

TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 20, 2015 7:00 P.M.

TRYON FIRE STATION

Present: Mayor Jim Wright, Mayor Pro Tempore Roy Miller

Commissioners: George Baker, Bill Ingham, and Happy McLeod

Staff Present: Town Manager Joey Davis Town Attorney Bailey Nager
 Chief of Police Jeff Arrowood Outgoing PW Director Joel Burrell
 Incoming PW Director Gary Walker

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:01. Mayor Pro Tem Miller led the invocation and asked for a moment of silence to remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commissioner McLeod led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION: LANIER LIBRARY

Mayor Wright then stated that Item 4 (Lanier Library proclamation) would be done as part of his report at the end of the meeting. He also recognized two special guests in attendance - County Manager Marche Pittman and County Commissioner Michael Gage.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mayor Wright then read the press release from the ICMA recognizing that Town Manager Davis had been given the designation of ICMA-CM (credentialed manager). Davis is one of 1,300 credentialed managers out of the over 9,000 members of the ICMA.

Mayor Wright then recognized Town Manager Davis who called former Sanitation Supervisor Larry Walker to the front. Town Manager Davis then read a resolution recognizing Larry's contributions to the Town as he had departed to become the Solid Waste Director for Polk County. Mr. Walker gave a few comments thanking the Town and expressing how difficult a decision it was to leave.

Town Manager Davis then called Public Works Director Joel Burrell to the front and read his resolution recognizing him on his upcoming retirement. Town Manager Davis also stated that Gary Walker had been named Public Works Director succeeding PW Director Burrell. PW Director Burrell gave a few comments.

A brief reception featuring cake and coffee was held for PW Director Burrell and Mr. Walker. At 7:31 Mayor Wright concluded the reception.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. Town Manager Davis requested to add item 12A as a motion to convene into closed session for attorney-client privileges. Mayor Pro Tem Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

TTDA CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR APPROVAL

Town Manager Davis discussed the TTDA elections and stated that the TTDA had elected Mary Prioleau as their chair and Susan Brady as vice-chair. Commissioner Baker so moved that the Town accept these election results. The motion carried unanimously.

CARRY AND DISPLAY OF WEAPONS

The Town's ordinance on carry and display of weapons was then discussed. Town Attorney Nager gave background on the ordinance and its revisions. Commissioner Baker questioned why the Town had an ordinance when both federal and state law also governed such activities. Town Attorney Nager stated the ordinance was adopted prior to 2002 when he became Town Attorney. Mayor Wright stated the town had 2 options – adopt the revisions or repeal the current ordinance. Commissioner Baker made a motion to repeal the ordinance. Commissioner Baker voted in favor while Commissioners McLeod and Miller voted against, so the motion was denied.

Commissioner Ingham then stated that he had questions and concerns about the ordinance and its revisions. He asked did our ordinance go beyond the scope of state law, to which Town Attorney Nager stated yes and gave an example.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller made a motion to table the revisions until the retreat, which carried unanimously. Commissioner McLeod requested Attorney Nager get more information on the ordinance to the Council.

CITIZEN INPUT ON TOWN WATER SYSTEM

A discussion was held on the water system and how to garner citizen input. Council was of the agreement that perhaps a meeting should be held specifically on water. Town Manager Davis would handle the logistics of that request.

Town Manager Davis gave his manager's report. He started by deferring to Chief Arrowood who gave an overview of the new Taser body cameras the PD is using. Commissioner Baker asked if there would be revisions to the policy. Chief Arrowood said yes, based on both the Council's input and input he was receiving from his officers. Mayor Pro Tem Miller asked about where the camera was to be worn (policy) and had the department researched the idea of glasses. Chief Arrowood answered those questions.

ANIMAL ORDINANCES

A discussion was then held on animal ordinances. Chief Arrowood and Attorney Nager gave comments. Consensus was to continue to research both effective ordinances and effective punishment (i.e. citations) for offenders.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Davis stated that January 28 would be a special meeting for the Council to visit the TIEC. February 21 would be a retreat workshop as well. He also gave an update on a recent brush fire, addressed Gary Walker and Joel Burrell, and discussed revisions to the Strategic Plan.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner McLeod began council comments. She reminded everyone of the festivities planned in September for the Toymakers anniversary. She also asked all to participate in updating the strategic plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller discussed the Tryon All-Stars exhibit January 31 at the Upstairs Artspace. He relayed concerns regarding traffic near White Oak to Chief Arrowood. He also congratulated Joel Burrell on his retirement and Gary Walker on his promotion.

Commissioner Ingham welcomed all who attended the meeting and offered his congratulations to both Joel and Gary. He also mentioned the MLK program held by the Friendship Council and how packed Town was on Saturday night.

Commissioner Baker thanked the town employees, Joel, and Gary. He also stated that his most recent "Corner the Commissioner" meeting had 3 attendees (2 new ones).

Mayor Wright thanked the Friendship Council for their work on the MLK program and also discussed the 125th anniversary proclamation for the Lanier Library he had done earlier in the day. He also discussed the Tryon Midnight celebration and thanked the entities that participated in organizing the event.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

John Salmon was the first citizen comment and he discussed an issue with a loose dog on Markham Road that was rummaging through the trash. Chief Arrowood would look into the situation.

James A. Austin, III then spoke about how he felt that the term "Eastside" was sometimes used in a derogatory fashion. He stated that sometimes it felt that the citizens were alienated from the rest of the town. He also spoke at length on his court case and that the Town should be responsible for items he claims went missing after being removed from the residence he was staying in. Mr. Austin was directed as to the process for filing complaints.

CLOSED SESSION

There being no further citizen comments Mayor Wright entertained a motion to enter into closed session at 9:01 PM for attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143.318-11(a)(3).

ADJOURN

Council left closed session at 9:34 PM and entertained a motion by Commissioner Baker to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk

Jim T. Wright, Mayor