

**A Regular Meeting of the  
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, May 20, 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 Dick Casey, and Council Member Wade Wittman.

**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 twelve members of the public attended.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Chief Casey Turbyfill leads the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Moment of Silence** – Mayor Gunther Jochl announces a moment of silence.
4. **Adoption of Regular Meeting Agenda** – Council Member Wade Wittman moved 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. **April 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Council Member David Ammann moved to approve the 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**
  - a. **Consider Billboard Ordinance Amendment as Petitioned by James Heaton**

After the discussion, the Council took no action to amend the ordinance on billboards. The matter will follow the appeal procedure to the Board of Adjustments.
7. **New Business**
  - a. **Schedule a Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget.**

Council Member David Ammann moved to schedule the public hearing during the next regular meeting on June 17, 2025. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).
  - b. **Consider Adoption of FY 2024-25 Budget Amendment #7 to Appropriate Funds for Street Repair Costs Caused by Hurricane Helene.**

Council Member David Ammann made a motion to adopt the budget amendment. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried four (4) votes to zero (0).

**c. Consider Supporting a Request to Reconsider the Timing of Blue Ridge Parkway Paving Construction Closure.**

After the discussion, Council Member Dick Casey moved to support the letter with a second from Council Member Wade Wittman. 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 Manager's report includes information on continued damage assessment and repairs from Hurricane Helene. The process of debris removal by the FEMA contractors has ended in the Village. A report from Avery County showed there have been 44,712.8 cubic yards removed from Sugar Mountain as of April 26, 2025. Repairs to the golf course are expected to begin in the upcoming weeks. We opened the course with eight holes on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Tennis opened for the 2025 season on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. The fence on courts 1 and 2 will be repaired and posts replaced soon. The TDA Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed \$900,860 budget on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. The March 2025 collections of the occupancy tax showed a decrease of 13% in comparison to March 2024. The owner of a billboard at 2515 Tynecastle Highway was denied a sign permit to erect a new billboard and has appealed this decision to the Board of Adjustment. The Board of Adjustment will also hear a request to amend the Homewood Suites Special Use Permit to divide the 22.76-acre property into two parcels.

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

The Chief reports that department operations are operating as normal. Sugar Mountain Police Department has made a conditional offer to Timothy Kiefer for our open position. Once sworn, Timothy Kiefer will complete field training and be assigned to the night shift. Officers have been working to slow traffic down in the Village, and have no major incidents to report.

Patrol Miles: 4,526, Business checks: 514, Residence Checks: 416

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

The Public Works Director has reported that, for the most part, repair of areas where landslides compromised our street, and washouts alongside the edge of the asphalt have been completed. Holes 11,8,9,10,17,18,1, and 2 are open for play in that order.

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

Zoning Permit for Building: 5, Sign Permit: 4, Fence Permit: 1, Tree Permit: 2

**e. Tax Collection Report**

FY 2024 Tax Collection Rate as of Friday, May 16, 2025 99.46%

FY 2023 100.00%

**f. Finance Officer's Financial Report – Susan Phillips**

Financial Reports through April 30, 2025 provided.

**9. Public Comments**

Jeff Garnto of Robin Lane asked about filling in a pothole on Grouse Moor Dr.  
Dedy Traver expressed gratitude to the Public Works and Police Departments, and the golf course plays well.

**10. Mayor/Council Comments**

Council Member Wade Wittman said “Great Work” has been provided by the Public Works and Police Departments.  
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown mentioned that the area is looking beautiful.  
Council Member David Ammann appreciates the hard work and finding time to put together the budget.  
Council Member Dick Casey thanked the staff.

**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** four (4) votes to zero (0).

The meeting was adjourned at 4.20 p.m.

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Gunther Jochl, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk

SEAL