



BLACK MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

October 18, 2024 | Special Called Town Council Meeting Minutes | Time: 12:00 P.M.

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church | 117 Montreat Rd., Black Mountain, NC 28711

**Special called meeting of the Town Council due to ongoing State of Emergency from Hurricane Helene.*

The Black Mountain Town Council held a Special Called Meeting on Friday, October 18, 2024 at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, 117 Montreat Rd., Black Mountain, NC 28711. The purpose of this meeting was to provide updates from Town departments related to ongoing storm recovery efforts.

Mayor C. Michael Sobol called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance: Mayor C. Michael Sobol, Vice Mayor Archie Pertiller, Council Member Alice Berry, Council Member Doug Hay, Council Member Pam King. *Council Member Ryan Stone was absent.*

Several staff members and members of the public were also in attendance.

General Town Updates & Water System Update- Town Manager Josh Harrold provided the Council with an update on the processes involving storm debris collection that would soon begin. Residential trash collection would resume on Monday, October 21, 2024. If your road is normally serviced by a small truck “scout truck”, collection will not be available at this time for those routes and residents can bring bagged household trash to the nearest main road on their scheduled pickup day and leave for pickup, or they may bring household trash to the dumpsters located at the public parking lot at Terry Estate Drive. Furthermore, a status update on the water system reconnections was provided, stating that most customers have been reconnected to the system and should have running water. A boil water notice was issued for Town water customers as of October 17, 2024, which states that water customers should vigorously boil tap water for one minute before consuming.

Town Finance Update- Assistant Town Manager Jessica Trotman gave a finance update on storm expenses.

Public Information Update- Town Clerk & Public Information Officer Wesley Barker gave an update on public information related to storm recovery to date. Wesley stated press releases have been issued daily and distributed in digital and paper format. Further, the Community Meetings were all recorded and posted on the Town’s YouTube channel. These videos are available on the Town’s Facebook page. CodeRED alerts were and continue to be sent out to residents as important information becomes available as it relates to the water system and other public safety needs. CodeRED messages reach several thousand citizens and the Town has had citizens sign up

for these alerts after the storm and due to our efforts promoting the option. NotifyMe and Alert Center alerts which are sent via email and/or text message are also being sent out to subscribers as needed with new information and updates. Wesley stated these platforms, which are tied to the website, reach over 1,000 citizens. The website, blackmountainrecovery.org, has been launched with all recovery information for residents and businesses, and features information from FEMA, State of North Carolina divisions, Buncombe County, the Town, non-profits, and more. Public information boards were created and placed at various sites throughout Town with daily information posted.

Communication from Mayor & Town Council- Mayor Sobol discussed with the Council about water bill payments of citizens who could pay them, and not wait until the deferred date of January 2025. The Mayor suggested the water department work with those who could not pay their bill next month. Discussion ensued among Council members, stating that some water customers are on auto-pay and others would be able to pay, and not all customers would be waiting to pay their bills until the deferred date. The Town Manager would report back to the Council on water bill payments. The Mayor also mentioned upcoming debris pickup of storm debris. Town Manager Josh Harrold stated that residents could begin moving debris to the curb/right-of-way for pickup once it begins and more guidance would soon be released. Mayor Sobol also read a draft press release about shopping local and inviting visitors to Black Mountain to shop. Council Member Berry mentioned fire safety, Buncombe County has postponed the property tax revaluation until 2026, and early voting location at Black Mountain Library. Council Members each thanked the Town staff and community for pulling together during this time and being supportive of one another.

There being no further business, Mayor C. Michael Sobol adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

ATTEST:

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk