

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
AUGUST 17, 2004**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 17, 2004, in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Velma C. Burnley presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Loretta Clawson, Graydon Eggers, Lynne Mason, Bunk Spann and Dempsey Wilcox. Staff present were Town Manager Greg Young, Town Clerk Freida Van Allen, Public Services Director Blake Brown; Police Chief Bill Post; Police Captain Curtis Main and Planning Director John Spear.

Mayor Burnley commented that the public hearing was scheduled to hear citizen input on the following items:

- *Prohibition of left-turns off Hwy. 105 at Poplar Hill Drive and Highland Avenue.
- *Conversion to one-way a section of Oak Street from Pine Street to Horn in the West Drive.
- *Placement of a speed table adjacent to the Jaycees Park on Oak Street.
- *Placement of a speed table adjacent to the Horn in West Parking Lot on Horn in the West Drive
- *Placement of a 3-way stop at the intersection of Oak Street and Horn in the West Drive
- *Conversion to one-way a section of Bear Trail from Junaluska Park to Eastview Drive.
- *Conversion of Westbrook Drive to a one-way street going south and conversion of Eastbrook Drive to a one-way street going north.

Mayor Burnley called the public hearing to order at 7:04 p.m. and asked that all citizens who signed-in to speak, limiting their comments to 3 minutes.

Randy Rook, 824 Dogwood Road, said it would be an inconvenience to him to prohibit left turns off Highway 105. Mr. Rook said a 3-way stop at Stadium and Dogwood would slow down traffic in the neighborhood.

George Bard, 230 Hunting Road, opposed one-waying of Eastbrook/Westbrook because it would be difficult to negotiate the streets in winter.

Bob Banzhaf, 567 Highland Avenue, opposed prohibiting left-turn lanes off Highway 105 and said that the Police Department needed to take back our streets.

Bill Spencer, 730 Poplar Hill Drive, said he opposed all the proposals presented and suggested putting a blinking red light at the intersection of Highland and Poplar Hill Drive.

Ethel Simpson, 573 Oak Street, said she was opposed to one-waying Oak Street as it was proposed, but would be in favor of one-waying if it were from Pine Street to King Street.

Rhea Farthing, 218 Ferncliff Drive, questioned if the Town had spoken with the NC Department of Transportation officials about prohibiting left-turns off Highway 105. Mayor

Burnley responded that the District Engineer felt the right-in, right-out pattern would not be popular with the neighbors. Mayor Burnley said DOT has not formally responded because they are waiting the results of tonight's hearing. Mr. Farthing said a fifth lane needs to be installed on Highway 105, along with a stop light at Highland and that Appalachian State University needs to build a connector road from Highway 105 to campus.

Bill Jackson, 174 Iris Lane, opposed one-waying of Bear Trail and Eastbrook/Westbrook, because it would increase speeding on those streets.

Ted Waller, 334 Eastview Drive, suggested a dialogue with ASU to restrict driving privileges for ASU students. Mr. Waller said he was opposed to one-waying of Bear Trail and Eastbrook/Westbrook, because the volume of traffic on the streets is not a problem; he stated that speeding is a problem and that the Police should place unmarked cars in the neighborhoods.

Mary Ruth McRae, 625 Dogwood Road, said the Town has already tried one-waying Bear Trail in the past and it was a disaster. She suggested a trip light on Bear Trail. Ms. McRae said she was in favor of prohibiting left turns off Highway 105 and other places throughout Town and that Town streets were not designed to handle this volume of traffic.

Jeff Williams, 201 Coventry Lane, opposed prohibiting left-turns off Highway 105 because it would increase traffic on other neighborhood streets. Mr. Williams suggested the Police enforce the speed limit more frequently.

Ane Gade, 176 Edora Street, opposed prohibiting left-turns off Highway 105. Ms. Gade said she would be in favor of prohibiting left-turns during certain time periods.

Rich Campbell, 276 Cherry Drive, thanked Council for restricting truck traffic in his neighborhood and suggested speed tables be installed instead of speed humps. Mr. Campbell opposed one-waying of Eastbrook/Westbrook.

John Monguillot, 171 Poplar Summit, said he noticed an increase in cut-through traffic in his neighborhood once the University Highland complex was constructed. Mr. Monguillot opposed the prohibition of left-turns off Highway 105.

Gerald Adams, 172 Cardinal Lane, opposed prohibiting left-turn lanes off Highway 105.

