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

**Council Members Present:**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown, Council Member David Ammann, Council Member Wade Wittman, and Council Member Dick Casey.

**Council Members Absent:**

Mayor Gunther Jochl

**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.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Public Works Director Bill Daniels leads the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Invocation** – Chief Turbyfill leads the invocation.
3. **Adoption of Regular Meeting Agenda** – Council Member Wade Wittman 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).
4. **Approval of Minutes**
5. **January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Council Member Wade Wittman moved to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

1. **Old Business**
2. **New Business**
3. **Discuss and Consider Setting a Public Hearing for a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Regulate the Location, Size, and Design of Wireless Communications Facilities.**

The Village Attorney introduced the proposed ordinance. After discussion, Council Member Dick Casey motioned to hold a public hearing at the March regular meeting of the Council. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

1. **Discuss and Consider Setting a Public Hearing for a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Disallow Small Scale and Utility Use of Solar Panels Within the Retail and Service Districts.**

The Village Attorney provided details on the ordinance. After discussion, Council Member Wade Wittman motioned to hold the public hearing during the March regular council meeting. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

1. **Discuss and Consider Setting a Public Hearing for a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Require All Necessary Water, Sewer, or Septic Permits be Obtained Before Issuing a Zoning Permit.**

The Village Attorney provided information as to why this amendment is needed. Council Member David Ammann moved to hold the public hearing during the March regular council meeting. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

1. **Consider Adoption of FY 2024-25 Budget Amendment #6 to Appropriate Funds for Salaries and Benefits Costs for Disaster Recovery Services Caused by Hurricane Helene.**

Council Member David Ammann made the motion to approve the budget amendment with a second from Council Member Dick Casey. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

1. **Consider Rescheduling the March Regular Meeting of the Council to March 11, 2025.**

Council Member Wade Wittman stated he would not be available on March 11, but does not oppose to the rescheduling. Council Member Dick Casey made the motion to reschedule the March council meeting to Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 4:00 pm. Council Member David Ammann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

1. **Departmental Reports**
2. **Village Manager’s Report – Susan Phillips**

The Manager’s report includes an update on Hurricane Helene debris removal efforts. FEMA Inspectors have been here this week and will continue for some time. Avery County reports 10,292.4 cubic yards or 335 loads removed from Sugar Mountain as of February 10, 2025. The Planning Board met and decided to send the Telecommunications Tower drafted by Attorney, Stacy Eggers IV. to Council with no recommendation. The Board also reviewed the water, sewer, and solar panel amendments to the council with a recommendation of approval. The Tourism Development Authority has approved funding for the 2025 Summer cooperative promotions with Sugar Mountain Resort, a January photo shoot, and a TDA Winter video. Occupancy tax collection for December decreased by 2% in comparison to 2023. A claim has been filed for vehicle damage to two decorative streetlights and a guardrail. Homewood Suites by Hilton has applied for an amendment to their special use permit.

1. **Police Chief’s Monthly Report – Chief Casey Turbyfill**

The Police Chief reports the past month has been busy, and call volume is up. The Police Department has an applicant for the Police Officer opening and working on in-service training and certification. The Flock Safety Cameras were used to solve two hit-and-run incidents and will recoup nearly $14,000 in damages to Village property.

Business Checks: 466, Residence Checks: 393, Patrol Miles: 3,597

1. **Public Works Director’s Monthly Report – Bill Daniels**

Bill Daniels reported he has been busy with inspections on the mountain with FEMA representatives and meeting with a golf course renovation and construction company. We will continue to pick up brush, but any non-vegetative material placed alongside any street will be considered littering after February 23, 2025. The Village plans to have nine holes open by mid-April to begin the recovery of revenue.

1. **Monthly Permits Issuance Log – Tammy Floyd**

Zoning Permits for Building: 3, Tree Removal: 2

1. **Tax Collection Report**

FY 2024 Tax Collection Rate as of Friday, February 14, 2025 96.48%,

1. **Finance Officer’s Financial Report – Susan Phillips**

Financial Reports through January 31, 2025 provided.

1. **Public Comments**

Dedy Taver of Highland Circle provided a thank you to all departments

C.J. of Rock Ledge asked about Spring clean-up efforts.

1. **Mayor/Council Comments**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown commented on seeing people enjoying the ski slopes and the number of skiers this year.

1. **Closed Session for Attorney-Client Privilege NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)**

At 4:29 p.m. Council Member Dick Casey made the motion to enter a closed session for Attorney-Client Privilege with a second from Council Member Wade Wittman. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0). The Council returned to open session and Council Member Dick Casey made a motion to accept the terms of the settlement concerning The Village of Sugar Mountain Vs. Taylor. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

1. **Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4.38 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem, Scott Brown

ATTEST:

Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk SEAL