

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
June 11, 2020

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on June 11, 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: Chris Hatton (Police Chief) and Jake Scott (Public Works Director).

VISITORS: Dave Russell, David Noland, Flemming Holt, Carrie McBane and Amy McKenzie.

AGENDA: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to add a closed session to the agenda pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and (6) regarding consulting the attorney and personnel. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Commissioner Guiney made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Christine Taber submitted the following comment for the Zoom meeting: After reviewing the budget, I noticed there was no funding for a social worker that could be attached to the police department. I was wondering if the city would be open to creating such a position, so a mental health professional could respond on certain calls?

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon reported that she had been in contact with representatives in regards to relief funding for sales tax during the COVID-19 pandemic. She encouraged the public to do the same.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh reported that the UCM food drive was a success. Commissioner Nestler reported that the TWSA budget had been approved. He reminded everyone that the Community Table still needed donations. Commissioner Guiney reported that COVID-19 cases were still being seen at the ER. Commissioner McPherson reiterated his opposition to closing the streets for the Dillsboro Bridge replacement and thanked the staff for all of their work during the pandemic. Commissioner Hamilton reminded everyone to wear masks.

MANAGERS REPORT: Manager Dowling reported the following:

- Employment Update: Jeff Buchanan, Public Works Maintenance Technician, resigned. The job has been posted online and in the Sylva Herald. The position will be opened until filled.
- The Police Department has been very busy the last two weeks preparing to have a safe protest on Saturday.
- Allen Street will be surveyed next week for the repairs.
- Mike Poston reported that Sylva's city limit response rate for the census is only 45%. This is down approximately 10% from the last census. The County is paying to mail additional notifications to post office boxes in hopes to increase the response rate.
- Concerts on the Creek: The Town sponsored concerts are July 24, Aug. 8, Aug. 22, Sept. 4, and Sept. 5.
- Michael Hopkins reported that the Sylva pool is still tentatively scheduled to open June 15. There will be a morning and afternoon session. Occupancy will be limited to 60 people. People will need to bring their own chairs. Concessions and season passes won't be sold this season.
- Covid-19 Update: Administrative staff came back into Town Hall on Monday. We have the office closed to the public through June 19th. We are monitoring the number of cases and trying to limit our exposure to the

public. Meanwhile, we are still available to the public by phone and email. All services are available to our citizens.

MAIN STREET REPORT: None.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: None.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve the FY 2020-2021 budget ordinance. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

FY 2020-2021 FEE SCHEDULE: *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the FY 2020-2021 fee schedule. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

ABC BOARD BUDGET—REVIEW ONLY: The board reviewed the ABC Board budget. No comments.

CLOSED SESSION: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS. 143-318-11(a)(3) and (6) in regards to consulting attorney and personnel matters at 5:58 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Commissioner Nestler made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion carries with a unanimous vote and the Board entered into regular session at 8:03 p.m. No action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Guiney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk