

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 15, 2020 7:00 P.M.
TRYON TOWN HALL – MCCOWN ROOM**

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

Commissioners: Crys Armbrust, Bill Crowell, Bill Ingham

Staff Present: Town Manager Zach Ollis Town Clerk Susan Bell
 Police Chief Jeff Arrowood Planning Director Tim Daniels
 Public Works Director Jody Morse Fire Chief Josh Walton
 Harmon Field Supervisor Travis Aldred Town Attorney William Morgan

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.

RESOLUTION HONORING HARRY KENNY KEMPSTER

Mayor Peoples presented a Resolution of Appreciation honoring Harry Kenny Kempster a Tryon Police Officer that is retiring.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker presented Officer Kempster a flag from Governor Roy Cooper that had been flown over the state capital on September 30, 2020 the date of his retirement.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections. Town Manager Ollis added the yield sign at the railroad tracks on Lockhart. Mayor Peoples added it under item 10b. He entertained a motion to adopt the Agenda with the addition of 10b. yield sign at railroad tracks. 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 minutes and tax releases for Doug Arbogast (\$52.09), Judith Blackman (\$90.42) and Polk County (\$11.87). Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

55 MELROSE AVENUE

Town Manager Ollis explained he has attached a legal notice to sell 55 Melrose Avenue property. We did not receive any bids. Mayor Peoples suggested that we advertise again starting at the same price. Commissioner Armbrust asked what the price was. Mayor Peoples stated \$175,000. Commissioner Ingham explained that we should let the real estate people know about this. It might bring some people in. Ollis asked what the date would be. We could advertise the Town is accepting bids until Monday before the next meeting. He also asked if he could have that in a resolution. Mayor Peoples entertained

a motion to approve the advertisement that the Town is taking bids until the Monday before the next council meeting and to advertise for \$175,000. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously. Ollis will get with Ingham about the advertisement.

DOCUMENTS FOR MAY FLOOD EVENT 2020

Town Manager Ollis explained before you are documents for the May flood event. The Executive Order 174 from the Governor, a State-Applicant Disaster Assistance Agreement, the Resolution: Designation of Applicant's Agent and a Request for Public Assistance paperwork are before you. Most of this has already been filled out, but he does need a resolution passed by the board to submit this. The reimbursable figure is going to be \$143,475.00. Mayor asked, this is for the IGA and Carolina Drive project. Ollis stated yes, this is for the May Flood event that took away Carolina Drive. We will be getting reimbursed for 75% of the cost.

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

FIREARMS RANGE USE AGREEMENT

Town Manager Ollis explained with the COVID restrictions a number of law enforcement agencies have been inquiring about our outdoor range at the sewer plant. Chief Arrowood has created a Firearms Range Use Agreement for liability purposes and basic rules. Mayor Peoples asked if Chief Arrowood was satisfied. He is.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the Firearms Range Use Agreement. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

ROAD CLOSURE 12/18/2020

Town Manager Ollis explained the film production company is attempting to create a parade revolving around horses. They would like to close Trade Street on the 18th from 3:15 to 4:30.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve the road closure. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

YIELD SIGN AT RAILROAD TRACKS

Mayor Peoples explained replacing the stop sign at the railroad crossing on Lockhart with a yield sign is legal. This has been researched. He entertained a motion to adopt. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2

Town Manager Ollis explained this is Budget Amendment No. 2 of this fiscal year. It is recognizing state disaster money and taking money from fund balance to cover street contracted services and some maintenance of equipment.

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

APPOINTMENT(S) TO BOARDS

Town Manager Ollis stated you have an application from Al Alberto looking to be on the Planning Board. It would be for an alternate position.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to accept and appoint Mr. Alberto as an alternate to the Planning Board. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

HAZARD PAY

Town Manager Ollis explained we have the best staff in Polk County and Western North Carolina. Basically, from the beginning of COVID, the police, fire, public works and rest of the staff have done everything they could to help individuals in the community as well as doing their jobs. We will do anything such as delivering a loaf of bread to a mailbox. Police and Fire have dealt with things that they shouldn't have had to deal with. We are proposing hazard pay for every employee with the Town of Tryon. Mayor Peoples asked what the percent was. Commissioner Armbrust stated he has the motion. On behalf of Tryon Town Council, in recognition of extraordinary service, above and beyond the call of duty, I make a motion to authorize a one-time only bonus payment of \$2,000 for all Town of Tryon employees, with our gratitude". Mayor Peoples asked if the funds are there to do this. You have checked this. Ollis stated yes. Mayor Peoples stated we have a motion. The motion carried unanimously. Staff thanked the board. Mayor Peoples drives the streets every week and our people are out there really working. Ollis stated we do have a great staff. He feels they will be very appreciative.

MINIMUM HOUSING UPDATE

Planning Director Daniels explained Mr. Feagan should have the deed work ready for 45 E. Livingston next month. The survey should be done by the end of the year.

140 Grady Avenue-the owners will be coming to the location to clean out some things and will contact Fire Chief Josh next week to test burn. Per their request he has forwarded them some information on demolition contacts that we have received quotes from and used in the past.

Attached you will find some flag and sign ordinance information. In light of recent events, it would benefit the town if he clarified some things based on what has happened around town. A flag attached to a flag pole is just a flag, but a flag attached to a building could be seen as projecting signs per the verbiage. He is currently reviewing other Town's ordinances. He hopes to have something in front of you and his board for discussion next month.

TDDA UPDATE/PUBLIC RESTROOMS

TDDA Director Henderson explained that she is pleased at how they have to come together for the holiday season. Everyone seems to be happy with the decorations. She is thankful to her board for funding the swags on the light poles. The Christmas tree was grown on her family's farm. Her parents were very proud to donate the tree to us this year. Her board is working with Main Street to update their plans. They have decided to cancel Tryon Midnight. Felt this was the responsible thing to do. They are winding down for the season. Everyone seems to be happy with what we have done downtown. Our businesses feel supported.

The bathroom proposal is included in the packet. Scott and Gayle have not gotten back with her with the proposal from Mike Karaman. Mayor Peoples thanked Henderson and stated it is long overdue. Henderson explained they will do their best to keep on track with this.

Commissioner Crowell asked if she had gotten with Blue Ridge Craft Trail. Henderson said she had not. Crowell stated they were in town interviewing artist.

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

Town Manager Ollis went over his report:

1. Introduction of Josh Connell, one of our newest firefighters, highly qualified, standup individual. Fire Chief Walton got to know him from Asheville. Recently he was involved with the arrangements of the Deputy Fire Chief in Green Creek and this place run well under Connell's leadership. He is highly qualified and certified. He is a great addition to the Town of Tryon. Henderson stated he has helped her with downtown. He's one of those people that you don't have to ask, he just helps.
2. Thanked the staff for their help downtown with the decorations. Travis has Harmon Field looking phenomenal. All the guys helped Paige put up the tree and decorations. It looks beautiful.
3. Public Works has been very busy this month.
 - a. PWD Morse explained the computer reported the pumps were full, instead they were dry. Pumps had to be torn down and rebuilt. This took a few days. They had a 6" water line break on Aurora and a 6" water line break on Berry Street and numerous others.
 - b. They have kept up with leaf pickup.
4. Bad weather is coming:
 - a. The Fire Department is on top of this. Had a meeting today with all the Fire Chiefs, Emergency Management and it looks like we might dodge the bullet. You never know. They will be fully staffed tonight for this. The wind is more of a concern for them. If anyone needs them, they will be there.
5. Lake Lanier Dam Project is finished up. He has looked at some preliminary figures and found when we rented from Sun Belt we saved between \$10,000 to \$20,000 from the original quote from Cranston. The project went as smooth as it could have. Should be getting information late January, early February. Then we can decide how to move forward. He doesn't think we will be eligible for certain funding, but he is pursuing other avenues for covering some of the cost as we move forward.
6. Met with the Nature's Conservancy and toured the Tryon watershed.
7. Erskine Bridge Project looks to begin in January.
8. Moving forward with Ziglar Field.
9. Harmon Field-Travis and his guys are doing a lot of the dog park work. Looks really good. He has received compliments on the benches that Travis has built from the trees that have been taken down.
10. Police Department is doing well as always.

11. The event that we held downtown was a success. He plans to bring the trees back to the open-air market. Masks were worn. They are planning, not an actual event, but a recorded event for Tryon Midnight and shoot it out to everyone.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner Ingham thanked the Town crew. The Town looks beautiful and most are happy. He welcomed Josh. Happy Holidays to all.

Commissioner Crowell thanked everyone and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Armbrust thanked staff for everything they do and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker wished everyone a great Christmas and a great start to the new year. Thanks for all that you do and welcomed Josh.

Mayor Peoples wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanked staff for working for the Town of Tryon. Hopes that all families will be blessed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Tim Daniels read a letter via email from a resident of the Town of Tryon Mary Parker stating her disappointment in the Christmas Parade with the social distancing and lack of wearing a mask.

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