

MINUTES
Foxfire Village Council
Regular Business Meeting
October 8, 2024 ~ 4:30 PM
Village Hall Meeting Room

1. Call to Order: Mayor Gregorich called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM
2. Members Present: Mayor Pro Temp Janet Nauman, Councilmembers Mary Gilroy, Don Nelson and Warren Morgan
3. Others Present: Police Chief Michael Amezquita and Several members of the public.
4. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Mary Gilroy led the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of October 8, 2024, Regular Business Meeting Agenda

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman added *Park Trails* to her report and Mayor Gregorich added *WEFD Contract* under Old Business.

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to adopt the October 8, 2024 Agenda as amended, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

All items listed below are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and without discussion.

A. Approval of Minutes

- September 10, 2024 Regular Business Meeting
- September 26, 2024 Work Session

B. Resolution Ratifying Previous Council Action #R203

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment Period for Items Not on the Agenda

Sally Cunliffe – 1 Ridge Road and Barbara Okula- 4 Foxhill Circle both inquired about the pool assessment and update. Mayor Pro Temp Nauman replied that information is being compiled and she is working on a report.

Rosie Juliano- 2 Burning Tree Place suggested council meeting times be changed to 6:00 PM to accommodate families, meetings be live-streamed, and more information be placed on agendas.

8. Zoning Report – Lisa Kivett

Lisa Kivett provided the following zoning report from August 14 through October 8.

Currently a total of twenty-eight (28) homes are under construction or in the beginning stages of lot clearing.

Two (2) Single Family Residence Application:

12 Richmond Road
155 Courtland Circle

Four (4) Certificate of Zoning Compliance were issued:

20 Oak Hill Drive
17 Woodland Circle
48 Woodland Circle
154 Courtland Circle
146 Courtland Circle

Other Permits Issued:

One (1) swimming pool
Three (3) Accessory Building
Four (4) Fence
Three (3) Temporary Signs
Two (2) Propane Tanks – above ground

9. Council Member Reports:

A. Finance – Mary Gilroy

- Financial Report

Ms. Gilroy reported the following cash balances as of September 30, 2024. The total in the general fund capital trust account is \$2,473,000, total reserves \$1,435,638 with cash on hand of \$3.8 million. The total in the water fund capital trust account is \$864,218, total reserves \$175,000 with a cash balance of hand of \$1,253,000. Gilroy would like to review the first quarter's budget for the upcoming work session.

- WEFD Updated Radio Mandate

Gilroy reported on a new Federal mandate to update fire department radios. We will purchase our radios through Moore County, and they will send us an invoice for our portion.

B. Streets and Park – Janet Nauman

- Pine Tree Terrace
- Village Hall Entrance

The paving company rescheduled paving projects on Pine Tree Terrace and the Village Hall entrance until Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. They have been called to assist with Hurricane Helene damage in Western North Carolina. They will also stripe North and South Shamrock.

- Park Trails

Nauman provided pictures of the park trails and where issues need repaired. She explained the trail damage shown in the pictures and pointed out the areas that will be repaired by adding cement. She spoke with Brad Williams who is maintaining the trails, and he advised if we repair one area, it will cost about \$7,000. If we do both, it should cost around \$10,000. Brad Williams will provide a written quote for \$10,000. If we wait until next year, it will cost about the same as this year, \$40,000.

Councilmember Nelson moved to repair both trails pending a written quote from Brad Williams, second by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously.

C. Water Department – Warren Morgan

Councilmember Morgan reported the Stage 1 Water Restrictions were lifted as of last week. Production numbers have returned to normal seasonal numbers.

We had our annual elevated tank inspection this past week and made repairs to well #5 including piping and valve replacements. The contract cost is \$28,000 per year for a 10-year contract. The contract includes annual inspections, two exterior paintings, and interior cleaning and painting.

D. Public Safety – Don Nelson

Fire Chief Stromberg provided a department update. WEFD answered 74 calls in September, twenty-four of the calls were from Foxfire.

Stromberg provided details on the Western North Carolina hurricane response including sending 26 trailers of supplies and donations. Being that it is Fire Prevention Week, they were supposed to be at the local schools for fire prevention programs. The hurricane response pushed back the department's community events.

A sign was placed on the Administration office fence to remind folks to change batteries in their smoke detectors.

Councilmember Nelson asked what firefighters are qualified to do on EMS calls. Stromberg replied they are certified firefighters/EMTS and explained the experience and qualifications they should have.

Police Chief Amezquita presented the following report:

The police department is working with the FPOA to put together a Safety Jamboree. Police and Fire personnel will be there providing fingerprinting for children of the community and doing some safety talks. K2 Solution is bringing out a couple of dogs and doing some demonstrations.

The department in conjunction with the FPOA, General Store, Golf Course, and citizens have begun a donation drive for those affected by the hurricane. There has been a great turnout so far and we have a citizen who will be carrying the items to the mountains later in the week. There will be multiple trips over the next few weeks.

Department Personnel have been offered to assist with hurricane recovery in the mountains.

The Chief updated the point accrual from the Governors Highway Safety Program and mentioned the items that could be purchased with the points. There were 81 traffic stops this month, netting 148 citations. We removed three drunk drivers from the road and confiscated 5.5 grams of crack cocaine.

He is working on procuring six free laptop computers from the LESO-1033 government contract. The laptops will need hard drives but will save the Village thousands of dollars. He is looking at getting some ammunition and possibly some AED units through this contract. He further explained.

Nelson added the Public Safety Jamboree is scheduled for October 20th at 4:00PM at the Village park.

E. Mayors Report – Janice Gregorich

- Mayors/Managers Meeting Update and ETJ Letter

Mayor Gregorich reported that recently, the Mayors and Managers in Moore County have begun meeting on a quarterly basis. We have a lot in common and learn a lot through each other. All Mayors feel confident the state is planning to take away our ETJ authority. A letter voicing our concerns was drafted for all Mayors to sign on behalf of their towns. It will be mailed to both Representative Jackson and Moss. Gregorich explained the details of the letter. The group also discussed some recent Short term Rentals legislation. We should look at our ordinance and make changes where necessary to protect the Village.

Councilmember Nelson moved that Mayor Gregorich signs the letter on behalf of Foxfire Village, second by Councilmember Gilroy and carried unanimously.

10. New Business

- Village Code Ordinance for Park Rules

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman would like to make the Village Park rules part of the Village Code. She will not be in attendance at the next work session but would like to start working on this as soon as possible.

- Filling of Personal Swimming Pools

Council will begin discussion on how to handle the filling of private swimming pools using Village water. Several options are being considered.

- Storage of Non-Village Property

There have been some questions about storing non-Village property on Village properties. Nelson pointed out he installed dividing doors in the park closet. Nauman does not have a problem with the FPOA using the room. The consensus of the council was to let the FPOA continue using the room.

- New Vehicle for the Water Department

The Village decided to move forward with purchasing a vehicle for the water department. We will begin looking for a new vehicle. Gregorich asked Chief Amezquita what vehicles could be purchased by state contract.

11. Old Business

- WEFD Budget

Mayor Gregorich reported the Village has technically not signed the budget for WEFD. We are trying to control the costs of \$300,000 which is basically one third of the Village tax dollar. There are ways to reduce the cost, and she hopes to come to a decision this evening. One consideration is not having 24-7 coverage in this department. Gregorich provided the savings data by going with decreased hours. There was extensive and contentious discussion between members of the council and Chief Stromberg. The Village council settled on offering a flat amount of \$305,000 and not an amount based on the tax rate. Nelson asked Stromberg to take this to his Board and see if they could work with it.

Stromberg said he just messaged his Board, and they are in agreement with the \$305,000 offer. Changes will be made to the contract and sent to the council for review and approval.

12. Public Comment Period - Comments on items listed on this agenda.

Chief Stromberg commented on the earlier discussion about filling swimming pools. He said the fire department does not fill pools.

Jacqueline Leary asked if there would be a tax increase to cover the 33% increase for the fire department. Gregorich replied no, not this year.

Norma Carpenter – Richmond Road thanked the council for being good stewards of the Village money.

Rosie Juliano voiced her concerns that residents are not provided with enough information on subjects being considered or discussed at meetings.

13. Adjourn

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.



Lisa A. Kivett, MMC, NCCMC, CZO
Village Administrator/Clerk



Janice Gregorich
Mayor