

**A Regular Meeting of the
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN
MINUTES
Tuesday, September 16, 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, and Council Member Wade Wittman.

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Dick Casey

Village Hall Staff Present:

Attorney Joey Petrack, Public Works Director Bill Daniels, Village Manager Susan Phillips, and Village Clerk Tammy Floyd who recorded the official meeting.

Approximately one member of the public attended.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Village Manager Susan Phillips 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 David Ammann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).
5. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

- a. **Consider Adoption of the NC Department of State Treasurer Cashflow Loan #3.**

Village Manager, Susan Phillips advised this loan is \$263,135.00 and has the same repayment terms as load #1 and #2. The loans will be repaid with FEMA reimbursements and zero interest and fees. Council Member Wade Wittman moved to approve the loan with a second from Council Member David Ammann.

8. **Departmental Reports**

- a. **Village Manager's Report – Susan Phillips**

Golf has seen an overall decrease of 30% in revenues for the period April-September 11th in comparison to the same period in 2024. Tennis has seen a decrease of 12% in revenues for the period May-September 11th. The Tourism Development Authority approved funding for Winter and Summer Music Line-Ups and the Annual Village Landscaping agreement including three new planting areas. Occupancy tax collections for the period August 2024 through July 2025 have shown a 16.12% decrease in comparison to last year. Visit North Carolina has released the 2024 Visitor Spending report for the 100 Counties in NC. Avery Counties total visitor spending was \$251.46M. The Village has submitted a total of \$1,943,685 for FEMA reimbursement and only \$745,073 has been received to date. The Grandfather center is hiring a new landscaping firm and will address the landscaping and line painting for exiting the center to the red light.
- b. **Police Chief's Monthly Report – Chief Casey Turbyfill**

The Police Department continues to patrol Village streets and maintain an active presence in the community. These patrols consist of vehicle patrols, foot patrols, and stationary patrols. Warnings and state citations have been issued for speeding violations.
Patrol Miles: 4,369 Business Checks: 432 Residence Checks: 389

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

The fall weather has allowed us to get many things done. Culverts have been replaced on Briarcliff at the first entrance to the condo complex, and a culvert replacement is in progress at the bottom of Timber Ridge Road. The damaged pedestrian bridge across from Dick Trundy Lane has been removed. We are looking to replace this with either another bridge type structure or an earthen walkway. We remain vigilant in getting every part of the Village restored to even better condition than it was before the storm. The golf course renovations continue as the last load of concrete for the bunker drainage is scheduled for September 18. This will complete the bunker renovation portion of the project. We have also been able to get 4 more holes in play, giving us 17 of 18.

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

Tree Removal/Pruning Permits: 6
Zoning Permits for Building: 4
Sign Permits: 2
Driveway Permit: 1

e. **Tax Collection Report**

Tax Year 2025 Tax Collection Rate as of Friday, September 12, 2025 29.19%
Tax Year 2024 99.68%

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

Financial reports provided through August 31, 2025.

9. **Public Comments**

Resident Susan Auffinger commented on the beautiful flowers.

10. **Mayor/Council Comments**

Council Member Wade Wittmann thanked Bill Daniels and his crew.
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown stated he is looking forward to Autumn and Oktoberfest.
Mayor Gunther Jochl praised the effort to restore the Village’s beauty and commended Bill Daniels for completing the task despite facing criticism.

11. **Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Council Member Wade Wittman. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Gunther Jochl, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk

SEAL