

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
April 21, 2016

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on April 21, 2016 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Lynda Sossamon and Commissioners Barbara Hamilton, Harold Hensley, Mary Gelbaugh, Greg McPherson, and David Nestler.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Dan Schaeffer (Public Works Director), Davis Woodard (Police Chief), John Jeleniewski (Code Compliance Officer), and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney).

VISITORS PRESENT: Karen Smith, Sarah Thompson, Darren Rhodes, Glen Locascio, Quintin Ellison, Steven Buchanan, and Scott Cook.

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon noted that she and the Town Manager attended training with the NC School of Government on April 20th on such things as a board's legal requirements, board agendas and how to conduct meetings.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh mentioned an email she received from the American Ramp Company who travels to different places with a portable skate and bike park. Gelbaugh would like to look into this opportunity for Sylva, as the email explains it is free for a day. Commissioner Nestler reminded everyone of the litter pick-up day on April 30th for the Chipper Curve neighborhood. The litter pick-up will be from 12 pm to 3 pm with a hotdog lunch to follow at Bryson Park. Nestler also thanked the MSSA for donating proceeds from Taste of Sylva to the wayfinding project of the Town. Commissioner McPherson thanked Dan Schaeffer and the Public Works department for making the Town look good. He reminded everyone of the award ceremony for art students tonight. He encouraged everyone to participate in the arts and take ownership of their artistry. McPherson also mentioned the need for an ordinance or some type of regulation requiring property owners to rent vacant buildings within a certain amount of time. McPherson expressed his concern on HB2's impact on the economic development and tourism industry in North Carolina. Commissioner Hamilton reminded residents of Greening Up The Mountains festival coming up on Saturday and encouraged everyone to attend.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling updated the board on the Greening Up The Mountains festival for April 23rd. She thanked Amy Garza for her work in coordinating the

event. Dowling told the board that Lisa Lovedahl resigned from the Planning Board. Because the by-laws state there will be seven members, her seat will not be filled, as the new ETJ representative keeps the membership at seven. Dowling reminded the board of the next budget work session scheduled for April 28th at 8:30 a.m. She also told the board that the NC Main Street Program is recommending Sylva as a Nationally Accredited Main Street.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Dan Schaeffer told the board the Public Works Department was busy preparing for the Greening Up The Mountains festival.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Davis Woodard also told the board the Police Department was busy preparing for Greening Up The Mountains. He updated the board on two employee vacancies the department now has.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

MAIN STREET REPORT: Greening Up The Mountains will be April 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN PRESENTATION: Sarah Thompson addressed the board and introduced visitors from the NC Commerce, Rural Development Office. Thompson explained that the NC Commerce department was there to discuss a strategic plan project with the Town. Karen Smith of the NC Commerce department, explained to the board that the Town of Sylva was denied a grant for a land use plan, however the Commerce department was willing to use their rural division staff to develop an economic development plan since the Board had committed to the \$20,000 local match. The portion of the \$20,000 that is not used can be put towards implementation of the plan. Smith also reviewed a timeline of the project. Darren Rhodes, also from the Commerce department, explained the roles, tasks, and deliverables of the project and how they would affect the Town. In order for the Town of Sylva to partner with the Commerce department a resolution requesting their services must be approved. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve a resolution requesting the services of the NC Rural Planning Center for the development of a comprehensive economic development strategic plan. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

MILL STREET TRAFFIC PRESENTATION: Scott Cook and Steven Buchanan of NCDOT presented to the Board, per the request of the Board, their suggestions on modifications to allow diagonal parking along Mill Street. Cook showed the Board pictures of Mill Street with drawings of possible loading zones and diagonal parking spaces. Changing to the diagonal parking would eliminate the traffic light at the intersection of Mill, Allen, and Spring Streets. Spring Street would become a one-way street leading to Main Street. Mill Street would return to two-lane traffic just past the intersection of Mill and Spring Streets. The board would like to schedule a public hearing for residents to voice their opinions on the suggestions. Commissioner Nestler made a motion to call a special meeting for a public hearing to be scheduled on June 6, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

TOWN BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE: Town Board members have discussed the option of changing their regularly scheduled meeting times so that members can attend the Jackson County Commissioners meetings. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to change the regular meeting schedule to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. The first meeting on the 2nd Thursday would remain at 5:30 p.m. and the second meeting on the 4th Thursday would*

remain at 9:15 a.m. This schedule would be effective July 1, 2016. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk