

**A Regular Meeting of the
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN
MINUTES
Thursday, August 20, 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 David Ammann, and Council Member Dick Casey

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Wade Wittmann

Village Hall Staff Present:

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

Approximately seven 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** – Mayor Gunther Jochl requested to recuse himself from item 8a. Council Member Dick Casey made the motion to adopt the agenda and recuse the Mayor from 8a. A second was received. All were in favor and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).
5. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **July 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**
 - b. **July 20, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes**

Council Member Dick Casey moved to approve both sets of minutes as written. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the **motion carried** four (4) votes to zero (0).
6. **Public Hearing**
 - a. **Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment(s) to the Resort Commercial District.**

Mayor Gunther Jochl opened the public hearing. Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown moved to close the hearing with a second from Council Member David Ammann. All were in favor and the hearing closed.
 - b. **Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment to §152.06 Permittee to Furnish Cash Bond; Enforcement.**

Mayor Gunther Jochl opened the public hearing. Village Manager Susan Phillips reported that the timeframe to repair the road cut is now ten days. No public comments were made on the amendment. Therefore, Council Member Dick Casey moved to close the hearing with a second from Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown. All were in favor and the hearing closed.
7. **Old Business**
8. **New Business**
 - a. **Review Resolution and Consider Adopting the Proposed Amenement(s) to the Resort Commercial District.**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown opened discussion to consider adoption. Council Member David Ammann made a motion to adopt the ordinance amendment(s) to the Resort Commercial District. Council Member Dick Casey

seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

b. Review Resolution and Consider Adopting the Proposed Amendment to Ordinance §152.06 Permittee to Furnish Cash Bond; Enforcement.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown made the motion to adopt the amendment to ordinance §154.06. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

c. Review and Consider Adoption of the Ordinance Amending §90.30(B) of the Code of Ordinance to Harmonize the Construction Hours Exemption with Section 154.145 Zoning Ordinance as 7:00am. and 8:00 pm.

After discussion, Council Member Dick Casey moved to adopt the amendment to harmonize the construction hours with the zoning ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

d. Consider Budget Amendment #1 for FY 2026-27 to appropriate additional funds to the Public Works Department for the Roadside Mower.

Village Manager Susan Phillips advised the state contract amount for the roadside mower increased by \$15,000 since the 2026-27 budget was adopted. Council Member Dick Casey moved to adopt the budget amendment with a second from Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

e. Consider Recommendation to Award Contract to the Apparent Low Bidder for Golf Course Stream Repair Project.

After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown made the motion to award the contract presented subject to final legal review. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

f. Request to Release Interest on a 2026 Retro Active Bill.

Council Member Dick Casey moved to approve the release with a second from Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

g. Request to Declare Taser X26/X26P Equipment as Surplus.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown made the motion to declare surplus. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

h. Proclamation proclaiming the week of September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown made the motion to adopt the proclamation with a second from Council Member David Ammann. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

9. Departmental Reports

a. Village Manager's Report – Susan Phillips

Village Manager Susan Phillips provided updates on Village operations and projects. Golf Course revenue through July 31 increased 8.94% (\$40,556) over the same period in 2024, with 9,245 rounds played. Four proposals were received for the Golf Course Stream Repair Project, with a contract award recommendation forthcoming and construction expected to begin in September. Tennis revenue increased 15% (\$5,536) over the same period in 2025. The TDA reported a 19% increase in annual occupancy tax collection. Grillin' & Chillin' events continue Wednesdays through Labor Day.

The Sugar Mountain Drive Helene Road/Embankment Repairs Project is expected to begin August 24 and be completed in late September. The \$792,674 project is anticipated to receive 100% FEMA/State reimbursement. FEMA expenditures totaling \$4,087,504 have been submitted, with \$3,889,625 received to date.

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

Chief Turbyfill reported that the Police Department continues to operate efficiently, with officers maintaining visible patrols, business checks, and community interaction. Staff will complete annual Taser 10 recertification, reserve officers will complete firearms qualification, and Officer Kiefer will attend law enforcement instructor training. The Village is also expected to receive a State-funded \$1,750 bonus for each full-time sworn officer.

A review of Village signage was completed, with replacement and additional speed limit signs ordered. A solar-powered flashing stop sign was installed at Cross Park Drive. Officers will continue RADAR enforcement, particularly with increased pedestrian and bicycle activity.

Recent incidents included damage to a patrol vehicle at the Sugar Top gate, two propane gas leaks, an arrest on an outstanding warrant, and issuance of a trespass notice at Lowe's Foods.

For the reporting period, officers completed 356 residence checks, 396 business checks, and 4,052 patrol miles; issued 7 citations and made 1 arrest.

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

Bill Daniels reported that work has begun to clear downed trees from trails and paths in J. Douglas Williams Park. Crews are also trimming vegetation along Sugar Mountain Drive to improve sight lines and winter sunlight, with minor traffic delays expected. New speed limit signs are being installed and existing signs cleaned or replaced. A flashing LED stop sign was also installed at Cross Park Drive to improve traffic safety.

Mr. Daniels reported that the annual Sugar Mountain Classic golf tournament was a success, with a full field of 72 participants and strong interest for next year. He thanked the sponsors, TDA, and Village staff for their support.

d. Monthly Permits Issuance Log – Tammy Floyd

3 tree removal and pruning permits, 2 sign permits, and 3 zoning permits to build.

e. Tax Collection Report

2026 Tax Collection Rate 18.63%

2025 Tax Collection Rate 99.63%

f. Finance Officer's Financial Report – Susan Phillips

Financial Reports provided through July 31, 2026

10. Public Comments

Dedy Traver commented on the new lighted stop sign at cross park and Sugar Mountain Drive intersection and mentioned she is grateful for the police presence.

11. Mayor/Council Comments

Mayor Gunther Jochl reported that he does not ever remember a time when the Village has raised taxes and the Mountain always looks great and would like to see a greenway trail connection from Banner Elk to Sugar Mountain.

12. Adjournment

Council Member Dick Casey moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member David Ammann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Gunther Jochl, Mayor

ATTEST:_____
Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk

SEAL