



MINUTES OF THE LAKE LURE TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION AND ACTION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024, 8:30 A.M.

LAKE LURE MUNICIPAL CENTER

PRESENT: Mayor Carol C. Pritchett
Mayor Pro Tem David DiOrio
Commissioner Patrick Bryant
Commissioner Scott Doster
Commissioner Jim Proctor

William Morgan, Jr., Town Attorney Olivia
Stewman, Town Manager Stephen
Ford, Finance Director
Dean Lindsey, Public Services Director
Michael Williams, Community Development Director Laura
Krejci, Communications Director

ABSENT: N/A

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carol C. Pritchett called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

II. AGENDA ADOPTION

Commissioner Jim Proctor made a change on the agenda to add an item number seven which it will be the discussion of the Christmas lights, Commissioner Scott Doster seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Shellenburger 143 Bee Tree Place, mentioned that he and Mr. Don Meants 132 Rumbling Bald Road, are both residents of the Rumbling bald Community, and they are both also on the Fairfield Fire Department Board – he explained that after the discussion with the Lake Lure Fire Department Chief, and after viewing the Agenda Items he noticed that there will be a vote on merging and dissolving the Fairfield Fire Department and they asked that this item be postponed and not be voted on at this time, and not to stop the funding, he thinks that it is too soon for that. Commissioner Jim Proctor noted that public comments are meant for to discuss items that are not on the agenda and since this item is, we have to wait until the item comes up which Item number VIII.

IV. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DISCUSSION WITH FOOTHILLS REGIONAL COMMISSION

Alan Toney mexplained that as the Town approaches the end of the 2007-2027 Comprehensive Plan, it is prudent to beginning planning for a new Comprehensive Plan. Moving forward, the Town will be working with Foothills Regional Commission (FRC) to create a new Plan. FCR is the council of governments for the Isothermal Region which includes Cleveland, McDowell, Polk and Rutherford Counties. The membership of the Commission consists of the local governments within the Isothermal Region. The Commission serves its members and their citizens by fostering regional collaboration and providing professional and technical expertise.

In short, the goal for the new Comprehensive Plan is to reflect the current goals of the Town in a more concise and readable format. There will be an interdisciplinary steering committee composed of key stakeholders who will conduct meetings, create a SWOT analysis, provide their input, etc. The committee's input will be considered when transitioning to the public engagement process which will include a survey, focus groups, and public meetings. Mr. Alan Toney with FRC will provide a more detailed overview of how the Town and FRC will proceed with the creation of a new Comprehensive Plan. Alan showed a survey they made in Durham County and it is both in English and Spanish depending on the town needs of the language.

Addressed the Parks and Rec Chairs and explained that they will be involved about making updates and the way you want the new comp plan will look like, have the folks on this board to lay out the vision of the new plan, what the long term goals will look like. The rough overview of the costs and time frame it's to start in 12 to 18 months.

The commissioners explained that there were really grateful for this comp plan and how much it will help the town.

V. REVIEW PROPOSED DIRTY DANCING PROCLAMATION

Mr. Brian Proctor requested a proclamation be made acknowledging and commemorating the finale lift from the 1987 film, Dirty Dancing. Communications Director reviewed the request with the Lake Lure Events Team including the Town Manager, Community Development Director, Fire Chief, and Police Chief. There were no objections to the request. Additionally, the Communications Director consulted Town Attorney William Morgan regarding the request and he did not express any concerns about honoring the request as written below.

Dear Director Krejci,

I am writing to you as a community member with a deep appreciation for our town's unique history, which has been universally beneficial to our local economy and the American experience.

On a recent episode of Bachelor in Paradise, an audience of 2 million viewers (primarily composed of the most impactful demographic: Women ages 25 - 50) observed two attempts at the Lake Lure Land Lift, which required no introduction as the moment simply belongs to the American experience.

History tells us that this often-imitated, nationally significant moment occurred in one famous take on the shores of Lake Lure, North Carolina. Unfortunately, the exact date has remained a mystery for some forty years.

Over the past year, I have performed extensive research in the hopes of (1) identifying and (2) documenting our moment of national significance. At this time, I am confident that I can pinpoint the exact date and provide supporting peer-reviewed documentation, for your review. I believe a thoughtfully timed Mayoral proclamation is the best way to memorialize and celebrate this important local history.

Historical recognition has proven to be a powerful driver for tourism and economic growth, courting those seeking to immerse themselves in the stories and experiences that have shaped the national consciousness. Increased tourism brings economic opportunities for local businesses, revitalizes historical sites, and generates revenue that can be reinvested into community development projects.

If the Mayor is agreeable to issuing a proclamation, I would be happy to further assist. If you or your staff have any questions concerning the request, please call me at (857) 234-1885 and I will follow up with your office regarding this request promptly.

*Thank you for your consideration regarding this special request. Sincerely,
Brian Proctor*

Mr. Proctor created the following video with his research on the lift and his proposal for the proclamation.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14S_ta-ISJy5f_xgiGqPbVYOmCOrAl5i5/view?usp=sharing

The draft proclamation and video were forwarded to Town Attorney William Morgan for review. He did not foresee any concerns with issuing the proclamation.

This proclamation – will be read by the Mayor on the town council meeting communication in October.

VI. QUARTERLY FINANCE

Steve Ford (Finance Director) Addressed the board and made the presentation and explained what the expenditures of the town looks like – he has provided copies of the ledgers in the packet. Ford noted that department heads are doing well with the management of their budgets.

Revenue wise the town looks great, the state revenue sources look good, as part of our review process we want to look at every expense and see if we can reduce the costs, we will look at what expenses are necessary. The revenue do not include any draws from the budget amendment related to the general fund which the council passed in the last fiscal year. If we relocated our money we don't need to draw money from the general fund. To do internal transfer instead of using the general fund balance.

VII. DISCUSS THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT PLAN

Laura Krejci presented a proposed plan that includes the cost of the Christmas lights, the printout includes pictures and a written plan of what the town will look like during the upcoming holidays. The plan also gives different options. All of the lights that have been purchased are LED lights which will not impact the utility cost. The target date to turn them on is December 4th. The items will be a one-time cost.

**VIII. RESOLUTION NO. 24-09-25 TERMINATING AGREEMENT WITH FAIRFIELD
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Dustin Waycaster made the presentation - The Town of Lake Lure and Fairfield Mountains Volunteer Fire Department (FMVFD) have maintained an Agreement since 2008. However, with a growing demand for higher levels of care in Lake Lure and the nationwide shortage of volunteers, it is being recommended that the Town consolidate resources and operate the Fairfield Station. Thus, the Town would terminate the agreement with Fairfield Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, as well as cease payments to the Department. The attached memo provides additional information. EMS services have increased, but we don't have any EMS employees if you have a medical emergency you will get a fire fighter, the town of Rutherfordton is also down on EMS employees. A lot of the Fairfield members are not residents of Lake Lure and a few are part time, Chief recommended that Lake Lure puts paid staff in that station and he is welcome to leave the volunteers there if they meet the standards, but he recommends that he has a paid staff there as soon as possible, the goal of the lake lure fire department is to lease the building because what the LLFD wants is to improve the services in that station to be able to provide the residents of Rumbling Bald the best service possible, Chief said he needs five employees this will include volunteers and paid staff. The chief said that his employees train and have certifications required to provide.

Olivia Stewman mentioned that she had talked to Steve Ford already looked at the funding and that the town has enough to pay for two immediate paid employees and after that the town can apply for the safer grant that will pay their salary for five years and the amount of paid staff will be up to the town discretion.

There will be a meeting with the rumbling bald board with Olivia and Dustin will meet with them. Olivia will call Mr. Glassier today to set it up as soon as possible.

Mr. Shellenberger and Mr. Meant want the voting to be postponed and and for the town of LL to talk to the volunteers and let them know that is not the end of their services.

Commissioner Patrick Bryant made a motion to postpone the recommendation of adoption for a future date to be determined, Commissioner Scott Doster seconded, and they all voted in favor.

IX. TOWN MANAGER/PROJECT MANAGER UPDATES

Town Manager Olivia Stewman will provide Council with project and any other updates that are not included on the meeting agenda. Council will also have the

opportunity to ask any questions. On October 5th there will be a car show and a concert on October 12 the concert will be on the beach and it is a paid entry.

There a recommendation made that the lake needs to be lowered 2 feet below instead of one in preparation for the storm that will need council approval. Audio and video in the Council chambers will be upgraded we will go with a different firm and it will take them 3 days to do all of the work once we schedule the date.

Commissioner Scott Doster made a motion to lower the lake another additional foot, Commissioner David DiOrio seconded and they and the motion carried 4-0.

X. CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with G.S. 143-318-11 (a) (5) for the purpose of discussing property acquisition.

Commissioner Patrick Bryant made a motion to enter into closed session in accordance with *G.S. 143-318.11(a) (5) for the purpose of discussing property acquisition*. Commissioner Scott Doster seconded and all voted in favor.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner David DiOrio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Scott Doster seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

ATTEST:

Elba Willette, Town Clerk



Mayor Carol C. Pritchett