

**TOWN OF TRYON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 17, 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                      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 Ingham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples asked for additions, deletions or corrections. Town Manager Ollis wanted to add closed session for real estate. Mayor Peoples stated that would be 15a. He entertained a motion to adopt the Agenda with the addition of closed session. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples asked for additions, deletions or corrections. Being none he entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda which includes the Board minutes and tax releases for Clemon Booker (\$180.28), Elizabeth Brittain (\$6.85), John Rogers (\$31.05), Wells Fargo (\$67.97), Tommie Taylor (\$12.18), Stephen Saft (\$48.70), Town of Tryon (\$31.05), Michael Sheils (\$28.73), Dan Sibley(\$23.16), Bobbie Lynne McNutt (\$21.32), Allyn Johnson (\$14.81), Michael Sheils (\$21.98), Theodore Benson (\$18.80), DirectTV LLC (\$6.71), Jack Adams (\$11.38), Eva Lankford (\$4.57), and Robin Dicke (\$25.09). Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION**

Town Manager Ollis introduced Patrick Daniels. He has joined us and will work in the water department of public works. Daniels stated that he moved here from Pennsylvania in 2009, met his wife, have eight children, went to Elon, in the air force and worked at Lowe’s, now he is here. Kenny Kempster from the County, in law enforcement since 1992, started his full-time carrier in Tryon in 1994, went to Rutherford County for a while, now he is here and hopes to finish out his career here. He knows the town, some of the people and is happy about being here. Thank you for the opportunity. Keith Morris moved up here from Charlotte about eight years ago, decided to get in law enforcement to follow the first responders in his family with EMT’s, paramedics, firefighters and nurses. He decided to continue the tradition and start a line of police first responders. Heather Sanders moved here from South Florida, been here about fourteen years, started as a firefighter about four years ago as a volunteer and was hired here three weeks ago. She is happy to be here. Patrick Corn grew up in Landrum, come on as a volunteer when he

was in high school. A couple of years ago he came on as a volunteer in Tryon, now has been hired full time for the day shift. Really happy to be here and thank you for the opportunity.

Mayor Peoples welcomed all the new employees and thanked them for their service.

#### **APPROVAL OF ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF TRYON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Town Manager Ollis stated Mary Parker is looking to take over as Chair. TTDA elected Ms. Parker and she needs to be approved as Chair by this Board. Commissioner Crowell made a motion to approve Mary Parker as Chair of TTDA. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **HALLOWEEN STROLL ROAD CLOSURE**

Town Manager Ollis asked Jamie what time she wanted the street closed. She stated the stroll will start around 5:00, so close it a few minutes before until 7:30. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to close the street at 4:30 until the chief feels it is time to reopen. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **BEERFEST DEPOT CLOSURE**

Town Manager Ollis stated we will go ahead and handle this for the Beerfest. Jamie stated they start at 8:00 setting up. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to close the street from 8:00 a.m. until the Beerfest closed. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **DOWNTOWN VISIONING PROJECT UPDATE**

Town Manager Ollis stated we have the draft proposal for the Downtown Visioning Project. Ms. Carpenter stated that is the draft. We have some things that we need to update from the Phil Walker report. Her board reviewed it last week and they will approve the final work plan by the end of October. She asked if the board had any recommendations or updates. They need to get them to her before the second Thursday of October. Some of the first things that they need to work on are some of the storefronts for the holiday season and on their membership.

Mayor Peoples stated after reviewing the report, he would like to thank this board, because there are things included in it that this board has talked about for three or four years. Apparently we are on the same sheet of music. Ms. Carpenter thinks we are all working together really well and appreciates all that has been done to help her and TDDA. Commissioner Crowell stated at the next tourism meeting they are holding a work session to come up with visioning statement for marketing and are definitely going to need her input. She saw that and will get you some information.

#### **DAM RFQ**

Mayor Peoples stated we have set this aside, because we are going to ask for an extension. During the work session we only had one group to bid, so we have instructed the manager to see if he can get an extension while trying to get one or two more bids.

#### **KUDZU, MINIMUM HOUSING & PLANNING UPDATE**

Town Manager Ollis stated Tim Daniels has an update on kudzu, minimum housing and planning. Daniels updated the board on kudzu. He has looked around the area at other town ordinances and there isn't much beyond what we already have on noxious weeds. He did get hold of the forestry

department list. It is a four page list and there are about three that would come out of Rutherford County to spray if that is what people want to do. Wells Farm in Hendersonville provides goats. He also spoke to Conserving Carolina and they sent him a link of contractor's as well. On the site they have a full field guide of evasive species, with a section on kudzu and how to eradicate it. The other day he noticed that Flat Rock has a committee. They have a small section on their web page. He has called them and awaiting information. In talking with the Forest Service he found the best time to spray is three weeks prior to first frost, which they have deemed as October 29<sup>th</sup>. We were thinking about trying to put together a kudzu committee that goes around on the weekends and tries to pluck out certain things. He is looking at possible options for that and what kind of permission we would have to get.

Commissioner Crowell asked if we could send out a letter with our water bills stating if you live in the city limits you cannot let kudzu grow on your property. Daniels stated if he sends a letter to one, that will start a process and fines will come. Crowell stated we would need a year of education. The property owner behind the Methodist Church has kudzu that is encroaching on other properties. Commissioner Ingham isn't crazy about spraying kudzu. Crowell stated kudzu is bad for your health.

Daniels asked if they wanted him to send friendly letters to people or what. Crowell stated he would start with the newspaper and put something on the water bills stating people are going to have to start working on their kudzu. After a year make it mandatory. Commissioner Armbrust stated it would be more effective if we had a series of articles in the newspaper. We are our own worst enemies when it comes to publicizing what we are doing and what we intend to do.

Mayor Peoples stated he has written three to four letters and delivered them to the bulletin and they haven't been run. They weren't negative letters. Leah asked for them to be sent to her. Peoples stated he feels people want to do it if they knew how. Daniels research will help with that. Daniels stated if they want him to put together a hand full of articles based on the findings he can. Board agreed.

Crowell asked when we send out our water quality report. Ollis stated he can find out. Meg Rogers stated we post it on the website now. Daniels stated he would continue with research. Leah stated she has talked to Zach about this and they have a plan.

Daniels stated he has eleven houses on his list now. 55 Melrose Avenue, 51 Shepherd Street, 136 Cleveland Road, 144 Cleveland Road, 160 Cleveland Road, 427 East Howard, 667 East Howard, 45 East Livingston, 330 Melrose Ext., 140 Grady Avenue, 45 Canady Lane.

He has hearings scheduled for four, for the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. He hopes to get the other ones scheduled for the end of this week or next. He's still taking pictures and putting together the complaints and notices of hearings and official letters to them. He and Tank are going to patrol these properties on the 25<sup>th</sup> to see which one of these would be candidates for Fire Department training. He has also been driving around with Jeff seeing about violations, not for just minimum housing, but sign violations and others. He is getting active on that. He asked if there were any questions on those.

Commissioner Booker stated those three houses on Cleveland. Daniels will have the hearings set up within the next week. He has to give them between ten and twenty-five day notice. Booker stated at least two of those houses are up for sale. Daniels will check on those. Usually when they get the first notice they will contact him and tell him about the status of the house. Whoever is on the tax notice gets the letter. Booker doesn't look for it to change hands anytime soon.

Daniels stated on Melrose Inn he is kind of waiting for your direction. Commissioner Armbrust stated we deferred that for a while.

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

Town Manager Ollis stated we have had a couple of things go on since last month.

#### **COMPLETED**

- Hogback Mountain Road Repaved
- Maple street repainted
- Fire Hydrants sprayed for kudzu
- Scheduled tree removal on Trade for Sept 27<sup>th</sup> to get rid of the dying trees
- Installed new trashcans
- Fire department garden bed cleaned out (he thanked Patrick & Daniel for their work on this)
- Assisted Piedmont Utility Group with fiber project and drilling associated
- Repaired broken sewer lines (a main break on 176 yesterday, it was pretty bad)
- Prepared water plant in advance of state inspection
- Prepped Rogers Park for multiple events including Summer Tracks
- Performed right of way clearing on sewer right of ways
- Continuous maintenance of cemetery
- Sprayed town right of ways for kudzu (going to schedule with the day that Tim was talking about)
- Brush removal
- Installed new light at Nina Simone Plaza
- Side mowing
- Leaf pickup
- Met with Steps to Hope regarding upcoming events in Tryon
  - Domestic Violence Awareness Walk at Harmon Field
  - Movie night at the Tryon Theatre
  - Golf Tournament
  - Future planned events
- Assisted with annual Walk for Remembrance at Harmon Field (Police & Fire Assisted)
- Assisted with 150 anniversary celebration
  - Prepped streets in advance
  - Road Closures
  - Handled traffic issues
  - Port-a-johns
  - Harmon Field camping activities
  - Downtown celebration Saturday
  - Banner
- Our Carolina Foothills Banners installed
- Tryon Film Festival and Tryon BeerFest Banners installed
- Coordinate with the TDB regarding multiple articles
- Repaired bathrooms at Harmon Field
- Repaired water line at Harmon field
- Spoke with DOT regarding bridge work (awaiting for comments from them, roughly to break it down the sidewalks we had, had no curb and they would like to see a curb, so that will change a couple of things, based on that the sidewalk that is there does not meet code today)
- Washed Morris and continued to water plants downtown
- Met with Saluda regarding interconnect project
- Met with engineer regarding CIP project (as soon as he gets the draft he will forward to you)
- Secured RFPs for Lake Lanier Dam Inspection
- Attended CTP regional meeting

- Met with Stephen Brady to catalog property for insurance purposes
- Continued communication with promoter of 100k Gravel Ride
- Fixed water/sewer breaks on Warrior Drive, East Howard, Harmon Field, and others
- Mountain Water input valve replacement
- Final inspection for Pacolet River Restoration Project
- 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
- Hand reading meters to double check for accuracy
- Reviewing strategic plan
- Finding ways to rework leaf program
- Securing contractor for thermopaint in front of Plaza
- Still working to manage brush removal in town
- Sidewalk repairs throughout town
- Speedbump replacement on Whitney
- Signage for rose garden
- Spraying around town
- Sidewalk improvements on Whitney
- Sidewalk improvements on Melrose
- Searching for more spots to fix on creek at E. Howard
- Various street signs ordered and will be place as soon as possible
- Sign straightening as needed
- Other as needed

THANKS

OTHER AS NEEDED

Commissioner Crowell asked when we do the bridge is it possible to carry the sidewalk to Erskine. Commissioner Ingham stated we may have to do that in the next budget. Ollis stated he could look into it and get a price. Crowell asked if we budgeted the bridge work. Ollis stated \$20,000. Anything over will have to come out of fund balance.

#### **COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT**

Commissioner Crowell thanked the employees and citizens. He thinks things are going great. The Harmon Field Music Festival happened. The more things we do, the more people come and spend their money here. Thanks to all the organizations for all they do.

Commissioner Booker thanked everyone that makes this town what it is. All departments, committees, citizens. The 150<sup>th</sup> celebration was pretty good. She asked that everyone come and support Meg on Saturday. Until we meet again take care of yourselves and each other.

Commissioner Armbrust thanked everyone for coming tonight. Your presence is appreciated and needful. He asked Zach about sign straightening. Ollis stated he would ask the guys. Armbrust stated he thinks that is Zach's job as well. Straighten them or rip them out. Have talked about them for three years. Next thing is Harmon Field, those trees that were taken out. Left four feet out of ground. Ollis stated if these are the ones that we talked about the other day, he has talked with several people and it is hard to find someone that just does the grinding. He is going to have a contractor come in and chainsaw as low as they can go. Armbrust stated that will do just as well. Alan is working on a volunteer project to paint the building and when he does that, he is going to work on the pedestrian bridge (the one that goes over to the equestrian ring). Armbrust stated he was told the Founders Day celebration was wonderful. He asked Chief Arrowood to run a report for the past ten years for any incidents on the railroad that required actual police intervention. He can only think of three.

Commissioner Ingham thanked the citizens for being here as well as our staff. We should commend them all. He was at Harmon Field today and it looks good, really nice. He was not here last month because he was taking his child to college.

Mayor Peoples stated he had something for everyone to do on October 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. Jerry Soderquist is going to be speaking. Mr. Soderquist stated he will be speaking at the Lanier Library about the cemetery and the archival center. He did a four hour interview for the poster and the article in the Life in our Foothills magazine. Mayor Peoples stated the cemetery commission started in 1923 and Jerry came up with the idea that there is a lot of information that we need to preserve, our history. Peoples thanked Jerry. The 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, he and Julia Calhoun feel was attended by about a thousand or so. He wore a tuxedo and a top hat. He thanked everyone for coming out.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

Robert Lange, 35 Melrose, thanked everyone for their help with the Founders Day Celebration. Opened up a lot of eyes to our history. As a resident of Melrose he thanks the town for deferring the Melrose Inn. As a taxpayer he has concerns with spending that kind of money.

John Vining stated a goal that might be considered by the Town should be to eliminate the kudzu on Town property. He challenges the Town to put public restrooms downtown. Rogers Park restrooms are locked most of the time. He also challenged the Town to find out what the old hospital could be used for, so that it will be cleaned up. He doesn't know what the solution is. Daniels stated he has received calls this week on the property about zoning. Armbrust told him to have those people contact him, there are things that they need to know.

Jamie Carpenter reminded everyone of the fourth Friday event the election of the Dog Mayor, fundraiser to help the Humane Society. They will tally the votes at 7:00 p.m. and crown the Dog Mayor after that.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to go into closed session for real estate, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5). Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

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

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J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

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Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk