

**A Regular Meeting of the
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN
MINUTES
Tuesday, June 23, 2026
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 Wade Wittman, Council Member David Ammann, and Council Member Dick Casey

Council Members Absent:

Village Hall Staff Present:

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

Approximately ten 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** – Village Manager, Susan Phillips requested the additions of fee schedule, budget amendment #6 and a resolution in opposition to the agenda. Council Member Dick Casey motioned to adopt the agenda with the additions. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

5. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **May 22, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and Budget Workshop Minutes**

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

6. **Public Hearing**

Mayor Gunther Jochl opened the public hearing to hear comments on the proposed 2026-27 Fiscal Year Budget. Due to no comments made by the public in attendance, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to close the public hearing with a second from Council Member Dick Casey. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

7. **Old Business**

8. **New Business**

- a. **Review and Consider Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Ordinance.**

Village Manager Susan Phillips advised only one change has been made since the budget workshop. The ABC board budgeted an additional ten thousand dollars in revenue. Therefore, the fund balance appropriation has been reduced by ten thousand dollars. With no further discussion, Council Member Dick Casey made the motion to adopt the budget as presented. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

- b. **Review and Consider Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Ordinance Amendment #5**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to adopt 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).

- c. **Consider Awarding a Contract to Beam Construction for the Sugar Mountain Dr. Road/Embankment Repair Project in the amount of \$601,215.**

Village Manager Susan Phillips reported this contract has been reviewed by the Village Attorney and FEMA. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown made the motion to award the contract. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

- d. **Consider Reappointment of Nancy Bartlett, Walter Jack Anderson, and Erich Schmidinger to the Board of Adjustments for a three-year term.**

Council Member Wade Wittman moved to re-appoint all three members to another term. Council Member David Ammann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

- e. **Consider Reappointment of David Miller to the High-Country ABC Board for a three-year term.**
This item was tabled with a unanimous vote.

- f. **Review and Consider Adoption of the 2026-27 Fee Schedule.**
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown made the motion to adopt the fee schedule as presented. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

- g. **Review and Consider Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Ordinance Amendment #6.**
Council Member Wade Wittman moved to adopt budget amendment #6. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

- h. **Review and Consider Adoption of the Resolution Opposing Section 22 of House Bill 921 concerning ready-to-drink sales.**
After discussion, Council Member Wade Wittman made a motion to adopt the resolution. Council Member David Ammann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

9. Departmental Reports

- a. **Village Manager’s Report – Susan Phillips**
The golf course remains in excellent condition, with strong play and record April revenues. May revenues were consistent with prior years. Bids for the Golf Course Stream Repair Project are scheduled to be opened on July 16, with construction anticipated to begin in September. The tennis season is underway with increased participation and revenues exceeding last year. The Tourism Development Authority adopted a balanced FY 2026–27 budget of \$980,050. Occupancy tax collections increased 13.04% over the previous year. FEMA reimbursement requests continue to progress, with approximately \$3.96 million submitted, \$2.57 million received, and \$1.39 million still outstanding. NCDOT has begun utility relocation work on NC 184 in preparation for permanent Hurricane Helene culvert repairs.

- b. **Police Chief’s Monthly Report – Chief Casey Turbyfill**
The Police Department reported that operations continue to run effectively and thanked Council for its support of the proposed budget. Officer Marvin Sanchez-Fabian has completed field training and joined the night shift, while Officer Kiefer's split-shift assignment continues to improve staffing coverage. Chief Turbyfill and Officer Brown completed RADAR recertification, bringing the department to three certified RADAR operators. The department reminded residents and visitors to observe posted speed limits as summer activity increases and noted that officers will continue RADAR enforcement and foot patrols during the summer concert series. Activity for the reporting period included 387 residence checks, 384 business checks, 3,470 patrol miles, two citations issued, and one arrest.

- c. **Public Works Director’s Monthly Report – Bill Daniels**
Road striping has been completed throughout the Village except for the Mossy Creek area, which is awaiting additional paint. Roadside mowing is progressing well, and crews are repairing sections of the walking path along Sugar Mountain Drive, with the goal of reopening the full path by the end of the summer. Tree removal on the Williams Park trails will follow. The golf course continues to experience a strong season with positive feedback on course conditions, returning patrons, and new visitors. The annual Pittman Gap Church golf tournament was well attended with 84 participants, and the course will host two upcoming events for departments of Appalachian State University, which are expected to encourage repeat visitation.

- d. **Monthly Permits Issuance Log – Tammy Floyd**
Four Sign Permits, One Drone Permit, Two Tree Removal Permits, and Two Building Permits.

- e. **Tax Collection Report**
2025 Tax Collection Rate 99.53%
2024 Tax Collection Rate 99.95%

- f. **Finance Officer’s Financial Report – Susan Phillips**
Financial Reports provided through May 31, 2026

10. Public Comments

Susan Auffinger expressed appreciation and stated how she loves living in Sugar Mountain.
Dedy Traver also expressed appreciation and commented on the flowers.

11. Mayor/Council Comments

Council Member Wade Wittman stated the mountain looks amazing and expressed appreciation to staff.
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown agreed with Wade Wittman and added the area is a joy to walk around.
Council Member Dick Casey commented on the budget and thanked the staff for putting it together.
Mayor Gunther Jochl stated how nice it is to have a budget so easy to vote for, always comes out right, and takes care of our people.

12. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member David Ammann seconded the motion.
All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Gunther Jochl, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk

SEAL