

Town Council

Special Meeting August 9, 2018, 6:15 pm

TC: Mayor Brantz, Mayor Pro Tem Clawson, Ashcraft, Furgieuele

Others: John Ward, Jane Shook, Rick Miller, Josh Eller, Allison Meade

Call to Order

Mayor Brantz called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Furgieuele made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clawson to adopt the agenda as presented.

Vote: Aye-All (Ashcraft, Clawson, Furgieuele)

Nay-None

The motion passed.

Discussion and Direction on Historic Power House Ruins

Ms. Shook, Director of Planning and Inspections, presented to Council a hard copy of a Memo sent to them previously by Eric Plaag, Chair of the Boone Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Shook summarized to the Town Council that the memo contained information on the Power House Ruins and included a recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission to request the Boone Town Council and the Town Manager reach out to ASU and New River Light and Power to encourage them to rescue the power house ruins from further deterioration.

Discussion ensued regarding the request. Ms. Shook clarified that the Historic Preservation was asking for the existing ruins to be preserved to prevent further deterioration, not fully restored, and was not asking for any funding from the Town. She noted the request was for the Town to reach out encourage ASU and NRLP to take action in a prompt manner.

Council Member Furgieuele made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clawson for the Town to send a letter, signed by the Mayor, to ASU and NRLP respectfully requesting that they take all steps they can to protect and preserve the existing ruins.

Ms. Shook noted that there was a member of the audience who had indicated that they wished to speak.

Dan Alion addressed Council. Mr. Alion noted that he owned property in the Town of Boone and was a user of the Greenway and had been intrigued about the power house site since he came it across it. Mr. Alion shared photos of the power house which demonstrated that the crack in the arch had increased in the last year and noted his concern for the structure. Mr. Alion noted that he had worked with Mr. Plaag and ASU on trying to interested ASU in having a class take on the preservation of the ruins as a class project but as of yet they had been unsuccessful. Mr. Alion indicated that he was happy to see the Council take action of the ruins.

Council Member Furgieuele noted that so many historic structures within the Town of Boone had been lost over the years and that it would be a shame to not at least try to preserve this structure. Mayor Pro Tem Clawson and Council Member Ashcraft agreed.

Mayor Brantz noted there was a motion of the floor and asked for a vote.

Vote: Aye-All (Ashcraft, Clawson, Furgieuele)

Nay-None

The motion passed.

Discussion and Direction for Staff and CAC on Downtown Design Guidelines

Ms. Shook presented Council with a map depicting the previously approved “Historic Core, Interface Area and Warehouse District”. She noted that at the last joint meetings attended by Town Council, the Community Appearance Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission, Council had given direction for the CAC to move forward with the creation of a “Warehouse District” in the Howard Street area to go along with the proposed Historic Core and Interface areas. Ms. Shook noted that the “Historic Core” has now been called the “Downtown Core”.

Ms. Shook stated that after additional research Brian Johnson with the help of Eric Plaag, the Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, was able to obtain historic photos of the Howard Street area and discovered there was very little support to have a warehouse district with different design guidelines. She noted that due to this the CAC was recommending to Council that the area included in the Warehouse District be merged with the Downtown Core or as shown on the map, the “Historic Core”.

Council Member Ashcraft noted that the area then would be subject to the same design standards as the Downtown Core. Ms. Shook noted that was correct.

Council Member Furgieuele noted that though the area would be merged with the Downtown Core that it would not most likely be within the proposed historic district so though they would have the same design standards, applicants would not have to go through the same approval process as those within a historic district. He also noted that the CAC also felt like there shouldn’t be one set of design standards for one side of Howard Street and another set of design standards for the other side of Howard Street.

Council Member Ashcraft asked about property owner input on the standards. Ms. Shook noted that when the CAC first began working on the standards, a survey was sent out through the DBDA and that there had been a couple of updates through the DBDA. She noted that the CAC was re-tasked to work on the Wellness District standards and now working toward the completion of the standards which would be presented at public meetings.

Mayor Brantz questioned if there would be issues getting the enlarged Historic Core approved by the State Preservation Office. Ms. Shook noted that the districts were separate from the work being conducted by the HPC as the CAC work was design standards. Mr. Ward clarified that the Historic District would just be a portion of the Historic/Downtown Core.

Council Member Furgieuele made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clawson, that the Council endorse the idea to merge the area shown as the Warehouse District into the Historic/Downtown Core area.

Council Member Ashcraft asked what the next steps would be. Ms. Shook noted the CAC would complete the design standards and present draft text to Council.

Vote: Aye-All (Ashcraft, Clawson, Furgieuele)

Nay-None

The motion passed.

Adjournment

Council Member Furgieuele made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clawson, to adjourn the special meeting.

Vote: Aye-All (Ashcraft, Clawson, Furgieuele)

Nay-None

The motion passed.