

**MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
December 28, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 6:46 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2016, at the Boone Mennonite Brethren Church located at 161 Church Street. Mayor Rennie Brantz presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro Tem Lynne Mason, Loretta Clawson, Charlotte Mizelle, Jennifer Teague and Jeannine Underdown Collins. Staff present included Town Manager John Ward, Town Clerk Christine Pope, Police Chief Dana Crawford and Police Patrol Lieutenant Danny Houck. Members of the Junaluska community were also in attendance as well as Scott Eggers and Joe Furman of the Watauga Community Housing Trust.

DISCUSSION

Pastor Michael Mathes of the Boone Mennonite Brethren Church began the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer. Mayor Brantz welcomed all in attendance.

Scott Eggers of the Watauga Community Housing Trust began the discussion by providing those in attendance with background information on the workforce housing proposed concept for the currently Town-owned property on Wyn Way next to the existing water tank. Mr. Eggers answered questions from those in attendance regarding the size, type and price of the proposed five, single-family residences. He noted that the land would be under a 99-year lease, and the value of the properties would not appreciate at a high rate to ensure the homes remain for workforce housing, which Mr. Eggers noted were for families that make too much money to receive low-income assistance but not enough to buy a home in Boone. Following discussion, Mr. Eggers confirmed the issues noted by the community members dealt with the impact of construction, the handling of future sales of the properties by the housing trust, water runoff, erosion, maintenance of the roads and how families are selected to purchase the homes. Mr. Eggers stated that he would like to meet with some members of the community to address the neighborhood's concerns and possible options, but for now, would like to table this request with the Town Council, since he did not want to move forward with this project without the full support of the community.

Town Manager John Ward then addressed Town-related concerns of the community. He answered questions regarding a possible right-of-way with the American Legion, installation of curbs and/or sidewalks, issues with water runoff, the possibility of a community center instead of a housing development at the proposed site, a former road closure of Tall Timber Trail, snow plowing responsibility between the Town and NCDOT, resurfacing of Church Street, and where the jurisdiction changes from the Town to the County in this area. Mr. Ward stated he would be happy to meet with individuals to discuss their concerns and added that anyone who has a concern can also appear before the Town Council at their regular meetings during public comment to voice any issues they may have with regard to the neighborhood.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Mayor Brantz adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Christine Pope, Town Clerk

Rennie Brantz, Mayor