

Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Mayor Roger McElroy, Aldermen: Colin Edwards, Saralyn Price, Mark DeMeola, and Phil Aldridge
Staff Present: Manager Tim Barth, Planning Director Nathan Clark, Administrative Assistant Karen Batick, Chief Scott Sutton, Events Director Bill Cody, Public Works Director Mike Mehaffey, and Town Clerk Vickie Best
Others Present: 36 people

1. **Meeting Called to Order.**

Mayor McElroy called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the Town Hall Boardroom.

Mayor McElroy asked that a proclamation be added to the consent agenda. Council agreed.

2. **Consent Agenda**

a. Correction and Approval of Minutes for the March 17, 2009 meeting.

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

Mayor McElroy read a proclamation honoring National Clerk's Week.

**ALDERMAN ALDRIDGE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE PROCLAMATION AND THANKED THE TOWN CLERK FOR HER SERVICE.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. a. **Public Hearing on Annexation of certain Brannon Forest Residents,**
including:

Lynn and Sharon Bartley, 66 Airish Lane, Parcel #7697-75-5464 (0.757 acres); Jay and Cheryl Eichorn, 528 Brannon Forest Drive, Parcel # 7697-76-0034 (0.3 acres); Marion Lord, 83 Turn-A-Bout Court, Parcel #7697-86-8073 (0.372 acres); Kathryn and Paul Tucker, Cripple Creek Drive, Parcel #7697-75-9359 (0.743 acres); Frank and Tracy Zayas, Turn-A-Bout Court, Parcel #7697-86-6234 (1.0 acres).

Mayor McElroy opened the public hearing at 5:38 p.m. as advertised April 2, 2009. There being no comments from the public, the hearing was closed.

Town of Maggie Valley
 Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
 April 21, 2009
 MINUTES

b. Consideration of Ordinance No. 658 to annex: Lynn and Sharon Bartley, 66 Airish Lane, Parcel #7697-75-5464 (0.757 acres); Jay and Cheryl Eichorn, 528 Brannon Forest Drive, Parcel # 7697-76-0034 (0.3 acres); Marion Lord, 83 Turn-A-Bout Court, Parcel #7697-86-8073 (0.372 acres); Kathryn and Paul Tucker, Cripple Creek Drive, Parcel #7697-75-9359 (0.743 acres); Frank and Tracy Zayas, Turn-A-Bout Court, Parcel #7697-86-6234 (1.0 acres);

**ALDERMAN PRICE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 658
 ANNEXING THE REMAINING OF THE BRANNON FOREST PARCELS INTO
 TOWN.**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Consideration of changes regarding the rental and operation of the Pavilion.**

Because of the improvements made to the Pavilion, to make it available for year around use, some changes should be made in the rental fee, especially when heat is provided.

The Town has been charging a rate of \$10/hour for use of the Pavilion. Staff is requesting to continue that rate, but that a 3 hour minimum rental time period be imposed. When the facility is rented, the renter has one-hour before and one-hour after the event for setup and cleaning up. When someone is setting up or taking down the Pavilion, others cannot use it, so we believe that a three-hour minimum charge is fair. During the winter (October 15 – April 15) heat would be available and the charge for heat would be \$50.00 for the first three hours, and \$20/hour thereafter. During the summer, the rate to use the Pavilion for three hours would be \$30.00, and during the winter, the rate to use the Pavilion for three hours would be \$80.00. The plan is for these changes to take effect immediately upon adoption by the Board.

In an effort to make the pavilion more energy efficient, a door has been added to the Pavilion just past the restrooms and before you get into the main portion. This will keep the heat where it needs to be when it is being used. In addition, it will allow the Town to lock the Pavilion meeting area, but still leave the restrooms open. A laminated direction book will be made that should answer all questions about the use of the Pavilion including who to call, if there is a problem after hours. The Police Department will have a schedule of those who have reserved the Pavilion after hours and on weekends so that they can check to see if those who reserve it clean up after themselves.

COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL POLICY

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Inside Rates</u>	<u>Outside Rates</u>
Cafeteria Only Meetings (no food) 8 am to 5 pm M-F	\$10.00 per hr.	\$20.00 per hr.

Town of Maggie Valley
 Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
 April 21, 2009
 MINUTES

Daily Outdoor Event (Non Commercial) \$100.00 per day \$150.00 per day
 (with rest rooms)

Pavilion Reservation Fee (Non Commercial) \$10.00 per hr. \$20.00 per hr.
 (non profit group, club)

- All reservations are on a first come basis.
- Due to this being a Maggie Valley Community Center, the inside rate will apply to those residents that reside within the corporate limits only. Outside rate applies to all others.
- Full payment is due with the completed signed application and hold harmless agreement.
- Hourly rental- 1 hour prior to event will be allowed for set up. 1 hour after the event will be allowed for cleanup at no charge.
- Reservation fee is refundable if cancelled at least 30 days prior to scheduled event date.
- No group or organization will be allowed to cook in the kitchen or pavilion snack bar with the exception of the Maggie Valley Civic Association. All foods must be prepared off sight and Town facilities used for serving, warming or catering only.
- The pavilion and cafeteria are rented on a one (1) day only basis other than large special events with the exception of the annual Quilt Show, Kid's Shopping Spree and Green's Fair.
- Large special events are limited to Saturday, Sunday and holidays with set up allowed after 5:00 p.m. the day before the event to prevent inconvenience and disruption to Town Hall, Senior Center, and Library.
- Any Group sponsoring an event that requires clean up, extra supplies or extra garbage service will be asked to pay a "service fee" based on actual cost of service and supplies.
- The Pavilion doors must remain open at all times except in inclement weather only. They must be opened immediately after each event. Overnight closing of pavilion is allowed by advanced permission only.
- Regular Community events or activities to be conducted on a regular basis (daily, weekly, etc.) shall be for the direct benefit of the community and its citizens. Types of activity include the Senior Nutrition program, GED programs, Community College Classes, etc. These activities will be conducted on a contractual basis. Any fees charged will be nominal in nature and will be used to help defray additional costs for utilities and clean up.
- **NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OF ANY KIND SHALL BE PERMITTED ON THE COMMUNITY CENTER PREMISES**
- No loud music or noise that would disturb the serenity of the surrounding neighborhoods will be allowed.

Town of Maggie Valley
 Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
 April 21, 2009
 MINUTES

- No cursing or bad language inside or outside of the Community Center or the pavilion.

Continued

- No smoking is allowed inside the Community Center or the pavilion.
- No fireworks of any kind may be set off in or outside of the Community Center or the pavilion.
- The Tables and chairs may be re-arranged to fit your needs for your event, but must be returned to their original places at the end of your event. Please do not remove tables and chairs from the Community Center or the pavilion.
- All trash must be removed and deposited in the dumpster behind the Community Center.
- Please turn off all lights at the end of your event.

.....
**USE OF PINS, NAILS, TACKS, TAPE AND OTHER SIMILAR MATERIALS ON
 WALLS OR OTHER BUILDING SURFACES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

CLEAN UP

All renters are expected to leave the premises in substantially the same condition in which they found it. All debris and trash is to be placed in receptacles, all equipment is to be returned to its original location and in good condition, all tables, chairs, and floors are to be free of trash, debris, foods and spills.

A deposit of \$200.00 will be assessed to insure the facility is cleaned after your event. This deposit will be returned if the facility is left clean.

The Town of Maggie Valley will make every effort to provide a clean facility for your enjoyment, but due to the pavilion being a non-secured public facility the Town cannot be responsible for the condition of the pavilion outside regular office hours.

Alderman Price questioned if a \$200 deposit was needed.

The deposit is used as an incentive to get people to clean up after their event. To date, staff has held the deposit check and then just returned it to the applicant when the event is over.

**ALDERMAN EDWARDS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE REVISED FEE
 SCHEDULE AND OPERATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PAVILION.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **Consideration of awarding a contract for a mower.**

Two mowers are needed in order to maintain the mowing in the summer months.

Town of Maggie Valley
 Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
 April 21, 2009
 MINUTES

Grass cutting season has begun and one of the items included in the current budget was funds for a new mower for Public Works. This mower will replace the oldest Toro mower, which was purchased in 2003. The oldest Toro will be kept as a spare for one year and then it will be declared surplus and sold.

The new mower is a Snapper Z-mower. There were two dealers who quoted mowers for the Town and the prices were quite a bit different. The Town has purchased Toro Mowers in the past and been pleased with their performance, but the Snapper mower is \$1,200 cheaper, and appears to be just as good a mower based on a test drive.

After receiving pricing from Balsam Road Equipment and By-Pass Power Equipment the cost of a new 60" Toro Z-mower like what we have today was quoted at \$7,999.00. A new 61" Snapper Z-mower was quoted at \$6,791.00. Even though there are a few minor differences between the Toro and Snapper mowers, the differences does not justify a \$1,200 cost difference.

**ALDERMAN ALDRIDGE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE
 OF THE SNAPPER MOWER.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Consideration of a resolution in opposition to proposed legislation to change the operation of ABC stores.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-14

TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 768, THE ACT TO MODERNIZE
 THE NORTH CAROLINA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROLS SYSTEM.**

WHEREAS, the study appears to be committed to the concepts of consolidation and centralization as the most appropriate vehicle for improving and modernizing the North Carolina ABC System; and

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina is 8th in revenue out of all 50 states in the sale of spirituous liquor; and

WHEREAS, the Maggie Valley Board of Aldermen contend that North Carolina's diversified unique system is a strength that is the primary reason for success; and

WHEREAS, the study shows North Carolina as the fifth of 18 Control Systems in revenue and 12th in outlets; and

WHEREAS, these numbers show system efficiency.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF
 THE TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY THAT:**

1. The study does not provide any definitive substantiation to support the recommendations.
2. The study does not show that centralization of authority and power ensures profitability or success.

Town of Maggie Valley
 Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
 April 21, 2009
 MINUTES

3. Therefore, the authority should remain with those who have spent the money, and taken the risk to develop the spirituous liquor market in our area.

The proposed law would only allow one ABC Store in each County. All of the ABC Stores within Haywood County are opposing this legislation.

Alderman Aldridge questioned if there is available land for sale if the parcel were divided at the new ABC Store location. The parcel could be divided.

**ALDERMAN PRICE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 09-14
 OPPOSING THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. Consideration of a resolution in support of keeping the state prison in Hazelwood open.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-15
 TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY
 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE HAYWOOD
 CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

WHEREAS, The Haywood County Correctional Center is a minimum security prison for adult males that until the late 1930's housed inmates who worked to build roads: AND

WHEREAS, Today the inmates work to assist surrounding counties and municipalities; AND

WHEREAS, Due to the economic down-turn, the Haywood County Correctional Center provides services to the NCDOT, surrounding counties and municipalities that are invaluable AND

WHEREAS, One of the major industries in Haywood County, and the lifeline for Maggie Valley is tourism, which increases the need for the assistance provided by the Haywood Correctional Center; AND

WHEREAS, Closing of the Haywood Correctional Center would have a negative impact on local governments and the local economy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY THAT:

The Town of Maggie Valley strongly urges the North Carolina General Assembly and the North Carolina Department of Corrections continue the operation of the Haywood Correctional Center in order for Western North Carolina to continue to receive the economic benefits of having this facility.

**ALDERMAN EDWARDS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 09-15.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. Consideration of a resolution in support of a grant request to the Governor's Highway Safety Program for in-vehicle video cameras.

Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES

09-16

GHSP-06-A

North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program
LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTION
Form GHSP-06-A

(To be completed, attached to and become part of Form GHSP-06, Traffic Safety Equipment Project Contract.)

WHEREAS, the Maggie Valley Police Department (herein called the "Agency")
(The Applicant Agency)
has completed an application contract for traffic safety funding; and that the Town of Maggie Valley
(The Governing Body of the Agency)
_____ (herein called the "Governing Body") has thoroughly considered the problem

identified and has reviewed the project as described in the contract;

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY IN OPEN
(Governing Body)
MEETING ASSEMBLED IN THE CITY OF MAGGIE VALLEY, NORTH CAROLINA,

THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 20 ____, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Governing Body and the general public; and
2. That R. Scott Sutton, Chief is authorized to file, on behalf of the Governing
(Name and Title of Representative)
Body, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor's Highway Safety Program for federal
funding in the amount of \$ 17, 500.00 to be made to the Governing Body to assist in defraying
(Federal Dollar Request)
the cost of the project described in the contract application; and
3. That the Governing Body has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$ 17, 500.00 as
(Local Cash Appropriation)
required by the project contract; and
4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for other
appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract, if
approved, or as may be required by the Governor's Highway Safety Program; and
5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE AND ORDERED in open meeting by _____
(Chairperson/Mayor)

ATTESTED BY *M. K. Zent*
(Clerk)

SEAL

DATE 4-23-09

Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES

**ALDERMEN ALDRIDGE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 09-16.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. Report from the Festival Director.

Mr. Bill Cody addressed Council stating that he was contacting festival promoters, planting seeds to cultivate in the near future. The Town has lost one event due to the cost of renting the festival grounds, among other reasons.

Alderman Price responded that the Town does not want to loose any additional festivals even if it means taking a percentage of the gate. Alderman Price went on to informed the board that she knows someone who is willing to donate two cash registers for the ticket office.

Mr. Cody stated that Mr. Jeff Cody, the promoter for the mini-truck rally was confused about the \$250 charge added for the water, electric and use of the stage. Jeff Cody felt that he could leave the lights on for 24-hours and not use that amount of electricity. Mr. Cody will investigate similar rental properties to do a comparison and report his findings to Council at the next meeting.

Mr. Cody distributed information pertaining to events he is considering for the Maggie Valley Festival Grounds in 2010. **SEE ATTACHMENT 1 (10 PAGES)**

Mayor McElroy asked that Mr. Cody focus on bringing in festivals for 2009. Mr. Cody confirmed that bringing events to Town is his number one objective. Mr. Cody is also attempting to get promoters to share an event; such as the Volkswagen Rally and a Blue Grass Festival or an auction.

Ms. Burrell spoke from the audience requesting a copy of the information distributed to the Council members. The Parks, Recreation, and Festivals Advisory Committee did not receive any information at their meeting yesterday.

10. Consideration of a request to have the Town Clerk do the minutes for the Maggie Valley TDA 1% Subcommittee.

Mayor McElroy reported that the MVTDA1% Committee unanimously voted to send the attached resolution to the Board of Aldermen for their approval. They wish to have Town Clerk Best do the minutes of their meetings and that Finance Director Wheeler be present on an as needed basis.

Alderman DeMeola stated that there was a lot of conversation at the last meeting regarding this matter and that after giving thought to the issue he felt it should be at the Town Manager's discretion. The Town of Maggie Valley operates under a Council/Manager form of Government. If more problems develop, Manager Barth can certainly bring the issue back before Council.

Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES

**ALDERMAN ALDRIDGE MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW MANAGER BARTH
TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11. Appearance of Steve Shiver to give an update on Ghost Town and to request financing.

Ghost Town General Manager Steve Shiver addressed Council stating that he wanted to update Council on the Chapter 11 bankruptcy and the collaborating with several entities. Mr. Shiver acknowledged that all businesses are struggling through hard times right now due to the downturn in the economy and tourism. Mr. Shiver assured Council that Ghost Town, Eaglenest Entertainment, and Carolina Nights would be happy to work with Mr. Cody to help bring events to Town. Mr. Shiver stated that he understood the job that Manager Barth is required to do and how that job is getting much harder due to the economy. The Town of Maggie Valley had a trend over the last several years in issuing building permits, that trend has ended with only five permits being issued so far in 2009.

As for the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, the Ghost Town investors had a difficult time making this decision. The investors have done a lot of work to shore up the assets. Mr. Shiver also provided the public with his cell phone number inviting anyone to call him anytime due to the rumors and untruths that have been spreading through town. Information will be disseminated to the public within the next month. Mr. Shiver thanked the folks that have invested in the reopening of Ghost Town i.e. Alaska Pressley and Brenda O'Keefe.

There are banks and investors that only deal with organizations filing a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. The reorganization of Ghsot Town will allow a plan to be developed to move forward.

The investors are planning to open the park on May 22, 2009 (Memorial Day Weekend). The season passes being sold via the internet are going well. WLOS announced the Job Fair taking place at the Welcome Center. All positions are being opened for applications, interviews, and auditions. Ghost Town is looking to hire approximately 200 people. The Asheville Citizens Times stated that with the high rate of unemployment anytime anyone is hiring 200 people "it is news".

A looping roller coaster without shoulder harnesses is difficult to be commissioned. Mr. Shiver, himself, has ridden the coaster, and staff is going through the annual maintenance after the equipment has been stored through the winter.

There are 22 lodging partners working with Ghost Town. Local people often buy season passes. Ghost Town is offering to sell season tickets for \$30 through May 21, 2009 to anyone living in Haywood County. Ghost Town spent approximately \$620,000 in advertising last year. Mr. Shiver went on to inform Council that the Federal Credit Union has agreed to sell tickets as well as Haywood EMC agreeing to let Ghost Town advertise with them this summer similar to last summer.

10
Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES

Ghost Town is currently advertising with several partners for the upcoming season. Alderman Aldridge questioned if it would be possible for the company to sell stock in Ghost Town. Mr. Shiver responded that selling stock is not an available option.

Mr. Shiver also informed Council that Ghost Town was firmly in negotiations with Farm Credit when the market fell. Residential development does nothing for tourism. Ghost Town is committed to bringing tourist to Maggie Valley. Due to the decline in the economy, families are going to vacation at regional parks that are less expensive. Ghost Town has employees that have invested over \$300,000. Ghost Town has vendors that are willing to continue to work with Ghost Town once the Chapter 11 is completed. After the Chapter 11, it will be as if Ghost Town is a new company.

Ghost Town has been in conversation with the State regarding the stimulus money. There are investments being made by the local government, state, and Catawba County for economic development, but the state does not have a clear method for receiving and accounting for stimulus money. Catawba County purchased land for Tweetsie Railroad. Public Purpose is clearly defined in the General Statues. Ghost Town needs operational monies to get open. The requested \$200,000 would be a short-term loan with interest. The economic impact is the tourist attracted to Maggie Valley and the 200 jobs that Ghost Town offers when up and operating.

Again, Alderman Aldridge stressed that the Town is in the business of providing infrastructure, not tourism. Alderman Aldridge understood the economic impact of Ghost Town being open, but felt that a private business should handle their own funding, even if it means selling stock in the company.

Mr. Shiver reiterated that Ghost Town is focusing on the future and the impact that Ghost Town has on Maggie Valley/ Haywood County. Ghost Town brought in over \$12 million to the county. The bank accepts those figures; the problem is there is not enough time to finalize the loans available due to the opening date being May 22. The guidelines for receiving stimulus money have not been finalized. These issues, among others are the reason Ghost Town has come back to a local commitment.

Mr. Shiver has reviewed the Town of Maggie Valley's budgets since 2004. Mr. Shiver found that every year, each budget message mentions tourism and Ghost Town. Historically the direction the town takes is growth by annexation. Mr. Shiver felt that Ghost Town is the economic engine and that if that engine dies the tax base dies. This is the Town's opportunity to save that lost.

Mr. Shiver asked that Council direct the Town Manager to sit down and discuss lending Ghost Town the money. If Council does not want to consider this request for a loan, then their action will be contrary to their budget message for the last four years.

11
Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES

Several board members felt they needed time to think before making such an important decision. Again, Mr. Shiver asked that they direct Manager Barth to meet with him to see where and if there are opportunities for the Town to lend the money.

Alderman Edwards stated that he was not willing to spend the taxpayer's money. Mr. Shiver took exception to Alderman Edwards' comments due to his belief that Alderman Edwards has a conflict of interest in the matter.

Alderman Aldridge again stated that he needed time to consider the request. Alderman Price agreed adding that she is for the park reopening and supports Ghost Town and their endeavors; but it is hard to loan taxpayer's money to a private entity. "What will happen when the next failing business comes to the Town for a loan?"

