

**A Regular Meeting of the
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 21, 2025
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, Council Member Wade Wittman and Council Member Dick Casey.

Council Members Absent:

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 six 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** – Council Member David Ammann made a motion to adopt the agenda. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).
5. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **January 06, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes and December 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.**
Council Member Dick Casey moved to approve both sets of minutes as written. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

- a. **Review and Consider Approval of FY 2025 Audit Contract with Misty Watson, CPA.**
Council Member David Ammann motioned to approve the contract with a second from Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).
- b. **Consider Appointment of Erin Shu to the TDA Board**
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to appoint Erin Shu to the TDA Board. Council Member Wade Wittmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

c. Consider Re-Appointment of Sarah Whitfield to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Council Member Wade Wittman made a motion to re-appoint Sarah Whitfield. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

d. Consider Re-Appointment of David Ammann and David Johnson to the Board of Adjustment

Council Member Dick Casey motioned to re-appoint both David Ammann and David Johnson. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0). Council Member David Ammann abstained.

e. Consider Approval of 2024 Tax Overpayment Refund Request.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown made a motion to approve the refund request with a second from Council Member Dick Casey. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

8. Departmental Reports

a. Village Manager's Report – Susan Phillips

The report provided an update on debris pick-up from Hurricane Helene. The Tourism Development Authority approved the FY 2025 audit contract with Misty Watson, CPA and reported Occupancy Tax Collection for November and December decreased in comparison to 2023. Work has resumed on the construction of the Courtyard Marriott beside Lowe's Foods with an anticipated January 2026 Opening.

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

The Chief reports that police department operations are running well and still have an opening with no application being received to date. The call volume is up and extra officers are scheduled to assist with the influx of traffic.

Residence Checks: 538, Business Checks: 645 Patrol Miles: 5,625

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

The Director did not have much to report because the weather has been keeping them very busy. All equipment is handling the repeated use on the roads due to snowfall. On two occasions, we have assisted the NCDOT in keeping Food Lion Hill on NC 184 in a usable manner. We are still working closely with our consultants on the Helene damaged areas, and as soon as the weather breaks, we will resume repairing these areas.

d. Monthly Permits Issuance Log – Tammy Floyd

Zoning Permits for Building: 2, Tree Removal: 1, and Sign Permit: 1

e. Tax Collection Report

FY 2024 Tax Collection Rate as of Friday, January 17, 2025 92.75%

f. Finance Officer's Financial Report – Susan Phillips

Financial Reports through December 31, 2024 provided.

9. Public Comments

Jeff Garnto spoke about an issue with Carolina Water and a water leak leading to high water bills.
Stephen Auffinger provided some information about research he performed on the water meters being used.

10. Mayor/Council Comments

Council Member Wade Wittman reported to Chief Casey Turbyfill and Public Works Director Bill Daniels that they are doing a great job.
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown wished everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.
Council Member Dick Casey agreed with Council Member Wade Wittman on the Chief and Bill Daniels.
Mayor Gunther Jochl commented on snow removal and the NC Dept. of Transportations availability during snow events.

11. Closed Session for Personnel G.S. 143-318311(a)(6)

At 4:20 p.m. Council Member Dick Casey moved to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters with a second from Council Member Wade Wittman. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0). The full Council returned from closed session at 4:27 p.m. Council Member Dick Casey made a motion to increase the Village Manager’s Salary by 4% and include an 8,000-bonus resulting from her annual review. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

12. Adjournment

Council Member David Ammann moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

The meeting was adjourned at 4.28 p.m.

Mayor, Gunther Jochl

ATTEST: _____
Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk

SEAL