective immediately. Mayor Pro-Tem George seconded the motion.

VOTE: Aye: Plaag, George
 Nay: Carter, Roseman, Tugman

Mayor Futrelle called for a break at 1:27 p.m. Council reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Futrelle announced that he had recently asked Council members Tugman and Plaag to assume some of his board liaison duties due to scheduling issues. He indicated that Council member Tugman would assume his liaison position on the Tourism Development Authority and Council member Plaag would assume his liaison position on the Economic Development Commission. Council member Roseman asked for clarification regarding how Council liaison appointments should occur. Attorney Meade answered that there was no appointment power in the Mayor and that Council must vote on all appointments. Council member Roseman stated that she was offended that she was not considered for the Tourism Development Authority since she worked in the tourism industry for decades. Council member Plaag suggested that the Town Code be updated for clarity on the matter and added that Council members could review the Code to refresh their memories. Council member Roseman then made a motion to nominate Council member Tugman to serve as Council liaison to the Tourism Development Authority and Council member Plaag to serve as liaison to the Economic Development Commission. Council member Carter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Council member Carter nominated Dr. Kirstin Morgan to serve in the vacant term expiring in 2026 and Salma Treish to serve in the vacant term expiring in 2024. Hearing no other nominations, Mayor Futrelle called for a vote.

VOTE: Aye: All
 Nay: None

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Futrelle announced that he recently took in a presentation with other Tourism Development Authority members regarding the area's education initiative and that the TDA had hired a public relations administrator. He stated that a new edition of the TDA publication would be released in the spring. Mayor Futrelle indicated that he had met with the Council of Governments and the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding the Daniel Boone Parkway. He noted that this plan had been in and out of the State Transportation Improvement

Program for decades and that it was announced at this meeting that all STIP funding allocations for this region were either going solely to fund the Daniel Boone Parkway or would be disbursed amongst other projects in the region. He added that there would be a meeting with NCDOT representatives in April and Boone would have one vote on how it would like to proceed. Mayor Futrelle said that if members decided not to support the Daniel Boone Parkway, there was no guarantee project funding would be allocated to Boone. He asked members to consider that the Daniel Boone Parkway would help the community and feared that if the Daniel Boone Parkway were de-committed it would not return to the STIP. Mayor Futrelle clarified that Boone had no control over how other towns, such as Blowing Rock, voted and asked for direction. Council member Plaag made a motion to amend the agenda to open the topic for formal discussion. Council member Roseman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem George expressed concerns regarding the environmental impact of the Daniel Boone Parkway and noted that several organizations had contacted him to voice concerns.

Council member Roseman indicated that she also had concerns and stated that, though there were no guarantees about funding for other projects, she would like to see the smaller projects completed before considering a large project such as the Daniel Boone Parkway. Public Works Director Todd Moody agreed that Mayor Pro-Tem George's concerns were valid. Council member Tugman stated that it was essential to the way Council wanted Boone to grow and that it should have a bypass. Council member Carter indicated that he had also been contacted by environmental groups and struggled with turning down guaranteed funding. Council member Plaag added that historic resources would also be in jeopardy if the Daniel Boone Parkway were approved. He stated that he was concerned about the amount of pass-through traffic in Boone. Council member Tugman noted that this could have a much broader implication than just Boone. Council member Roseman noted that Council could not be sure which of the proposed Daniel Boone Parkway plans they would be supporting since there had been many released over the years. Council member Carter agreed that he was uncomfortable voting for the project without having current renditions. Mayor Pro-Tem George reiterated that he did not support the Daniel Boone Parkway for environmental reasons. Council member Tugman was surprised at the lack of support for the project, given it would not be built, if approved, in the near future. Council member Plaag stated that he was in favor of expressing support for retaining the funding for Daniel Boone Parkway as something beneficial to the community at large, with the caveat that it is rooted in a process that the Town of Boone and other towns had the ability to express concerns with the design and that they paid attention to environmental and historic concerns. Mayor Futrelle indicated that the NCDOT representatives did share the environmental concerns but noted that, although the Town Council could express the conditions presented by Council member Plaag, the NCDOT was not required or guaranteed to take them. Attorney Meade noted that the Town Council's lack of control would apply to all NCDOT projects, not just the Daniel Boone Parkway. Council member Plaag suggested that various environmental groups and others concerned begin working on conservation easements and National Historic Registry protections to ensure that there was mandated mitigation. Sustainability and Special Projects Manager Santucci added that he did not believe this to be a high priority for environmental groups at this early stage of the process. He further noted that the New River Conservancy had lost defense of a conservation easement when it was taken for pipeline construction by eminent domain. He added that the construction process would damage the environment, not the highway itself. Council member Plaag asked staff to pull the most recent plan so that Council would be better informed to have a vote at the next regular meeting on March 27.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Manager Davis updated Council on the following topics:

1. **AMI Meter System:** Staff is continuing to install the new AMI water meters, with 1,687, or 28%, installed to date. Remote functionality programming and infrastructure procurement are currently underway.
2. **Jimmy Smith WWTP – UV Treatment System Replacement:** Construction has been completed and the new system is working as expected.
3. **Spring Litter Sweep – Boone Clean-Up Day:** In conjunction with the North Carolina Statewide Spring Litter Sweep, the Town of Boone will hold a “Spring Boone Clean-Up Day” on Saturday, April 13, 2024. Interested participants may come by the Public Works Department located at 321 East King Street between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm to pick up cleaning supplies. Town residents will receive an additional free curbside pickup of collected debris (household junk/bulk items, yard debris, or brush) beginning Monday, April 15th through April 26th. Simply call the Public Works Department (828)268-6230 to schedule collection or submit your request online through the Citizens Service Request located

on the Public Works page of www.townofboone.net. For more information, contact Shannon Isaacs at (828)268-6230 or shannon.isaacs@townofboone.net.

4. Staff met with Davis, Martin, Powell engineers regarding the Howard Street project. All necessary documents have been submitted to Rural Development and NCDENR.
5. The scope of work submitted by staff for the projects at SAHA/Horn in the West and Daniel Boone Native Gardens has been approved at the state level.
6. Staff will be applying for a no-match grant in the amount of \$50,000 for rebranding the Town of Boone logo.
7. The second round of Boone Next meetings will take place on April 29, 30, and May 1.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

As a courtesy to James Milner Attorney Meade noted that the item he discussed during public comment had been discussed by Council several times and amendments would be presented to Council in the near future. She then clarified language in the Town Code pertaining to Town Council liaison positions.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Council member Carter announced that AppalCart had recently decided upon a route change that would no longer bring buses down King Street due to significant traffic delays. He noted that the green route would be broken into two sections to make up for this change. Council member Carter added that the AppalCart board would be asking for a 1.5% increase in funding in the next fiscal year to get out of debt within the next five years and to expand routes. He finished by saying there had been an issue with obtaining electric buses due to a change in ownership of the manufacturing company.

Council member Roseman indicated that the Historic Preservation Commission would begin implementing a new plan to assist people who would like to do projects within the historic district. She noted that panels for the Boone Cemetery would come to fruition soon and be tied into community walking tour maps. She then addressed the Dana Folk Way/Ice House Alley project before moving on to the Southern Appalachian Historical Association. Council member Roseman stated that the group had been discussing ways to apply for outside funding and grants.

Mayor Pro-Tem George stated that the Sustainability Committee was pleased to present the Boone Climate Action Plan, which was just voted on, and invited members to volunteer at F.A.R.M. Cafe for the upcoming "Boone Buys Lunch" event. He added that the Human Relations Commission met recently and stated that he and Council member Carter were working to bring more structure to the group. Mayor Pro-Tem George noted that he had been named an informal liaison to the ABC Board but had not yet attended one of their meetings. It was pointed out that Manager Davis would be contacting the ABC Board Chair Wallin for guidance on Mayor Pro-Tem George's attendance at meetings. Discussion ensued regarding the voting powers of Council member liaisons, with Mayor Pro-Tem George asking that the code be clarified.

Council member Tugman stated that the Downtown Boone Development Association held its rescheduled budget retreat and allocated \$20,000 in funding for Boonerang. She expressed concern that the Board was paying \$4,000 for an insurance policy on public art and wondered why this was not carried as a rider on one of the Town's own policies. Manager Davis indicated that the matter had been researched in the past and did not believe public art was eligible to be carried by the Town. Attorney Meade added that coverage should already exist if the art was installed on Town property. Council member Tugman then announced that a rendering of the proposed Dana Folk Way had been presented. Discussion ensued regarding the process of installing plaques on historic buildings, with Manager Davis indicating she would work on planning the dedication ceremony with a temporary sign until the matter could move through the Historic Preservation Commission process. Council member Tugman solicited 1872 Award applications through the Cultural Resources Advisory Board and finished by announcing that the DBDA recently held a meeting to discuss the proposed Hellbender mural.

Council member Plaag said he planned to attend a meeting next week to finalize changes to his parking proposal to the Downtown Boone Development Association and hoped to present the proposal to Council in April.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem George, seconded by Council member Carter, Council voted unanimously to

enter into closed session at 4:03 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.

Upon a motion by seconded by Council voted unanimously to exit closed session at p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Futrelle adjourned the meeting at p.m.

Nicole Harmon, Town Clerk

Tim Futrelle, Mayor