Mr. Shiver responded, "There would not be another business that has the amount of employees that Ghost Town has nor is there another business that increases tourism as Ghost Town does".

Mayor McElroy asked that Ghost Town provide Council with a plan on how the Town would be repaid.

Again, Mr. Shiver stated that he would discuss that with the Town Manager.

Alderman Price was concerned about wasting Mr. Shiver's time when it is obvious that time is of the essence.

Alderman DeMeola informed Mr. Shiver that this matter came as an agenda item without any attached information. The Board is here tonight without the Finance Director or the Town Attorney. Precedence cannot be set. It is true that Ghost Town is the economic engine in Maggie Valley, but Ghost Town is a private business. Alderman DeMeola asked Mr. Shiver to understand the gravity of the situation. Council needs more information before the issue can be discussed with any intelligence.

Mr. Shiver responded that they would work through a proposal that will be suitable for everyone.

Alderman Aldridge asked that he be given the time to think about the issue and speak to the public at-large.

**ALDERMAN DEMEOLA MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE COURTESY
TO MR. SHIVER TO SIT DOWN WITH THE TOWN MANAGER, THE
MAYOR, THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY, AND
THEN DECIDE IF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN SHOULD MEET AGAIN ON
THE ISSUE.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12
Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES

12. **Manager's Report.**

☐ NCDOT will conduct a workshop on April 28, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Jonathan Valley Elementary School to discuss what method would best remedy the traffic problems that continue to occur.

☐Thunder in the Smokies will hold a motorcycle rally at the Festival Grounds this weekend.

☐ A joint meeting will be held April 23 at 5:30 p.m. with the Planning Board to discuss proposed amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance.

☐ The 1st annual Tourism Awareness meeting will be held May 7 at noon at the Laurel Ridge County Club. Council was asked to let the manager know if they are able to attend as soon as possible.

☐ Manager Barth distributed the calendar of events from the Chamber.

☐ The 2009/10 draft budget will be provided to Council at the May 19th meeting.

13. **Other Business.**

Manager Barth asked that Council take action on the following resolution to be sent to NCDOT.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-17
TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING NCDOT TO NAME THE BRIDGE LOCATED
AT THE ENTRANCE TO GHOST TOWN ON FIE TOP ROAD THE R. B.
COBURN MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

**WHEREAS, A young man had a dream of opening a western theme park on Buck Mountain located near the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park ;
and**

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Braxton Coburn, better known as R.B., began the construction of his western theme park in 1960; and

WHEREAS, within a few years of opening, Ghost Town in the Sky would become world renown; and

WHEREAS, Ghost Town in the Sky opened 48 years ago on June 11, 1961; and

WHEREAS, It was R.B. that turned a small mountain community into a mountain resort town that drew visitors to Haywood County and provided employment for residents throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, R.B. Coburn passed away on April 1, 2008, R. B. Coburn's legacy will continue for many years to come.

Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, OF THE TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY:

1. The North Carolina Department of Transportation consider the request by the Board of Aldermen and the citizens of Maggie Valley to name the bridge located on Fie Top Road the R.B. Coburn Memorial Bridge.

**ALDERMAN DEMEOLA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

14. **Public Comment.**

► Burton Edwards: Mr. Edwards stated that he loves Ghost Town and wants the park to do well. He advised Mr. Shiver that instead of rambling trying to get the park open, but not fully operating, will do more harm than waiting on the money to come, as previously stated, from other entities. "You only make a first impression one time." When people come from Ghost Town disappointed because the park was not working at full capacity, it leaves a bad taste and those visitors will not be back to Maggie Valley or Ghost Town.

Ms. Alaska Presley responded, "You can not open a motel until the guests are here, same goes for Ghost Town". Ms. Presley felt that the Town of Maggie Valley is too smart to let Ghost Town down. The movie Ghost Town was number one in the nation in the western rental department. "The Town should be apologizing to Mr. Shiver for not stepping up from the beginning. We all have seen Ghost Town prosper, which will save our livelihoods, because your businesses sitting out there holding a mortgage will be able to survive." Ms. Presley encouraged everyone to work together.

