



Spruce Pine Town Council Meeting
Town Hall
11050 S. Highway 226
Spruce Pine, NC 29777
Monday, June 9, 2025
5:30 PM



AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR PHILLIP HISE

- A. Roll Call
- B. Notification and Posting of the Agenda
- C. Pledge of Allegiance (Councilman Peight)
- D. Invocation (Councilman Buchanan)
- E. Approval of Minutes (5/12)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is limited to 3 minutes. This time is provided to share general thoughts with Town Council. Individuals who desire to make public comment, must complete the sign-in sheet made available at each meeting, and speak at the lecture (unless physically unable).

III. PRESENTATIONS (Dept Updates)

- A. Finance
- B. Police Dept
- C. Water and Sewer
- D. Public Works
- E. Main Street
- F. Parks and Rec

IV. MANAGERS REPORT

V. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS OR COMMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT



Spruce Pine Town Council Meeting
Town Hall
11050 S. Highway 226
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Monday, May 12, 2025
5:30 PM



MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR PHILLIP HISE

Mayor Hise called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

A. Roll Call:

Mayor Hise requested a roll call, Daniel Stines first introduced Ruth Thacker as the new Town Clerk, who was shadowing for the duration of the meeting. Daniel conducted a roll call for Councilmembers Peight, Buchanan, Holmes, Rensink, and Mayor Hise – all members were present.

B. Notification and Posting of the Agenda:

Proper notification and posting of the agenda was acknowledged. Councilwoman Rensink motioned, Councilman Buchanan seconded, Council adopted the agenda as presented.

C. Pledge of Allegiance (Mayor Hise):

Mayor Hise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Invocation (Councilman Peight):

Councilman Peight led the Invocation.

E. Approval of Minutes (4/24/25 Budget Retreat, 04/28/25 Regular):

Council reviewed the minutes as presented; Councilman Buchanan made a motion to adopt the Budget Retreat meeting minutes, Councilwoman Holmes seconded. Councilman Buchanan made a motion to adopt the Regular meeting minutes, Councilwoman Rensink seconded.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is limited to 3 minutes. This time is provided to share general thoughts with Town Council. Individuals who desire to make public comment, must complete the sign-in sheet made available at each meeting, and speak at the podium (unless physically unable):

Kelly Jones and David Nivens signed up for public comment. Kelly updated Council on tourism in Spruce Pine for the upcoming week. She will be working with Downtown to invite the tourism industry and will be providing a drink token as part of their contract with the visitor center at the Parkway. Additionally, she informed the Council that the tourism budget has been fully allocated, and a



Spruce Pine Town Council Meeting
Town Hall
11050 S. Highway 226
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Monday, May 12, 2025
5:30 PM



MINUTES

meeting is scheduled for May 20th to discuss the future of the Parkway visitor center. David Nivens thanked Council and staff, for their support post storm recovery and noted he may need future help as they continue to rebuild.

III. PRESENTATIONS (Dept Updates)

A. Finance – Christy Young:

Christy Young updated Council on her financial report about FEMA and the property tax collections. As of April 30th, tax collection rates are 96.9% and budgeted at 97.2%. There is an approximate total of \$4.8 million in FEMA reimbursements, with \$64,000 allocated to the police department, awaiting the arrival of those funds. Christy mentioned that her and Blair Hyder, the Mitchell County tax assessor, met last week to discuss property taxes. She noted that the property taxes would remain flat and would not decrease or increase.

B. Police Department – Chief Cook:

Chief Cook updated Council that 509 calls were logged. Two detectives have been scheduled opposite weekends and on rotating shifts to help with staff shortage. He hoped that things can ease up, but there are significant cases at hand. Several night shift officers have been stepping in during the day shift to help maintain operations. The police department is making preparations for the upcoming Downtown Worship Revival and the Alien Festival.

Water and Sewer – Donnie & Darell:

Donnie updated Council that the water plant, pump stations, and wells complied with all State and Federal regulations for the month, and the water plant successfully passed the semi-annual PT testing. Gerald Glenn checked out and fixed issues with the generator at the water plant. Mineral City Oil was reached out to and successfully fixed a propane leak on the McHone station generator. Waste water samples were collected by a certified lab in Asheville. On the last day of April, a lightning strike overtook the tank, and Donnie had to contact the CCU for repairs. All employee training is up to date.

C. Public Works – Travis Phillips:



Spruce Pine Town Council Meeting
Town Hall
11050 S. Highway 226
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Monday, May 12, 2025
5:30 PM



MINUTES

Travis Phillips updated Council on two major culvert projects on Valley Rd and Sunnybrook Dr and that the Henredon Lift Station is now back on line. Following the replacement of the forced main at the bridge on Altapass, they still experienced a lack of flow. To resolve this issue, he had to cut into the pipe at several locations and install air reliefs to get the station running again. Travis mentioned that currently, the only facility being pumped and transported is the Pine Branch lift station. Additional information regarding the repairs is expected to be available later this week. Travis had the soil at Riverside Park tested and intends to remove the sand from the western end of the park, followed by hydroseeding to improve grass growth. He also informed Council that the cost of the tractor equipment would be \$4,000 less than the Council's anticipated budget.

D. Main Street – Spencer Bost:

Spencer Bost updated Council on his meeting with Mitchell Giving Gardens and Recreation Economies for Rural Communities Programs (RERC). There was a brief overview of the RERC program, expanding on how the program will help promote Main Street. Fourth of July Celebration planning for the parade and live music is underway. A conversation took place about the closing of the Blue Ridge Parkway and how Downtown plans to address this while ensuring that Spruce Pine remains an attractive destination for tourists. Fire on the Mountain Festival had only 3 vendors shy from last year, making this year's Festival a continued success. Downtown received a generous \$20,000 donation from the Mass General Store. The donation will be used in the Downtown grants for the businesses and projects to help revitalize Main Street. Spencer's latest update about the Oliver Anthony concert funds from the promoter was that they spent more on production, food and housing for the band and accompaniment than what was raised through ticket sales. Lastly, Spencer mentioned Main Street received a grant for an event manager, who will be helping with Main Street events, and it will be a 20-hour paid position for approximately 6 months.

Parks and Rec – Mike Wood:



Spruce Pine Town Council Meeting
Town Hall
11050 S. Highway 226
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Monday, May 12, 2025
5:30 PM



MINUTES

Mike Wood updated Council that general trash had been cleaned up around town. There was bad news received that a few trees had hit the new fence around the basketball court at Brad Ragan Park. It was noted that the number of rentals for May will be reported by June, but it will be a slow process as shelter reservations are still being administered through Town Hall. He updated Council on the pool and got in contact with the pool inspector, but confirmed there will be a possible delay in opening the pool. He has completed two interviews for the day and will be losing a full-time employee. It was asked that any trees leaning around the trails be removed before they could potentially fall over. Councilwoman Rensink asked Mike if FEMA would be able to aid in Riverbend Park's restoration. Mike confirmed to her that FEMA will, though he will still have to discuss that with them.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion and approval for the Town Manager and Town Attorney to execute a contract for land purchase in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 – contingent of a clear Phase I Environmental Report, a Survey free of conflicts any and all necessary closing procedures including but not limited to Title Search:

Mayor Hise recused himself from the meeting, opening the floor for Daniel Stines. Daniel Stines explains a contract for a 7.2-acre land purchase located at 6385 19E Hwy, PIN# 0890-00-74-5236 for the relocation of Public Works as a result of Hurricane Helene. He informed Council, giving them a detailed report and procedures. Daniel Stines then asked for Council to grant authority for the Town Manager and Town Attorney to execute a contract to acquire the land for an amount not to exceed \$500,00.00 – which is contingent of a clear Phase I Environmental Report. Councilman Buchanan made the motion, Councilwoman Holmes seconded – motion passed 5/0.



Spruce Pine Town Council Meeting
Town Hall
11050 S. Highway 226
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Monday, May 12, 2025
5:30 PM



MINUTES

B. Discussion and approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Hunt, Guillot & Associates LLC for the strategic management of the project development and administration of any and all federal and/or state disaster programs related to declared emergencies, including but not limited to Hurricane Helene:

Mayor Hise is brought back into the room and asked Daniel Stines to review this action item. Daniel Stines gives a quick background on the HGA Agreement, specifically on the project development and administration. Due to consistency and collaboration with the County and their use of HGA for FEMA administration, both Daniel and Christy felt it would work better to partner with them. Mayor Hise asked if the contract is for a year, Daniel Stines clarified the contract period, renewal options, and termination clause. Mayor Hise requested a motion and a second for approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Hunt, Guillot & Associates LLC. Councilwoman Rensink made the motion, Councilman Peight seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

C. Discussion and approval of the next budget workshop planning session date related to the FY26 Budget:

Mayor Hise asked Council to review their calendars to set the next budget workshop. After discussion, the date was set for Tuesday, May 20, at 5:30 pm, located at Town Hall. Mayor Hise moved forward on the Manager's Report and no one on Council made a motion.

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

For the Manager's Report, Daniel mentioned the Town has applied for an ARC grant, which has been advanced to the second round. The purpose of the grant would be to convert the Burleson Hill water pump station to an above-ground pump station, solving safety issues, and water pressure issues. The existing pump is decades old. Daniel informed the Council he has employed High Country Council of Governments to help rewrite the Town's Zoning Ordinances. The project will be 18 months, and he will be forming a sub-committee to help lead the project consisting of members from the Planning Commission, Zoning Appeals and a liaison from Council. He updated Council on an AIA grant, which was ready to be bid for the 226-water line project. Daniel lastly mentioned plans



Spruce Pine Town Council Meeting
Town Hall
11050 S. Highway 226
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Monday, May 12, 2025
5:30 PM



MINUTES

to develop a resiliency plan for the impact of Hurricane Helene, which delves further into the future.

VI. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS OR COMMENTS

No comments by Council.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hise requested for a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Rensink – motion passed 5/0. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

ATTEST:

Ruth Thacker, Town Clerk

Phillip Hise, Mayor

Rocky Buchanan, Mayor Pro Tem

Beth Holmes, Council Member

Wayne Peight, Council Member

Jackie Rensink, Council Member