

Gig nets \$10,000

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Folk moot will get \$10,000 from the town of Waynesville that it was denied during the budgeting process.

The unexpected gift, not on the agenda, was enthusiastically agreed to by the governing board just before adjournment of Tuesday night's regularly scheduled meeting.

"Before we adjourn, I have

Gig continues on 8A



Patrick Parton photo

A MIND-CHANGER — Performers from Trinidad were so impressive that Waynesville Mayor Gavin Brown decided failing to fund Folk moot USA was a mistake. After attending the gala performance Monday, Brown asked his board to reconsider its position and provide funding for the organization.

8A

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Gig

continued from 1A

an apology to make," Mayor Gavin Brown said. "I must have been off on a tangent or something when I said we shouldn't give Folk moot its annual \$10,000 to help with operating expenses. I've changed my mind. It's still in the non-profit contingency fund. We didn't take it out. And I think we ought to give it to them. Is everybody OK with that?" he asked.

Aldermen Wells Greeley, Gary Caldwell, Julia Freeman and Leroy Roberson quickly agreed.

Brown explained his change of heart. "I attended the gala last night, and I saw Trinidad's performance again today. The town needs to be part of supporting this excellent program. It helps support our economy and we need to help support it," he said.

When the town adopted its F.Y. 2014-2015 budget, it granted Folk moot's request for \$5,000 in planning monies to assist in the international festival's efforts to convert its historic Hazelwood School headquarters into a year-round community venue. The town balked at giving \$25,000 toward the capital project, saying they want to see more planning and progress before making that commitment. The town cut out completely its traditional annual \$10,000 stipend which helps Folk moot with operating expenses.

"Nobody has approached me about this," Brown said. "I just came to my senses last night at the performance. Again, I apologize. Did I do wrong



Mayor Gavin Brown

when I cut that money out, Gary?" Brown asked Alderman Caldwell who oversees non-profit funding requests.

Caldwell hesitated a few seconds and then

answered with a chuckle, "Yes, Mayor, you did."

"Well, poke me in the ribs the next time I do something like that," Brown replied good-naturedly.

"No, we don't do that to the mayor," said Caldwell.

Street closures

Summer brings requests for street closings and several are planned for July and August. The Gibbs family, which has been holding reunions for about 35 years, now plans block parties. Phillip Gibbs, spokesman for the fam-