

**TOWN OF TRYON  
OCTOBER 20, 2020 7:00 P.M.  
MCCOWN ROOM - TOWN HALL**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples  
Mayor Pro Tem Chrelle Booker

Commissioners: Crys Armbrust, Bill Ingham, Bill Crowell

Staff Present: Town Manager Zach Ollis                      Town Clerk Susan Bell  
Police Chief Jeff Arrowood                      Fire Chief Josh Walton  
Planning Director Tim Daniels                      Public Works Director Jody Morse  
Town Attorney William Morgan                      TDDA Exec. Director Paige Henderson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Mayor Pro Tem Booker led the invocation.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to add 6a. Ziglar Field, 6b. Woodland Park and move Discussion of Chestnut to 6c. and withdraw Item 15 Closed Session of the proposed agenda. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the Consent Agenda, which includes the minutes and tax releases for Dwight Durham (\$6.83), HomeTrust Bank (\$14.77 & \$129.82), Barbara Fox (\$472.72) and All American Auto Body (\$62.37). Being none, he entertained a motion to adopt. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**ZIGLAR FIELD – SOFTBALL**

McDonald Wingo made a request to use Ziglar Field to play softball. The bases are gone and the infield needs sand. He has 22 players waiting on him to find out if it is possible. He doesn't allow any drinking, smoking or disrespect while on the field and he will pick up the trash. He would like to start next year, because of COVID. The Board all agreed this was a good idea.

**WOOKLAND PARK PLANTS**

Greg Miner, resident of Polk County and member of the Tryon Parks Committee wants to give a shout out to John Lane and thank the Tryon Parks Committee for their work at Woodland Park. 70 native plants were set out in Woodland Park by Susan Hursey, Vard Henry, Karen Byrd, her daughter, John Vining, John Lane and himself. The Polk County Appearance Committee granted the Town of Tryon Parks Committee \$1,000 and the Parks Committee matched the grant with their work. John Lane

dedicated 25 plus hours of work with the grant and towards the placing the plants and watering. The last photo is of wisteria vines that have grown throughout Woodland Park. Harmon Field, Vaughn Creek have a lot of kudzu. The Board thanked him.

#### **DISCUSSION OF CHESTNUT STREET**

Town Manager Ollis wanted to get quotes for water and sewer before paving Chestnut. Andrew feels like it will be around \$100,000. He could get an engineer to take a look at this. We have used almost all of our Powell Bill funds. He was going to pay for Chestnut out of General Fund. Once Chestnut is paved you will be finished with the first list you prioritized to be paved. Mayor Peoples recommended cold patching until we find out about the water and sewer. It is in terrible shape. Commissioner Armbrust recommended fixing the rock wall before it falls. Ollis explained that for the first couple of years we built up the Powell Bill Funds. The funds will have to be built up again. We are going to finish Chestnut, then you will have to prioritize the next list of streets to be paved. He will check with Derrick on the rock wall.

Commissioner Crowell had concerns about the hole near McCown Street. Ollis will ask the State if the Town can put something in the hole.

#### **DISCUSSION OF ROUND-UP PROGRAM**

Town Manager Ollis explained he had been asked by the board to take a look into the round-up program. Pam has asked the new software company if this can be done and she was told it could be done. You as a board will have to decide what you want the extra money to go toward. The program is completely voluntary.

Commissioner Armbrust made a motion approving the round-up program. The motion carried unanimously. The board will decide later where they want the money to go. Commissioner Booker asked to make sure that everyone is asked if they want to do this. Ollis explained it is voluntary.

#### **LAKE LANIER DAM UPDATE**

Ollis updated the board on the dam at Lake Lanier. The road closures are in place starting today and will be closed until November 24<sup>th</sup>. If we can open it up earlier, obviously we will. The pump system will be delivered on Saturday and on the 26<sup>th</sup> they shall start installing it and shall finish on the 29<sup>th</sup>. From there we will pump the lake down two feet from the top of the spillway. That will give them enough space to do the coring. Met on sight with S&ME today. They are doing a number of cores. They will test to see how well the dam is holding up. Looking at a two week draw down. Once Cranston Engineering does their testing and it is completed, hopefully we will be able to open the road back up, while waiting on the results from the engineers.

#### **ERSKINE BRIDGE UPDATE**

Ollis updated the board on the Erskine Bridge. He will be meeting next week with DOT, Paul Mills and Bagwell Fence and Jim Becker at some point. DOT is going to require encroachment permits, which we

knew. The lights have to be seven feet from the road or use break away lights. We need approval from Duke to do the easement line. He talked with Craig Debrew and he sent him to the correct person. He opened the account and will hear back from them in about three days. After Wednesday he should have a start date. He had asked Jim Becker to order the lights. With this issue, Becker is going to see if he can cancel the order until a decision is made. The ones that you had picked out are like the ones at Nina Simone. He will give another update after next Wednesday. Curb and gutter will be done because of the requirements of DOT. Jim Becker wants to wait on installing the conduit, because he is going to have to navigate around the gas and the new barriers that we have installed.

#### **MINIMUM HOUSING UPDATE**

Planning Director Daniels updated the Board on minimum housing. He explained on 45 E. Livingston the paperwork has been signed and he is waiting for a deed to be drawn up. There are two properties on East Howard, the old Petty residence that was torn down, the owners approached him and said they were not going to be able to pay to clean up, they just want to donate the property to the town. There is another parcel down a couple of lots that they wish to sell to the town. He is working to get the title work done to move forward. 140 Grady the owners have replied to Josh's interest in burning it down. We just have to have a hold harmless agreement in place. 160 Cleveland ownership has changed hands. The old owner informed the new owner that the Town is keeping an eye on this property. It's kind of a mess right now, but they are working on it. He did go and try to meet the new owner. He has gotten some calls about 143 Broadway. He is sending them a letter. It has a tarp on it with roof damage.

Commissioner Booker asked what is the least amount of land that you need in order to build a house. Daniels explained it depends on the zoning and setbacks. Booker explained .17 is too small she feels.

#### **TDDA UPDATE**

TDDA Director Paige Henderson updated the Board. She explained that TDDA has been planning a jampacked holiday schedule and making sure they are taking appropriate measures around COVID-19. A virtual Beerfest is planned, as well as the alternative they have planned for Halloween. There will be no Halloween Stroll this year. They will be doing a candy cruise around town. Beerfest will be virtual. Pick up will be at the Depot on the 7<sup>th</sup>. They have three new members. All or working well together. Planning a virtual retreat with Main Street. She feels really good about where they are. Talking to Board about Tryon Arts & Crafts School hosting a Fourth Friday event in November, taking in consideration social distancing measures and mandates with COVID-19. They are looking at safe ways to do this and take care of our shops downtown.

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

Town Manager Ollis answered Cherelle's question. The smallest would be in R-5 that allows for 8,000 square feet which is .18 acre. He will get the information to her later. He explained the ads have been placed in the Garden and Gun online for tourism. That was from the \$10,000 grant that we got from the VISITNC program. He has submitted more to the county for the CARES Act. The Nina Simone mural is almost completed. He did a phenomenal job. Paige mentioned to him, that he felt this was his best

work yet. He did order the ADA swing for Harmon Field. He met with the County about 55 Melrose Avenue. State agencies contacted him. Everything is ready to go. He has secured the N.C. Certified asbestos specialist, so that will allow him to move forward. He met with the auditors on the ABC Store. He completed the salary survey with the League. He met with the county in reference to L'Auberge issue. They did install the sign going to the Eastside. Paige along with TDDA President Heidi Selbee did show the author of a movie script around town. She took pictures and communicated with people to make sure the things that were on the list and required by the production company could be met, so the authors could argue the production companies should film here. They worked with the locals and Airbnb's and they have been more than gracious with what they have to offer, which would help facilitate this project happening. West Lakeshore has been shut down. Detour signs installed. There are two electronic signs installed to help. They are going to send out Nixles to remind people of the closure. They paved Beaver Street. Generators were inspected. The guys have been mowing and weed eating. Have been doing work on the clocktower lights and drainage. The stairs are retaining water. Cutting sewer line right-of-way. Have repaired more of the ten-inch water line on the mountain. Trimmed hedges on Main Street. Fixed a six-inch water line break on Carolina. They have jet rodded 150 feet of Jervey, which has helped out a lot with some of the issues. Inspections were done at the water plant and sewer plant. Both were good reviews from the State. Laid about three tons of asphalt, cleared culverts, finished paving at IGA parking lot. He contacted the State about reimbursement from Emergency Management and it is on the Governor's desk. We are renting Rogers Park based on the Governor's opening up of certain things. We are doing some sidewalk inspections and need to buy a gas-powered sidewalk grinder at a cost of approximately \$2,500. Multiple trees down. Fire Department-had the celebration of Life for Tank. Pretty successful. The gear has been ordered, Engine 3 had an issue that has been repaired, done inspections at L'Auberge and researching the responsibilities. Responded to multiple calls. The shifts are working out well. Getting ready for inspections. Police Department-the new CAD system is working out great. Kenny Kempster has put in for retirement. We will have a celebration soon. Looking for a new hire.

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

Commissioner Ingham thanked Mr. Miner for his hard work at Woodland Park. He thanked staff. Doing a great job.

Commissioner Crowell thanked everyone for what they have done. We need to do something for Sammy Qualls. His wife has passed. Ollis will work on something.

Commissioner Armbrust gave kudos to Tryon International Film Festival. Phenomenal PR. Best one they have done yet.

Commissioner Booker commented this has been a really good meeting. The updates are excellent. All of the employees are putting a lot into their work. Be careful what you throw out to the universe, on a personal level and what you do for this Town, because when it comes back, it comes back to you and your family. Take care of yourself and each other and she thinks everything is going to be alright.

Mayor Peoples explained he has passed out 1,000 business cards and have ordered more. He met a lady that has chosen our Town as a place to live. She can work from anywhere and she chose here. Best Place to Live. On Thursday he presented a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation to Lanier Library. He thanked the citizens for all that they do.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

There were none.

**ADJOURN**

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

---

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

---

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk