

**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
December 14, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road in Boone. Mayor Rennie Brantz presided. Council members present included Mayor Pro-Tem Connie Ulmer, Sam Furguele, Virginia Roseman, Nancy LaPlaca and Dalton George. Staff members present included Town Manager John Ward, Town Clerk Nicole Harmon, Public Works Director Rick Miller, Fire Chief Jimmy Isaacs, Police Chief Andy LeBeau, Finance Director Amy Davis, Planning Director Jane Shook, Cultural Resources Director Mark Freed, Administrative Support Specialist/Communications Laney Pilkington, Sustainability and Special Projects Manager George Santucci, and Human Resources Director Dale Presnell. Town Attorney Allison Meade was also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Ulmer, seconded by Ms. LaPlaca, Council voted unanimously to approve the following minutes:

November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

The Honorable Rebecca Eggers-Gryder presided over the swearing-in ceremonies for Mayor Tim Futrelle and Council members Virginia Roseman, Dalton George, Edie Tugman, Todd Carter and Becca Nenow. Official oaths precede these minutes.

SEATING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The Mayor and Council members took their seats to move forward with the remainder of the organizational meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD VACANCIES

Mayor Futrelle made the following statement:

"Good evening and welcome to all in attendance tonight, both here in-person and virtually! For the first time in Boone's history, you have elected a completely new council; all six members including Mayor. This is truly an historic moment and fitting as we enter our sesquicentennial celebration year. 150 years of the greatest little town in NC, if I do say so myself. I'd like to start by thanking our predecessors for their dedication and work toward moving our community forward. I'd also like to thank your amazing staff for their tireless work under extraordinary circumstances. It has not gone unnoticed and it will not go unappreciated, for this we thank you. And finally, on behalf of council and staff, we thank our amazing community members. Every morning you get up, and face whatever your day brings to you. You do this with courage, honor, and strength. Without you we would not be here, and for this we truly cannot thank you enough. We will not sit here and claim we have all the answers or make empty promises, and there will be times we do not see eye to eye. But we will promise you this, with mutual respect and in good faith, we will work for you, we will be honest with you, we will level with you, and we are listening! Thank you for this great opportunity, and with that, let's get to work."

He then announced the following board vacancies:

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

One alternate position

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

One regular position; One student position

CULTURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

One student position

DOWNTOWN BOONE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

One board appointed position

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Four regular positions

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

One position (Cooperative Extension)

One resident position (Alternative Transportation)

One resident position

One student position

WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Five regular positions; One student position

TENTATIVE AGENDA ADOPTION

Upon a motion by Ms. Roseman, seconded by Mr. George, Council voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Upon a motion by Ms. Roseman, seconded by Mrs. Tugman, Council voted unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

1. Resolution of Appreciation - R. Brantz
2. Resolution of Appreciation - C. Ulmer
3. Resolution of Appreciation - S. Furgiuele
4. Resolution of Appreciation - N. LaPlaca
5. Easement from the Town of Boone to Frontier Natural Gas
6. List of Town Holidays for 2022
7. Annual Meeting Notice

After brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that committee meetings will remain virtual until Council takes official action otherwise. Ms. Roseman asked that the matter of in-person meetings be discussed at the next regular meeting in January.

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SERVICE APPRECIATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dr. Rennie Brantz has served this community well in numerous capacities during his tenure as Councilmember and as Mayor; and,

WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by exemplary dedication to the best interest of the community as he has worked constantly for the betterment of its economic, cultural, and aesthetic development; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has benefitted greatly because of his particular interest and work in the areas of Historic Preservation Commission, Outside Agency Funding Review Committee, High Country Council of Governments Advisory Committee, Watauga Recreation Committee, and the Watauga County Rural Planning Organization; and,

WHEREAS, through the performance of his duties and responsibilities as a member of the Town Council, he has made excellent and constructive contributions to municipal government in our Town; and,

WHEREAS, he has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom he has come into contact and the affection of his fellow public servants, who are proud to call him ☐ friend☐.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council for the Town of Boone does hereby express our sincere appreciation and thanks, as well as that of our citizens to Dr. Rennie Brantz for his distinguished service to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be given to Dr. Rennie Brantz with sincere best wishes for continued success and many happy years ahead.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Town Council on the 14th day of December, 2021.

ATTEST:

Mayor Tim Futrelle

Town Clerk Nicole Harmon

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SERVICE APPRECIATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dr. Connie Ulmer has served this community well in numerous capacities during her tenure as Councilmember and as Mayor Pro-Tempore; and,

WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by exemplary dedication to the best interest of the community as she has worked constantly for the betterment of its economic, cultural, and aesthetic development; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has benefitted greatly because of her particular interest and work in the areas of Cultural Resources Advisory Board, Downtown Boone Development Association, and AppalCart Committee; and,

WHEREAS, through the performance of her duties and responsibilities as a member of the Town Council, she has made excellent and constructive contributions to municipal government in our Town; and,

WHEREAS, she has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom she has come into contact and the affection of her fellow public servants, who are proud to call her "friend".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council for the Town of Boone does hereby express our sincere appreciation and thanks, as well as that of our citizens to Dr. Connie Ulmer for her distinguished service to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be given to Dr. Connie Ulmer with sincere best wishes for continued success and many happy years ahead.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Town Council on the 14th day of December, 2021.

