

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
April 2, 2015

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on April 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Maurice Moody and Commissioners Danny Allen, Harold Hensley, Mary Gelbaugh, and Lynda Sossamon.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Barbara Hamilton

STAFF PRESENT: Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Davis Woodard (Police Chief), Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney).

VISITORS PRESENT: Sarah Thompson, Rose Baugess, Reuben Moore, Dana Smith, Tanner Hall

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Moody called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Moody requested that a discussion on the replacement of the Dillsboro bridge be added to the agenda. *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve consent agenda. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Sarah Thompson, regional representative from the Southwestern Commission, spoke to the board about their opportunities in applying for the NC ARC Grant-Emerging Opportunities. The Town of Sylva is eligible to apply and would require a 50% match. Town board members will decide the scope of the grant and Sarah's staff will assist in constructing the grant application. Sarah stated that \$40,000 is a reasonable amount for the Town of Sylva so there would be a \$20,000 match. *Commissioner Sossamon made a motion to allow Manager Dowling to work with Sarah Thompson and her agency in constructing only the application and a decision on whether to submit and proceed with the grant would be at a later time. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Moody reported Commissioner Hamilton is recovering well after surgery.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: None.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling thanked everyone for attending the N.C. League of Municipalities regional meeting held on April 1st in Sylva. Dowling recommended that the Town of Sylva board and the Dillsboro board of commissioners meet together to discuss possibility of constructing a fire substation within the town limits of Dillsboro and the costs

associated with the station. Dowling informed the board that a request was received from Chuck Wooten, Jackson County Manager, to rezone a parcel on Radio Drive (7641-15-8207) from R-1 to Public Utilities to house public communications equipment. A public hearing is scheduled for May 7th. Greening up the Mountains will be on Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Town Hall will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2015 for Good Friday.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: The Planning Board has reviewed ordinances pertaining to LED lights on signs. Two members will be resigning in the near future: Emily Wilson will be moving out of city limits and Lisa Lovedahl will be unable to serve because of election duties. Future business includes reviewing the possibility of extending design standards currently in place for the B-1 district to the B-2 and B-3 districts.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Ordinance 38-101(1)g: Changes to political sign regulations. Manager Dowling explained that changes were made to include time limits on when political signs may be put up and when they must be removed during elections. No public comment.

Ordinance 38-102(2)g: Changes to off-premise sign regulations. Manager Dowling explained that changes made included sign size, material, setback requirements, distance separations, and allowable zones. No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 38-101(1)g: Changes to political sign regulations. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve changes. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Ordinance 38-102(2)g: Changes to off-premise sign regulations. *Commissioner Sossamon made a motion to approve changes. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Traffic Study: Reuben Moore, from JM Teague Engineering, presented the results of the Downtown Traffic Study to board members. He explained that his firm looked at two things: the business and economic environment in one-way versus two-way traffic on Main Street and the engineering requirements of conversion. Factors to consider in the study were traffic capacity, out of direction travel, average travel speed, pedestrian issues, and store front exposure. A survey conducted by the firm acknowledged two preferred options: 1-Two way traffic on Main Street with no left turn and one-way on Mill Street; 2-One-way traffic on Main Street and one-way traffic on Mill Street. Option 1 would not allow distribution trucks west-bound on Main Street towards the Jackson County Library. Recommendations for option 1 include rear entry parking, a traffic signal on Mill Street at the intersection of Allen and Spring Streets, and a new truck route confined to Mill Street. Option 2 is the current traffic pattern with one flow-through lane. Further public discussion is needed and will be addressed by the board.

Dillsboro Bridge: NCDOT must receive in writing by April 20, 2015 the position of the Town on replacing the bridge and creating a temporary travel option. The bridge replacement could take up to two years. There are three temporary options:

- 1-Detour around Dillsboro and Sylva using existing by-pass.
- 2-Construct temporary bridge beside existing bridge.
- 3-Leave bridge and construct new bridge 75 feet to the south.

Manager Dowling attended a joint meeting with Dillsboro and NCDOT. Dillsboro's choice was to accept option 2 or 3. *Commissioner Sossamon made a motion for the Town to follow Dillsboro in agreeing to option 2 or 3 only. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

CLOSED SESSION: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS. 143-318-11(a)(2) and NCGS. 143-318-11(a)(3) at 6:53 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Commissioner Sossamon made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion carries with a unanimous vote and the Board entered into regular session at 7:09 p.m. No action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Maurice Moody
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk