

MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING BOONE TOWN COUNCIL

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 9, 2013, in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Jamie Leigh, Lynne Mason, Andy Ball, Allan Scherlen and Rennie Brantz. Staff members present were Town Manager Greg Young, Deputy Town Clerk Christine Pope, Downtown Development Coordinator Virginia Falck, Cultural Resources Director Pilar Fotta, Finance Director Amy Davis, Facilities Maintenance Superintendent Eric Gustaveson, Street Maintenance Superintendent Greg Miller, Trade Specialist Todd Moody, Planning Director Bill Bailey, Police Chief Dana Crawford and Police Lieutenant Danny Houck. DBDA members present were Robb Olsen, Sherri Moretz, Andy Stallings, Dempsey Wilcox and Bob Meier. Steve McLaurin and Reta Jackson of McLaurin Parking were also in attendance.

TENTATIVE AGENDA ADOPTION

Upon a motion by Council Member Brantz, seconded by Council Member Ball, Council moved to approve the agenda, as presented.

VOTE: Aye – All
 Nay – None

IMPLEMENTATION OF PARKING METERS IN DOWNTOWN BOONE

Town Manager Greg Young began the discussion by summarizing Council's consensus during the recent budget work sessions regarding installing downtown parking meters by Sept. 1, 2013, adding that Public Works Director Blake Brown indicated it would take approximately four to five weeks to order and receive the meters. Street Maintenance Superintendent Greg Miller stated the public works department could get the posts installed prior to the meters arriving.

Downtown Development Coordinator Virginia Falck reviewed the key factors the DBDA would like to see as part of meter installation, including a one-hour time limit on King Street at a rate of \$0.50 per 20 minutes (or \$1.50 per hour); meters on Queen Street remaining at a rate of \$0.50 per hour with a three-hour time limit; Depot and Town Hall parking lots to allow for longer-term parking with rates comparable to the meter rates; Town Hall parking lot keeping the all-day parking option; parking time limits to remain the same on week days and weekends; a higher turnover rate on King Street; and, use of universal parking signs.

Steve McLaurin of McLaurin Parking indicated the meters recently installed on King Street have generated more turnover and brought in \$1,202 in revenue for the first month since installed. Mr. Miller stated the technology to enforce the one-hour time limit on those meters has been ordered. He added that there is quite some maintenance involved in using meters, including the cost of technology instruments (\$185/meter) and replacing batteries.

Mr. McLaurin recommended that Council use pay stations throughout downtown instead of meters, adding that the Town would need approximately 24 pay stations and the cost estimate is \$300,000. He added that McLaurin Parking would be willing to purchase the pay stations upfront and work out an agreement for the Town to pay McLaurin over a three-year period. He indicated the advantages to using pay stations instead of meters are their programmability and recording abilities, the ability to use credit cards, making it more customer-friendly, and they typically last eight to nine years. DBDA Member Dempsey Wilcox stated the DBDA is in favor of pay stations, but did not recommend it to Council due to the Town's current financial status. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the possibility of using pay stations versus meters, the options for operating pay stations—numbered spaces, window receipts, etc.— and how other towns similar to Boone handle their parking management. Council Member Brantz suggested installing pay stations in increments rather than all at once.

Mayor Clawson left the meeting at 6:42 p.m., and advised that she was in favor of implementing pay stations.

DBDA Member Bob Meier stated he did not believe moving forward with pay stations in certain lots (i.e. Depot and/or Town Hall parking lot) immediately would cause any disruptions, adding that it would just require the elimination of gates. Mr. Young noted the security needed when using credit cards. Council Member Ball indicated he would like to phase into using pay stations over the next six to eight months and would like to look into financing options as well. Following continued discussion of the logistics of using pay stations, Council came to the consensus that they would like Mr. McLaurin—in collaboration with Town Manager Greg Young—to submit information by Friday, July 12, 2013, regarding the overall implementation plan and costs associated with the option of installing pay stations throughout downtown Boone for their review and to continue the discussion at the regular Town Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2013. Downtown Development Coordinator Virginia Falck indicated she would take the information received during this meeting to the next DBDA meeting, scheduled for Thursday, July 11, to discuss and will advise Council next Tuesday of DBDA's thoughts on this option.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Council Member Brantz, seconded by Council Member Mason, Council moved to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

VOTE: Aye – All
 Nay – None

Christine Pope, Deputy Town Clerk

Loretta Clawson, Mayor