

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
(REPLACING THE REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION OF 6/14/10
CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM)
June 16, 2010**

THE BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN met in a special called meeting on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the board room of Town Hall, 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, NC, for the purpose of considering all items of business included on the agenda for the regular monthly session, originally scheduled for June 14, 2010, which was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, PRAYER

Mayor Bartlett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Carl R. Bartlett
Mayor pro tem Joan Brown
Alderman Ruth D. Brandon
Alderman Tim Rayburn
Alderman Carlos Showers
Alderman C. Michael Sobol

The following staff members were present:

Marcy Onieal, Town Manager
Kevin Pressley, Police Chief
Steve Jones, Fire Chief
Jim Orr, Recreation and Parks Director
Elizabeth Teague, Planning Director
Rick Shreve, Finance Director
Laurel Mabery, Budget Assistant
Darlene Whisenant, Town Clerk

Representing the media:

Jennifer Fitzgerald, Black Mountain News
Mark Vanderhoff, Black Mountain News
Gary & Sally Biggers, Black Mountain Video Productions

Mayor Bartlett led the Pledge of Allegiance, following with an opening invocation. He thanked everyone in attendance and expressed appreciation to all those attending for the first time and the viewing audience. He said that a re-broadcast of each regular meeting is shown throughout the month on Charter Cable's Buncombe County Government Channel 2 at 8:00 p.m.

on Fridays, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 8:00 p.m. on Sundays. Meetings initially air the same week they occur and are shown weekly until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Citizens may also go to the Town website and click on “Town Board Video Stream” at any time and view the most recent regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

II. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

A. Mayor Bartlett

Mayor Bartlett reported that he participated in 91 hours of meetings last month. He worked with the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization to obtain approval for several projects, including the long-range transportation plan update.

He reported on his communications with local legislators about various projects and pending legislation.

B. Board of Aldermen

Alderman Brandon said that she had recently been made aware that Alderman Sobol had requested a transcript of the phone message she left for the Town Manager informing her of her absence from the regular board meeting scheduled for Monday. Ms. Brandon said that she would have preferred Mr. Sobol direct the question to her and not to the Town Manager. Alderman Brandon noted she will soon be completing 15 years of service on the Board of Aldermen, which represents over 350 monthly meetings, of which Monday’s meeting was the first she had ever missed. She expressed her disappointment with the criticisms leveled against her at Monday’s meeting, given her exemplary attendance prior to that date, and apologized for the inconvenience caused to the other board members and to the public by her absence.

Alderman Brown explained her absence from Monday’s meeting was due to serving as primary caregiver for her daughter, a veteran who was injured in Desert Storm, and for a close friend, both of whom who had just undergone surgery, noting that Monday’s meeting was only the fourth meeting she had ever missed in many years as an Alderman. She apologized for any inconvenience caused by her absence.

Alderman Sobol said that the population of bears in western North Carolina has dramatically increased and the issue must be addressed. He suggested that the Board make a recommendation to the State Wildlife Commission that the bear hunting season be extended by one week at the beginning and at the end of the season, that the bag limit be increased by one and that some of the bear sanctuaries be opened to bear hunting. He also suggested that the Town should adopt an ordinance to prohibit feeding bears. He asked staff to provide a sample ordinance for the board’s consideration.

Alderman Showers apologized for his absence from Monday’s meeting. He was attending his son’s graduation. He spoke about Alex’s injuries following an accident at school which

caused him to miss a year of school and be confined to a wheel chair during that time. For that reason, it was very important to see him walk across the stage to graduate.

Alderman Rayburn advised the public that he had requested additional budget workshops to address the differences of opinion among aldermen regarding the proposed budget, noting that he does not agree with the proposed budget as it now stands. He would like to postpone all capital outlay, and does not believe that the town needs a reverse communication system. He does not want to see services cut, but believes purchase of new emergency vehicles can continue to be delayed. He questioned the large increase in personnel costs for the Fire Department and why the budget needed to accommodate the addition of six new fire fighters that were being funded by the SAFER grant. He emphasized the importance of utilizing more volunteer firefighters and auxiliary police officers than paid staff. He expressed the importance of finding funding to employ an additional firefighter to be located at the Blue Ridge Road substation if the Town is not awarded the SAFER Grant. He asked the board to modify the budget to provide a 2.9% cost of living increase for town employees, preserve the wellness program, contribute to the Chamber of Commerce, and Swannanoa Valley Museum. These amounts would increase the proposed budget by \$95,000.

III. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

A. Town Manager

The Town Manager announced the following upcoming events:

- Town Hall Day at NC General Assembly – June 15, 2010
- Park Rhythms begins – June 17, 2010
- Town Square Steering Committee – June 24, 2010
- Bid Opening – Sewer Extension Projects – June 30, 2010
- State Energy Office-ARRA application status

She reported on various proposed state legislation, including changes to ABC Board regulations, municipal broadband internet, eminent domain procedures, and others. She announced that the Town was not successful in its grant application for energy upgrades to the Carver Center, but would pursue other grant opportunities as they become available. She noted that the Town was not funded in Round 1 for either the SAFER or COPS stimulus grants, but that the Town's applications were still under consideration for Round 2 funding.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bob McMurray, thanked Jim Buckner for his work with the Chamber and the Community Foundation. He provided the Board with several reasons that the Board should reconsider providing support to the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center saves the town more than \$100,000 by providing the service on behalf of the town. He listed the many area organizations that receive contributions from the Chamber. Volunteers contribute more than 5,000 hours of service per year.

Mayor Bartlett asked that members of the public hold their comments about the budget until the public hearing.

David Hicks, 102 Valley Vista Drive, asked what the procedure is for instituting a recall against members of the Board of Aldermen. Ms. Onieal directed Mr. Hicks to the Buncombe County Board of Elections to get that information.

Carolyn Johnson, 207 Rhododendron Avenue, praised the efforts of the Town in maintaining the Town's parks and providing area residents with such valuable resources. She encouraged the board to support the Recreation and Parks Department.

Lori Camp, 22 Daniel Lane, offered her support for Recreation Superintendant Casey Conner and asked that the board not cut his position.

Richard Hudson, 106 Pleasant Drive Circle, said that although he doesn't like the tax increase, it will not drive him out of town. He questioned Ms. Brandon's support of the tax increase given her previous stance as the "Watchdog of the Treasury." He asked the board to call off the promotional marketing plan for the golf course, due to increased level of play by amateur golfers and suggested that the money be spent on more golf course maintenance. He said that he understood Alderman Showers missing the meeting to watch his son graduate, but questioned the legitimacy of Aldermen Brandon and Brown's emergencies.

Mary Hicks, 2189 North Fork Right Fork, spoke in support of Casey Conner's position with the Parks and Recreation Department. His attention to detail and consistency made her children's experience in youth sports exceptional and she asked the Board to find a way to protect his position.

Gay Fox, 307 Tomahawk Avenue, asked Ms. Brandon, Ms. Brown and Mr. Showers why they believe taxes should be raised when everyone is hurting so much financially.

Don Collins, 80 Camp Branch Road, asked the Board to consider the residents of Camp Branch Road, several of whom are single, retired, on a fixed income and cannot bear an increase in property taxes. He asked the Board to reconsider cuts that can be made to alleviate the coming tax increase. He does not believe that the majority of the public supported the Board's decision to purchase the downtown park property.

Alec Hile, 111 Connally Street, also spoke in support of Casey Conner and his many efforts in promoting and organizing youth sports for the Town.

Robert Camp, 22 Damon Lane, also spoke in support of Casey Conner. His son played flag football for Casey's team. He believes that Casey has been as important an influence in his son's life as his school teachers and asked the Board to reconsider the possible cutting of this position.

Allan Greene, 335 Lookout Terrace, said it is important for people to understand that feeding bears encourages bears to come to houses to look for food. He believes the town should pass an ordinance prohibiting bear feeding and educate the public.

Phil Bisesi, asked if the Town could pursue possibly allowing hunters to donate bear and deer meat to the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry.

Cheryl Milton, 202 Mountain Street, said that while Mr. Showers had every right to watch his son's high school graduation, the date for that graduation would have been known well in advance. She believes that the three members of the board who are planning to vote for the budget purposefully coordinated missing the meeting and strongly believes that none will be re-elected in 2011.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Adoption of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of May 10, 2010 (Agenda Workshop), May 10, 2010 (Regular Session), May 27, 2010 (Budget Workshop), June 3, 2010 (Budget Workshop), June 11, 2010 (Budget Workshop)

B. Year-end Budget Amendment #BA-FY2010-12 and grant Project Ordinance Closeouts

Motion: To approve year-end budget amendments and grant project ordinance closeout documents as presented.

C. CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING to consider a recommended text amendment to the Land Use Code regarding wood and yard waste facilities.

Motion: To call for a public hearing on July 12, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Board Room of the Town Hall located at 160 Midland Avenue for the purpose of considering a text amendment to the Land Use Code, regarding wood and yard waste facilities, as recommended by the Planning Board.

D. CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING to consider application to amend the zoning map from Traditional residential (4 residential units/acre) to Light Industrial (8 residential units/acre) for 9 properties located along Blue Ridge Road (request of Jeff Hall).

Motion: To call for a public hearing on July 12, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible in the Board Room of Town Hall located at 160 Midland Avenue for the purpose of considering the rezoning proposal as requested by Jeff Hall.

- E. **CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING** to consider Historic District Nominations to the National register for the South Montreat Road and Dougherty Heights Neighborhoods.

Motion: To call for a public hearing on August 16th, 2010 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Board Room of Town Hall located at 160 Midland Avenue, to consider Historic District Nominations to the National Register for the South Montreat Road and Dougherty Heights Neighborhoods, enabling property owners to receive state and federal rehabilitation tax benefits.

- F. NCLM Municipal Environmental Assessment Coalition Project Partnership Agreement

Motion: To authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement between the Town of Black Mountain and the North Carolina League of Municipalities confirming the Town's participation as a member of the Municipal Environmental Assessment Coalition.

The agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Alderman Brown.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Town Square Steering Committee – Initial Report to Board. Tom Gill, Spokesperson

Ms. Onieal introduced Tom Gill, chair of Business to Business, who was chosen as the spokesperson for the committee, which has met twice to work on the directives given by the Board of Aldermen. The downtown property is currently being used for various purposes, including vending, parking and solicitations for non-profit agencies. The committee recommends a laissez faire policy, on a first-come, first-serve basis, with no special enforcement, except for installation of signs indicating that the property is public, providing information about potential development of the property, and prohibiting overnight parking.

In order to obtain as much public input as possible, the committee recommends the following:

- Hold community meetings with members of the Board of Aldermen and steering committee present.
- Develop a questionnaire to be delivered to high traffic areas, such as the grocery store, post office, etc.
- Utilize local public media to distribute information to the public

- Use the modest budget allocated to solicit the assistance of consultants, perhaps from one of the universities, who are specialists in gauging public opinion.

The committee will reconvene on June 24th to continue work, if so directed by the Board, and would plan to provide a comprehensive report back to the Board of Aldermen by January or February, 2011.

Alderman Brown made a motion to endorse the Committee's recommendations for interim use of the property and the Committee's plan and timetable for soliciting public input as presented.

Alderman Brandon said that she has not supported the purchase of this property. She believes the property should be returned to commercial uses so that the Town can recognize the revenue from property and sales tax revenues. She also does not believe that the town can afford to maintain the park into the future. She recommends selling the property to recoup the Town's losses.

Alderman Brown called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bartlett called for a 10-minute recess at 7:30 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 7:40 p.m.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. PUBLIC HEARING on Proposed Annual Operating Budget for the Town of Black Mountain FY 2010-2011.