Ms. Joann Littral addressed the board stating that she has been associated with Ghost Town for the better part of thirty-years. She has worked under the National Linen Corporation when they purchased the park from R.B. [Coburn] and then again for Mr. Coburn when he got the park back. The problems have been mismanagement and the fact the Mr. Coburn had gotten too elderly to oversee the park.

Ms. Tammy Wight, owner of The Clarketon Motel felt that this was different than a private business requesting financial assistance. There is not another business in Maggie Valley of this magnitude that puts "heads in beds" and employees that great of a number of people.

Mr. Dan Massey added that Bill Cody, the newly hired Events/ Festivals Director, would not be able to bring festivals to Maggie Valley this year. Those events are scheduled one to one and a half years ahead of time. "Is the Town willing to put on programs to bring tourist to town?"

Mayor McElroy responded that the Town is putting on the Trout Festival.

Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES

Mr. Massey felt like Maggie Valley is at the end of its rope, if Ghost Town fails. “The zoo is gone. Dale Walksler is not going to open this season. We have got to help Ghost Town!”

David Blankenship, owner of the Alamo Motel, agreed that Ghost Town is the only thing that Maggie Valley has left. The motel owners and business owners should have the vote, not the Board of Aldermen. “It is our tax dollars”.

Alderman Aldridge attempted to respond to Mr. Blankenship stating that the residential taxpayers must be considered. Council member Aldridge wanted the opportunity to discuss the issue with as many of the townspeople as possible. He stated that he was the kind of person that liked to “sleep on it” not jump to an immediate response.

Mr. Blankenship told Alderman Aldridge that when Ghost Town closes, the town should just go ahead, shut the gate, and keep “your residential people”.

Mr. Phillip Wight, owner of the Clarketon Motel, stated that he was in favor of lending Ghost Town the money and that commercial businesses pay more taxes than residential.

Ms. Shirley Pinto addressed Council stating that because of Ghost Town she and her husband moved to Maggie Valley and opened a restaurant. Ms. Pinto now works for the Miss Maggie Sez newspaper, so she covers several surrounding counties and visits with many people on her route to the different Welcome Centers. People are continually asking about Ghost Town. In the earlier times, Hazelwood had Dayco rubber mill, Canton had Champion paper mill, and Maggie Valley had Ghost Town. Dayco, Lee Furniture, The Tannery, are all gone now. Tourism is our industry. Ms. Pinto asked that Council please look at helping Ghost Town.

Mr. Alan Manchester, of Premier Rentals, stated that business was up 40% since Ghost Town opened. Premier Rentals has 85-seasonal homes and Ghost Town had a financial impact on the entire county. He as a taxpayer and the owner of an enterprise was in favor of lending Ghost Town money.

Mr. Scott Pauley, owner of Travelowe’s Motel, addressed Council stating that he pays a fair amount of taxes and he pays his taxes on time. Mr. Pauley is also a member of the Fire Department. For years his parents owned a motel here in Maggie Valley, but things are not as they once were, when people worked together. “If one business does well, we all do better. Everyone has to work together. As previously stated the motorcycle museum has closed.” Mr. Pauley asked that Council put their personal feelings aside and vote for what is best for the town. People will be losing their businesses especially after the devastating season of 2008 with the gas prices and shortages.

As for the new Festival/ Special Events Director, Mr. Pauley stated that the Lodging Association was not impressed. “The association expected more. The members walked

Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES

away in total disbelief. Mr. Cody needs a clear direction. He hasn't even met with the Festival Board yet."

15. **Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege and Economic Development.**

There being no further comments from the floor, the following motion was made.

**ALDERMAN ALDRIDGE MADE A MOTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION
TO DISCUSS AN EMPLOYEE ISSUE AS WELL AS ATTORNEY CLIENT
PRIVILEGES AT 7:35 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ALDERMAN EDWARDS MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF CLOSED
SESSION AT 8:10 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

16. **Meeting Adjourned.**

**ALDERMAN EDWARDS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:14 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Roger McElroy

Vickie Best, CMC, Town Clerk

16
Town of Maggie Valley
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 21, 2009
MINUTES