

Town of Lake Santeetlah

Council Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2024

Mayor Simon called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Councilmembers Jim Hager, Ralph Strunk, and Keith Predmore were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Kim Matheson and Town Clerk Kala Farley were also present. Councilmember Kevin Haag was present on Zoom. Attorney Craig Justus was available via Zoom.

Strunk led the Pledge of Allegiance and Helen Ramey offered an Invocation.

Approval of the Agenda: Hager requested to amend the agenda and add New Business #6 Discussion of Hurricane Relief. Predmore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Strunk seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the September 10, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes: Hager made a motion to approve the minutes. Predmore seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial/Tax Report as of September 30, 2024: Matheson reported the tax collection for September was \$12,681.00

Mayor Simon read the Ethics Statement Reminder.

Request for Public Comment: There was no public comment

Old Business

- 1. Update on the Broyles septic proposal:** Matheson said she had talked to Nelms and he reported everything is at a standstill due to contractors being away on hurricane relief efforts. Mayor Simon asked if there was any update on the encroachment agreement. Attorney Justus said there should be an update on the encroachment agreement within the next 14 days or so.
- 2. Reminder about Front Entrance Bricks:** A mass email will be sent out saying the deadline to order bricks will be October 31, 2024.
- 3. Tourism Development Authority Report:** Simon said the TDA meeting was September 23, 2024 and the financial report as of September 22, 2024 was Checking-\$4,737.53; Savings-\$1,543.00; Revenue July 1-Sept 22-\$4,064.71. Simon said this was a lot lower than anticipated for the TDA budget this year.

VRBO has not been collecting or making payments of the occupancy tax. Matheson has made numerous efforts trying to contact someone to get this issue taken care of and has had no luck in doing so despite her efforts. Attorney Justus said his office could send a letter to VRBO and said reaching out to the League would be helpful to gain some shared experience in what other people have done in relation to this issue.

New Business:

1. **Paving:** The paving on Cherokee Lane was completed and paving is ongoing on Sequoyah and Island drive and hopefully will be finished in a day or two.
2. **\$50,000 Certificate of Deposit for the Water Account:** Hager reported that there was enough funds in the water account to open a \$50,000 CD and that should bring in about \$125 a month.
3. **Update on the gate:** The upper gate and lower gate have both been repaired and are operational. The total repair cost for both gates was \$6,620.00.
4. **Lake Santeetlah trash clean-up report:** Simon reported that the annual clean-up of the lake was a success with at least a ton of trash collected from the lake.

5. Council Statements:

Kevin Haag-Haag spoke of his experience of being in Asheville during and after the impact of Hurricane Helene and trying to make it back to Town. Haag said the day after the storm there were trees down, no power, no water, no internet, and no cell phone signal and it took almost a week to get all those things restored. Haag said the lack of news and having no idea of what was going on with any one else was probably the biggest problem. Haag said he went out to try to find gas for his car and ran in to the problem of stations not being open due to no power or they were sold out of gas. Once he found a station, there was a four hour wait. Haag advised that if anyone is traveling to check before hand to ensure the route you are taking is open and safe for travel.

Strunk-Strunk said he would like to thank the people for the work they do to decorate and maintain the front entrance, Aura Griffith and Mayor Simon.

Predmore-Predmore asked if there was any update on the recycle trailer.

Matheson said there was not anything new to report other than she was told the time required to keep it was up.

6. **Discussion of Hurricane Relief:** Attorney Justus recommended that any donations be made to a long-standing established entity and suggested to

Matheson to go to the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina website and their emergency disaster response fund would be a good place to donate to. Hager suggested the Town make a \$2000 donation and after discussion Hager made a motion to donate \$2000 to help the victims in Western North Carolina and leave it up to the Mayor and the Town Administrator to work out who to send it to. Predmore seconded. All Approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

- The next regular scheduled Council Meeting will be held November 12, 2024 at 12:00PM. This meeting will be held at Town Hall and via Zoom. The link to join by Zoom will be sent out by mass email.
- Mayor Simon said water bills have been sent out and are due by the end of October.

Motion to Adjourn: Hager made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Strunk seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 PM.



Diana Simon, Mayor



Kala Farley, Town Clerk