

**A Regular Meeting of the
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN
MINUTES
Tuesday, July 21, 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 Stacy Eggers IV, Chief Casey Turbyfill, Public Works Director Bill Daniels, Village Manager Susan Phillips, and Administrative Assistant Mary Kate Ollis who recorded the official meeting.

Approximately three 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 David Ammann motioned 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. **June 23, 2026 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).
6. **Old Business**
 - a. **Consider Reappointment of David Miller to the High-Country ABC Board for a Three-Year Term.**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to reappoint David Miller with a second from Council Member Wade Wittman. All were in favor, and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).
7. **New Business**
 - a. **Review Resolution and Consider Setting a Public Hearing for Amending Ordinance §152.06 Permittee to Furnish Cash Bond; Enforcement.**

After discussion, Council has requested the time frame to fix a road disturbance to ten working business days. The Village Attorney will prepare the drafted ordinance reflecting the change. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown made a motion to set the public hearing for the next regular meeting of council. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).
 - b. **Review Resolution and Consider Setting a Public Hearing for Amending Ordinance §154.026 Fences.**

After discussion, the Village Council has ordered the ordinance back to the Planning and Zoning Board.

c. Consider Reappointment of Sam Semple to the Tourism Development Authority for a two-year term.

Council Member Wade Wittman moved to reappoint Sam Semple to the TDA with a second from Council Member Dick Casey. All were in favor, and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

d. Consider Reappointment of Richard Fudge to the Planning and Zoning Board for a three-year term.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to reappoint Richard Fudge to the Planning and Zoning Board. Council Member Dick Case seconded the motion. 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 Golf Course remains in excellent condition and experienced a very busy Fourth of July holiday, with many days operating at a full tee sheet. Golf revenue increased by 5.43% compared to the same period in 2024. Staff continue planning for the final phase of major course repairs, including stream restoration, culvert replacements, and cart path repairs. Bid proposals for the stream restoration project have been received, with construction anticipated to begin in early September following contract award.

The Tennis program has experienced another successful season reporting a \$8,964 increase in revenue for May and June compared to the same period last year. The Tourism Development Authority reported continued growth in occupancy tax collections, which increased 23.44% in May and 13.41% for the rolling 12-month period.

Staff continue to make significant progress on FEMA recovery efforts, with reimbursement requests submitted for numerous Hurricane Helene recovery projects and over \$3.6 million in project costs submitted to date. Several reimbursements have been received, while others remain pending. The Sugar Mountain Drive embankment repair project has been awarded to Beam Construction, with work expected to begin on August 24.

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

The Police Department reported continued efficient operations during a busy reporting period, successfully managing large crowds over the Independence Day holiday and the Highland Games through increased patrols and officer visibility, with no major incidents and only minor traffic accidents reported. Council was thanked for funding a temporary officer position, which has maintained full staffing during Officer Clark's maternity leave. The Department has ordered a new 2027 Dodge Durango patrol vehicle, completed annual firearms qualifications, and continued required in-service training. Officer Kiefer will begin instructor training to assume future in-service training coordination duties. Officers also continued traffic enforcement, pedestrian safety patrols, and security at the Wednesday concert series. Significant incidents included a DWI arrest, ordinance enforcement involving livestock, response to a vehicle fire, assistance in locating homicide and stolen vehicle suspects, and several other routine investigations. During the reporting period, officers conducted 343 residence checks, 365 business checks, logged 4,050 patrol miles, issued 10 citations, and made one arrest.

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

Staff reported receiving numerous compliments on the appearance of the Village and thanked the Council and Village Manager for the recent employee pay increase. Public Works will begin clearing trees adjacent to the pathways in J. Douglas Williams Park, a project expected to take several weeks and require rented equipment. The golf course continues to have a strong season despite recent rainfall, with high participation overall. Bids for the golf course stream restoration project are being received, and staff looks forward to completing the repairs and continuing recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene.

d. Monthly Permits Issuance Log – Tammy Floyd

Building Permit: 2 Tree Removal and Pruning Permit: 4 Culvert Permit: 1

e. 2025 Tax Settlement Report – Tammy Floyd

Report Provided for Dates July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 for the past ten years.

f. Tax Collection Report

2026 Tax Collection Rate 1.75%

2025 Tax Collection Rate 99.63%

g. Charge Tax Collector with 2026 Tax Receipts and Declare First Lien Upon All Real Property.

Council Member Dick Casey moved to charge the Tax Collector and Declare First Lien. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).

h. Finance Officer's Financial Report – Susan Phillips

Financial Reports provided through June 30, 2026

9. Public Comments

Compliments were made on the Golf Course and Fourth of July Fireworks.

10. Mayor/Council Comments

Mayor Gunther Jochl reported on compliments received on how well maintained the Village is and how good it looks.

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 4:35 p.m.

Gunther Jochl, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk

SEAL