BADIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
August 30, 2023
BADIN TOWN HALL

VISITORS
None

Council Members Present:
Gary Lowder, Mayor
Demar Huntley, Mayor Pro Tem
Dale Ward
Charles Council

Council Members Absent:
Deloris Chambers

Staff Present:
Jay Almond, Town Manager
Tim Peck, Badin Police Officer

Opening prayer by Dale Ward.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Lowder called the meeting to order.

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE AGENDA
Motion to add item "9." Municipal Communication Modality: Lowder
Second: Council
Vote: Passed/Unanimous

BUSINESS
Mayor Lowder proposed council consider selling or using town-owned properties. He cited a property on the corner of Nantahala and Boyden streets as a potential sale to fund other projects.

Ward said using lots, particularly corner lots including the one on Nantahala and Boyden, as off-street parking would be a preferred use that is needed in town.

Almond said he agreed with Ward and said a similar parking solution was considered by council in the past, but not voted on or implemented. He said Powell Bill might cover some of the sidewalk or paving and displayed a sample design drawing of off-street parking on a triangle shaped corner lot. He also noted the parking could be free, or paid to create revenue for the town.

Lowder requested Almond develop a map of town highlighting town-owned properties.

Council discussed street name changes.

Mayor Lowder presented a list of street names and examples of possible new names for them he compiled from materials he received from residents.

Ward said individual street names should be deemed offensive or non-offensive on a case-by-case basis. He cited Lee, Stuart, and Marion streets as examples of streets with clearly offensive overtones, but would like to see street names considered individually rather than by blanket request.

Councilmember Council reminded the board that during public input sessions, some residents specifically requested their street names remain unchanged. He also noted that defining offensive would be affected by the property owner polling requirement, and the 75-percent support and agreement threshold in the ordinance needs to be met.

Almond suggested racial, regional, and/or humanitarian impacts be considered when anticipating, determining, or defining "offensive," and/or understanding what might be found offensive.

Huntley added there are vacant lots where absentee owners will need to be notified of street name proceedings, and pointed out difficulties with successful legal property notices when a property is held in heirs, potentially 20 or more heirs in some cases.

Lowder said determining whether the street name change process would be town-initiated or requester-initiated is important for each case because it determines who pays for the process, and the ordinance outlines the steps. He read Town of Badin Street Name Change Ordinance, Section 8.

Lowder handed Almond a folder containing several documents, including two letters requesting street name changes. Per the Town of Badin Street Name Change Ordinance, Almond will review the request letters, notify Badin Town Council and Badin Planning Board, then present the letters to Town Council. Almond said he will share them during the September 12 Regular Meeting.

Councilmember Council said requests must be street by street. He won't consider blanket requests.

Town Council discussed an initial FY25 budget goals list of approximately 50 items, and categorized the list into short term and long term budget goals. Some items were focused on budget needs, while others were departmental task and procedure oriented.

- Tree and sidewalk repairs $10,000
- Street patching $20,000
- Storm water projects – Ashe and Spruce streets
- Climate controlled evidence room for police department
- Town Hall remodel
- Assign legal funds (attorney fees)
- Replace town entrance signs
- Rework culvert – corner of Lincoln and Sherman streets
- Dig out drainage ditches under Jackson and Grant streets
- Rebuild and clear rock ditch – Valley Dr., Maple, Spruce, and Cedar
- Host a meet and greet town employee's party for residents
- "Pride in our town" campaign – clean up sidewalks and streets
- Open Stuart St. right of way to Hwy 740 full 50 ft. square it up
- Public works winter reflective coats

- Install speed indicators at pertinent locations
- West Badin Park restroom
- Add fourth public works employee
- Employee meals
- Track movements of police cruisers
- Add code enforcement staff for minimum housing standards and nuisance
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Start BSA and GSA troops for Badin
- Email/text citizens
- Hire code enforcer
- Report funds on hand- where from, what for
- Inform citizens grant funds must be use as designated
- Announce plan/progress on Waterfront Park and BCC
- More police presence in school- check in/out in office
- Ticket speeders
- Seek full payment of property taxes
- Keep the information updated and current
- Cut brush from Welcome to Badin signs and Ironwood Drive
- Cut brush around Badin Business Park tree at Kirk Place
- Open alley way between Tallassee and Henderson streets
- Cut back brush along Dogwood Lane and Ext.
- Keep Pine Street and right of way clear of bamboo
- Move town funds into savings
- Email/text citizens in Emergencies – outages, closed streets, downed elec. Lines
- Complaints- town hall/email- name, phone, email reply within 48 business hrs. Save
- Stop on-street residential visitor parking past 3 hours
- Thread Trail from R/R track to Nantahala
- Lease conference center
- Relocate mulch/dirt from ball field lot
- Purchase ball fields from Alcoa
- Connectivity for East/West Badin
- Cameras in town hall, parking lot and maintenance shed

Ward asked if council could get a back taxes list for Badin.

Councilmember Council said communication modality was covered during the goals list discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:
Motion to adjourn August 30, 2023 Special Called Meeting: Huntley
Second: Ward
Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Minutes approved September 12, 2023.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Bowers.