

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
August 25, 2016

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on August 25, 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, Mary Gelbaugh, Greg McPherson, and David Nestler.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Harold Hensley.

STAFF PRESENT: Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Dan Schaeffer (Public Works Director), and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney).

VISITORS PRESENT: Tracy Fitzmaurice, Lisa Leatherman, and Holly Kays.

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: Tracy Fitzmaurice of the Jackson County Library addressed the board about traffic issues and patron safety at the Library. She told the board that several instances had occurred where patrons were almost struck by vehicles while trying to walk through the parking lot to the library. Motorists are not obeying traffic signs.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon updated the board on Manager Dowling's grandmother. She noted that Commissioner Hensley had contacted her about being absent from today's meeting. Sossamon thanked everyone for their help with the Main Street Managers Conference. Sossamon attended a centennial celebration on the national park services.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh told the board she had received phone calls concerning bicycle use at Pinnacle Park. Some calls were in support of the use and others were opposed. Gelbaugh thanked Manager Dowling and Amanda Murajda for updating the Town of Sylva website. Commissioner McPherson would like to see the Sylva Pool used on a year-round basis and believes the Town can look at future grant funding to make this happen. McPherson told the board that flashing crosswalk signs have been installed at the new Noble Hall at WCU and it would be good for the Town to look at these as a possible solution for Mill Street. Commissioner Hamilton agreed with McPherson about the crosswalks. She noted that the Main Street Managers Conference was a great success.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Amanda Murajda gave the manager's report. Manager Dowling and Dan Schaeffer met with members from the Recreation Department and County last week to discuss the repairs needed on the Sylva Pool. An estimate obtained roughly 1 ½ years ago was \$125,000 to repair just the pool and did not include bathrooms which are also in need of repair. The County will be obtaining current estimates on a full repair. Once those are received the Town and County will discuss. On July 14th the Town Board heard a presentation from two

members of SORBA about the potential for mixed-use trails at Pinnacle Park. Dowling and Schaeffer met with members of SORBA about Pinnacle Park and the use of bicycles on trails there. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund has the easements to Pinnacle Park so they have the ultimate say whether bicycles can be used. Additional information will be forthcoming on the use of bicycles.

The Planning Board met Thursday, August 18th and reviewed the Professional Business District ordinance. Their recommendations on the PB District have been finalized and will be presented at a public hearing on September 8th. Town Hall will be closed on September 5th in observance of Labor Day. The NCLM Annual Meeting is October 24-26 in Raleigh. Members would leave on Sunday, October 23. Dowling asked that board members respond by September 1st whether they will be attending.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Dan Schaeffer, Public Works Director, reviewed the meeting he and Manager Dowling had with SORBA. He also reviewed a meeting he and Mayor Sossamon had with Bill Hollman from the Conservation Trust about the possibility of purchasing land to add to Pinnacle Park. The land offered borders Pinnacle Park, the Qualla Boundary, and Water Rock Knob.

Schaeffer told the board that two vacant positions had been filled. The first new hire, Jeff Buchanan, began on August 10th. The second, Steven Woodard, will begin on September 6th. Schaeffer is working with Duke Energy to change all lights in town to LED. Schaeffer thanked the board for their approval of purchasing a new garbage truck. The truck has been ordered. The Public Works department will begin removing trees on Main Street in October and replacing them with new trees.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Dan Schaeffer distributed the police department monthly reports to board members.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: None.

MAIN STREET REPORT: Dowling would like to thank all board members and staff for their help with the NC Main Street Manager's Conference held in Sylva August 10th – 12th. Sylva will see an estimated economic value of \$33,700 from the conference.

NEW BUSINESS

DUKE ENERGY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT (DISCUSSION ONLY): Mayor Sossamon told the board that the current franchise agreement with Duke Energy will be expiring and Lisa Leatherman was in attendance to answer questions about the new proposed agreement. Attorney Ridenour asked Leatherman for further language clarification of section 2.3 (relocation costs). He also asked for clarification on joint user agreements.

MILL STREET RESOLUTION: Dan Schaeffer told the board that if the project was completed the traffic light at the intersection of Allen and Mill Streets would be removed and Spring Street would become one-way to Main Street. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the resolution seeking assistance and funding from NCDOT. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioners Nestler, McPherson, and Hamilton. Voting in the negative was Commissioner Gelbaugh. The motion carries with a 3-1 vote.*

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve and appoint Ben Guiney to the Planning Board of the Town of Sylva. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk