

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
September 26, 2019

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on September 26, 2019 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
Harold Hensley, Commissioner
Mary Gelbaugh, Commissioner
Greg McPherson, Commissioner
David Nestler, Commissioner

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

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: Holly Kays and Dave Russell.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon reported that she attended the NCLM Board of Directors meeting where they discussed goals for municipalities, HB431 on broadband, firefighter's allowance legislation, Powell Bill funds and the historic tax credit.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh requested a speed bump be added at Evalina Street or move the crosswalk to the other side of Evalina Street. Commissioner Hamilton commented that the Town fall decorations look nice.

MANAGERS REPORT: Manager Dowling reported the following:

- The contract on the Skyland Drive sidewalk is expected to begin January 28, 2020. NCDOT is working on drainage plans.
- R-5600 Updates: ROW acquisition on R-5600 is expected to begin January 6, 2020. Final 65% plans are still expected in October. The final ADC report is expected next week.
- Personnel Updates: Maleah Mathis has been hired as a police officer. She has been with the Sheriff's Department for a year and a half. She is from Jackson County. Chance Mull in the Public Works department has accepted a job in Grounds Maintenance at WCU.
- The Public Works Department put up fall decorations downtown.
- NCDOT will paint the crosswalk at Nantahala Brewing.
- Hands On Jackson is October 3rd. The Public Works Department was assigned to a house on Caney Fork
- Quarterly drug tests have been administered.
- Oct. 5th is a busy day in Sylva. Walk for Hope is at 10:00 a.m. at the fountain, the FD Fire Prevention parade is at 12:00 p.m., and the sidewalk sale is from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Security cameras have been installed in the lobby at Town Hall.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Jake Scott reported that Bridge Park lights had been converted to LED lights, the gravel parking lot has been scraped, Duke Energy is putting up new poles across town, a grant for Bridge Park green enhancements has been submitted and lights on Mill Street are still in the ordering process.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chris Hatton reported that the department has recently solved some time-consuming cases. They are preparing for a busy event season from October to December. The department is excited to have new employees Rachel Frizzell and Maleah Mathis.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: The Planning Board met on September 19th and reviewed an amendment to the setback requirements in the R1-A zoning district making them less restrictive.

TWSA BOARD REPORT: Commissioner Nestler noted that Dan Schaeffer had been named the new Interim Director of TWSA upon the resignation of Dan Harbaugh.

NEW BUSINESS

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: The WNC Pottery Festival has been in Dillsboro for approximately 20 years. The festival will be held at Bridge Park November 2, 2019 because the Dillsboro bridge replacement was going to block both large parking lots. Manager Dowling explained that the pottery festival had previously sold alcohol in Dillsboro but did not want to do that this year. This application is a request to bring their own beer to their catered meal Saturday evening after the festival. Alcohol will not be sold during the event. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the special event request for the potters to have alcohol during their catered meal. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

R5600 ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY REQUEST: No motion necessary. The board asked Manager Dowling if she would let Jay Coward know that he was free to engage in an economic impact study on the R5600 project without board approval.

CHANGE LOCATION OF OCTOBER 10, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING: Manager Dowling explained that Chris Hatton would be sworn in as Chief of Police on October 10, 2019 and would like that to take place at the top of the steps at the Historic Courthouse. Therefore, the meeting would be called to order at 5:30 at the Historic Courthouse steps and recess after the ceremony. The meeting will reconvene at Town Hall for the remainder of the meeting and reception for the Chief. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to change the location of the October 10, 2019 meeting. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

CLOSED SESSION: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS. 143-318-11(a)(5) in regards to contract negotiation at 9:21 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Commissioner Hensley made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion carries with a unanimous vote and the Board entered into regular session at 9:30 a.m. No action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk