

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 17, 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 Lieutenant Randall Hodge 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 Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any additions or deletions. Being none, he entertained a motion to adopt the Agenda. 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 minutes and tax releases for Stephen Saft (\$48.70) and Cynthia Hamilton (\$31.63). Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

SURPLUS

Town Manager Ollis presented the Resolution Authorizing Surplus Property to be sold. The Resolution list the service weapons that are to be sold to the sworn law enforcement officers of the Town of Tryon at a rate of \$225 per weapon. Captain Hodge explained they had qualified with the new weapons.

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

ENGINEERING AGREEMENT

Town Manager Ollis presented a Proposal for Professional Services for the Braewick Road project. This covers the scope of services as well as some of the permitting. This will be paid for out of the \$2 million dollar grant that we are receiving. Commissioner Ingham made a motion to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

MINIMUM HOUSING UPDATE

Planning Director Daniels gave an update. 45 East Livingston, the deed is being processed. It is almost completed. 140 Grady, he has talked to them and they have agreed to let the Fire Department use the house for training and then they will hire someone to cleanup. 144 and 160 Cleveland properties, he has met the new owners face to face. He came in to get a demo permit to remove the back porch. The owner told him the renovations will be done within a year.

TDDA UPDATE

TDDA Director Henderson gave an update.

- Halloween – they prepared 500 bags of candy and did the Town’s first candy cruise around town. With COVID-19 the TDDA Board thought it best not to have the traditional Halloween Stroll. Businesses made donations along with Corporate sponsorships provided all the candy. The First Responders and town staff helped to deliver the candy. WLOS out of Asheville came down to interview Henderson about the candy cruise. Great publicity for the town. The Police also donated Tryon Police bags that contained an age-appropriate book, in which they delivered almost 300 to the kids that are attending in person at the elementary school.
- BeerFest – the virtual event was success. WSPA out of Spartanburg covered this for us. She did a series of interviews from the Tryon Bottle. Great publicity for the town. They sold 72 tickets and had a successful pickup day at the Depot.
- TDDA Board of Directors – just finished a three week long virtual training event with NC Main Street yesterday. Main Street Coordinator Sherry Adams had good sayings about the group. TDDA will work on the plan. She hopes to have the one-page document in their hands next month. Commissioner Armbrust asked about the traditional Christmas Stroll. Henderson explained we are going to talk about this later on the agenda. We have been brainstorming on how to get people downtown shopping and maintain social distancing protocols. Armbrust asked if it was scheduled for the first Friday in December.

TOWN MANAGER’S UPDATE

Town Manager Ollis explained the Christmas festivities. They will be the same as in years past. The Main Street has asked that TDDA not participate in certain things due to coronavirus. The Town is hosting a Christmas market fair for three days. On Friday it will be the same as before. Jody and crew will be cleaning up the town and making it look good and putting the candles out. We will have the Christmas tree lighting, the Morris wreath placed on Morris by the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club. We will have all the traditional things. The only difference is that the Town is responsible for it this year. He would like to ask permission to close down McCown Street for the night of the 4th and most of the day on the 5th. They are organizing a market, photo booth type stuff. We are going to spread out to be socially distant. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to close McCown Street on the 4th and 5th so that people can bring in trees and setup for the festival. Commissioner Ingham so moved.

Ollis explained we are going to be purchasing a small leaf machine that can be pulled behind the mule and used to clean up downtown. Leaf pick up begins Monday, November 30th. It will be in the newspaper and he is going to have a NIXLE sent out. They will start on New Market, the East side, Milltown, Hidden Hills, Melrose and Gillette Woods. Jody and gang have already been doing leaf pickup on Whitney, Broadway, Howard, Peake and Second Street.

He sent the Board an email on the generator. He is going to ask about this at a later meeting. We have one generator that floats between the Warrior Mountain tank and Hogback tank. Jody explained while we were dealing without power, by the time they got one tank filled, the other would be out and they were taking the generator back and forth. Ollis explained the cost was about \$60,000. Every tank has a generator, except these. The one we have now is not doing good.

Ollis explained we were finishing out the CARES ACT funding tomorrow.

55 Melrose has been demolished. There was an onsite asbestos supervisor that ensured everything was done properly and all laws were followed. SVR sales is going to get us a copy of the dump receipts. Basically, everything is done. The Fire Department has watered the grass and washed the road down a couple of times. Public Works removed the barriers.

Met with the county regarding L'Auberge. Attorney Morgan has met with the county attorney and is drafting a letter that he will shoot out to you when he is done, before sending it out to the parties involved.

There has been talk to a movie company about a movie project. He has met with the Conservancy regarding the Tryon Watershed. Wants to enter into a hunting lease. This will have someone out there regularly to make sure everything is okay with the property. He will bring more to you later.

Dam-Lakeshore is still shut down. Detour signs are still up. They have installed a well system that measures water levels and tells if there is any seepage. The first core of the bridge and dam were removed. Barriers were removed at West Lakeshore for the pipes to go across. Pipes and pumps were installed and operating. The lake was down around 15 inches. After the rainfall the waters rose back to normal. The engineers are working to secure core samples. Today they were able to get samples of the side wall. Still talking to DHEC about what is going on. Cranston Engineering has been fairly positive to deal with. They haven't found anything as of yet.

Public Works laid around three tons of asphalt. They have had water and sewer line breaks on Chestnut and Lyncourt to repair. They have done work on the ten-inch water line on the mountain. Right-of-way has been cut on Beech Street and East Livingston. They did all the work on the Hincapie race. Police and Fire helped.

COUNCIL/MAYOR COMMENTS

Commissioner Crowell thanked the town crews for all their hard work and wonderful attitudes. Town looks good. He also thanked the staff.

Commissioner Armbrust asked about the start date for Erskine Bridge. Ollis stated mid-December. Armbrust explained there is a contract on the Tea House. He thanked the town personnel for all they have done for them and thanked the citizens for being here.

Commissioner Ingham thanked the town personnel. The Town looks beautiful. Everything still seems to be working through COVID. We still have busy streets. Not sure how we are doing it. He thanked everyone, including the staff sitting in the other room.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker explained there is no sign at the intersection of Jackson and Markham. Thanks to everybody for all of your hard work. The Town does look good and there are people here. Take care of yourself and each other. Everything is going to be alright.

Mayor Peoples explained he had met three different couples this week. They like the way the Town looks. They liked the friendliness. He thanked the guys for their work.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

MOTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5).

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk