

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 16, 2021 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 Public Works Director Jody Morse
 Planning Director Tim Daniels Fire Chief Josh Walton

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.

PROCLAMATION – CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Kim Wilson, Polk County DSS, presented a proclamation proclaiming April 2021 Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Month. She brought some pinwheels to put up here a Town Hall. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections. Being none, he entertained a motion to adopt the proposed Agenda. Commissioner Ingham 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 Robert P. Lange (\$62.17), Dora Edwards (\$27.46) and Ellen Watford (\$10.80). Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF TRYON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Town Manager Ollis explained at the Tourism development meeting held on February 1, 2021, Michelle Newman was elected as Chairman to replace Mary Parker. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve Michelle Newman as Chairman of TTDA for February 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

REAPPOINTMENT OF ABC BOARD MEMBER

Town Manager Ollis explained Jeffrey Close is up for reappointment to the ABC Board. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to reappoint Jeffrey Close to the ABC Board. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

HARMON FIELD/BLUE RIDGE HUNTER JUMPER REVISED AGREEMENT

Town Manager Ollis presented the revised Harmon Field Agreement with Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper agreement to show Lewis Pack as the Chairman instead of Jamie Corn and extending the date to December 31, 2023 instead of December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Armbrust asked if we are going to allow BBBS to do a fund raiser. John Russell is overseeing this event. Audrey Kendrick will decide when it is going to be. Ollis read "Dates not in conflict with a town sponsored event shall be reserved for the exclusive use of the BRHJA. The Town reserves the right to utilize the equestrian facilities for equestrian uses given the event is charitable and all funds support a local Tryon initiative or organization". It is included, but we don't have the dates yet. Aldred explained that he has the dates. About five years ago there was 24 dates, but in the last three to four years it has dropped to between seven and nine. Commissioner Crowell asked if anyone has the right to rent the fields. Ollis stated no. Armbrust stated the Town has priority, not Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve the revised lease. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

POLK COUNTY TDA DISCUSSION

Town Manager Ollis explained that he had taken your words considering the Polk County Tourism Authority to the county. The county is backing off for now. Commissioner Armbrust wants equal representation of all four entities. He doesn't want the county to strong arm anyone. The Board agreed.

PROTOCOL FOR FILM PRODUCTION

Town Manager Ollis explained Beau from the Polk County Film Initiative is here this evening. We need to decide how to handle film production if someone comes to us about filming in Tryon. The large cities are very different from Tryon. He would like to see what your thoughts are. He presented information on film incentives from several large cities, including Wilmington, NC. Please read through the information and let him know your thoughts. Commissioner Armbrust is pretty certain we have given the filming company \$200,000 worth of incentives, if they had been paying for it, like in other places. Beau Menetre said he is glad they are having this conversation. They need to know what the Town's expectations are. They want restaurants and retailers to profit from this.

POSSIBLE CONCERT ON MCCOWN STREET

Commissioner Armbrust would like to close McCown Street on May 1st for a musical event for Nina Simone. Tryon will receive unbelievable PR from this event. Need to put value on the services that are requested from us.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to close McCown Street on May 1st from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for the music event. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

55 MELROSE AVE BID

Town Manager Ollis gave an update on 55 Melrose Ave. We have received a bid for \$160,000. He will advertise the bid.

MINIMUM HOUSING UPDATE

Planning Director Daniels explained on the Livingston house he is trying to track down an heir for Fred Counts. On Grady, they have received bids for demolition. On 427 E Howard, he is waiting on estimates to get that started.

TDDA UPDATE

Director Henderson explained she has a list of TDDA committees. If you have questions, please contact her. She and her members thank you for that support. Seeing a lot of positive growth. Her President and Treasurer made presentations to several non-profits. Hopeful about things going on. Commissioner Crowell asked about the membership. Henderson explained the information is located on the back of the newsletter. Mayor Peoples asked about the restrooms. Ollis has been touch with Mike Karaman regarding the cost of the public restrooms and he is working on it. The property owners are still wanting to do this. Paige showed you a mockup of the plans that she had secured through the Main Street program and performed by UNCG students.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Ollis explained the Polk County Appearance Commission gave a certificate for the Nina Simone mural to the Town of Tryon. The mural is on the back of the Sunoco building. The artist claimed this was the best he has ever done. He thanked them for the certificate. He also thanked Polk County Appearance Commission for the kudzu grant at Harmon Field (\$1,650) and their support. He will work on the 13 poles on Melrose. The Planning Board supported the 200 foot tower. Planning Director Daniels explained the text amendment has to go before the Planning Board, then it goes before this board at a Public Hearing, then the actual application goes back to Planning Board. Public Hearing was decided on for the April meeting.

