

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
May 14, 2020

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on May 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. hosted in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C. and held electronically by Zoom meeting.

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

ABSENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Lynn Bryant (Finance Officer), Chris Hatton (Police Chief) and Jake Scott (Public Works Director).

VISITORS: Dave Russell, David Noland, Teri Cole-Smith and Holly Kays

AGENDA: *Commissioner McPherson 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: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon reported that Congress will be working on funding for towns and encouraged everyone to contact their senators.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh expressed her excitement to see small businesses opening back up. Commissioner Nestler noted that the Community Table was still in need of donations and TWSA is working on no-fee policies. He also added that outdoor seating in the B-1 district should be reevaluated in light of the pandemic we are in. Commissioner Guiney thanked town staff for their work during the shutdown of the coronavirus pandemic. He would also like to look at outdoor seating in the B-1 zoning district. Commissioner McPherson reminded everyone to continue wearing masks and maintain social distancing. McPherson would also like to add food trucks to the B-1 discussion. Commissioner Hamilton thanked town staff.

MANAGERS REPORT: Manager Dowling reported the following:

- Concerts on the Creek: Rusty Ellis, Julie Donaldson, and Dowling will decide about May and June Concerts on the Creek soon. The Town is sponsoring the May 22 (Eleanor Underhill & Friends) and May 29 (SKA City) concerts
- Allen Street slide timeline and update from Jake Scott, Public Works Director:
 - In mid-March, the pavement at the slide location started to crack. This cracking occurred between two TWSA valve boxes. TWSA has confirmed on several occasions that there are no leaks associated with their lines. The ground directly below the slide, at Bryson Park has started heaving upwards, and presently has risen approximately 12 inches. Allen Street was closed to through traffic as the street was not impassible for most vehicles. Currently Allen Street has settled more than 30 inches from its original grade.
 - Although the core samples and excavation are needed to be certain, it looks currently like this slide was caused by a combination of excess ground water, as well as geological risk factors like soil type and excessive slope. We will update you once we hear from the engineering firm, but fixing Allen Street will be a big project. The repairs will be very expensive.
- The Town is still waiting to hear from NCDOT about the bridge between Sylva and Dillsboro since sending a letter on April 24th.
- Operations: Administrative staff will continue teleworking for a few more weeks. We are still seeing an uptick in the number on cases in Jackson County. We are always available by phone or email and we look

forward to being back in the office soon. We will follow the Governor's phases for reopening playgrounds. Since the bathroom is not open at Poteet Park, the Town rented a handicap accessible port-a-potty that has been placed behind the Chamber. Downtown businesses are aware of this restroom option since the park and Chamber bathrooms aren't open yet.

MAIN STREET REPORT: None.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: None.

NEW BUSINESS

MAIN STREET LICENSING AGREEMENT: *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the Main Street Licensing Agreement for the upcoming year. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

ABC BOARD CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENT: *Manager Dowling reported that the ABC Board Chairman is appointed annually. Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to reappoint David Noland as the chairman of the ABC Board for the 2020-2021 FY year. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

FORMAL PRESENTATION OF FY 2020-2021 BUDGET: *Manager Dowling formally presented the FY 2020-2021 budget to the board and reminded them of the public hearing scheduled for May 28, 2020.*

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Guiney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk