

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
August 24, 2017

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on August 24, 2017 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 Mary Gelbaugh, Barbara Hamilton, Harold Hensley, Greg McPherson, and David Nestler.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Dan Schaeffer (Public Works), Davis Woodard (Police Chief), Tammy Hooper (Assistant Chief), Rick Bryson (Lieutenant), and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney).

VISITORS PRESENT: Tanner Hall and Holly Kays.

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

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon thanked all those who participated in planning for the 2017 Solar Eclipse festivities.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh also thanked all those who participated in planning for the solar eclipse. Gelbaugh noted that she recently attended her 20th high school reunion and classmates living out of town commented on how well Sylva had grown. Commissioner Nestler mentioned a residents concern about spraying pesticide around the pool during operating hours. Commissioner McPherson asked the public works department to sweep the Ritz parking lot. McPherson mentioned that he would like to see a response formulated by the Town about the confederate monument located at the Library. Eric Ridenour will forward the state statute that governs this, as it does not fall to the Town to do so. Commissioner Hamilton thanked everyone for their help with the solar eclipse. She also thanked Peebles and the Library for their generosity in opening up their restroom facilities to the public.

The board discussed starting the morning meetings at an earlier time each month. *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to change the time of the 2nd meeting of the month for the Board of Commissioners to 9:00 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling updated the board on sidewalks for Skyland Drive. She and Public Works Director Dan Schaeffer recently met with NCDOT about a sidewalk along Skyland Drive from Business 23 to the intersection of Skyland Drive and Chipper Curve. NCDOT has allocated additional funding to projects that fell just below the line in the State Transportation Improvement Plan. This project can now be funded. The sidewalk

would be on the West side (McDonald's side). The Town will be responsible for paying 20% of the cost of each phase. The Board passed a resolution in 2016 committing to the 20% match if the project was funded. Based on Sylva's pedestrian plan, Sylva's match would be \$82,000 but NCDOT is going to review the costs and send an agreement soon. They anticipate that construction would begin in the Spring 2019 since right-of-way acquisition would take approximately 12 months. Once they send the local agreement, Dowling will bring it before the Board. When the resolution was approved, the plan was to fund the match from the revolving loan fund. Dowling also told the board that the Town's auditors will be here Monday thru Thursday of next week. The Town is sponsoring the last concert September 1st. Sundown is the band.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Dan Schaeffer told the board that drainage is also included in the sidewalk plan and he received permission from the railroad to cross the tracks. Schaeffer has contracted with a company to work on the Pinnacle Park trail to work on water runoff.

Schaeffer also addressed the board about a street sweeper available for purchase from the Town of Highlands for \$25,000. It is a 2007 model that is in great condition. He asked the board if they would approve the purchase and use funds from the Capital Reserve Fund Balance. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the purchase from the capital reserve fund balance and return any proceeds from the sale of the old sweeper to the same fund. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Davis Woodard told the board that the crowd attending the solar eclipse was the best of any event the Town had administered. The department is still working on the cameras on Fisher Creek and Parris Branch.

MAIN STREET REPORT: Manager Dowling reported that the committee reviewed goals and planned the family campout scheduled for September 8th.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: The Planning Board met on August 17th and reviewed a conditional use permit request from Heritage Christian Academy for a daycare on Falls Circle. The board voted to recommend that the request be denied. Emily Breedlove has resigned her position on the board.

TWSA BOARD REPORT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

CHANGE TIME OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 MEETING: *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to change the time of the September 28th board meeting to 5:30 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

CHANGE LOCATION OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 BOARD MEETING: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to move the location of the September 14th board meeting to the Jackson County Library steps for the swearing-in ceremony of the Police Chief. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: Manager Dowling explained the request from Ward Plumbing and Heating for their 40th anniversary celebration and the request for alcohol at Bridge Park. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the alcohol request at the event. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MUTUAL AID PROVISION: Assistant Police Chief Tammy Hooper explained the need of the mutual aid provision. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the resolution for mutual aid. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR CWMTF GRANT: Manager Dowling explained that the resolution authorizes the board to contract with Equinox and authorizes the Town Manager to sign the agreement. Bids were received for the clean water project and Equinox met the Town's needs. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR JACKSON COUNTY DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT-STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS: Manger Dowling explained the downtown revitalization grant money that Jackson County received and the application process. The county requested applications from municipalities for projects within their jurisdiction. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the Town Manager to create and submit the grant application for streetscape improvements. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR JACKSON COUNTY DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT-MURAL: Manger Dowling explained the downtown revitalization grant money that Jackson County received and the application process. The county requested applications from municipalities for projects within their jurisdiction. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the Town Manager to create and submit the grant application for a mural. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-CHAPTER 30 DEMONSTRATIONS: Assistant Police Chief Tammy Hooper addressed the board and discussed the changes to Chapter 30 of the code of ordinances. She explained that in today's environment the police department wanted to ensure everyone's safety and making the changes to Chapter 30 creates an outline for local and state laws that apply to demonstrations. It will give applicants and officers all of the information needed in one place. Commissioner Nestler told the board that he wanted the public to be notified of the changes prior to the board voting on the amendments. Nestler also noted that he had issues with the section "Grounds for Denial." Nestler asked Town Attorney Eric Ridenour if he had reviewed the ordinance. Ridenour explained that he reviewed the ordinance changes with Tammy Hooper and Detective Zach Dezarn and that they had done a great job in outlining local and state laws in the amendments. Ridenour said the amendments just put forth what is illegal.

Commissioner Hensley was in favor of the changes and told the board that he had no problem with any of it. Mayor Sossamon added that the Town of Sylva has employees who will do the right thing when decisions are necessary.

Commissioner Hensley made a motion to approve the changes to chapter 30 and adopt the ordinance. The motion carries with a 4-1 vote. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioners Mary Gelbaugh, Barbara Hamilton, Harold Hensley, and Greg McPherson. Voting in the negative was Commissioner David Nestler.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk