

Town of Fletcher
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 13, 2020

Call the meeting to order at: 06:00 pm

Those who were in attendance (electronically) are as follows:

Mayor Rod Whiteside
Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy
Councilman Preston Blakely
Councilwoman Sheila Franklin
Assistant Town Manager Heather Taylor
Planning & Zoning Director Eric Rufa
Public Works Director Jabbo Pressley
Parks & Recreation Director Greg Walker
Police Chief Erik Summey

Councilman Eddie Henderson did not participate in this meeting.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf and Town Clerk Christine Thompson were at town hall for this meeting

Invocation: Moment of silence for all lives lost due to COVID-19.

Pledge of Allegiance: Omit at this time

Public Comment

No comments were submitted to the clerk to be read at the meeting.

Approval of minutes-corrections, additions or deletions.
(3/4,3/9 & 3/11)

Mayor Whiteside asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented and it was so moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy and seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Franklin.

Motion carries all in favor.

Council Updates

There were no updates at this time.

Consent Agenda

Consideration of approval of a two year extension for BSC Holdings, Inc. to complete infrastructure at 150 Cane Creek Road.

Mayor Whiteside asked council were there any questions or discussion on this Consent Agenda item?

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy stated that he had some concerns with this because we originally gave them one year and they already used 6 months before all of this started and now they are asking for a 2 year extension.

Planning & Zoning Director Eric Rufa stated that at the hearing last year they indicated that they would need at least 12 to 18 months for engineering and by our code they technically get 1 year for infrastructure. We anticipated that we were going to get a request for an extension anyway. Given the uncertainty of where we are right now they may not start for another year so it was me who actually suggested the 2 years. They own the property and have all intentions of moving forward with the project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy sounds good to me.

Mayor Whiteside stated do we have a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, and it was so moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy and it was seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Franklin.

Motion carries all in favor.

Discussion and approval of amendments to Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment rules of procedure addressing meeting cancellations during a declared emergency-Eric Rufa, Planning & Zoning Director.

Mayor Whiteside asked Planning & Zoning Director if he had some comments on this.

Planning & Zoning Director Eric Rufa stated that we did already cancel our April Meeting. We wanted to see how well this meeting went on the virtual platform first. I

did speak with the School of Government about meetings and the general thought this is no real guideline for cancelling meetings. It all actually comes down to your rules of procedure and absent any real clear language the chairman can have the discretion to cancel the meeting. We feel it necessary to tweak the rules of procedure to have an out per say. We have a potential development to be submitted that will come up in May and wanted to put some written guidelines in our rules of procedure.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy stated that when he read the guidelines for the meetings and it says that they are to be held as needed so I am not sure any change are needed.

Planning & Zoning Director Eric Rufa stated that in this case we have a submittal for a potential controversial development request that developer could theoretically say we are entitled to a hearing and without clear language in our rules and procedure we could be vulnerable here.

Discussion Followed:

Update on COVID-19 response efforts of the Town-Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf went over the information in the agenda packet and gave an update on the current situation.

Discussion Followed:

Submission of PARTIF application for Summit Park project-Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina and Michael Luplow, Fern Leaf Charter School.

Mayor Whiteside stated that this the re-submission of the application that was approved last year and we also have Rebekah Robinson and Michael Luplow here with us if you have any questions on this application.

There were no questions from council at this time

Mayor Whiteside asked Ms. Robinson and Mr. Luplow if they have any additional information that they would like to share at this time.

Both commented on how much that felt it was necessary that another park was needed in Fletcher with how popular Bill Moore Community Park is.

Discussion Followed:

Mayor Whiteside asked do we have a motion from council to resubmit the PARTIFF application in conjunction with Fern Leaf Charter School and it was so moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy and seconded by Councilman Preston Blakely.

Motion carries all in favor.

Discussion on social media website for the Town-Preston Blakely, Councilman.

Councilman Preston Blakely commented on social media (Facebook) and how important that it is today to keep people informed. He stated that he also thinks the posts need to be kept really simple so that it is not time consuming for the person who does this. The posts could include dates of committees (ABC Board, Parks & Recreation Advisory and Planning Board) and council meetings, policy changes, job openings, and Town surveys and a link to the monthly newsletter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy stated that he had no problem with this but who was going to screen/monitor it.

Councilman Preston Blakely stated that we should probably have some sort of disclaimer on the website.

Discussion Followed:

Councilwoman Sheila Franklin stated that all the information that was mentioned is in the newsletter and we have a great website that was just recently redesigned. If this is something that you want to try I think that we need to make sure that someone can monitor the posts and it does not turn into something like Next-door.

Discussion Followed:

Mayor Whiteside stated do we have a motion from council on the Town of Fletcher establishing a Facebook page.

Councilwoman Sheila Franklin stated that do we want information on how that is going to look first?

Mayor Whiteside stated that I think if we are in agreement that we want the page then we can go ahead and make that happen and then the administrative staff can piece together the specifics before we go live.

Councilwoman Sheila Franklin stated that sounds great I will make that motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy.

Motion carries all in favor.

Discussion on an intern program with higher learning institutions-Preston Blakely, Councilman.

Councilman Preston Blakely stated that this would benefit the intern and the town and it would be a win win for both. He said that the intern would be unpaid (initially) and work 20 hours a week and this would be open to a college student enrolled in a community college, undergraduate, or graduate school program.

Discussion Followed:

Mayor Whiteside asked do we have a motion to establish a formal internship within the town.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy stated that I'll make that motion and it was seconded by Councilman Preston Blakely.

Motion carries all in favor.

Comments from the Town Manager Mark Biberdorf.

Fletcher Fire & Rescue went through a survey and they received confirmation that they have an improved rating. Their current rating is an ISO 4 which is a very good rating and the lower the number the better the rating. During this process they were

approved for an ISO 3 rating. This helps with property insurance rates and it goes into effect July 1, 2020.

On the discussion about the burning ordinance I contacted David Owen with the School of Government and I have not heard back from him and I contacted someone else and have not heard back from them either. The question was in relation to exceptions in the NC Administrative code for open burning in a municipality that provides solid waste and brush collection. Just wanted to let you know that we are still looking into this.

On the town center project we still have these three properties to close on. I thought any day now that we would be closing on the Kenneth Youngblood property but there is still some issues that the title searcher has to get with the county on but given the circumstances right now that is kind of hard. On the land swap the parking lot is finished and I have contacted Joe Ferikes so that we can get moving on this one to do the land swap. On the Kevin Walker property there were some outstanding Deeds of Trust that need to be taken care of. I will follow up with Kathleen Rose I was hoping by early April that we would have the draft of the RFP ready.

The shred event and pill drop on April 25th has been cancelled and we are hoping to reschedule it sometime in June.

The budget retreat and presentation is scheduled for May 2 and my plan is to move forward with this unless we run into a major issues of getting revenue projections. If we can do it in person and spread out if you are comfortable with it. We can do this in either the council room or the Multipurpose room as long as we can spread out.

The Community Foundation of Henderson County sent out a letter with response to COVID 19. They are raising money to help the less fortunate who have really been impacted by this. Donations are coming in and the community foundation is matching it with up to 50,000. They are working on a committee on how the money will be distributed.

On the Litter Sweep, this is liter sweep month and I received an email from Hugh Clark and he mentioned with all these people home looking for things to do this might be a way that we can get more help on this so I emailed Jabbo and he

provided me with a list of streets. If there is interest in you then I can do a connect call asking people to help out with this an encourage them to space out.

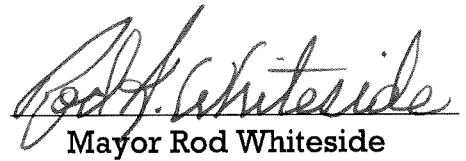
Council agrees that this would be a good idea.

Mayor Rod Whiteside asked for a motion to adjourn so moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy and Councilman Preston Blakely and it was seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Franklin.

Adjourned: 8:07 pm

Approved:

5-11-2020
Date


Mayor Rod Whiteside