

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
AGENDA WORKSHOP
December 14, 2009

THE BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN held its regularly scheduled agenda workshop on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room of Town Hall, 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to review the agenda for the regular monthly meeting scheduled for December 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m..

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bartlett called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Carl R. Bartlett
Alderman Ruth D. Brandon
Alderman Joan Brown
Alderman-elect Tim Rayburn
Alderman-elect Carlos Showers

The following staff members were present:

Marcia D. Onieal, Town Manager
Ron Sneed, Town Attorney
Rick Shreve, Finance & Information Services Director
Elizabeth Teague, Planning & Development Services Director
Rebecca Eberhardt, Zoning Administrator
Jim Orr, Recreation and Parks Director
Robert Watts, Public Works Director
Steve Jones, Fire Chief
Craig Bannerman, Deputy Fire Chief
Steve Padgett, Police Lieutenant
Anna V. Stearns, Clerical Assistant

The Board reviewed the items that were proposed for the December regular session meeting, and made the following changes to the agenda:

- 1) Under **PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**, due to auditors' change in schedule, deferred until January 11, 2010 presentation of item 7A. Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for the Town of Black Mountain for the year ending June 30, 2009.

- 2) Under **CONSENT AGENDA**, moved item 8A. 2010 Schedule of Agenda Workshops and Regular Meetings of the Board of Aldermen to section **9. NEW BUSINESS**.
- 3) Under **NEW BUSINESS**, upon recommendation of the manager, tabled consideration of two of the three parcels listed under item 9B. Declaring parcels of land as surplus with intent to dispose by sale, subject to upset bid (the 6.456 and .042 acres parcels located at Old Toll Road, also known as “Rocky Branch”, until such time that cloud on title and right-of-way concerns are resolved.
- 4) Under **NEW BUSINESS**, deleted item 9C. Board of Alderman Rules of Procedure, asking that the topic be considered instead at the annual Board Retreat.
- 5) Under **OLD BUSINESS**, deleted item 10A Review of Status on Phase III of the Settings.
- 6) Section **13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY** was deleted.

Continuing discussion regarding the 2010 Schedule of Board Meetings, Vice Mayor Sobol spoke in favor of having the agenda meeting on the Thursday before the regular session in order to allow additional time between the agenda session and the regular session for gathering information before the meeting. Alderman Brown said that she does not see the need to have two meetings on separate nights, especially because of the additional strain this places on staff. Alderman Rayburn said that his concern is that items would be brought to the Agenda meeting that were not included in the Board packet, not allowing time to adequately review items on the Agenda. Mayor Bartlett is also in favor of keeping the separate agenda meeting. Alderman Showers said that he did not feel like the changes in the agenda were significant enough to warrant the additional meeting. Alderman Brown proposed that the Board move the agenda meeting to immediately prior to the regular meeting for a period of 6 months to see if it works for the Board.

Fire Chief Steve Jones presented the Board with information concerning the ARRA/SAFER Grant application. The grant would cover the salary & benefit expenses for nine new fire fighters for 2 years, with the Town picking up full costs in year 3, in the approximate amount of \$560,000 per year. The initial cost to the town would include approximately \$35,000 for equipment, training and physicals, which would need to be budgeted in FY10-11. In addition to salary costs, the grant would add about \$11,000 annually to the Fire Department budget starting in year 3 for equipment, training and physicals. Ms. Onieal explained that the annual addition of more than \$560,000 to the general fund would require revenue enhancements equal to roughly .06/\$100 valuation increase in the tax rate. It is possible that the fire district tax rate could be increased along with the Town rate, in proportion to the district's demand on and support of fire & rescue operations (currently at 42% of departmental budget). The two years covered by the grant could also allow the Town to incrementally increase the tax rate, so as not to hit the public with a single large increase at once. Ms. Onieal stated that the Town cannot absorb the cost of

the salaries in year 3 without a commitment from the Board to either raise revenue to cover the increased expense or be willing to make substantial cuts in other General Fund programs in order to make up the difference.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Showers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. and the motion was unanimously approved.

Carl R. Bartlett, Mayor

Marcia D. Onieal, Town Manager

ATTEST

Rosa Hilbert, Deputy Clerk

Prepared by:

Anna V. Stearns, Administrative Asst.