

Board of Aldermen Agenda Setting Meeting
Town Hall Board Room, Maggie Valley Town Hall
Tuesday October 1, 2024, 10:00 am

Members Present:

Mayor Mike Eveland, Alderman John Hinton, Alderman Tim Wise, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Owens

Members Absent:

Alderman Phillip Wight

Staff Present:

Town Manager Vickie Best, Town Planner Sam Cullen, Town Clerk Kathy Johnson, Public Works Director Mike Mehaffey, Police Chief Matthew Boger, Finance Director Misty Hagood, Assistant Town Planner Noah Taylor, Senior WWTP Operator Seth Boyd, Tax Collector Leslie Arrington.

Others Present:

MV Chamber Teresa Smith, ABC Chairman Joe Moody, Mary Miller, Altrusa representative.

Media Present:

No Media were present

Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Mike Eveland called the meeting to order at 9:57 am on Tuesday October 1, 2024, in the Maggie Valley Town Hall Boardroom 3987 Soco Road, Maggie Valley, NC 28751.

Mayor Eveland said each item on the agenda would be discussed, then there will be an update on Hurricane Helene cleanup.

Consent Agenda

- a. *Budget to Actual*
- b. *A/R Report*
- c. *Tax Releases*
- d. *Minutes: September 3rd and 10th, 2024*

Public Hearing: Amendment to section 156.13 for Private Road Update to the UDO

Town Planner Sam Cullen said this is a text amendment to the UDO requiring maintenance plans be put in place for approved private streets in all new development before recording of the final plat approval. The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the amendment at the September meeting.

Public Works Director Mike Mehaffey said there are some roads that are private and some that are a mix of private and public roads. He said that way we get that upfront and they know who is responsible for those roads.

Altrusa Benefit Concert: Mary Miller will be asking for relief on rent of the Festival Grounds.

Mary Miller said the Altrusa Benefit Concert is scheduled for August 9, 2025. She expressed her reluctance in coming to the meeting due to the current hurricane circumstances and volunteered to come back another time.

Mayor Eveland said due to the current situation, he feels it best to reschedule this agenda item for the meeting in November.

Ms. Miller said her request will be to ask the Town to be a joint sponsor with Altrusa for the event. Two years ago, the Town of Canton was a joint sponsor for the event, and she would like Maggie Valley to be the sponsor this year.

ABC Chairman Joe Moody's term is up.

Chairman Moody discussed possible new hours, extra patrol, and deposits during the hurricane cleanup. Chief Boger recommended going to an escort system during this time and limiting the number of people in the store at one time.

Non-Powell Bill Streets- Tanner Trail

Public Works Director Mike Mehaffey said Mr. Weaver has agreed on what he would like to fix, and he has filled out the paperwork for Non-Powell Bill Street maintenance funding for section one and section three. Those two combined sections come to a total cost of \$65,478 and the Town's portions of that is thirty percent and would be \$19,642.

Mr. Mehaffey said last year there were several requests for Non-Powell Bill Street funding on Serene Trail, Gail Drive and Nicholas Lane. He said the money that was put into the budget for this year was based on these three. The Town's share of Serene Trail is \$11,000. It has not been confirmed that Gail Drive will be doing their project but if they do, the Town's share will be \$9,000. That brings the total coming out of the street maintenance line item to \$20,000. Nicholas Lane is not going to do their project, so even if Serene and Gail both do their projects, that will leave \$22,000 in that line item.

Mr. Mehaffey asked Counsel to look over the application for Tanner Trail and he offered to take them to view the road. He answered questions from Counsel members.

Order to collect and release taxes.

- a. Order to collect 2024 taxes G.S. 105-321
- b. Order to collect delinquent taxes G.S. 105-321 & 105-373: 2015 – 2024 taxes
- c. Release of taxes under \$1.

Mayor Eveland said this is something that must be done each year. Manager Best said there would need to be a separate motion made for each item. She said the re-evaluation was done this year and some of the homes and businesses are no longer there due to the hurricane.

Tax Collector Leslie Arrington said due to the issues with Tyler Technology, the tax bills will be going out late. The representative that was supposed to train Ms. Arrington on the taxes no longer works with Tyler. This has caused a delay in getting the tax bills to the third party that prints them.

Ms. Arrington has collected \$42,000 of 2023 back taxes since April. She feels 2024 tax year is going to be a hard year.

Manager Best said Counsel will be voting on the release of all taxes under one dollar.

Budget Amendment: Ordinance 1095 transfer funds from the Appropriated Fund Balance to the Capital Outlay- Festival Grounds sign-\$13,420.

Finance Director Misty Hagood said this Ordinance is transferring funds over from last year.

Mayor Eveland said he would like all Department Heads to be at the October 8, 2024 meeting. He said right now "Our people in our Town are what is important."

Discussions

Manager Best said she would like an update from each Department Head. She said after the updates she would like to discuss with Counsel about allocating funds for the Hurricane cleanup.

Mayor Eveland confirmed with Ms. Best that money would need to be allocated for the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund.

There was much discussion between staff and Counsel members and each department head gave updates about the clean-up that was taking place throughout the Town due to Hurricane Helene. There was discussion about the devastation in surrounding areas and the long-term effect the Hurricane had on Western North Carolina.

Public Works Director Mike Mahaffey expressed appreciation to all of his employees for the long hours they have put in during and after the storm. He said they have worked hard and spent time away from their families during the cleanup process.

Police Chief Matthew Boger said there were officers coming in from Pikeville, NC to give some relief to MV Police Officers. MVPD is working closely with the MVFD to do wellness checks.

Mayor Eveland suggested setting up a better way for communication when a disaster hits. There has been no way of communication during this time. Mr. Mahaffey brought in his personal walkie-talkies to use as a means of communication until service is restored.

Mr. Mahaffey suggested "When this is all over, we need to do some kind of recognition for our Fire Department." He expressed appreciation for all the volunteers helping the Town during this time.

Mayor Eveland expressed the importance of documenting everything during the cleanup process.

Planner Cullen said he will coordinate with Manager Best and ask for state assistance from the emergency management that does the flood audit who works with FEMA. He doesn't want to require people to do more than they have to do. Almost all of the substantial projects will require a base flood elevation certificate from a surveyor. No MV Town Planner has ever been through an event to the extent of Hurricane Helene, and he does not know what the extent will be of what will be required from the state.

Teresa Smith with the Maggie Valley Chamber said she has worked her way down the Valley communicating with the Hotels that have been affected by the flooding. She said some of them were still renting rooms and some were only renting to emergency personnel. Some Hotels will not be able to rebuild. A lot of the Hotels have offered to let local people affected by the flooding to use their showers. There have been some of the restaurants in the area bringing hot meals to the Fire Department to feed people. She has been using the Fire Departments emergency Wi-Fi to answer emails and phone calls.

There was discussion about setting the pavilion up as a distribution center for essentials that are being donated for residents to get what they need. Many donations have been brought in to help the Town of Maggie Valley residents.

Manager Best said the quilting room had some flooding damage and will need to be cleaned out. The carpet is ruined and will need to be taken out. The quilters will no longer be able to use that room.

Alderman Jim Owens said the TDA does not want to go on the negative side, but until there is a list compiled with all the hotels that are open, the word is do not travel to NC. Ms. Smith said after discussion with the hotels, if there were people with reservations, they should consider them canceled without any penalty. Stores that are open are cash only due to no banks being opened.

Consideration of Budget Ordinance 1096: Approval of Funds for Hurricane Helene Recovery

This would allow \$100,000 for each the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund for Hurricane Helene recovery. Finance Director Misty Hagood said the money would be taken out of the Fund Balance and she will be setting up a separate line item for this so it would be easier to track.

A motion was made by Alderman Tim Wise to approve \$100,000 be moved from the Fund Balance into the General Fund and \$100,000 be moved into the Enterprise Fund. The motion passed unanimously. Alderman Phillip Wight was absent.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Alderman Tim Wise to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

s/ Mayor Mike Eveland

Mayor Mike Eveland

s/ Vickie Best

Vickie Best, Town Manager

s/ Kathy Johnson

Kathy Johnson, Town Clerk