Tom Speed, 825 West King Street, said he lives on Howards Knob and is sympathetic to traffic problems in Town. Mr. Speed said he opposed all the suggestions citing that the Town created the problem of no parking and not enough streets, by inviting people to the area.

Saul Chase, 151 Iris Lane, opposed one-waying Bear Trail because it would not reduce the traffic; it would just shift it to another area. Mr. Chase also opposed placement of speed tables because it hinders emergency vehicles in times of emergencies. Mr. Chase also suggested that the Town's Transportation Committee devise a democratic process when deciding where a speed hump is placed.

Philip Underwood, 413 Oak Street, suggested one-waying Oak Street from Pine to Clement Street. Mr. Underwood also suggested widening Oak Street.

Fred Hay, 261 Eastview Drive, opposed the one-waying of Bear Trail and said a trip light is needed on that street.

Paul Branch, 614 Poplar Hill Drive, opposed prohibiting left-turns off Highway 105 and said a traffic light is needed at either Highland or Poplar Hill Drive intersection since it is impossible to take a left onto Highway 105 from the neighborhoods.

Andrew Mason, 725 Stadium Drive, suggested aggressive and consistent Police enforcement targeted to peak hours, additional traffic calming devices in the neighborhood and pursuing an alternative connector from Highway 105 to campus. Mr. Mason said doing nothing is not going to solve the problem.

Don Clark, 428 Coffey Knob, said Council should think about the impact on Poplar Grove Road when considering the no left-turn prohibition. Mr. Clark said Poplar Grove is a high traffic road already and that the speed limit should be lowered on that road too.

Sue Combs, 174 Skyview Drive, opposed the one-waying of Oak Street because it would displace more traffic onto Woodland Drive.

Grady Moretz, 643 Poplar Hill Drive, commented that DOT handed the Town of Boone a problem by not 5-laning all of Highway 105. Mr. Moretz said the Town should put pressure on DOT to upgrade Highway 105 and to begin design of the Daniel Boone Parkway. Mr. Moretz also said driving privileges should be taken away from ASU students after so many speeding violations.

Bob Schlagal, 365 Highland Avenue, said safety is a main concern for him and that he is willing to tolerate inconvenience in lieu of safety. Mr. Schlagal said he is in favor of speed tables and that the Town should approach ASU about limiting freshman cars on campus.

Gretchen Lewis, 558 Oak Street, said she would like to see Oak Street one-way from Clement to Horn-in-the West Drive, instead of from Pine to Horn-in-the-West Drive. Ms. Lewis said she would like to see speed tables installed on Oak Street, instead of speed humps.

Charlie Brady, 388 Cherry Drive, opposed one-waying Eastbrook/Westbrook and requested that the Town put a “dead-end” sign at the end of Cherry Drive.

Jim Toub, 229 Eastbrook Drive, said he is in support of a trip light on Bear Trail and speed tables on Eastbrook/Westbrook.

Elaine Jones, 170 Collins Road, opposed prohibiting left turns from Highway 105 because it would increase traffic on Dogwood Road. Ms. Jones said she appreciates the Town lowering the speed limit to 20 mph and said more Police enforcement would help.

Howard Dorgan, 747 Stadium Drive, said the Town should have zero tolerance on speeding and that the students should be made aware of this once they return to campus each semester. Mr. Dorgan also said students should be taught good citizenship.

Anne Marie Yates, 789 Stadium Drive, said she agreed with Mr. Mason's suggestions and said there needs to be a limit on truck traffic in her neighborhood too.

Jim Hartley, 1670 Highway 105, said he opposed closing streets and that the Town needs more and wider streets to handle the traffic.

Davis Welsh, 240 Grand Boulevard, said Bear Trail is a very dangerous road and that the Town should do something to solve this problem.

Clayton Norris, 280 Windy Drive, applauded the Town for discussing the problem and said he opposed all proposals regarding Oak Street. Mr. Norris said the Town needs to increase Police patrols and raise fines.

Tess Rodale, Westview Drive, opposed the one-waying of Eastbrook/Westbrook and suggested the Town look at the origination of the cut-through traffic.

There being no further comment, Mayor Burnley closed the public hearing at 8:40 p.m. Mayor Burnley thanked everyone in attendance and said traffic is a difficult issue, especially when many of the roads are owned by the Department of Transportation. Public Services Director Blake Brown also appreciated the participation, saying that over 720 postcards were sent to all the affected neighborhoods.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Council member Spann, seconded by Council member Wilcox, Council moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Mayor

Town Clerk