

**A Regular Meeting of the
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN
MINUTES
Tuesday, December 17, 2024
4:00 P.M.**

1. **Call to Order of Regular Meeting** – Mayor Gunther Jochl called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present as follows:

Council Members Present:

Mayor Gunther Jochl, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown, Council Member David Ammann, and Council Member Dick Casey.

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Wade Wittman

Village Hall Staff Present:

Attorney Stacy Eggers IV., Chief Casey Turbyfill, Public Works Director Bill Daniels, Village Manager Susan Phillips, and Village Clerk Tammy Floyd who recorded the official meeting.

Approximately two members of the public attended.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Chief Casey Turbyfill leads the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Moment of Silence** – Mayor Gunther Jochl announced a moment of silence.
4. **Adoption of Regular Meeting Agenda** – The Village Manager, Susan Phillips requested to add item 7 c. consultant contract to the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Scott brown made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).
5. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **November 15, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes and November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**
Council Member Dick Casey moved to approve both sets of minutes as written. Council Member David Ammann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

- a. **Review and Consider Adoption of FY 2024-25 Budget Amendment #4 to appropriate funds for additional wages and benefits paid to the Manager and Public Works Director.**

Council Member David Ammann moved to adopt the budget amendment with a second from Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

b. Review and Consider Adoption of FY 2024-25 Budget Amendment #5 to appropriate funds to both the General Fund and Golf and Tennis fund for administrative costs and repairs caused by Hurricane Helene.

Village Manager Susan Phillips is hopeful this cost will be reimbursed by FEMA. Council Member Dick Casey made the motion to adopt the budget amendment. Council Member David Ammann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

c. Disaster Recovery and Emergency Management Consulting Contract

After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown made a motion to approve the contract subject to technical corrections discussed. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

8. Departmental Reports

a. Village Manager's Report – Susan Phillips

The Village Manager's report provides an update on assessing damage from Hurricane Helene and debris removal. Avery County has reported 7,636 cubic yards removed from Sugar Mountain as of December 7, 2024. The TDA Board has approved funding for six decorative lights and an increase of \$1,000 in the winter promotions budget. The October occupancy tax decreased 91% in comparison to October 2023 resulted from Hurricane Helene. Our Police Department participated in the annual "Shop with a cop". Advertisements for the Police Officer position vacancy, following the sudden resignation of Kyle Osborne, have been placed in the local newspapers and NCLM. Bill Daniels has been selected for the Envu Superintendent Grant Program to attend the 2025 GCSAA Conference in San Diego, California.

b. Police Chief's Monthly Report – Chief Casey Turbyfill

Police Department operations are running well. With our busy time approaching reserve officers have been added to the schedule. Officer Hicks will be assisting local area law enforcement agencies in the shop with a cop. NC184 Foodlion area was impassable on 11/21 and Officer Hicks responded to work multiple vehicle accidents. Additional incidents are in the full report.
Patrol Miles: 3,977, Business Checks: 465, Residence Checks: 461

c. Public Works Director's Monthly Report – Bill Daniels

The report details debris removal and over the time to come we will still be pulling debris from farther off of the roadways to make sure our maintained right of ways are clear. We have been busy working the winter weather and thankful to see tourists return to the area. Crews will begin to rebuild the bunkers and replace culverts on the golf course closer to spring.

d. Monthly Permits Issuance Log – Tammy Floyd

Zoning Permits for Building-2, Fence-1, Signs-2, Drones -2, and Tree Removal-1.

e. Tax Collection Report

FY 2024 Tax Collection Rate as of Friday, December 13, 2024 65.45%

f. Finance Officer's Financial Report – Susan Phillips

Financial Reports through November 30, 2024 provided.

9. Public Comments

Dedy Traver thanked staff and commented on the lights at the entrance of Sugar Mountain.

10. Mayor/Council Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown wished everyone well for the Holidays.
Council Member David Ammann also wished a Happy Holiday Season and remember those hurting from the disaster and thanks everyone for their support.
Council Member Dick Casey wished a Happy Holidays and New Years.
Mayor Gunther Jochl provided an update on improvement of ski conditions, increased lodging, and visitors for local businesses and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

11. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

The meeting was adjourned at 4.24 p.m.

Mayor, Gunther Jochl

ATTEST: _____
Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk

SEAL