

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
August 22, 2019

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on August 22, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

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| PRESENT: | Lynda Sossamon, Mayor | Paige Dowling, Town Manager |
| | Barbara Hamilton, Vice-Mayor | Amanda Murajda, Town Clerk |
| | Harold Hensley, Commissioner | Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney |
| | Mary Gelbaugh, Commissioner | |
| | Greg McPherson, Commissioner | |
| | David Nestler, Commissioner | |

ABSENT:

Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Hatton (Police Chief) and Jake Scott (Public Works Director).

VISITORS: Becky Harwood, Ed Harwood, Janice Short, Ron Short, Luther Jones, Kenneth Nicholson, Savannah Vining, Linda Nee and Dave Russell.

AGENDA: *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to add the Genealogy Society Fundraiser to the agenda. The motion carries with a unanimous vote. Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon reminded everyone about House Bill 431, also known as the Fiber NC Act. It has made it to the finance committee for approval.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh requested that Jake Scott look at the red lights at the intersection of Jackson and Spring Streets. They are not working properly. Commissioner Nestler requested that the food truck ordinance be reviewed on a future agenda. Commissioner McPherson announced that a parking lot on Main Street may be available for lease or purchase. Commissioner Hamilton noted that she was concerned with speeding. She stated that there is always someone driving at excessive speeds.

MANAGERS REPORT: Manager Dowling reported the following:

- The Town is still waiting on the final report from the Asheville Design Center on the Highway 107 project.
- Kristy Carter is still working on the code assessment and future land use/character area map.
- Auditors will be completing field work August 28-30th.
- The Town is sponsoring the Concert on the Creek the next two Fridays. The band August 23rd is Troy Underwood. The band August 30th is The Maggie Valley Band.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Jake Scott reported that the department has been working on improving handicap access at several locations in town. They are also working on cleaning up invasive species plants, repairing sink holes, and repainting lines on some streets. The department will begin working on trail clearing at Pinnacle Park.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chris Hatton thanked the town staff and police department for a warm welcome to Sylva. He added that the part-time clerk position had been filled and they are working to fill the other two patrol officer and one detective positions. He also noted that service calls for the month of July were higher than June at a total of 819.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Manager Dowling reported that the Planning Board did not meet in August.

TWSA BOARD REPORT: Commissioner Nestler reminded everyone of the TWSA policy meeting on August 27, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION: Ed Harwood of the American Legion presented the Town with a plaque of appreciation for their support of the Legion and their new building.

RESOLUTIONS FOR EVENT STREET CLOSURES

- (A) **EVENT RESOLUTION—WALK FOR HOPE:** A request has been made by the Sylva Police Department to close Main Street for the purpose of having a Walk for Hope celebration for breast cancer awareness on October 5, 2019. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*
- (B) **PARADE RESOLUTION—FIRE PREVENTION:** A request has been made by the Jackson County Fire Marshall to close Main Street for the purpose of having a fire prevention parade on October 5, 2019. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*
- (C) **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 25, 2019. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*
- (D) **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 10, 2019. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*
- (E) **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, 2019. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*
- (F) **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 1, 2019. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*
- (G) **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 25, 2020. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the temporary street closure. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PETITION FOR ANNEXATION—CERTIFICATE OF SUFFICIENCY: Manager Dowling explained that the research had been completed to certify that the petition for annexation meets requirements to be considered sufficient. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the certificate of sufficiency. The motion carries with a 4-1 vote. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioners Gelbaugh, Nestler, McPherson, and Hamilton. Voting against the certificate was Commissioner Hensley.*

RESOLUTION FIXING THE DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR SATELLITE ANNEXATION: Upon approval of the certificate of sufficiency, a resolution fixing the date of the public hearing for the potential satellite annexation must be approved. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve a resolution scheduling the public hearing for September 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

JACKSON COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY FUNDRAISER: Ken Nicholson from the Jackson County Genealogy Society addressed the board and asked for a donation from the board for their annual Rebel Cruise-In. He added that the event is the only fundraiser the society does on an annual basis. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to donate \$100 to the Genealogy Society for their fundraiser. The motion carries with a unanimous vote*

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sosamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk