

CHIMNEY ROCK VILLAGE
Village Council Meeting Minutes
Chimney Rock Baptist Church
December 3, 2024

Note: The Village continued meeting at the Chimney Rock Baptist Church due to the destruction and unsafe conditions to access the Village because of the TS Helene.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Peter O’Leary, Mayor Pro-Tem Buck Meliski, Council-members Bruce Godzik, April Schick, and Patrick Warneke.

STAFF PRESENT: Stephen G Duncan, Administration, Ben Putnum, Village Legal Counsel, J. Meliski, Village Engineer and Laura Duncan, Social Media/PR.

*Pastor Alex Heafner asked that those present help to keep the Fellowship Hall of the Church clean to help keep their building presentable after Village Council public meetings.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Bruce Godzik, seconded by April Schick to approve the Consent Agenda thus approving the agenda for this the Special Called December 3, 2024, Council meeting and the minutes of November 19, 2024, Village Council regular monthly meeting.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AND BUDGET REVIEWS:

- **Budget Amendment to allow the funds raised through Give/Send/Go for Helene Relief for community wide cleanup efforts that benefit groups of citizens or their neighborhoods.** April Schick made a motion to approve this recommendation. Her motion was seconded by Bruce Godzik and the motion was approved. (This allows these funds to be used to cover costs and invoices from companies that are assisting the Village in the cleanup of Southside Drive, Cliffside, Rainbow Falls, Terrance Drive, and other connecting roads. Other communities will be included when there is access to these.
- **The Council, with their consent, agreed to allow these funds to pay Shields Contracting Services for the work they have already completed** and for future community cleanup efforts.
- **Stephen G Duncan, Administration/Finance shared the difficulties in funding ongoing restoration and cleanup work within the Village until other funds from Federal Agencies are sent to reimburse the Village, primarily FEMA.** To help the Village cover financial obligations, he requested access to capital funds and reserves. A motion was made by April Schick, seconded by Bruce Godzik to **allow up to \$ 150,000 from the Water/Sewer Capital Reserves and \$ 150,000 from the General Fund Committed Reserves for these obligations.** The Motion was approved.
- **Village Restoration Task Force:** The Mayor announced that they had their first meeting, and it was of a general discussion nature. The Task Force did select Don Cason to serve as the Chair. The next two meetings will be December 18, 2024, and January 15, 2025.

REPORTS TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL:

- **General Governmental** - The NC legislature continues to work on legislation and appropriations to assist WNC.
- **Water/Sewer Projects:** J. Meliski announced that only one proposal was submitted to assist the Village in the design of water/sewer for the Village. The Village will run another

round of advertising to see if any additional proposals are submitted. This is required since only one was sent to the Council. These are due December 19, 2024. Council will open and in this second round, there is no requirement for three or more to be received and the Council may select one from whichever are received.

- There was a great deal of discussion about getting **water and sewer services to Southside Drive** and other locations in and around the downtown areas. This will require additional study and development. Every effort will be made to get water and sewer services to as many people as possible east of the downtown parking facility.
- The Village did initially select McGill Associates to serve in this design roll, but a final determination cannot occur until December 19, 2024.
- Various Permit Request are pending with the NC Department of Environmental Quality.

There were several other general reports, an announcement and presentation about the Christmas in Chimney Rock upcoming event by City/Serve and Spokes of Hope, and other general news.

The Mayor announced the following Council Committee assignments who will serve as liaison to various activities that their input and leadership is needed. These are:

- **Task Force – April Schick**
- **Emergency Management and Security – Bruce Godzik and Patrick Warneke**
- **Utilities/Water/Sewer – Buck Meliski**

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: There was a question-and-answer period for residents, property owners and businesses.

Upon the completion of these discussions, and with there being no further business of the Village Council. A motion was made to adjourn by Buck Meliski, seconded by Patrick Warneke and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:25 pm.

These, the minutes of the special Chimney Rock Village Council meeting are approved this the 17th day of December 2024.

Peter O’Leary, Mayor

Stephen G Duncan, Clerk to the Council