

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
November 8, 2018

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on November 8, 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
Harold Hensley, Commissioner
Greg McPherson, Commissioner
David Nestler, Commissioner

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

ABSENT:

Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Hooper, Kim Osborne-Evans, Aimee Watson

VISITORS: Jeannie Kelley, Bob Kelley, Joe Lenders, Carol Hall, Libby hall, Frances Hess, Louise Nations, Judy Lambert, Megan Foy, Kelly Brown, Danvy Walsh, Jamie Ebner, Rick Bryson, Charlie Schmidt, Denny Wood, William Stillwell, and Candace Littlejohn.

AGENDA: *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the 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: Jeannie Kelley addressed the board with her continued concerns about the NCDOT Highway 107 construction project. Ms. Kelley read statistics about the poverty level of Sylva and voiced concerns about how the project would take jobs away from an area that needed them. Joe Lenders, who owns a vape shop at 1363 East Main Street, expressed that DOT is not concerned with commerce and that jobs are going to be affected in Sylva. He reminded the board that it is never too late to change their minds about the project. Rick Bryson of Bryson's Car Wash explained that he did not know what would happen to his building but asked the board to listen to the public's concerns. Charlie Schmidt of Speedy's Pizza told the board that he had a petition with 1600 signatures showing support for doing away with the construction project. He believes that the problem is too much traffic and said that getting cars off the road should be priority. Denny Wood, a retired state trooper, addressed the board about a bypass around Sylva. He believes that a bypass is the only solution to the traffic problem. He added that Highway 107 was a thoroughfare but that was not what it was created for. Candace Littlejohn, representing Mesquite Grill, said that the restaurant would lose 25 jobs if the project proceeds. They have invested a tremendous amount of money into the business and building. She asked the board to rethink the plan.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon expressed her delight about the WCU Homecoming Parade held on Main Street.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh reported that the Town of Sylva had received a good amount of exposure during the recent events held on Main Street. She also commended Officer Osborne for allowing her to ride along with her on patrol. Commissioner Nestler reminded everyone of the TWSA meeting on November 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. where special policies to accommodate those displaced by the construction project will be discussed. Commissioner McPherson liked the layout of Treat Street. He also mentioned the delay in additional crosswalks due to material constraints was not good and asked if other options could be evaluated. Commissioner Hamilton expressed her support of the crosswalk suggestion made by McPherson. She thought Treat Street was great and is looking forward to the Christmas festival.

MANAGERS REPORT: Manager Dowling reported the following:

- Jake Scott is looking into new crosswalk options.
- The Veteran's Parade is Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

- Town Hall will be closed Monday, November 12, 2018 for Veteran's Day. Trash pickup will run the Monday route on Tuesday.
- The NCLM district roundtable was widely attended last week at Town Hall with approximately 30 municipal officials from the area attending.
- The annual workers' comp audit was completed and a clear report was given.
- The Asheville Design Center site visit will be Friday, November 9, 2018. Traffic engineers will be evaluating the area and setting a schedule for meetings.

MAIN STREET REPORT: Kelly Brown reported that Treat Street was a huge success and estimated that over 2,000 kids participated. The MSSA promotions committee has the weekend of the Christmas Parade planned out. The tree lighting is Friday, November 30th at 7:00 p.m. Raffle tickets are on sale now to light the tree, win merchant gift baskets, and Greenville hockey tickets. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and are on sale at Friends of the Library, Fusions Spa, End of Main, B&B Gifts, and Sassy Frass. Raffle ticket sales are paying for ornaments for the tree in the fountain. Saturday, December 1st there is a winter holiday market in the parking lot beside Humanite. The Jackson County Farmers' Market is selling vendor spaces and splitting the proceeds with MSSA. Photos with Santa are also on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Sassy Frass Consignment. Photos are \$10 each.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: None.

NEW BUSINESS

EQUINOX PRESENTATION: SCOTTS CREEK WATERSHED: Danvy Walsh and Megan Foy of Equinox presented to the board their findings of the Scotts Creek Watershed Assessment Plan. The assessment plan was completed as part of a Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant. They discussed water quality monitoring, continuation of watershed education campaigns, implementation of stormwater control measures, sources of erosion, sources and nature of bacteria, and watershed protection. The assessment found that stormwater runoff was the main source of pollution in the Scotts Creek. Details of their presentation are available at Town hall.

APPROVAL AND OPENING OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES—OCTOBER 25, 2018: *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve and open the closed session minutes of October 25, 2018. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS LUNCH—DECEMBER 14, 2018: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to schedule the employee Christmas lunch for December 14, 2018. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT: Commissioners discussed decorations for the float and what members would wear for the parade.

TWSA BOARD APPOINTMENT: The term of Harold Hensley expires December 31, 2018. He is not eligible to serve again. Commissioner Hensley told the board to be careful who they appoint to the board. He also added that it would be good to appoint the Town Manager because the contract with TWSA says as long as it is the Town Manager they can remain a member with no limits. Commissioner Gelbaugh added that Jeff Goss was interested in serving. Commissioner Nestler also commented that he knew two people who were interested and he believes that there needs to be someone from the business community on the board. Commissioner McPherson suggested that the discussion continue at the December 13th board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk