

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 20, 2019 7:00 P.M.
TRYON TOWN HALL – MCCOWN ROOM**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples Absent: 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 Planning Director Tim Daniels
 Town Attorney William Morgan Fire Chief James “Tank” Waters

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence for our country. Commissioner Booker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples stated we need to add Item 11a. Water Protection and 15b. Kudzu. Melrose Inn will be covered in Minimum Housing as 15c. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections. Being none, he entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda which includes the Board’s minutes and tax releases for DD Bradley (\$225.07), China Dynasty (\$7.59), DFS Equipment Holdings (10.10), RW Early (\$80.03 & \$66.21), El Chili Rojo (\$330.22, \$290.33, \$70.48, \$11.67), Electronic Data Systems (\$10.82), Elmo’s Bar & Grill (\$12.79 & \$9.92), Archie Frink (\$38.22), Robert Hannon (\$11.67), Nannie Henderson (\$115.12), David Hill (\$154.69), Isadora’s Closet (\$42.98, \$169.51, \$17.33), Romey Johnson (\$9.89), Will King (\$54.37), Little Cedar Mountain (\$119.95), Susie Massey (\$320.71), Mildred McCarroll (\$216.29), Pinnacle Management (\$9.74), John Rogers (\$59.40), RTS Taxi (\$12.63, \$11.06, \$11.67), Michael Sherrill (\$18.02), Simply Simons Sweets (\$298.00, \$10.28, \$11.76), Music and Stories (\$9.22), Otis Vernon (\$635.07), Viola Waddell (\$198.12), Leroy White (\$112.67), Witney White (\$75.78), Whitney Antiques (\$11.26), Ella Williams (\$109.73), Windstream North (\$17.98), RL Wood (\$108.55) and Melrose Inn (\$79.14). Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT(S) TO TRYON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Town Manager Ollis stated we have to appoint a commissioner for a one-year term and Michaila Cowles for a two-year term. Commissioner Crowell volunteered. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to appoint Commissioner Crowell to a one-year term and Michaila Cowles to a two- year term. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT(S) TO ABC BOARD

Town Manager Ollis informed the board there was an opening on the ABC Board. Jeffrey Close has applied if the board would like to appoint. Commissioner Armbrust stated that he came highly recommended. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to appoint Jeffrey Close to the ABC Board. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION ELECTRONIC PUBLIC AUCTION

Town Manager Ollis stated this is a resolution authorizing the sale of T4-B11 by electronic public auction. It's a small piece that is next to the church and Bryant Park. Commissioner Booker stated she will speak for St. Luke's church they are not interested.

Commissioner Crowell made a motion to sell the property by electronic public auction. The motion carried unanimously.

ERSKINE BRIDGE DISCUSSION

Town Manager Ollis spoke with DOT last week. They are going to get in touch with Paul Mills with questions about the layout of sidewalks and their width. Then Paul can submit his plans for the structural build along with the beautification portion. Rusty with DOT will get back with him in a few weeks. Commissioner Armbrust asked about the timeline. Ollis thinks within the month.

GOLF CART ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Town Manager asked that Chief Arrowood discuss this. Chief Arrowood stated North Carolina has a way of registering golf carts. What he would like to see is the town repeal its ordinance and let North Carolina handle the inspections and tag. It's called a slow-moving vehicle. The golf carts that are now registered with the Town have all that they need. He would like to repeal the ordinance with the effective date of January 1 to allow people enough time to get their golf cart registered with the state. Commissioner Armbrust asked the date of our original golf cart ordinance. Town Clerk Bell stated November 2013. Arrowood stated we can put limitations on them. Commissioner Booker asked if they were ticketed. Arrowood stated yes, but Tryon Police has never ticketed anyone.

Commissioner Crowell made a motion to repeal the Golf Cart Ordinance effective January 1, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

RFQ FOR LAKE LANIER DAM INSPECTIONS

Town Manager Ollis informed the board the RFQ is a request for qualifications for engineers to do the Lake Lanier Dam Inspection. The terms of the project have been included. There is no obligations.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve the RFQ for the Lake Lanier Dam Inspection. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

WATER PRODUCTION

Town Manager Ollis has Public Works Director Jody Morse here to talk about water production. Morse has talked with W/S Supervisor McCallister who is over distribution and collection department and WP Supervisor McCool who is over the water plant. If they get the line from the mountain fully in operation, we are only going to get six to seven hundred gallons a minute. Crowell asked if we decided to stop

pulling water from Lake Lanier 100 percent what would it take over the next year to get back on mountain water 100 percent. Ollis will get with McCool to see what the numbers are.

Morse stated that McCallister and McCool both have told him those lines were put in starting in 1919. Armbrust wanted them to find out at what cost and what would it take to completely stop use of Lake Lanier. Peoples asked about the phase 4 generator that pumps the water. That runs us about \$25,000 a year if he remembers correctly. Morse stated he believes it is phase 4. Everyone thanked PWD Morse.

SOFTWARE UPDATE DISCUSSION

Town Manager Ollis stated admin staff has been looking at new software. The current was put in in 2004. Pam has done a background check on these and gotten the quotes. Southern software is their choice. Cost for software is \$34,000, annual support \$4500, hosting \$2900.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve Southern Software for admin. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1

Town Manager Ollis stated the next agenda item is based on the software purchase. Budget amendment no. 1 is to cover the cost taking \$45,000 out of fund balance to cover the software purchase in capital outlay. Peoples stated this is one of the things that the letter mentioned. Ollis stated correct.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt Budget Amendment No. 1. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

HOGBACK MOUNTAIN ROAD PAVING

Town Manager Ollis asked PWD Morse to give the quotes and make a recommendation. PWD Morse stated you should have three different quotes from three different paving companies. Town Manager Ollis didn't get all of them so he didn't have a chance to make copies. Morse stated this is on Hogback Mountain Road from Embury Street to where the state takes over the road. One price is for just paving and one is for milling the real bad spot and paving. His recommendation is Darrell Price paving, which is the lowest price and he's always been here in an emergency when the town needs him. When the water line broke on School Street he was here. Armbrust what is his timeline. Morse stated if you approve it tonight, he can start within the month if not sooner.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve the quote from Darrell Price for \$86,000. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

MINIMUM HOUSING

Town Manager Ollis asked Mr. Daniels to give an update. Daniels stated that 121 Melrose has cleaned up their property. 330 Melrose Extension has been sent a Notice of Violation letter along with 427 East Howard. On 667 East Howard he has been trying to contact her. The owner had approached the fire department about burning. It was deemed unfit to be done that way. He has been trying to call her and her mailbox is full, so he has sent her a Notice of Violation letter. 45 East Livingston he is talking to Bailey Nager about the procedure for the Town to purchase that property, since it butts up against the cemetery. 51 Shepherd Street, 144 and 160 Cleveland Road and 136 Cleveland Road are on his radar. He needs to get pictures of them and get the process started. Melrose Avenue, the potential buyer is

still reviewing the thirty plus pages of paperwork. He has been in constant contact with Realtor Cindy Viehman. He spoke to Marilyn and Mr. Longley and they are working their section of the deal. In the meantime, the Town purchased an asbestos test to potentially expedite the cleanup, because it will be required. There is asbestos in the siding. The cost for testing was \$1,500.

Commissioner Booker asked if he had a system for getting around town and checking on properties. Daniels is complaint driven. He does drive around and look. Commissioner Crowell stated there is a property on New Market that is being consumed by kudzu. Booker feels the owner wants it that way. Daniels will look at this. Booker questioned the complaint driven requests. Armbrust stated complaint driven is a reactive mode of job operation. He would be much more interested in having a proactive action. The Town would be better served.

Armbrust asked him to look at the corner of Markham and Grady. Daniels stated the owner has a demo permit to clean some of that up. He also needs to let her know her grass is getting tall. Armbrust stated the second issue concerns the business and property of Wood, Leather and Love at the entrance of Tryon. Daniels stated he was sent a note and even though it doesn't look like he has done much, he has. His partner controls all the wood and stuff and he not here much. He will get in touch with him.

Booker stated with only one square mile she feels that would make you more familiar with the way the Town looks. She's not complaining she just figured he would have a plan. Daniels will work on that.

KUDZU

Commissioner Armbrust stated the issues with kudzu has reached critical mass in Tryon. It is literally consuming Tryon. We need to find out how to eradicate the kudzu. He would like ideas. He knows the Town has a schedule of spraying, but it doesn't address the issue. Daniels stated the Forestry Service will spray your property for a price. Armbrust asked what product is used by DOT and Norfolk Southern. Crowell stated some form of Roundup that kills everything. John Vining stated Long Trail only kills legumes and composites. It does not kill all the trees. It's a little more pricey. Armbrust stated he knows that it is costly, but we need to do something. Crowell stated the Town can't go on private property and spray. Ollis stated private citizens can't call and ask us to spray their property. Citizens need to contact the Forestry Service. Armbrust would like citizens to come and this conversation be continued next month.

MELROSE INN

Town Manager Ollis stated you had asked for estimates and you have them before you. Commissioner Crowell stated we should give them thirty more days. It is going to cost us \$150,000 that we will never get back. They should take care of this themselves. Armbrust stated it does not negate that we said we will do something. Peoples suggested that we table this. Booker said we should wait.

Julia Calhoun asked as a neighbor, if the property owner cleans up, can the Town require proper mitigation of the asbestos floating around. Daniels stated the contractors that he spoke to will mitigate anything dangerous. Booker stated Julia shouldn't have to worry about that. Robert Lange gave high praises for the contractor that tore down the property in their neighborhood.

150TH FOUNDERS DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Julia Calhoun gave an update on the progress with the 150th Founders Day Anniversary celebration on August 30-September 1, 2019. There will be a special performance by the Cherokee Warriors on Trade Street at 1:00. There will be historical booths setup throughout town, along with other presentations and an encampment of Civil War re-enactors at Harmon Field. This is an event for the Town sponsored by Tryon Historical Museum. Commissioner Crowell made a motion to close Trade Street from 1:00 to 2:00 for the parade. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Armbrust made a motion to close McCown Street if they decide to use it. The motion carried unanimously.

TDDA UPDATE

Jamie Carpenter, TDDA Director gave an update on TDDA. The sippin stroll went very well. Sold almost eighty tickets for the event. This Friday is the chalk walk. In September the fourth Friday is the election of the Dog Mayor of the Town to help Foothills Humane Society (\$5.00 entry fee). July 29 and 30 was the meeting with Phillip Walker. Should get a report back in a couple of weeks. Channel 7 is going to be filming on Tuesday morning concerning the Founders Day Celebration. This Friday, a new business in town is opening above Shear Magic, a vintage clothing store and vintage home store, on-line sales, in conjunction with a guitar shop and recording studio. Working on Beerfest and Christmas Stroll. She attended the Main Street meeting in Mt. Airy a couple of weeks ago.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT, TOWN PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND CITIZEN INPUT

Town Manager Ollis went over his report:

COMPLETED

- Remarked locates for Fiber Project
- Repaired broken sewer lines
- Performed clean out inspection on hidden house
- Performed right of way clearing on sewer right of ways
- Mowed dam, sewer plant, and water plant
- Removed all brush and debris behind fire department
- Removed dead tree limbs from rogers park
- Met with JR Newman to discuss future of dying sycamores on trade street
- Performed fire hydrant clearing and inspection on every hydrant in the system
- Continuous maintenance of cemetery
- Sprayed town right of ways for kudzu
- Brush removal
- Side mowing
- Leaf pickup
- Performed Back To School Bash at Roseland Community Center
 - Over 105 backpacks given away
 - Over 160 meals provided
 - Inflatables provided for duration of event
 - Extra schools suppllies donated by owens pharmacy and nichole white
- Town crews worked to overhaul school grounds for funeral of Chief Tennant
- Fire department worked to help assist with funeral in any way possible
- Hung banners and laid flowers in honor of Tennant
- Coordinate with the TDB regarding an article for Tennant
- Repaired gutter at Harmon field screened in picnic area
- Secured contractor to fix bathrooms at Harmon Field

- Met with Duke Energy regarding fiber work downtown as well as other issues
- Met with DOT regarding easement issues on 176
- Also spoke with DOT regarding Erskine Bridge Project
- Washed Morris and continued to water plants downtown
- Installed new plants at Town sign on 176 coming in from Saluda
- Gathered, prepared, and provided more materials to engineer for CIP
- Sent key staff to meet with Wither Ravenel for a CIP update
- Attended CTP regional meeting
- Met with Stephen Brady to catalog property for insurance purposes
- Arch at Rogers park was pressure washed, treated with boric acid, and sealed with a sealant
- New mulch and river rock at Rogers park
- New trashcans picked up and installed throughout town
- New Our Carolina Foothills banners installed
- Met with DOT regarding Dollar general sinkhole and drain pipe
- Bank work at depot
- Secured quotes for hogback mountain road
- Spoke with engineer regarding DHEC Lak Lanier Dam inspection requirements
- Secured engineer for Safe Yield Assessment at Lake Lanier
- Drained clarifier at sewer plant in advance of repairs to drag arm and weirs
- Repaired trash truck hydraulic pump
- Held shred day event with attendance of over 60 people
- Met with promoter of 100k Gravel Ride
- Met with JR Newman about clearing bank at Rogers Park
- Spoke with SC DNR about Lake Lanier and problems with dangers on the lake
- Coordinated taking care of TDDA needs for 4th Friday
- Inspected Dallara Project
- Inspected Pacolet River Restoration Project
- Sprayed for kudzu.
- Sidewalk inspections
- Removed debris from multiple fallen trees
- Clear overhanging brush in roadways
- Community engagement projects.
- Tourism, Public Arts Committee, Eastside, and Harmon Field Board meetings

IN TRANSITION (TOWN)

- Police Department is planning National Night Out for October
- Meet with Austin Hyder regarding water at cemetery and changes to distance
- Hand reading meters to double check for accuracy
- Reviewing strategic plan
- Leaf removal in progress
- Securing contractor for thermopaint in front of Plaza
- Still working to manage brush removal in town
- Sidewalk repairs throughout town
- Leaf removal in progress
- Speedbump replacement on Whitney
- Signage for rose garden
- Spraying around town
- Sidewalk improvements on Whitney
- Sidewalk improvements on Melrose
- More pothole maintenance
- Searching for more spots to fix on creek at E. Howard

- Final punch list for the Pacolet River Restoration Project is below. Provided by Joel Lenk
 - Install last two rock cross-vanes downstream of last river-right point bar
 - Chink spaces between large rocks with smaller rocks and cut excess fabric from all cross-vanes so that it is not visible
 - Plant, seed, fertilize, straw bench and bank downstream of last river-right point bar
 - Cultivate area beyond top of bank to ~50 feet from river and seed with Meadow Mix/Oats
 - Install left over container plants in locations where vegetation is sparse
 - Install live stakes between first two rows of geo-lifts and them along toe of riverbank on Harmon Field Side then on adjacent landowners sides and then on upper rows of geo-lifts if any remaining
 - Bark on bottom end of stakes should be scraped and stakes treated with rooting hormone before installation (10-12 fl/oz hormone per 5 gallon bucket)
 - Should be planted within a few hours of treating with rooting hormone and new hormone used for each batch of stakes
 - I'm concerned about the survival rates of live stakes since it has taken so long to get them installed
 - They are an important part of the planting and stabilization for the project
 - If we do not get good survival it will be necessary to plant more in the fall
 - I'm concerned about the stability of the project in a flood this fall if stakes have not grown this summer
 - Water live stakes every day at least once
 - Plant, seed, fertilize, straw and install more coir on banks of tributary upstream of foot bridge and deter traffic
 - Add boulders to bridge remnant upstream of vehicle bridge and tie to bank (discussed with Gary)
 - Create inner berm from cross-vane above vehicle bridge down to bridge with cobble in center of river (bar forming)
 - Cut back/Repair/reinforce sw pipe outlet on river-right bank immediately upstream of bridge
 - Repair sw rill on river right point bar between end of large rip rap and vane upstream of vehicle bridge
 - Create sw swale from soccer field fence to rain garden on west side of gym
 - Complete all rain gardens
 - Repair vane across from track, river right side
 - Cut/bevel stormwater pipes back to streambanks and install rock outlets/splash dissipaters
 - Discuss/delineate public access areas
 - Order stone from Green River and place at ~50 riparian zone boundary
 - Draft info for signage, have approved and install signs
 - Address opening day trout fishing concerns
 - Draft and record deed restriction for riparian area
 - Conduct as-built survey
 - Complete FEMA permitting
 - Submit final package to NC DWR
- Various street signs ordered and will be place as soon as possible
- Sign straightening as needed

Commissioner Booker asked for a trashcan to be placed in front of Town Hall. Ollis will take care of that. Commissioner Armbrust asked about the repairs to the school building. Ollis stated the cleanup has been done, but the repairs haven't been made. Armbrust asked about the status of the sale with the state. Ollis sent an email to Raleigh, he will send another. Armbrust asked about the phase II schedule of the Dallara Project. HF Supervisor Aldred stated they are way past their scheduled date. Armbrust asked about the status of the upgrade to the basketball court. Ollis is allowing Mason's father

to raise the funds. Armbrust stated he has raised all the money. Ollis stated he has not heard from him. Armbrust stated he has money on hand as per facebook post several weeks ago following the golf tournament.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner Booker congratulated Chief Waters on becoming Fire Chief. She knows he would have liked to have done this under different circumstances. She would like to talk to him in the coming weeks. She also congratulated Public Works Director Morse. She would like to talk to him also. She had some friends in from Canada recently. She thanked everyone for being so hospitable. She also met some people from England and France. She would like to thank everyone that works and makes this Town what it is. Thank you to Jamie.

Commissioner Armbrust thanked those that got promotions. Well deserved. He thanked the Founder's Day Committee for their work. Their document is impressive. A wonderful Nina Simone Day in Raleigh with the North Carolina Museum of Arts. The N.C. Arts Council and Governor's office did a wonderful proclamation. He thinks we will continue to get some spin out of it. Trashcans recycling looks fabulous. Thank each and everyone of you for being here and participating.

Commissioner Crowell congratulated Waters and Morse. He asked if we had a plan to evacuate the bottom lands of Lake Lanier. If we don't he recommended them getting prepared. The dam is not looking so healthy these days. He thanked the bulletin for reporting on the boating accident on Lake Lanier. He also thanked Jamie for what she does and John Vining for watering the plants.

Mayor Peoples stated for Travis, Jody and Tank, they were all in his classroom and were successful in spite of him. Thursday he will be interviewed by Spectrum TV. Spectrum goes around to Town's talking to the Mayors. He asked Zach to reserve the conference room. There is a couple that he met recently and hopefully they will be retiring here. He met with the people from Owen's Pharmacy and they donated four boxes of items to go into the bags for the Back to School event. He sent a civic letter to Duke Power concerning issues that we had had before the fourth of July. A man from Duke Power came and hopefully have settled those issues. He thanked Jamie and John for all their work.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

John Vining asked if there is a design of the Erskine Bridge. Ollis stated not yet. Vining stated the reason he came out tonight is to make the suggestion for the Town to give reports on how the town is doing. He suggested every other month.

ADJOURN

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

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk