

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 19, 2019 7:00 P.M.
TRYON TOWN HALL-MCCOWN ROOM**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ingham
Commissioners: Crys Armbrust, Bill Crowell, Chrelle Booker

Staff Present: Town Manager Zach Ollis Town Clerk Susan Bell
 Police Chief Jeff Arrowood Fire Chief Geoff Tennant
 Planning Director Tim Daniels Town Attorney William Morgan

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order. He asked for a moment of silence for the innocent that is paying the price of the violence in our country. Commissioner Ingham led the invocation.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections. Hearing none he entertained a motion to adopt. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any questions or comments to the consent agenda, which includes the Board minutes, tax releases for Katherine Smith (\$26.92), Sarah Billie Taylor (\$6.45), Tryon Clear View (\$6.50), Kathleen Grose (\$36.66), One Tryon Place Condo (\$1,323.92), Dominick Ferullo (\$91.84) and the 2018 tax advertisement. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

INTERCONNECT LINE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Town Manager Ollis stated you have in front of you the RFP for engineering services to look at and assess the damages to the interconnect on Howard Gap. You will also find the sampling agreement for proposal. With your approval as well as Columbus and Saluda, we can begin to secure an engineer to look at this problem. Mayor Peoples stated we are simply getting an engineer to look and see what can be done. Ollis stated yes. We are putting out Request for Proposals for qualifications to basically get bids from engineers to see how qualified they are. Commissioner Crowell asked if we really want to spend money on this. Commissioner Ingham stated no. Mayor Peoples asked if the money comes out of the settlement fund. Ollis stated yes. Mayor Peoples stated as long as it doesn't come out of our taxpayer's pockets.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

POLK COUNTY TDA

Town Manager Ollis stated attached is Senate Bill 805 from the 2017 session. The previous bill attempting to create a Tourism Authority for Polk County. It did not gain support in the previous years. The County is hoping to get your approval again to try to put a new bill forward that would continue the

discussion of Polk County TDA. Mayor Peoples asked if he was correct, this failed at the state level or was it the county level. Ollis stated state level. Crowell stated we are for it. So we are going to take back to the state one more time. Ollis stated with your permission they are going to go through the process again with legislation. Mayor Peoples stated we had already voted on this and adopted it. Ollis stated you voted last year. This is just to get your permission to move forward again. Everything stayed the same that was approved.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

Town Manager Ollis stated in front of you is the proposal from Paul Mills for the improvements to Erskine Bridge that the board asked for. This improvement cost is for the engineering of the project. We would still be responsible for construction. Paul is also looking into the idea of the light poles being installed at the corners that you have requested. This is surveying, civil engineering and the construction phase of the observation, if you would like to approve to go forward with this.

Commissioner Armbrust made a motion that we accept. Commissioner Crowell asked what the final dollar amount is. Armbrust stated \$2,600. Ollis stated no sir. The surveying services are \$2,500. The civil engineering is another \$9,100. The observation and construction is another \$2,600. Mayor Peoples stated about \$15,000. The motion carried unanimously.

CIP

Town Manager Ollis stated what you have in front of you is the CIP proposal from Withers Ravenel. This proposal covers the scope of work they intend to perform. They got involved with us about two years ago on a number of projects that revolve around the water and sewer. You have a Resolution regarding the Mini-Brooks Act Exemption. You are authorized by the State of North Carolina to exempt yourselves from the process of bidding out the engineering services, as long as it is under \$50,000. Clearly this is. You have the resolution, if you would like to approve that, along with the document to get started with the CIP.

Being no discussion, Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the exemption. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Crowell made a motion to approve the document to get the CIP started with Withers Ravenel. The motion carried unanimously.

WEBSITE CONVERSION

Town Manager Ollis stated in front of you is a document that will allow us to get a government domain registration, which will change our website from .com to .gov. Roughly for now it will be the same website. We are looking to update it and make it more user friendly for mobile devices. For now it allows us to secure government rates for IT services. It's a more official appearing. Mayor Peoples stated he wish we had done that in the beginning. Ollis stated it would be tryon-nc.gov and the way it will work for a while will be the .com will route to the .gov.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

MINIMUM HOUSING UPDATE

Town Manager Ollis turned over to Planning Director Daniels. Daniels stated Melrose Inn, the certified letter was refused. He is utilizing other ways to legally and officially deliver the notice with the expiration timeline. 356 E. Howard Street demo is on hold for now. It is in foreclosure and is going for sale on March 5th. The firm say they have potential bidders that have expressed interest in the property. If the property is sold the buyer needs to let him know what their plans are and the time frame.

366 E. Howard Street, Daniels has been in communication with Mr. Lambert and he is keeping an eye on the property. It seems like he is almost finished with repairs that he needed to do. Commissioner Booker asked him when the last time was that he visited that property. Daniels stated a week and a half ago. Booker suggested they have a trash dumpster. Crowell stated they needed one. He had road by there today. Booker asked if he had checked the creek that's behind to make sure they are not contaminating it or putting anything in it. Daniels stated he did not. Booker suggested that he might want to. Ingham asked if this was the house in the middle. Daniels stated yes, the one in foreclosure. The foreclosure attorney contacted him directly and asked him what they could do about this. On William's advice we are going to put it on hold for now. Crowell asked if the house to the right with the yellow roof was in foreclosure. Daniels stated yes. Ingham didn't think that one was so terrible.

Daniels stated 126 E. Livingston-the hearing is set for March 1st. The original letter that he sent did not reach the destination based on the tax record address he had at the time, hasn't been updated in the system. There is a new address now and they are local so he will get it to them. The hearing is set for March 1st.

45 E. Livingston-The property is still under investigation from the fire and the plan is to rebuild when that is completed. He is currently trying to track down the contact to see where they are on the investigation and when are they going to close the book on it.

121 Melrose Avenue-He has been in regular contact with the owners and representatives. Things are moving forward at a steady pace. He gets updates from them about every other week. They are going to do a site visit next week. The minimum housing has not officially taken off except for the notice that he sent them. He didn't have a hearing. It was just a notice saying your property is pretty dilapidated and we are going to have to enact a hearing. They are moving forward on it. That's all he has. Crowell asked is it next door to Crys. Armbrust stated it is Keith Grady's.

He asked to back track for a moment and elaborate on the refusal to accept the letter. Were you referring to the erroneous address or the erroneous addressing of the document for Melrose Inn? Daniels stated the original letter he sent, which was for the hearing, she received. She did receive that one, so he sent the next letter to the exact same address, which is the address of the property, which he assumes that she goes in and gets out of the post office and the letter just came back refused. She didn't pick it up. He has to go through a couple of other methods of getting that notice to her. The clock starts when she is officially served. Armbrust assumes this week there will be a serving of the letter by an official of this town. Daniels stated yes, but he didn't know what the time frame is. It is submitted and that process will begin. Chief Arrowood stated that is up to the Sherriff's office. Town Attorney Morgan stated the last resort is to serve it by publication and that will add some time to it. Crowell asked what

the minimum is, say one of the two property owners, neither one of them wants to make a decision and with mosquito season coming and standing water in the hundreds of little containers on the property, are we going to be able to get in there before June. Daniels stated that he can set the time frame on how much time they have to resolve the issue. A minimum is forty-five days. Mayor Peoples stated we need to make it work.

TDDA UPDATE & ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST FOR TRHC PARADE

Town Manager Ollis stated we have a TDDA update from Jamie as well as a road closure request for the parade. Jamie Carpenter, TDDA Director stated in January they held their fourth Friday. For a cold day she felt there was more people downtown. The next fourth Friday is the chocolate stroll. For a fifteen dollar ticket, there are twelve different stops that have samples from different places. The price of the ticket is essentially covering the cost to make the chocolate. They are trying to support the local people and using it to keep people downtown. They had their board retreat on February 2nd and had a really good turnout. It lasted from 8:00 until 2:00 on Saturday. They came out with the starts of their plan for the next twelve to eighteen months.

The Public Arts Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 6th, Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. They have representatives coming from TFAC, Tryon Downtown Development Association, Tryon Painters & Sculptors, Tryon Arts & Crafts and the Museum. That will be the first meeting to try and get established.

She stated the Tryon Horse Heritage Week will be April 13th through 21st. That starts with April 13th, the Steeplechase and horse trials at FENCE. The rest of the week they are planning different things, going on through Town. An old horse movie at the theater. Different talks throughout the town. They have brought in Fred Harris and Barnett Eiserlow to make us a parade Morris. He will be about seven feet tall and can be used for Christmas parades and whatever else we need. It can be stored indoors. Tryon Riding & Hunt Club sponsored Morris in its entirety. Henson Building Materials have provided some of the materials and are giving us cost plus ten percent on the rest of the materials. This is a community effort. On Thursday, April 18th at 5:00 p.m. there will be a parade with Morris and other horses. Hoping this will make a good impact. Need permission to close the street. Also the weekend of the horse show April 18th through 21st they would like permission to sell beer and wine. The profits will go toward Harmon Field. Close street 4:00-6:00 per Chief Arrowood. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion as stated by the Chief. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to allow alcohol at Harmon Field April 18 to 21. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Ollis went over his report.

COMPLETED

- Water line repaired on Trade St(main water line found in front of Sidestreet Pizza about 5:00 a.m. and crews began working on this as soon as they got everything lined up)
- 12" water main line repaired on Hwy 108 (just past the Lynn Post Office)
- Complete number of debris tons reached over 175
- Final version of Interconnect RFQ prepared
- Met with Withers Ravenel regarding CIP
- Spoke with Paul Mills regarding bridge project

- Installed new playground at Harmon Field (majority of it was installed)
- Inspected Dallara Project
- Inspected Pacolet River Restoration Project
- Lake Lanier Dam Inspection by DHEC
- Inspected fire hydrant and possible broken water line at TACS
- Performed Chlorine test at Harmon Field to determine source of water leak (natural spring)
- Tree assessment survey performed at Harmon Field
- Broken trees identified (removal within the year) and removed tree limbs at HF
- Locates for Fiber line
- Installed erosion control barrier at Lake Lanier Dam
- Repaired sidewalk at First Baptist Church
- Met with multiple contractors regarding awnings and Rogers Park retractable roof (have contractor that is interested and we are waiting on quote, another one backed out due to scope of Rogers Park)
- Old septic hauled off from Harmon field and filled in
- Repaired intake line from Pearson's Falls
- Coordinated closing of Forest Lane for contractor
- Rebuilt and painted doors to Screened in shed at Harmon Field
- Rescreened shed at Harmon Field
- Met with Enterprise regarding Fleet Management
- Met with contactor regarding sidewalk project
- Old septic removed and back filled at HF
- U-turn sign moved on Pacolet
- Received plans and discussed them with engineer regarding entryway project
- Sprayed for kudzu.
- Removed debris from multiple fallen trees.
- Clear overhanging brush in roadways.
- Side-mowing.
- Community engagement projects.

IN TRANSITION (TOWN)

- Working on troubleshooting Country Club line to Gold Course
- Project to hand read meters to double check for accuracy
- Sidewalk repair at 176 entrance to school
- Repair of Town hall façade by contractor
- Repair of Rogers Park awning by contractor
- Planning a board retreat with board, engineer, important parties, and key staff
- Reviewing strategic plan
- Culvert inspection on trade
- ADA merry go round to be installed at Harmon Field
- Securing contractor for thermopaint in front of Plaza
- Troubleshooting tennis court lights at HF
- Still working to manage brush removal in town
- Ordering replacement doors for bathrooms at HF
- Sidewalk repairs throughout town
- Leaf removal in progress
- Kids in Park Track Trails maintenance

- Speedbump replacement on Whitney
- Signage for rose garden

He wanted to thank the volunteers that helped clean up the Vaughn Creek Greenway, which suffered significant damage during the snow storm in December. Volunteers were Julia Ernst, Molly Watson, Monica Jones, Max Howes, Vard Henry, Greg Minor, Alan Leonard (and his canine companion, Ollie), Eddie Van Doren, Travis Cherry, Mark Ware, Joe McConnell, Steve King and John Vining. These volunteers did thirty-nine hours of work which really helped us clean up the right-of-way.

He also wanted to thank people that helped with Harmon Field. Once the equipment was installed our equipment couldn't get in there. He thanked Thompsons who brought in a walk behind backhoe and helped get all the mulch put in. The mulch was donated by Henson's Building Supply. Volunteers were: Lindy Buss, Lindsey Lewis, Jessica Bettenourt, Jen Grubbs, Amy Varnadore and the rest of Fans of Harmon Field. They gave a lot of help. It has gotten a ton of use. Armbrust stated the playground looks great.

Crowell asked how serious the erosion at the dam was. Ollis stated it was not terrible, but the location was concerning. They wanted to get the erosion control in before the next rain. It happened during the torrential downpour that we had recently.

Commissioner Armbrust stated the covers for sewer were painted this week. In the future is there any possible way we can avoid using spray paint. There is spray on the sidewalk. Ollis stated crews were told to use the cheapest paint, because they are going back and pressure wash it off. Our crews were also instructed to do the dots instead of the long lines like the electrical company and gas. We can make sure that they understand our wishes to keep the artwork to a minimum. Our crews definitely know to respect the time and effort that we put into streetscape. He will forward onto the companies involved.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner Booker stated Harthorne Wingo was here last week and it was a good week. She thanked Meg for the Proclamation and the Mayor for reading it. She thanked Zach for the key. He enjoyed that. She thanked everyone for coming out in the weather. Everyone is doing a great job, just keep up the good work.

Commissioner Crowell stated he had a citizen in town and her son who was in town from Kentucky, a kayaker. She drove him out to the third basin put in, where he was going to paddle around and she was going to come back in a few hours and get him. A resident of the lake informed her that it was private lake and he had no reason for being on the lake. Since she is a citizen of Tryon and we own the lake and we do own some of the dry land around the lake. He is requesting tomorrow at the budget hearing that we start looking at funds for a kayak, canoe dock to be put in at the dam for residents of Tryon. Most of the fencing can be taken down and a pipe railing can be put up. You can have a fishing area and then a small dock that you can get in and out of your kayak. He would like to see this for the future of the lake. He will be discussing at the budget meeting tomorrow. He thanked Harmon Field Committee for the playground.

Commissioner Armbrust stated once again Harmon Field does look great. He appreciates the effort of the committee. He hopes everyone comes out Friday night for fourth Friday. Thank you for coming.

Commissioner Ingham stated he does agree with Bill, we should have access to the lake. He thanked all the town for all the work with this horrible weather we have been having. It makes it hard to get everything done. He welcomed everyone that came out tonight.

Mayor Peoples stated that he had stopped to talk to some people at Harmon Field. They were very happy with what we had done. The kids were all having fun. Mr. Dallara had asked him to go on Monday, February 4th to speak at a fundraiser in Spartanburg. Mr. Ingham came. They raised a little over \$40,000. They had a donor to say they would match dollar for dollar up to \$50,000. That being said, this is the best place in the world to live.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none.

ADJOURN

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk