

**MINUTES – WORKSHOP/RETREAT  
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL  
June 5, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order Monday, June 5, 2017 at 8:40 a.m. in the Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Rennie Brantz presided. Council members present were Loretta Clawson, Jeannine Underdown Collins, Charlotte Mizelle, Lynne Mason and Jennifer Teague. Staff members present were Town Manager John Ward, Assistant Manager Jim Byrne, Finance Director Amy Davis, Town Clerk Christine Pope, Intern Tyler Cook and Administrative Support Specialist Nicole Worley. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a budget work session.

**DISCUSSION OF FY 2017/18 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Council began the discussion by reviewing the budget message. Mr. Ward presented the following proposed budget highlights:

- Maintains the current tax rate at \$ 0.41
- No increases in water fees or sewer fees
- Maintains current service levels with no new positions
- 3% pay -for -performance raise for Town employees
- \$115,000 for Outside Agency Funding

The pending state rulings on House Bills 436 and 900 and the potential effects on the Town budget were discussed at length. The decrease in legal expenses due to the loss of the ETJ and the funding of two special projects were also discussed, with Council Member Teague expressing concerns with the funding of SAHA and the Appalachian Theatre.

Mayor Brantz declared a break at 9:37 a.m. Council reconvened at 9:48 a.m.

Mr. Ward presented a list of unfunded budgetary items, re-encumbrances and tax scenarios. Discussion continued regarding the possibility of increasing taxes to offset the decrease in funding due to recent tax decisions made by the County and the outcome of HB 436 and 900. Different options for funding the Appalachian Theatre were discussed, with Council Members Mason and Clawson noting that they have received many letters in support of the Theatre. Council Members Underdown Collins and Mizelle expressed their support and agreed that the Theatre would be an asset to downtown Boone. Council Member Teague noted that she could not support funding the Theatre when the Town cannot fully support those that qualify for Outside Agency Funding as well as funding department needs. The desire to implement guidelines for funding sustainability in the future as well as sidewalks and lighting in the downtown area were also discussed.

Mayor Brantz declared a break at 11:56 a.m. Council reconvened at 12:46 p.m.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mr. Ward reviewed the general fund line items with Council, noting the possibility of working with the County in the future on athletic fields at the Bolick Farm property. Potential town property sales and proceeds from those sales were discussed along with the possibility of sharing a joint communications center with the County. Council Member Mizelle went on to mention that the Sustainability, Economics and Environment Committee would encourage Council to look into replacing town vehicles with hybrid vehicles whenever possible as the town works toward its 2050 clean energy goals.

Mayor Brantz declared a break at 2:30 p.m. Council reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

**MOTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONS TO PROPOSED BUDGET**

Upon a motion made by Council Member Mason and seconded by Council Member Clawson, Council moved to approve the addition of \$299,410 to the proposed budget which will be used to fund an additional police officer, two new patrol cars and Outside Agency Funding.

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|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>              |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Lynne Mason, Mayor Pro Tem               |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Loretta Clawson, Council Member          |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mason, Clawson, Mizelle, Teague, Collins |

### **MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR APPALACHIAN THEATRE**

Upon a motion made by Council Member Mason and seconded by Council Member Clawson, Council moved to approve funding to the Appalachian Theatre in the amount of \$100,000 which will be subject to future approval based on an operating budget presented by the Appalachian Theatre and is contingent upon commencement of construction. The town would also like appropriate credit given to them by the Theatre for their in-kind donations to date.

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [4 TO 1]</b>         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Lynne Mason, Mayor Pro Tem       |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Loretta Clawson, Council Member  |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mason, Clawson, Mizelle, Collins |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | Teague                           |

### **MOTION TO DIRECT TDA FUNDS TO DANIEL BOONE PARK**

Upon a motion made by Council Member Mason and seconded by Council Member Clawson, Council moved to direct future TDA Room Occupancy Tax revenue funds in excess of the projected \$433,333 be directed to the revitalization of Daniel Boone Park

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>              |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Lynne Mason, Mayor Pro Tem               |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Loretta Clawson, Council Member          |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mason, Clawson, Mizelle, Teague, Collins |

### **MOTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SAHA**

Upon a motion made by Council Member Clawson and seconded by Council Member Mason, Council moved to approve the addition of \$10,000 in funding for SAHA to the proposed budget for a total of \$30,000. Council Member Teague expressed opposition to the decision stating that with federal funding cuts, the town should consider giving that money to non-profits instead, or to the town's own Cultural Resources department.

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [4 TO 1]</b>         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Loretta Clawson, Council Member  |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Lynne Mason, Mayor Pro Tem       |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mason, Clawson, Mizelle, Collins |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | Teague                           |

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Rennie Brantz adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

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Christine Pope, Town Clerk

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Rennie Brantz, Mayor