ATTEST:

Mayor Tim Futrelle

Town Clerk Nicole Harmon

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SERVICE APPRECIATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Sam Furguele has served this community well in numerous capacities during his tenure as Councilmember; and,

WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by exemplary dedication to the best interest of the community as he has worked constantly for the betterment of its economic, cultural, and aesthetic development; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has benefitted greatly because of his particular interest and work in the areas of Community Appearance Commission, Sustainability Committee, Outside Agency Committee, and Downtown Boone Development Association; and,

WHEREAS, through the performance of his duties and responsibilities as a member of the Town Council, he has made excellent and constructive contributions to municipal government in our Town; and,

WHEREAS, he has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom he has come into contact and the affection of his fellow public servants, who are proud to call him "friend".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council for the Town of Boone does hereby express our sincere appreciation and thanks, as well as that of our citizens to Sam Furguele for his distinguished service to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be given to Sam Furgiuele with sincere best wishes for continued success and many happy years ahead.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Town Council on the 14th day of December, 2021.

ATTEST:

Mayor Tim Futrelle

Town Clerk Nicole Harmon

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SERVICE APPRECIATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Nancy LaPlaca has served this community well in numerous capacities during her tenure as Councilmember; and,

WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by exemplary dedication to the best interest of the community as she has worked constantly for the betterment of its economic, cultural, and aesthetic development; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has benefitted greatly because of his particular interest and work in the areas of Downtown Boone Development Association, Sustainability Committee, and the Watauga Economic Development Commission; and,

WHEREAS, through the performance of her duties and responsibilities as a member of the Town Council, she has made excellent and constructive contributions to municipal government in our Town; and,

WHEREAS, she has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom she has come into contact and the affection of her fellow public servants, who are proud to call her "friend".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council for the Town of Boone does hereby express our sincere appreciation and thanks, as well as that of our citizens to Nancy LaPlaca for her distinguished service to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be given to Nancy LaPlaca with sincere best wishes for continued success and many happy years ahead.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Town Council on the 14th day of December, 2021.

ATTEST:

Mayor Tim Futrelle

Town Clerk Nicole Harmon

COUNCIL MATTERS**APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBER LIAISONS**

Upon a motion by Ms. Roseman, seconded by Mr. George, Town Council liaisons were appointed as follows:

Member	Board/Commission
Tim Futrelle	• High Country COG Advisory Committee • High Country COG Rural Planning Commission • Boone Tourism Development Authority

	• Watauga Economic Development Commission
Edie Tugman	• Downtown Boone Development Authority • Community Appearance Commission • Cultural Resources Advisory Board
Dalton George	• Sustainability Committee • Community Appearance Committee • Police Committee
Todd Carter	• AppalCART Board • Human Relations Commission • Police Committee
Virginia Roseman	• Historic Preservation Commission • Cultural Resources Advisory Board • Human Relations Commission
Becca Nenow	• Downtown Boone Development Association • Watauga County Parks and Recreation Board • Sustainability Commission

The motion carried unanimously. Appointments will be effective immediately and will expire with each member's respective term.

UPDATE ON BOONE 150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Mr. Freed provided members with an update on Boone 150th Anniversary events which are scheduled to kick off in January 2022. He indicated that a new website was being constructed that will keep the public up-to-date on the celebratory events, which include a special edition of the Watauga Democrat in February, a special edition of High Country Magazine, and specially themed parades among others.

REQUEST TO SCHEDULE TOWN COUNCIL ORIENTATION/RETREAT

Upon a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Ms. Roseman, Council voted unanimously to schedule the Town Council orientation/planning retreat on Thursday, January 20, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and Friday, January 21, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road in Boone.

REQUEST TO CANCEL DECEMBER 16 REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Upon a motion by Mrs. Tugman, seconded by Mr. Carter, Council voted unanimously to cancel the December 16, 2021 regular Town Council meeting.

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tempore

Ms. Roseman nominate Mrs. Tugman to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore. Hearing no further nominations, Mayor Futrelle called for a vote:

VOTE: Aye: All

Nay: None

Mrs. Tugman was then sworn in as Mayor Pro-Tempore by the Honorable Rebecca Eggers-Gryder.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Ms. Roseman, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Tugman, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Nicole Harmon, Town Clerk

Rennie Brantz, Mayor