

Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
November 18, 2008
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Mayor Roger McElroy, Aldermen: Colin Edwards and Mark DeMeola
Members Absent: Aldermen: Saralyn Price and Phil Aldridge
Staff Present: Manager Tim Barth, Attorney Chuck Dickson, Building Inspector Ron Mercier, Planning Director Nathan Clark, Public Works Director Mike Mehaffey, Police Chief Scott Sutton, and Town Clerk Vickie Best
Others Present: None

1. November 18, 2008 Meeting Called to Order.

Mayor McElroy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Boardroom.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Tax Releases.
- b. Correction and Approval of Minutes for the November 5, 2008 meeting.

**ALDERMAN EDWARDS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Briefings from Department Heads on departmental activities:

- Building Inspection
- Police
- Administration
- Planning
- Public Works & Wastewater Treatment Plant

Building Inspection: Ron Mercier:

As everyone is well aware, the building industry has taken a hit due to the economy. Seventy-three building permits have been issue to date in 2008. Out of the seventy-three permits, twenty-three were for new structures and twenty were for mobile homes or park models. Consequently, 2003's number of permits issued are about the same as 2008. In 2007, over two hundred permits were issued.

Mr. Mercier reported that the winterizing of the pavilion was coming along nicely. The panels are complete and the drop ceiling will be installed within a couple of weeks. The pavilion is well insulated and should stay warm to allow for extended use in the winter months.

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Due to the decline in the building industry, Mr. Mercier is now responsible for enforcing the nuisance ordinance pertaining to over-grown parcels.

Mr. Mercier is learning to use the GEO Blocks program, available through Haywood County, to enhance service by identifying parcels by parcel identification numbers to determine location and elevation.

Mayor McElroy asked that Mr. Mercier get all of the building information on the Town's website. This would benefit the contractor and streamline the permit process.

Police Department, Chief Scott Sutton:

Excerpt from handout provided by Chief Sutton

REPORTS

As of 11/17/2008 230 reports involving a total of 261 incidents were taken. To date, a total of 304 arrests have been made. Of those charges, 70 arrests were (DWI) driving while impaired. In regards to traffic, 469 citations have been issued for a total of 590 charges. There have been 489 warning tickets issued for a total of 507 charges.

INVESTIGATIONS

Reports that require an investigation have increased this year; this is from property damage to drug cases. In the recent weeks we have wrapped up a major drug investigation and charges will be coming soon. Detective Shuler has been doing an excellent job in our investigations. We have currently enrolled in a new program called, "Leads on Line". This program allows us to check all pawn shops nationwide for stolen property. It also allows us to check E-bay accounts without acquiring legal documents which delays the investigation process 2-3 weeks. This year alone we have had three E-bay investigations. Sometime in the near future, the P.D. would like to start another detailed drug investigation.

TRAFFIC

The Traffic Grant through North Carolina Governors Highway Safety Program is still on going. The year 2008 is the fourth and final year of the initial grant. We have applied for another traffic grant, which is an 85% salary and an 85% equipment grant, the grant will be awarded in January. Although these funds have been cut by the federal government, the P.D. will continue to seek funding.

GRANTS

The P.D. has applied for another Traffic Officer Grant as mentioned above and a grant for in-car cameras from GHSP. The cameras cost about \$4500.00 each and there are currently 4 cameras that are beyond repair. The P.D. has applied for a Polaris Ranger grant; this is the fourth year the P.D. has applied without results. The P.D. is in the process of applying for a \$15,000 block grant through the Governor's Crime Commission. The P.D. has also applied for a grant for bullet-proof vests.

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TASER PROGRAM

The taser program has gone well. The MVPD has three tasers; the goal is to have a taser issued to each full-time Officer. The tasers have been pulled approx. 29 times with NO deployment to this date.

PATROL & PART-OFFICERS

All of the Officers have completed their in-service requirements for the year and have been active in pursuing additional training. The PD has invested in a couple of the part-time Officers as far as training and Departmental requirements, so that both officers will be up to speed and equivalent to a starting full-time Officer.

MISC.

The Christmas Parade Committee has been very devoted and the Parade is looking good for December 6, 2008. There will be free Hayrides at the Festival Grounds before the Parade.

Administration, Office Manager Vickie Best:

Ms. Best reminded Council that the Administration Department is the hub of all other departments in one form or another. Administration interacts with all departments and maintains the flow of information.

Tax bills were mailed October 14, 2008 and as of November 17, 2008, 36.31% of the fiscal year taxes have been collected. The Town of Maggie Valley is fortunate to have Ms. Shayne Wheeler as the Finance Director. The audit process with the new accounting firm was proficient, due to Ms. Wheeler's record keeping. It is expected that due to Ms. Wheeler's hard work the Town of Maggie Valley will once again be awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This is a special honor with few municipalities receiving such acclaim.

Ms. Batick, the Senior Administrative Assistant, has begun contacting groups to participate in the educational portion of the 2009 Annual Trout Festival. Ms. Batick was instrumental in making the educational portion of the 2008 festival a success. We anticipate this year's educational segment to be even better. Ms. Batick has received a commitment from the Great Smokey Mountain National Park to participate as part of their 75-year history celebration.

