

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
September 28, 2017

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on September 28, 2017 at 5:30 p.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), Lynn Bryant (Finance Officer), and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney).

VISITORS PRESENT: Jacque Laura, Bernadette Peters, Nick Breedlove, Jeannette Evans, Julie Spiro, Mark Jones, Haley Smith, Joe Hamilton, JP Gallardo, Karen Woodard, Heath Jones and Holly Kays.

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Commissioner Hamilton 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: Mark Jones, a resident on Falls Circle, addressed the board about safety concerns at the entrance to Dills Cove Road. Jones explained that the road is narrow, there is not a ditch and the road is beginning to break near the sewer line. He would like to see the Town address the issues with TWSA and NCDOT.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon congratulated Davis Woodard on his retirement and Tammy Hooper on her promotion to Police Chief. Sossamon also asked the board if they would consider making a donation of \$100 to the Police Department's Walk for Hope fundraiser. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the donation of \$100 to the Walk for Hope fundraiser. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh told the board that the First Presbyterian Church in Sylva would be doing luminaries in the downtown area the first two weekends of December to bring back a tradition that lasted for many years. Commissioner Hamilton told the board she attended a meeting on September 26, 2017 with Attorney General Josh Stein where he discussed the opioid crisis in North Carolina and how communities could help.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling reported that the County Commissioners will be sending the Town's grant requests for the mural and streetscape improvements to the Commerce Department. The Commerce Department should notify the county October 15th if these grants were awarded. Dowling met with Rose Bauguess and Equinox on the scope for the CWMTF grant and their proposal and made recommendations that are more suited to Scotts Creek.

Mark Conner has been hired to fill the officer position at the police department. The following promotions have occurred at the Police Department: Rick Bryson – Assistant Chief, Zach Dezarn- Lieutenant (Patrol), Aimee Watson – Lieutenant (Detective Division), and Bruce Moore- Sergeant.

Lofquist Engineering has finished their preliminary engineering report for the Sylva Pool. The County contracted with them last year to develop an annual maintenance plan for repairs to the swimming pool. The report estimates that the Town and County should plan on an average of \$38,000 in pool repairs each year to avoid major repairs like this past summer, or have the money to do those major repairs when they are needed. The upcoming needs for the pool are fiber glass buildings to store chemicals and addressing the standing water in the bath house.

The Town has an intern from WCU, Adam Parent, working 2-3 afternoons each week. He is working on the National Register information and tax credit information for property owners to use if they want to take advantage of state or federal tax credits.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: The Public Works Department is still working to clear trees from the trail to the Pinnacle on days they are not collecting garbage. Dan Schaeffer reported that the trails are almost completely open and the department will continue clean-up efforts.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: None.

MAIN STREET REPORT: None.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: The Planning Board met on September 21, 2017 and heard a presentation from JM Teague Engineering on the ordinance and land use plan review. Teague is approximately 30% completed with the project.

TWSA BOARD REPORT: Commissioner Nestler told the board that a new state requirement would require TWSA to have an outside audit of user fees.

PUBLIC HEARING-ORDINANCE AMENDMENT CHAPTER 4: SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON SUNDAY: Mayor Sossamon opened the public hearing at 5:54 p.m. Manager Dowling explained that the ordinance amendment was to change the hours of alcohol sales on Sundays so that they could begin at 10:00 a.m. Bernadette Peters of City Lights Café addressed the board and explained the positive impacts the change would have on tourism and profits for local businesses. Jacque Laura of the Cut Cocktail Lounge, Jeanette Evans of Mad Batter, and Nick Breedlove from the Jackson County TDA also spoke in support of the change. Being no further comment the hearing was closed at 6:02 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to approve the resolution of appreciation for retiring Police Chief Davis Woodard and award him his service weapon. The motion carries with a unanimous vote. Mayor Sossamon read the resolution to Woodard and presented him with his service weapon. Manager Dowling presented Woodard with a rocking chair from town staff.*

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT—CHAPTER 4: SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON SUNDAY: Commissioner Nestler commented that the change to 10:00 a.m. was a step in the right direction. Commissioner McPherson added that he hoped it encouraged a growth in business. Commissioner Hamilton commented that the Board was trying to support local businesses. Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment to change the sale of alcohol on Sundays beginning at 10:00 a.m. The motion carries with a four to one (4-1) vote. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioners Gelbaugh, Nestler, McPherson, and Hamilton. Voting against the motion was Commissioner Hensley.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF TOWN PROPERTY: The Board must authorize the sale of surplus property with a value of \$5,000 or greater. The Town plans to sell the 1995 sweeper, 1983 backhoe, 1997 garbage truck, and 2007 mowing tractor. The items will be auctioned on GovDeals. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the sale. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PARADE RESOLUTION—WCU HOMECOMING PARADE: A request has been made by WCU to close Main Street for the purpose of having a homecoming parade on October 27, 2017. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PARADE RESOLUTION—VETERAN' DAY PARADE: A request has been made by the local Veterans chapter to close Main Street for the purpose of having a parade on November 4, 2017. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PARADE RESOLUTION—CHRISTMAS PARADE: A request has been made by the Main Street Sylva Association to close Main Street for the purpose of having a Christmas parade on December 2, 2017. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

EVENT RESOLUTION—TREAT STREET: A request has been made by the Main Street Sylva Association to close Main Street for the purpose of having a "Treat Street" festival for Halloween on October 31, 2017. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

EVENT RESOLUTION—GREENING UP THE MOUNTAINS: A request has been made by the Main Street Sylva Association to close Main Street for the purpose of having the Greening Up The Mountains festival on April 28, 2018. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

SKYLAND DRIVE SIDEWALK SPECIAL REVENUE FUND ORDINANCE: The purpose of this special revenue fund is to allow the Town to earmark money that will be used to match grants or a percentage of costs share on sidewalk improvements or construction projects. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the special revenue fund ordinance to establish such fund. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

SKYLAND DRIVE SIDEWALK CONTRACT WITH NCDOT: The sidewalk contract is with NCDOT for construction of sidewalks on Skyland Drive. The contract outlines the project, authorizes NCDOT to oversee right-of-way acquisition, utility easements, and construct the project. The Town will pay NCDOT 20% for each phase of the project and maintain the sidewalk after it is completed. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the contract. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk