The Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on June 10, 2024. Noteworthy items discussed and actions taken include the following:

- Mayoral Proclamations issued for Pride Month and Juneteenth.
- Received public comments.
- Received the Recreation & Parks Department Annual Report.

**Consent Agenda**
- Adoption of previous meeting minutes.
- Received the monthly property tax collector report.
- Approved several budget amendments.
- Approved a contract with Alliance Code Enforcement, LLC for part-time code enforcement services with the Town.
- Called for a Special Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. to hold a public hearing for proposed amendments to Ch. 4, Alcoholic Beverages, and Ch. 43, Article IV, Parades, Festivals and Special Events.

**Unfinished Business**
- Agreement to return funds to Land of Sky Regional Council for a downtown public wi-fi project.

**New Business**
- Received a presentation on Traffic Calming Measures from Colin Kinton, Senior Project Manager with Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD), on traffic calming practices.
- Received a presentation from Alex McIntyre, Engineer with Kimley–Horn, on the Ridgecrest Trail Connector Feasibility Study.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and Friends of the Community Garden, a 501c3 private non-profit organization, which formally describes the public-private partnership.
- Approved a Friends of the Community Garden Fundraising Request in which the Friends of the Community Garden would begin fundraising to replace the current barn.
- Discussion of creating an insecticide policy for Town facilities. Discussion only.
- Approved a Supplemental Agreement and Capital Project Ordinance Amendment for HL-0013, Ninth Street Bridge Replacement Project. This project is identified in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). In 2020, the Council approved a resolution to apply for State Transportation Block Grant funding (STBG) to replace the Ninth Street Bridge. In 2021, after being awarded this grant, the Council approved a capital project ordinance (#O-21-15), which authorized the project and accepted the matching grant revenues. The original grant project totaled $680,000, with the town’s match being 20% ($136,000). With this project amendment, grant funding has been amended to $800,000, with the town’s 20% match now equaling $160,000.
- Discussion of establishing a review process for the Town Attorney. Discussion only.
Be BearWise!
What do Bears do in July?
- By July, cubs born this year have grown to the size of a raccoon or a small dog with big ears. Yearling bears now on their own can be the size of medium dogs.
- Bears of both sexes mark trees and adult bears mate. Cubs smell their mother’s breath to learn what’s good to eat.
- Bears’ great memories help them return to proven food sources.
- One way to distinguish yearlings is by their large ears. A yearling bear’s ears are as long as they will ever be, so as the bear gets older and bigger, the ears seem to shrink, but actually the bear’s head is getting larger and wider.

How Bears Find Food
- Bears have more than a hundred times as many smell receptors in their noses as people do and can detect and follow scent trails a mile or more back to the source! - Because bears are omnivores and much of their diet is vegetation, insects and carrion (dead animals), their sense of super-smell is vital to their survival.
- Bears have a much better sense of direction than most people. Their built-in GPS guides them back year after year to wherever they found food, whether it’s the berry patch that ripens in July or the trash that goes out every Thursday night.

Cubs Follow In Mom’s Footsteps
Cubs are big enough now to follow mom as she goes foraging for food. If mom is a wild bear, she teaches them what’s good to eat and how to find and eat specific foods. She shows the youngsters how to eat berries, catch fish and dig for insects. She even lets them smell her breath, so they learn to associate certain smells with foods. Yum, termites!

Not All Lessons Are Good Ones!
If mom has learned to rely on human-provided food sources, one whiff of mom’s breath will teach the cubs to associate the smells of human food and garbage, pet food, bird seed and more with a full tummy and easy meals. Instead of learning how to forage in the wild, they learn how to raid dumpsters and garbage cans, knock down bird feeders, and more. They’ll then teach their own cubs this same behavior.

Information courtesy: bearwise.org

June 25, 2024 Special Called Town Council Meeting Recap
The Black Mountain Town Council met for a special called meeting on Tuesday, June 25th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Below is a quick wrap-up of the meeting:
- Held a public hearing on, and approved, the proposed text amendments to the Code of Ordinances, Ch. 4, Alcoholic Beverages and Ch. 43, Article IV, Parades, Festivals and Special Events. This allows alcohol sales and consumption on sidewalks and streets during approved special events that have an approved special event permit from Town staff, are consistent with state ABC regulations and possess an approved ABC permit. The sale of alcohol beverages at a special event or festival must be contained within that event’s submitted (and approved) footprint. Applications for special events must now be submitted to the Town at least 90 days prior to the planned event, instead of 45, to allow for ample planning time.
- Approved the Hemphill Property Master Planning and Feasibility Assessment Grant Project Ordinance and Project Budget Amendment.
- Approved the Cragmont Park Renovation Capital Project Ordinance and Budget Amendment.
- Approved Budget Amendments for FY23-24 year end budget adjustments between expense lines.

To view the agenda packet and/or the meeting video, visit: townofblackmountain.com/agendacenter, or scan QR code.

Lake Tomahawk Dam Upgrades Completed!
Construction repair work began on March 25, 2024 and was completed in late June 2024. As of June 7, 2024, the walking trail has been reopened. A temporary construction fence will remain in place throughout the summer months to allow vegetation to properly root on the face of the dam. The Town would like to extend special thanks to S&ME Engineering and Baker’s Construction Inc. for their work on this project. The parking area at the bottom of the Dam has been restored and reopened. Residents will notice new signage. We are asking that visitors utilize the sidewalk to access the trailhead moving forward as it is ADA accessible and a more suitable route. Once change to be noted about this project was that due to permitting delays and possible cost overrun, the decision was made not to install the fence and lighting at this time. The fencing and lighting may be considered as a future project depending on site needs, community desire and other budgetary constraints. To read more, see photos, and learn about other Town projects, visit the Town’s website and click on the Town Projects tab.

Senior Center Designated Parking Spaces
At the May Town Council meeting, the Council voted to create reserved parking for the Lake View Senior Center. Signs will soon be installed along the row of parking spaces on Rhododendron Ave. Prioritizing parking for visitors to the senior center helps protect our older community members who frequent the center for meals, exercise classes, and opportunities for socialization. Please take note of this change and avoid using these spaces if you are not visiting the senior center.
The Town of Black Mountain Finance Department is proud to announce that Cortney Kidd has been promoted to Accounting Manager for the Town of Black Mountain beginning July 2024. Cortney was hired in September 2018 as a customer service representative within the water department and was promoted to Accounting Clerk soon after. In 2021, Cortney was promoted to the Town's Senior Accountant. Cortney's advancement through the finance department has led to an understanding and knowledge of a wide range of financial activities. This knowledge along with her proven dedication to the Town, willingness to grow, and going above and beyond for Town staff, citizens, and customers made her the ideal candidate for this position. The new Accounting Manager Position was approved in the FY25 Town Budget. This position will be responsible for supervising the customer service department and managing the Town revenue activities. In her new role, Cortney will also continue her duties of payroll processing, budget preparation, and general ledger transaction oversight. Additionally, the Finance Department is also proud to announce that Shawna Matthews has been promoted to Accountant for the Town of Black Mountain beginning July 2024. Shawna was hired in August 2022 as a customer service representative within the water department and was promoted to Utility Billing and Customer Service Specialist in October of 2023. In the past 2 years, Shawna has helped the customer service department with excellent customer support and advanced problem-solving skills. Shawna's prior experience and work ethic combined with her actively working toward her Accounting Degree, made her an excellent candidate for the Accountant position. The Accountant Position became open upon Cortney Kidd's advancement to the Accounting Manager role. The Town now has two Accountant positions, Shawna Matthews, and Laurel Mabery. Laurel will continue her duties of accounts payable, fixed assets, and accounts receivable. Shawna's job duties will include bank reconciliation, the posting and processing of payroll and the payroll liabilities, as well as purchase order approvals. Shawna and Laurel will both be involved in the Town's budget preparation, general ledger transactions, account reconciliations, and a variety of other financial activities. Congratulations to Cortney and Shawna!

Alliance Code Enforcement LLC (ACE) has been contracted to act as a Code Enforcement Official for the Town of Black Mountain to enforce all applicable State Statutes, Town of Black Mountain Code of Ordinances, Land Use Code, and special projects. These services can include but are not limited to: Abandoned & Junk Vehicle Code, Commercial Maintenance Code, Minimum Housing Code, Remedial Action Code and Nuisance Abatement Code. Alliance Code Enforcement LLC (ACE) shall act as a code enforcement officer and is granted the authority, as if it were a Zoning Administrator employed by the Town, to conduct investigations, hold official hearings, send official notices by mail and/or in person and issue extensions of time for cooperating individuals who are in violation. www.alliancecodeenforcement.com

The Streambank Restoration project repaired and restored approximately 540 linear feet of the Swannanoa River located in Veteran’s Park which was damaged by Tropical Storm Fred in August 2021. A restoration project similar to this had just been completed not long before Tropical Storm Fred moved through the area that caused flooding and erosion thus damaging the initial restoration work. With completion of the latest restoration project, temporary construction fence has been left along the bank of the river beside the walking bridge to protect the slope while the vegetation regenerates over the summer. Final live stake plantings will be installed in the fall and the project is set to officially close shortly thereafter (by December 31st, 2024). The Town extends special thanks to Kimley-Horn and RES Construction for the work on this project. Visit the Town’s project page on our website, townofblackmountain.org, to learn more about this project and see before and after photos!
In a new feature called “fun fact!” we will highlight facts about the Town you may not know. Fun fact! Did you know the Town of Black Mountain is now designated as a “NC Mountain Heritage Trout City” and is 1 of only 17 current cities participating in the program?

The Mountain Heritage Trout Waters encourages trout fishing as a heritage tourism activity in western North Carolina and are located in participating cities and towns that provide public access to waters running through or adjacent to the city or town.

- Mountain Heritage Trout Waters are managed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Since 1947, the agency has been dedicated to the wise use, conservation, and management of the state’s fish and wildlife resources. Mountain Heritage Trout Waters provides quality fishing opportunities in popular tourist destinations in western North Carolina.
- The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, which sells the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license, gives anglers two quick and easy ways to purchase a license:
  - By phone: 833-950-0575. (Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Closed holidays.)
  - Online: gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com
- The license is valid for a 3-day period and costs $8 for residents and non-residents aged 16 and older.
- The license is valid only for waters that are designated as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters.

**Fishing Regulations**

- Fishing regulations for Mountain Heritage Trout Waters are daily creel limits of 7 trout per day, no size limits & no bait or lure restrictions. These are established by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

To obtain a Heritage Trout Waters brochure for Black Mountain, visit our website and search “trout waters”, or scan the QR code!