Ms. Onieal provided a summary of budget discussions between staff and the Board over the previous five weeks, noting that the budget she proposed in May included a 7-cent tax rate increase. The Town has not had a tax rate increase in over 20 years. 2.5 cents of the tax rate increase is associated with the town square property. Another penny of the tax rate increase will be used to provide sewer extensions to the Avena/McCoy Cove/Blue Ridge Road areas that were annexed over 20 years ago. \$35,000 has been set aside to cover the town's costs associated with possibly receiving the SAFER grant to hire 6 new firefighters. \$90,000 in increased cost has been passed along from the State of North Carolina in retirement and health benefit costs for town employees, representing another 1 cent of the tax rate increase. The majority direction of the Board has been to split the difference between a 7-cent tax rate increase and no increase at all. This resulted in a proposed tax rate increase of 4.5 cents for a total tax rate of 36.5 cents per \$100. This change was accomplished by using the Town's fund balance money to make the first payment on the financing for the town square property. The cost of living increase for Town employees has been reduced to 1.5%. The budget eliminates the Disease Management benefit program and removes annual contributions to the Chamber of Commerce and the Swannanoa Valley Museum. \$27,000 has been allocated to make town facilities ADA compliant. The Town has not had a system in place for replacing aging town vehicles and the proposed budget includes \$63,000 that will be used to finance seven new vehicles to be used across several town departments.

Alderman Sobol passed a handout to the audience with a list of specific savings he would like to propose, pointing out that while the tax rate has not increased in over 20 years, the amount of money generated by property taxes has still increased modestly due to growth in property values. Mr. Sobol offered several specific suggestions that had not been discussed in earlier budget discussions, noting that with sound business practices, a balanced budget could be reached without a tax increase.

Alderman Brown said that it is necessary to provide the police department with the three new vehicles they have requested and to provide the fire department with the two vehicles they have requested. She does not support reducing the budget for the Planning Department. She stressed how much work the department has done to develop the new Land Use Code. She spoke about the numerous programs developed and run by the Parks & Recreation Department and the need to maintain the number of employees in that department to keep the level of service so high. She said that the proposed tax rate increase for a home valued at \$90,000 would be \$41 annually, or a little over \$3 per month. For a home valued at \$150,000, the tax increase would be \$68, or \$6 per month. For a home valued at \$200,000, the tax increase would be \$90, or \$7 per month.

The Mayor opened the public hearing for public comments.

Mike Baldwin, 300 New Bern Avenue, said that the tax rate increase represents a year over year increase of 20% compared to an inflationary rate of 3%. Buncombe County has managed to maintain services without increasing property tax rates. He quoted several passages from the proposed budget, including one stating that residents moving to Black Mountain from larger and more urbanized areas tend to expect higher levels of service from the Town. He does not believe that people move to Black Mountain to see what can be changed, but because of the slower pace of life. Because Buncombe County has opted not to do a revaluation for property taxes, residents will not see their taxes lowered in concert with falling property values. Mr. Baldwin believes that new firefighters should be paid for by naturally occurring population increases, as should customer service initiatives.

Alan Greene, 335 Lookout Terrace, said that he appreciates Ms. Brown's passion for the Town employees and shares that passion because one of his sons was employed in the fire department, but does not believe that employees have to be offered a cost of living increase when most people are not receiving raises in the current economic climate. He believes that the Board should stop catering to the upper class and listen to the working class backbone of the town. He has waited over 20 years for water and sewer service after being annexed in the early 80's, but said that he would rather wait awhile longer than see property taxes raised to pay for the project. He would like to have the tax rate increase put to a vote by the citizens as California did. It is the citizens' money that is being spent and the Board has a duty to seek input from the citizens. Holding budget workshops at times that most people cannot attend is not conducive to receiving that input.

Bob Gunn, 109 Pleasant Drive, referenced an article in Business Week magazine in which Bob Nardelli, former CEO of Home Depot and of Chrysler Corporation, said that nationwide unemployment is likely 18% instead of 10%. He also read a quote from Meredith

Whitney, former managing director at Oppenheimer & Co., as saying that it is going to be a lot more expensive to be poor in this country. Mr. Gunn recounted that the former town manager had prepared a rather drastic “doomsday plan” for a worst-case financial crisis, which he believes we may be facing now. It is now time for fiscal responsibility and this Board must distinguish between what is nice for the town and what is necessary for the town.

Lisa Milton, 406 West State Street, said that she has observed a lot of anger from the public in tonight’s meeting as a result of the absence of three Aldermen from Monday’s scheduled meeting, partly from people not understanding why they were absent, but also as a result of the appearance created by the fact that the three absent members were those in favor of a tax rate increase. More importantly, the anger is a result of the fact that the Aldermen are elected to act on behalf of the constituency and their actions do not support that. The Board’s refusal to schedule an additional budget workshop as requested by Mr. Rayburn indicates that the tax rate increase has already been decided upon. Residents do not favor the increase. She reminded Ms. Brandon of her promise not to raise taxes and her history of not being afraid to go against the tide and support an unpopular position. She asked the board to consider the financial hardship that will be created for many town residents by the proposed increase.

Cathy Roberson, 109 Briarbrook Road, said that she is adamantly opposed to any tax rate increases. She admonished Ms. Brown for her facial expressions and eye rolling while the previous speakers were talking.

Terry McElrath, 218 Padgettown Road, said that she supports the tax rate increase because it has been so long since the town has had a tax rate increase, noting that you get what you pay for, and that this town deserves quality services. She cautioned against continuing to scrape by where the town budget is concerned. She also spoke in support of the Recreation Supervisor’s position. The recreational programs have had 2,031 participants or 21,310 recreation visits. The department has also had over 4,000 visitors for recreational classes, such as Karate. The Recreation Supervisor is responsible for overseeing 2 full-time employees and 29 part-time employees. She cannot imagine how the Town will supervise this number of people if this position is removed.

John Dewitt, 169 Hilltop Road, thanked the Aldermen for their leadership. He stressed the value provided by the recreation department, its facilities and programs. Black Mountain’s low rate of juvenile delinquency is a testament to the value of these programs. He asked the Board not to take a step backward by jeopardizing any of these programs or town facilities with suggested budget cuts.

Gay Fox, 309 Tomahawk Avenue, said that many people will see increases in their monthly mortgage payments when escrow accounts are adjusted if the property taxes are raised, which may result in increased rental rates, penalizing the poor. She also spoke about the impact to businesses when commercial rents are increased. She asked the board to consider young families with children who are already struggling to pay rent and worrying about losing their jobs. She encouraged residents to offer volunteer hours to help keep taxes from going up.

Elaine Loutzenheiser, 410 Avena Road, thanked Gay Fox for her passionate pleas not to raise taxes, but reminded her that she adamantly supported the purchase of the town square property. She said that the Town has not recognized any of the promised tax revenues from Ingles or The Settings or other new development. She said that while no one is ever in favor of a tax increase, the desire to maintain professional staff and avoid cuts in services, higher taxes are a something that must be done. She reminded Mr. Gunn that the previous manager's doomsday contingency plan did not contemplate the Town's purchase of a \$2.1 million parcel of property, and the drastic cuts it recommended would have been far less acceptable to the public than an increase in the tax rate .

Cheryl Milton, 202 Mountain Street, spoke about her own financial situation saying that she pays over \$17,000 for her family's health insurance coverage and the town employees should see the provision of health insurance as a benefit. She also said that it is time for everyone to tighten belts, doing things such as maintaining and repairing vehicles rather than replacing them. She said that she found Alderman Brown's earlier comments about offsetting the cost of the tax rate increase by not purchasing a 6-pack or a hamburger offensive.

Ryan Stone, 46 Bethel Road, referenced a statement from President Clinton in the 90's when he reached out to a person with AIDS and said, "I feel your pain." Mr. Stone believes that this exemplifies what the constituents want from their elected officials, empathy and understanding. In the midst of the worst recession in decades, town residents cannot afford this increase. He believes that the budget could be tightened and tax increases avoided. He does not see any wisdom in raising taxes while not providing a substantial increase in town services.

Bob Martin 104 White Oak Circle, spoke about the problem of the bears. A mother bear with three cubs frequents his home, even without having food out. The Town should address this problem. He said that during his 2-hour shift at the Chamber of Commerce on Monday, he helped 17 people from 9 different states who were all interested in relocating to Black Mountain. He also had five requests for the booklet produced by the Chamber because they were interested in holiday rentals. The visitor center has about 77 visitors per day. He is disappointed that the Town will remove its contribution to the Chamber of Commerce. He believes the Town will be cutting off its nose to spite its face.

Ann Lutz, 211 North Park Lane, asked the Alderman to have the courage to approve the tax rate. She does not believe the town cannot afford to continue to scrape by indefinitely just to delay tax increases.

Mike Meyer, 5 Longfellow Road, spoke highly of the town manager and staff, and does not believe that any of the Aldermen would have recommended the proposed budget unless they knew it was absolutely necessary.

Julie White, spoke highly of staff and encouraged the Board not to cut the positions of either Casey Connor or Elizabeth Teague. While a tax rate increase is never greeted with delight, it is most certainly necessary. She encouraged the Board to have the courage to pass the proposed budget.

Clay Hile, 111 Connally Street, serves on the Recreation & Parks Board. He was worked with four department managers and would hate to lose Jim Orr to another department. He suggested that the manager had been tasked with developing a responsible budget and that the Board should refrain from micromanaging the departments.

Jim Halverson, 217 South Laurel Circle Drive, spoke in support of Casey Connor and asked the Board not to cut his position.

Rick Spaulding, 406 West State Street, admonished Aldermen Brown and Brandon for not watching and listening to speakers who are not in favor of the tax increase. He reminded Alderman Brandon that she was elected based on her campaign promises not to raise taxes. He also said that Ms. Brown voted to purchase the town square property and then came to another meeting and suggested selling it. He believes that both Ms. Brandon and Ms. Brown have behaved rudely and unprofessionally and that they should both step down.

Phil Bisesi, proposed that the town could look at cutting middle management positions if there are any. Sewer line extensions should be paid for through the water and sewer fees and not through the general fund. Residents should be charged for trash pick-up instead of paying for it out of the general fund. DOT funds should be used to complete greenway projects. He asked the Board to hold its vote until after the Board members have had time to consider all of the comments made tonight by the public.

Tom Gill, 110 Walnut Street, noted an error on Mr. Sobol's handout, saying that Business-to-Business has not received any contribution from the Town in the previous two years.

Mayor Bartlett closed the public hearing and asked for comments from the Board.

Alderman Showers said that he supported a tax increase during his campaign and he supports it now. He will not vote to remove quality staff from their positions, and will not vote to cut services that are essential to the security, safety, wellbeing and quality of life of the citizens. He supports the cost of living adjustment. He read from the response from the town manager to Alderman Sobol which explained his absence from Monday's meeting and said that Mr. Sobol's comments alluding to a conspiracy among the Board members are unfounded.

Alderman Rayburn moved that the Board hold another budget workshop before voting on the budget. Ms. Onieal reminded the Board that they must adopt a balanced budget by June 30th. ***The motion was defeated by a vote of 2-3, with Aldermen Brandon, Brown and Showers voting against.***

Alderman Brown moved to adopt the amended budget as presented by the Town Manager. Alderman Sobol said that he is appalled at some members of the Board campaigning on promises not to increase taxes and then voting to do just that. Alderman Rayburn said that he is very disappointed that the Town will be doing away with the Disease Management Program while holding itself out to be a community that promotes wellness. Mayor Bartlett said that he saw little additional belt tightening during this budget session, and expressed concern that many

contracted services in the budget are not specified in detail. The Mayor called for the vote. *The motion passed by a vote of 3-2 with Aldermen Sobol and Rayburn voting against.*

Mayor Bartlett called for a five-minute recess at 9:55 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 10:00 p.m.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance defining Electronic Gaming Operations as an “Amusement” and adding same to the Business Privilege License Fee Schedule.

Jennifer Tipton presented a proposal providing for a \$2,000 annual business license fee per location and \$500 per machine for electronic gaming operations. An inventory conducted by staff revealed 8 locations and 26 machines within the Town, which would provide approximately \$25,000 in revenue, although the General Assembly is considering legislation to prohibit or directly regulate these businesses also. The Planning Board unanimously approved the proposed ordinance amendment.

Alderman Brandon moved to adopt the ordinance amendment as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Appointments to fill vacancies on Town Boards and Commissions

The Board made the following appointments:

1. ABC Board (1) vacancy – Alderman Brown nominated Mary Sneed. Alderman Sobol nominated Herb Edwards. Mary Sneed was appointed, receiving four votes to Mr. Edwards’ one vote. Alderman Brown moved to appoint Mary Sneed as Chairperson for the ABC Board. Alderman Sobol nominated Rick Spaulding as Chairman. Ms. Sneed was appointed Chairperson, receiving three votes to Mr. Spaulding’s one vote.

2. Greenways Commission (2) vacancies – Alderman Sobol nominated John Murphy. Alderman Brown nominated Dottie Shuman. The nominations were unanimously approved.

3. Historic Preservation Commission (2) vacancies – Alderman Brown nominated Chad Slagle. Alderman Showers nominated John Buchanan. Alderman Brown nominated Mark Barker. Chad Slagle was appointed receiving four votes for the first available position. John Buchanan was appointed receiving three votes for the second available position.

4. Housing Commission (3) vacancies, (1) two-year unexpired term and (1) one-year unexpired term – Alderman Brown nominated Ruth Norton, Carolyn Copeland and Dawn Wilson for the available three-year terms. Alderman Sobol nominated Phil Bisesi for the available two-year term and James Phippard for the available one-year term. All were unanimously appointed.

5. Planning Board (3) vacancies – Alderman Brandon moved to re-appoint Buzz Yeatman, Ryan Stone, and John Rountree by acclimation. The motion was defeated with Aldermen Sobol and Rayburn opposed. Alderman Sobol nominated Michael Raines. His nomination was defeated by a vote of 2-3 with Aldermen Brandon, Brown and Showers opposed.

The nomination for Chad Knight was defeated by a vote of 2-3 with Aldermen Brandon, Brown and Showers opposed. Ryan Stone’s nomination was unanimously approved. John Rountree’s nomination was approved by a vote of 3-2 with Aldermen Sobol and Rayburn opposed. Buzz Yeatman’s nomination was approved by a vote of 3-2 with Aldermen Sobol and Rayburn opposed. With three slots already filled by vote, Michael Solomonides’ application was deferred.

6. Recreation Commission (3) vacancies and (1) two-year unexpired term – The recreation commission has recommended that Molly Keeney, Patricia MacIsaac, Brian Burpeau, and Jeff Hunter be appointed to fill the available four vacancies. Alderman Sobol moved to accept the recommendations of the Recreation Commission with Brian Burpeau filling the two-year unexpired term. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-1 with Alderman Rayburn opposed.

7. Urban Forestry Commission (3) vacancies – Alderman Sobol nominated Van Burnette, Eric Wardwell and Jerry Wicker. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Board of Adjustment (5) vacancies – Ray Lamm was nominated to a three year term by a vote of 3-2 with Aldermen Sobol and Rayburn opposed. Chris Browning was nominated to a three-year term by a vote of 4-1 with Alderman Rayburn opposed. Elaine Loutzenheiser was nominated to a three-year term by a vote of 3-2 with Aldermen Sobol and Rayburn opposed. Terry McCall’s nomination as an alternate was unanimously approved. Jerry Atkins’ nomination as an alternate was unanimously approved.

IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None at this time.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Alderman Showers made a motion to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST

Carl R. Bartlett, Mayor

Darlene Whistenant, Clerk

Marcia D. Onieal, Town Manager

Prepared by:

Anna V. Stearns,