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Even after co-owner of Mountaineer Towing, Eric McKethan's, request to give the public time to see and respond to the proposed changes to its towing ordinance Boone Town Council took what could be considered quicker than usual action during Thursday evenings' meeting.
"And that you don't listen to this characterization of towing companies that we're all out here hiding in the bushes, that we're all predatory." Due to the potential, under the current ordinance, for a vehicle's owner not to be able to pick up a car towed on Saturday night until Monday morning the Council approved the following additions; companies towing vehicles must stay on duty 6 hours after towing a vehicle, must respond to a call from the vehicle owner within 30 minutes, make arrangements for payment within 30 minutes, and arrange for delivery of the car within an hour after satisfactory payment arrangements have been made. The rational for the quick action was based on the fact that several ASU home football games are scheduled prior to the next Council meeting and they didn't want the potential for long delays in claiming a towed car creating undue costs, stress, or unsafe situations for visitors to Boone, "The penalty is much bigger than the crime of parking in a space you weren't supposed to. So I think we set some kind of reasonable standard to protect the public—who have violated the rule here—without overburdening the service provider."
Another quicker than usual action Town Council took was to restrict the height of any newly constructed or renovated buildings in the downtown business district to a maximum of 40 feet. The reason Council took this stop-gap measure was to provide clear enforcement guidelines for town planners as Council takes time to seek further input and hold further debate on development of policy to ensure the central business district's building guidelines are consistent with the Town of Boone's 2030 plan. Before this action can be finalized the Town's Planning Commission will need to meet for discussion on the issue and a public hearing will have to be held. The public hearing for this matter is scheduled for 5:00 pm, October 16.