



TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
SPECIAL CALL MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2021

THE BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, held a special called meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the board room of Town Hall, 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain NC. The purpose of this meeting was for the Board of Aldermen to review information regarding the proposed updates to the Town Charter.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Larry B. Harris called the special meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Larry B. Harris
Vice Mayor Ryan Stone
Alderman Archie Pertiller
Alderman Doug Hay
Alderman Pam King
Alderman Tim Raines

The following staff members were present:

Josh Harrold, Town Manager
Savannah Parrish, Assistant to Manager/Town Clerk
Ron Sneed, Town Attorney
Anna Stearns, Attorney

Attorney Ron Sneed introduced Attorney Anna Stearns and explained that she had been working on revisions to the Town Charter. Attorney Stearns explained that a Town Charter is ideally a short, straightforward document. She presented the rewritten charter to the Board by explaining changes section by section.

The proposed rewritten charter is included and made part of these minutes.

Attorney Stearns reminded the Board that should they update compensation of the mayor and councilmembers that the change could not go in effect during the current terms of office of any councilmember enacting the ordinance.

She also reviewed changing Section 2.4 to reflect the current practice of the Board to meet at 6 p.m. and to hold the organizational meeting in December following the elections.

The Board also reviewed the changes regarding the length of appointments when filling vacant seats on the board.

Section 3.1, Council-Manager Plan of Government, was updated to consistent with the General Statutes, and to make the language referring to the town manager gender neutral.

Town Clerk, Savannah Parrish, read a public comment submitted via email by Shawn Slome

“It is my understanding there is no State Statute requiring disclosure of conflicts of interest by advisory boards and elected bodies. This does not promote transparency in governance nor serve the interests of our Town. For example, the former Mayor was NOT required to disclose that he owned 8 acres adjacent to the Town Property when it was considering a lease to the Day Care despite the facts that the development would have increased the value of his property substantially. I believe there are some similar questions relating to conflicts of interest of those serving on the Planning Board. Can the Town Charter include a requirement that all those serving on Boards and Commissions disclose potential or perceived conflicts of interest?”

This comment led to a brief discussion concerning conflicts of interest and Chapter 160D- Local Planning and Development Regulation. All local governments must be in compliance with the new regulations by July 1, 2021.

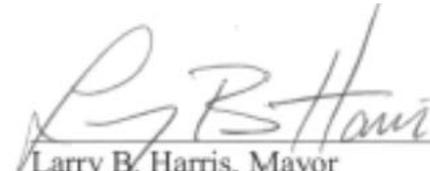
Mayor Harris asked the attorneys if the board should consider adding special assessments to the charter, which Attorney Sneed did not recommend.

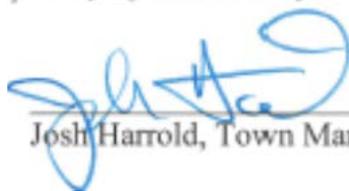
The Board of Aldermen will vote on an ordinance to change the name of the body to Town Council at the regular session meeting on March 8, 2021. They will also vote on a call for public hearing to consider updates to the Town Charter.

There being no further discussion Mayor Larry Harris adjourned the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

ATTEST:

Savannah M. Parrish
Savannah Parrish, Assistant to Manger/Town Clerk


Larry B. Harris, Mayor


Josh Harrold, Town Manager