Ms. Batick has taken it upon herself to step up the recycling program at Town Hall. She has distributed recycling bins with a notice above each bin as to what to recycle. Town Hall has gone from recycling aluminum cans only to recycling paper (to include newspaper and magazines) and plastic bottles, etc. When the bins are full, Ms. Batick takes them to the Maggie Valley Methodist Church to contribute to their recycling program. *The Maggie Valley Methodist Church received approval from Council to install recycling bins for aluminum cans during events at the Festival Grounds to help support the daycare center.*

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Planning Department, Nathan Clark:

Mr. Clark has conducted two public forums to gather input on allowed uses in the Community Attraction District and the latest forum to gather public input on Appearance Standards. The Smoky Mountain News did an outstanding article on the allowed uses in the Community Attraction District.

These forums are necessary to complete each segment of the adopted Land Use Plan. The Appearance Standards' overall theme is a mountain look with stone, wood, and muted natural colors. Both power-point presentations used at the forums are available on the Town's website.

David Teague, Haywood County's Public Information Officer will arrange public meetings for review of the newly released (October) Flood Maps. The 90-day appeal letter has not been received.

Maggie Valley will submit a PARTF Grant application for 2009 to use at Parham Park.

The Engineering Firm is still working on designing a sidewalk for Moody Farm Road. The design will include curb and guttering and surface water runoff.

The Planning Board is waiting on final plats for the Newland, Pinter, and the Wilmington-Smith Projects.

Mr. Clark reported that there is one vacant alternate seat on the Zoning Board of Adjustments and two vacant ETJ seats on the Planning Board.

Public Works Department/Waste Water Treatment Plant, Mike Mehaffey:

The Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion continues. The new clarifier is complete. The underground piping and electric will soon be installed and a pad poured for the new generator. The yearly testing is complete. The contract for the expansion has been extended until May 2009 due to inclement weather.

The department is preparing for the collection system extensions in the Rocky Top Road area, Spring Lake, and Rich Cove Road. The department continues to work on inflow/infiltration, updating the collection system mapping, preparing for the yearly line cleaning, videoing, and inspecting. Newly installed lines are needing inspections daily i.e. Haywood EMC, Rouse project, Country Club, Loraine Drive, etc.

Haywood EMC will be installing a lift-station. The creek crossing for the sewer line has already been completed. Adjacent property owners will be allowed to connect to the sewer line if so desired.

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As stated earlier by Mr. Mercier, the Public Works Department has worked diligently winterizing the pavilion, installing panels, painting, and electrical work.

The Public Works Department has begun to remove the autumn banners and put up the winter banners. The Christmas decorations will be displayed within a few weeks. Mr. Mehaffey went on to invite anyone wishing to lend a hand to come decorate the waterfall at the Festival Grounds.

The public works department will install electric in the pole shed at the maintenance facility as well as cover the back and sides of the shed. Vehicles, equipment, and the salt and sand is being stored in the shed.

The Festival Ground lighting project will begin around December 15, 2008. The public works department will be digging the ditches for the electrical wiring and additional water lines. Additional receptacles will be placed on the new poles.

The Moody Farm Road sidewalk project is in the planning and design phase.

All town owned vehicles are serviced, repaired and maintained by the public works department, which saves tax dollars.

Rather than driving to White Oak to the County Land Fill, a better deal was found locally for taking brush and tree limbs for grinding.

Alderman Edwards offered to donate a leaf box for the back of one of the trucks. Mr. Mehaffey will contact Alderman Edwards to look at the box.

4. Manager's Report.

◆ Manager Barth reminded Council of the Region A meeting in Cherokee on November 24, 2008.

◆ Manager Barth distributed the Maggie Valley Chamber Newsletter and two financial reports from the finance director.

◆ A Planning Growth workshop is scheduled for December 9 at Lake Junaluska conducted by the School of Government. The Maggie Valley Christmas Parade will be held December 6 at 6 p.m., Waynesville's parade is December 8 at 6 p.m., Canton's parade is December 4 at 6 p.m.

Ms. June Johnson has agreed to paint the four seasons in Maggie Valley on the panels used to winterize the pavilion.

◆ Manager Barth and Planning Director Nathan Clark will be meeting with Patrick Bradshaw, P.E. Bill DeChant, Architect, and Ellen McKinney with McGill Associates to

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discuss the Parham Park project to include floodway issues. Ms. McKinney has an excellent history in obtaining grant funding. Due to the floodplain, the restrooms must be elevated.

**ALDERMAN EDWARDS MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE MANAGER BARTH TO SPEND UP TO \$3,000 TO MCGILL ASSOCIATES TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR PARHAM PARK.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Other Business.

Manager Barth will look at applying for funding from the Pigeon River Fund.

Manager Barth will be out of Town December 11 through December 15.

There are over fifty entries for the Christmas Parade.

6. Public Comment.

No public comments

7. Meeting Adjourned.

**ALDERMAN DEMEOLA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:26 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Roger McElroy

Town Clerk Vickie Best, CMC