

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners  
April 12, 2018

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on April 12, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

**PRESENT:** Lynda Sossamon, Mayor  
Barbara Hamilton, Vice-Mayor  
Mary Gelbaugh, Commissioner  
Greg McPherson, Commissioner  
David Nestler, Commissioner

Paige Dowling, Town Manager  
Amanda Murajda, Town Clerk  
Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney

**ABSENT:** Harold Hensley, Commissioner

Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m.

**STAFF PRESENT:** John Jeleniewski

**VISITORS:** Dowdy Bradley, Gladyce Ross, Misty Taylor, Mark Taylor, Chris Miller, Terra Miller, David Ginn, and Tanner Hall.

**AGENDA:** *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to add an item for the Garden Club request. The motion carries with a unanimous vote. Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**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 everyone for allowing her to miss the last two meetings to care for family. She thanked Vice Mayor Hamilton for conducting the meetings. Sossamon announced that there would be a Cleaning up the Mountains event on April 21, 2018 and encouraged others to attend to help clean up trash.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Gelbaugh commented that she would like to see a residential community yard sale hosted by the Town a few times a year. She suggested having it at Bridge Park. She noted that she visited Commissioner Hensley who had recently been sick and had not attended the meetings. Commissioner Nestler asked for an update on the litter problem at Jackson Paper. Manager Dowling replied that the Public Works Department was working with Jackson Paper to coordinate clean-up. Nestler mentioned that he had received complaints about pesticides being used in Town parks. He also asked the police chief if there were other places the department could use for target practice and not contribute to the lead already exposed at the SCC shooting range as well as other means for target practice other than lead bullets. Commissioner McPherson thanked everyone who was working to organize the Greening Up The Mountains festival. He also added that he was excited to see the mural emerge on the side of Wards Plumbing. He encouraged everyone to participate in Draw Sylva. Commissioner Hamilton commented that she was looking forward to Greening Up The Mountains. She thanked the police department for their diligent work in her neighborhood.

**MANAGERS REPORT:** Manager Dowling reported that the muralist has finished prepping the wall and once it has dried painting will begin. The public art committee is planning to hold an unveiling and meet the artist at GUTM from 12-12:30 p.m. Dowling has been working with Sarah Thompson and Mike Poston to nominate Downtown Sylva for the NC APA Great Downtown award. She reminded the board that they will receive the draft budget next Thursday, April 19th. The next budget work session is April 26th.

**MAIN STREET REPORT:** Manager Dowling reported that plans are being finalized for Greening Up the Mountains. The GUTM committee is now meeting weekly.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING—STREET CLOSING: PORTION OF PATHFINDER LAND AND AN UNNAMED STREET OFF WALTER ASHE ROAD:** Mayor Sossamon opened the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. Manager Dowling explained the hearing was for a request to close portions of paper streets that connect to property owned by United Parcel Service. Portions of Pathfinder Lane and an unnamed street off of Walter Ashe Road have never been official parts of the streets. Dowdy Bradley spoke against the closure stating it would interfere with his property. Mark Taylor also spoke against the closure because it would also affect his property. Other attendees speaking against the closure were Misty Taylor, Chris Miller and Terra Miller. There was no one speaking in support of the closure. *Being no further comment Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to close the hearing at 6:23 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**STREET CLOSING—PORTION OF PATHFINDER LAND AND AN UNNAMED STREET OFF WALTER ASHE ROAD:** Commissioner Nestler stated that he didn't see the need to change the right-of-way or streets. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to not close the streets. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**CANCEL MAY 3, 2018 BUDGET WORK SESSION:** *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to cancel the May 3, 2018 budget work session. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**SYLVA GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR POTEET PARK:** Manager Dowling explained that she and Mayor Sossamon had met with members of the Garden Club about project ideas the club wanted to do in Poteet Park. They would like to know what the board will approve for them to do. They have \$3,000 that they will commit to do these projects. Dowling explained that they requested to paint the pavilion at Poteet Park because they think the color is too dark. However, the Town has painted the pavilion within the last 3 years. Other ideas the Garden Club would like to do and the Board to consider approving include:

1. Attaching interactive components that could be mounted on the fence. A stipulation of this project needs to be that they don't use pickets with names of contributors.
2. Removing the shrubs in front of the pavilion and adding a mural to plywood that would attach to the building.
3. Hopscotch stepping stones along the left side with mulch going back to the fence.
4. Putting a child size picnic table in the grass area in front of the pavilion that is next to the bridge (beside the Little Free Library).
5. Add tree stumps at different heights and put things on the tree and ground that are visible at different heights. Use the tree to the far left inside the fence that is surrounded by railroad ties. Remove existing plants.
6. Make a tree bark sign to illustrate texture.
7. Hang painted gourds somewhere as bird houses.
8. Make a frog out of painted tires.
9. Remove the planter beds and build new ones for a touch and smell garden where everything would be edible.

*Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to accept the gift from the Garden Club and allow them to proceed with the following stipulations:*

- they cannot paint the pavilion*
- the mural needs to be on a separate surface*
- the frog from painted tires needs to be last on the list.*

*The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

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Lynda Sossamon  
Mayor

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Amanda W. Murajda  
Town Clerk