

Fletcher Town Council
Agenda Review Meeting
Minutes
October 2, 2023

Call the meeting to order at: 6:00 pm

Those who were in attendance are as follows:

Mayor Preston Blakley
Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy
Councilwoman Sheila Franklin
Councilman Trevor Lance
Councilman Keith Reed
Town Manager Mark Biberdorf

Public Comments

None at this time.

Approval of minutes-corrections, additions or deletions.
(9/5, 9/11) & 9/28)

No comments were made on the minutes at this time.

Council Updates

Mayor Blakely stated that he wanted to thank staff for the ribbon cutting on Friday he said that he thought it went very well.

Councilman Trevor Lance commented on the Family Fun Festival and how great it was. There was a lot of people there.

Councilwoman Sheila Franklin commented that a resident suggested with the benches near the courts and the gravel around them saying that the gravel is going to get trapped in your shoes and then going out on the court and it is going to grind down on the court and wear the court out sooner. I have noticed that in some other parks they have a concrete pad that the bench is attached to and I think that would be a great idea either that or it needs to have mulch around it.

Councilman Keith Reed suggested a rack to put the paddles (pickle ball) on as this is a way to line up as to whose turn it is to play next.

Councilwoman Sheila Franklin mentioned that someone had reached out to the mayor and myself regarding more tennis courts. What he was suggesting sounded very favorable and I would at least meet with him to see what he has to say about adding more tennis courts for tournament play.

Mayor Blakely stated that his suggestion was to turn the existing tennis court into a pickle ball court and then add more tennis courts and him cover a portion of the cost.

Discussion Followed:

Consent Agenda

Tax releases/refunds

Approval of Resolution R-22-08 to sell surplus property by electronic auction on Gov Deals website.

Set Public Hearing for November 13, 2023 regarding potential LDC amendments and other ordinance items related to campers/rv's tiny homes, and required street widths.

Mayor Blakely asked if there were any comments or questions on the Consent Agenda.

There were no comments from council at this time.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that Eric Rufa will be here for the regular meeting next week in case you have any comments on the amendments to the Land Development Code.

Public hearing to receive comments regarding a potential amendment to the Town Charter to change to the nonpartisan plurality method for the Town's municipal elections – Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager.

Mayor Blakely asked Town Manager Mark Biberdorf did he need to go over this now.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that he can give an overview if we have a crowd here but most people already know what this is about. Pretty simple going from the primary method to the plurality method which would mean a filing period in July instead of December. If the bill that Senator Moffitt filed and is introducing next week does not go through then we have to be prepared with our own ordinance.

Request for potential cost share arrangement for installation of crosswalk on Howard Gap Road- Michael Luplow, FernLeaf Charter School.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that we have discussed this before with some safety concerns. This is about putting an actuated flasher there at the crosswalk on Howard Gap Road and he is asking for a cost share on this. He will be here next week.

Discussion Followed:

Consideration of legislative priorities list for FY 2023-2024- Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that you have a copy of the list in your packet and there is also a copy of the list from the League of Municipalities. He then answered questions that council had for him about the list.

Discussion Followed:

Council has suggested some amendments to item number 1 and 7 on the list before approval at the meeting next week.

Comments from the Town Manager Mark Biberdorf.

On the meeting with Crown Castle, we (myself, Eric Rufa and Jabbo Pressley) met with them last Wednesday. They wanted to give us some insight to the cell antennas that they are looking at for the area. They have identified seven sites in the area of which only three are in the city limits of Fletcher. (two in residential neighborhoods) One site is in Franem Acres at the corner of Oakbrook and Hickory Drive. Another is in Windsor Forest at the corner of Mountain Alder Lane and Red Spruce Way and a third location is on Underwood Road on the side of the road where Blue Ghost Brewing is and the Fletcher Commerce Center.

So, the two that are in residential areas I have asked them to come up with alternative locations. They are going to work on this and come back to us and I don't know the time lines as of yet.

Discussion Followed:

Preston and I met with a couple of interested parties trying to explore soccer location sites in the area. Eric Clonch and Mike Rottjacob who is the executive director of the Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association. They are in an exploratory phase right now. I gave him the history on the Meritor property and how we went around and around with different soccer associations on this property.

As you know that we have Bob coming off the board a he is looking at coming off the end of December. (Even though his term extends through the end of 2024) Do you want to do the

application process again do you want to simply make an appointment for it. We could start the process in October and have a deadline for sometime in November.

Council agrees to the application process to appoint someone to fill the vacant seat.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy commented on the house on Oak Book Drive (under foreclosure/auction process) and the complaints that he has received about this property

Discussion Followed:

Councilman Trevor Lance commented on the camera that is focused on the podium and it being too low and hard to see the person at the podium in the videos.

Mayor Blakely asked if council had anything else and if not do we have a motion to adjourn?

Councilman Keith Reed made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Councilman Trevor Lance.

Motion carries all in favor.

Adjourned: 7:04 pm

Approved:

11-13-23
Date



Mayor Preston Blakely

Fletcher Town Council
Town Council Meeting
Minutes
October 9, 2023

Call the meeting to order at: 6:00 pm

Those who were in attendance are as follows:

Mayor Preston Blakely
Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy
Councilman Keith Reed
Councilman Trevor Lance
Councilwoman Sheila Franklin
Planning & Zoning Director Eric Rufa
Town Manager Mark Biberdorf

Moment of Silence: Mayor Blakely asked for a moment of silence

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Blakely let the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Jeff Johnson of 203 Windsor Forest Circle Fletcher spoke on his concerns about speeding on Fanning Bridge Road. He said that he can see from his back deck that stopped school buses are being passed and he asked when the new radar speed detection sign will be available for use.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that the sign was ordered a few months back and said that it should be here soon.

Mayor Blakely read and presented a Proclamation in honor of Phillipino American History Month.

Approval of minutes-corrections, additions or deletions.
(9/5, 9/11 & 9/28)

Mayor Preston Blakely asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes as presented. If not is there a motion to approve the minutes?

Councilman Keith Reed stated that he would make that motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy.

Motion carries all in favor.

Council Updates

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy stated that he and Councilwoman Sheila Franklin went to visit the new FernLeaf campus and the building is gorgeous and he recommends that if you have not seen it yet that you need to go look at it.

Consent Agenda

Tax releases/refunds

Approval of Resolution R-23-08 to sell surplus property by electronic auction on Gov Deals website.

Set Public Hearing for November 13, 2023 regarding potential LDC amendments and other ordinance items related to campers/rv's, tiny homes, and required street widths.

Mayor Blakely asked if there were any comments, questions on the consent agenda and if not is there a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented?

Councilman Trevor Lance stated that he would make that motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy.

Motion carries all in favor.

Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a potential amendment to the Town Charter to change to the nonpartisan plurality method for the Town's municipal elections – Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that this is a follow up item from the September special call meeting where you set a public hearing for the meeting tonight. This largely came about from senate bill 265 that was introduced in the last general assembly session which changed our elections from odd numbered years to even numbered years. In order to implement this all of your terms had to be extended one year. We also with the upcoming election in 2024 we ran into some logistical issues with the filing. You heard from the Director of Elections about the alternatives. What the Public Hearing is for is to hear comments about changing your charter from the nonpartisan primary method to the nonpartisan plurality method.

Discussion Followed:

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to enter into Public Hearing.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy stated so moved and it seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Franklin.

Motion carries all in favor.

Mayor Blakely asked if anyone wanted to speak in the public hearing.

There was no one who wanted to speak at this time.

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to close public hearing.

Councilman Trevor Lance stated that he would make a motion and it was seconded by Councilman Keith Reed.

Motion carries all in favor.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that next month he would be bringing an ordinance before you to amend the charter and then also our state senator Tim Moffitt is looking to introduce a bill that would make this change without having to take council action. We will see if that gets filed and moves and if it doesn't in time and maybe regardless we will move forward with this.

Discussion Followed:

Request for potential cost share arrangement for installation of crosswalk on Howard Gap Road – Michael Luplow, Fern Leaf Charter School.

Michael Luplow of FernLeaf Charter School gave a brief presentation on the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at the crosswalk on Howard Gap Road. Cost of this light is \$22,000.

Discussion Followed:

Council agrees to a cost share arrangement on this light at the crosswalk

Consideration of legislative priorities list for FY 2023-2024 – Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that he added an item to the list and put some more clarifying language on another item after the discussion from last week.

One item that has been added (number 9) to the list is to ask for support for additional federal and state resources to facilitate workforce housing projects. On item number 7 I added some

clarifying language to that one on the water and sewer about un-served areas as identified by the Town of Fletcher.

Discussion Followed:

After some discussion council would like to add some funding resources for greenways.

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to approve the Legislative priorities list for the Town of Fletcher for 2023-2024 with the addition of some language regarding greenway funding.

Councilwoman Sheila Franklin said that she would make that motion and it was seconded by Councilman Trevor Lance.

Motion carries all in favor.

Comments from the Town Manager Mark Biberdorf.

We had an in-person meeting with Crown Castle on September 28th in which we conveyed our concerns about small cell wireless facilities going up in any neighborhood. We had already talked about Windsor Forest and also Franem Acres down the road. They had mentioned seven sites three of them or actually four are in the town limits. (forget to mention one last week) Two of these sites are commercial sites so these are not an issue. They are supposed to be coming back to us with some alternative suggestions. I think they are going to try and work with us.

Great ribbon cutting on the courts project last week and we made the adjustments that you suggested last week on the fees. They are getting a quote to put concrete around the benches.

I mentioned last week that we had a meeting with some interested parties regarding soccer fields. The mayor and I met with Eric Clonch and Mike Rottjacob who is the executive director of the Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association and they are looking at Meritor as a potential location which is very exploratory right now.

On the upcoming council vacancy for district 3 for Bob Davy who will be serving until the end of the year I emailed to you a public notice. We have a hard copy of a public notice that breaks down the process for this and we will open an application period for applications to be received which will start on Friday October 13 and end on October 27.

On the possible revisions to the fire contract we communicated them to the fire chief and he shared it with their board. They have put a committee together to start looking at it and we are supposed to meet with them on October 20th.

Discussion Followed:

Mayor Blakely asked for a motion to enter Closed Session for personnel matters.

Councilman Trevor Lance said that he would make a motion and it was seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Franklin.

Motion carries all in favor.

Went into Closed Session at: 7:05 pm

Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11 (6) "Personnel Matters"

Came out of Closed Session at: 8:15 pm

Councilman Keith Reed made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy.

Adjourned: 8:18 pm

Approved:

11-13-23
Date



Mayor Preston Blakely