Ollis-for child abuse prevention month. They have requested to place banners on at least half the poles and will need the size for banners. Armbrust asked to run up Pacolet Street as well. Jody-yes we will need to order more. Ollis-Ordering plaques for what you discussed last month. He received an email from a citizen who wanted to thank employees who helped with COVID. Also, a plaque for a certain business owner who has helped with COVID-19.

Freeman Hill issue has been taken care of. Broadway sewer issue should be taken care of soon. Braewick overflowed 3 times while he was out. Engineers have looked at it. The primary SSO-difficult to inspect pipe. They need to add multiple manholes. Could be replaced with 8" pipe. Overflowing is due to insufficient capacity to carry the flow rate of the backwash in the settling basin. Managing flow rate will help. Lack of handling and settling of solids is what is contributing to the issue. Had it dredged at one point. This helped for about a year. Basically, helped until we could get CIP done. State has been made aware of the issue and has been very kind to us and we discuss issues with them all the time.

State has asked us to keep them informed with the plans and what we are going to do. Issue on Country Club Road. 3 breaks in 2 days. Repaired where it was broken, then because of the pressure it would blow out further down the line. Need to look at a replacement coming down Country Club Road. New water services between Braewick and Marion. Fixed lines off of Lakeshore Drive. Installed a new fountain at dog park. Doing a visioning session for Tourism. Working on getting someone to put all of their ideas together, have additional people on the board. Basically, working on a plan of action. Everything has been going well with the staff, while he has been out.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner Armbrust asked about the Wetland Park at Erskine Bridge. Ollis explained that he was tasked to find out if it was John Garguilo or John Vining that had talked about the property at CYP. He has not done that as of yet, but he will. Mayor Peoples explained John Vining wants to do something to honor James Payne. Armbrust thinks that is appropriate, because James Payne was baptized in Erskine Pond. Armbrust asked about paving Chestnut. Ollis explained they wanted to fix the sewer under Chestnut (cost was \$50,000) first. PWD Morse doesn't have a current quote, but has gotten quotes three different times this year for paving. He was told to go around town and get a list of streets and then you were to prioritize the list. Armbrust – we voted to prioritize Chestnut. The others should come after Chestnut. Ollis-do you want us to go ahead and pave Chestnut. Mayor and Ingham stated no. Want to at least patch the holes. Morse can start patching. Ollis-you can prioritize later.

Commissioner Armbrust explained they we are in the process of becoming a sister city. He and Lisa Simone have decided to do an international concert in July or August this year for a fundraiser. Innocence and Danger, headed by A. Selia, the granddaughter of Charles de Gaulle, the President of France will help with this. Beau of TRIFF traveled to Switzerland last year in October. A lot of developments since then. Tryon International Film and Staud, Switzerland will be running a dual international film festival together in October. Fox Carolina News is reporting about the filming in Tryon.

Commissioner Crowell asked if we have gotten anything from the Engineer on Lake Lanier. Ollis explained the projected date is the 26th. 75% complete. Hoping to honestly reflect a better scenario. They are trying to do a more forthright and give positivity of the report. Ollis read the report. Armbrust- this has been promised for the last three months. What are the chances of getting something on the 26th? He would like a one sentence executive summary.

Commissioner Crowell thanked employees for everything they are doing, keeping the Town looking good.

Commissioner Ingham welcomed the newest citizen Samuel Lee Ollis to Tryon. He would like to thank our fabulous staff and volunteers. This Town is wonderful because of you.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker congratulated Susan and her husband on their new grandchild and to Zach and Bethany on Samuel Lee. She has heard there are others that have had babies. Congratulations to all. Thanks to all employees and businesses for putting forth effort in keeping the Town going. Looks nice. Take care of yourselves and each other. Everything will be alright.

Mayor Peoples – if you are lucky enough to live here, pat yourselves on the back, if you're not, then don't tell anybody.

CITIZENS COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were no citizen comments.

ADJOURN

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

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk