

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 16, 2021
TRYON TOWN HALL – MCCOWN MEETING ROOM
7:00 P.M.**

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
Fire Captain Josh Connell Town Attorney William Morgan
TDDA Ex. Director Paige Henderson
Harmon Field Supervisor Travis Aldred

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order. He asked for a moment of silence. Mayor Pro Tem Booker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: PROCLAMATION FOR CONNIE BROWN

Mayor Peoples read the proclamation recognizing all of Ms. Brown’s accomplishments and contributions to the study of financial analysis and the financial technical analysis industry. Ms. Brown thanked the mayor.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if they are any additions, deletions or corrections. Town Manager Ollis added the financial report details and the ARP Grant Ordinance. Town Clerk Bell asked to remove the tax releases. Ollis is going to do the grant ordinance after his report. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if they are any additions, deletions, corrections or questions. Being none, he entertained a motion to adopt the consent agenda, which includes the Board’s minutes and financial report. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

LAKE LANIER UPDATE

Town Manager Ollis reported as you know we have been working with SCDEHEC on the dam. Basically, we have responded to their request after their initial inspection on the dam. We will be putting down more mats for grass to grow on in some of the sleuths. He is working with Shane Varnadore who is an arborist out of Saluda. He is the one that prepared the tree plan for Harmon Field. He will be preparing a tree plan for the Lake Lanier dam. We will be clearing some brush, down toward the bottom of the dam. They want us to provide a means of lowering the lake level and he feels that is a long-term goal. He told them they will need to request that from the board, because that is a lot of money and we will need to talk about it, and the same about opening up the spillway. He spoke with another sector of

DHEC, John McCain about some of the federal funding coming through in grants. One we might qualify for is the high hazard potential damage grant (HHPD). The deadline is December 1st. It is a yearly cycle and maybe we can work through it for next year. The only issue is, it is a 35/65 match, so if we request \$100,000, then we have to pay \$35,000. WithersRavel has preliminarily looked at it and feel if we should ask for \$800,000, doing \$35,000. We could actually get to a build point on the spillway and then have it ready for construction, but that will require more money for the construction aspect.

Commissioner Crowell asked if he meant it would cost \$800,000 just for the pre-planning. Ollis explained yes. It will cost the Town of Tryon out of pocket \$35,000 to get shovel ready for that portion. That also depends on what it cost to actually build. He expressed to Withers that we want to do everything we can to keep the water safe and the future of the town safe. If we spend \$35,000 and then we are met with too much to pay, then we have wasted \$35,000. He will be meeting again with them and presenting things to you as how we are moving forward.

Another thing, the bridge belongs to SCDOT and he can keep in touch with them to see what is going on, but he wanted to remind everyone that we have nothing to do with the bridge.

BRAEWICK UPDATE

Town Manager Ollis reported that Andrew and Jody spent last week with the company smoking and going through the lines looking for leaks. They did find some things and the company is preparing a report to deliver to you. They will be trying to figure out how to move forward on the application for construction on Braewick, both upper and lower. Of all the work that was done only had 2 fire calls and one had smoke in their basement.

Commissioner Armbrust explained that we need some type of notification to our citizens. Ollis reported that we had an article in the Bulletin and sent out NIXLE notices daily. Crowell asked if we could make sure everyone is signed up for the NIXLE notices. Ollis reported that Meg tries to get everyone signed up when they apply for service. Everyone doesn't want to get all the notices and ask to be removed from the list.

MINIMUM HOUSING

Planning Director Daniels reported:

1. 45 Canady Lane is in the forty-five-day period, we are on schedule with that one.
2. 160 Cleveland-he has spoken to the owner and sent the listing of the violations on Wednesday and will follow up next week to see if he has a plan or if he will have to start inspections and start the minimum housing process.
3. 161 Peake Street-he left a message for the owner yesterday, asking for the status on that property. He has not heard back from them, but he will keep on that one.

That's it for minimum housing, he did want to remind everybody that the comprehensive plan survey is live and on-line. He did send a press release for the paper and is preparing a NIXLE to try and spread the word. He asked every one of you to fill it out and point people to the survey on-line.

Commissioner Armbrust asked if this referred to our five-year plan. Daniels stated no, this is the state mandated land use plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker asked if the 161 Peake Street has the same company or the same owner as the one on East Howard. Daniels replied correct. He did repair the East Howard Street one. He will call him about the bushes needing trimmed, but the house is sound.

TDDA UPDATE

TDDA Director Henderson explained that her report is included in the package. She is really proud of the Beerfest. From what they have been able to gather it was the most successful Beerfest they have had. They were able to reduce the budget. She thanked all of the town people for their help. Zach, Tim, Jeff. Fire and Public Works. Everybody came together to make it successful. Super proud of that. We are headed into the holidays, so TDDA wants to request the closure of McCown Street for the Christmas Stroll for the weekend. Use it as Christmas Lane with Christmas trees for sale from Down to Earth Garden. They want to have photos with Santa and stuff like that. They also want to close Trade Street for Tryon Midnight. They are getting fresh greens for downtown. Friday, December 3rd for the Stroll, through Sunday, December 5th and Friday, December 31st for Tryon Midnight.

Commissioner Crowell asked if anyone had heard of a certain business being closed for the holidays. Henderson has heard that, but she doesn't know if it is true. Crowell suggested someone stopping in and asking them. If they are, he suggested having a food truck come in while they are closed. Henderson can stop in and ask them.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to close McCown Street from December 3rd to December 5th and Trade Street on December 31st. Commissioner Armbrust so moved.

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

Town Manager Ollis reported:

1. Congratulated Paige on Beerfest and the Beerfest committee-a lot of hard work went in to the event. With the changes made on their behalf and the town chipping in a lot, it came in just shy of doubling the largest profit we have had, which is phenomenal for us. Moving forward, he feels it is a good model for Paige to go off of. Congratulations, you did a great job. Thank you.
2. He is speaking with John Vining about the canopy downtown. Most of the trees are bleeder trees and the sap will come down. They will bleed four to six weeks in March and April. The trees are located alongside Trade Street near Bob Morgan's building. He would like to raise the canopies with a professional tree service. Crowell asked if they were trimming the trees. Ollis reported no, just raising the canopies. Ollis wanted to make sure the board agreed to two feet. All agreed. Julia Calhoun is donating a maple to go behind the toy soldier.
3. He is looking into getting someone to help us put cedar over the pergola at Rogers Park.
4. Clock Tower-he has finally tracked down the one that does the maintenance on it. A company out of St. John's will be here within the next two weeks. Jeff pulled some of the lights and replaced.
5. They will be repairing fences at Vaughn Creek.
6. Mayor Peoples reported that he had talked to Bob Brown for about two years. Mr. Brown donated his property on Chestnut to the town. The property is contiguous to Woodland Park. He already had bulldozed in about one hundred fifty feet. Mayor Peoples and Harriett had saved money to go on a trip, but because of her health, they will not be going, so he donated \$5,000 and has another \$5,000 to donate. He sees Harriett's Garden there. There will be a gazebo. His daughter-

in-law works for UNC Charlotte as assistant director of the greenhouse. She is going to find someone that does this for a living to come in a draw up what should be there. His idea is to put in a gazebo with wildflowers on both ends and parking. Ollis reported within the next couple of years they are hoping to have an entrance on Melrose and Galax.

7. He met with the Nature Conservancy. A man will be coming up to visit the properties that we have in a conservancy, if anyone would like to go with us.
8. Travis mentioned to him today, Steve Martinez is interested in the building at Harmon Field. If you would like for him to contact PARTF to find out what can be done, he can do that. Mayor Peoples talked to him about thirty minutes. Mr. Martinez asked him what it would cost to put the building back in order. He told him to call you or Travis and he told him what he thought it would cost. Ollis will contact PARTF.
9. The guys have been extremely busy on top of doing their ever day jobs. He thanked Public Works, Police and Fire Department for all their help with the events.

ARP GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE

Town Manager Ollis explained that everyone has to have this ordinance passed before we can spend the money. We are still trying to find out how we can spend it. He will bring in a bunch of different options. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the ARP Grant Ordinance as presented by the town manager. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner Armbrust asked to revisit the five-year plan. He also asked about repainting the toy soldier. Mayor Peoples has spoken to Julia Calhoun and some of the colors are not correct. Armbrust wishes he would reshape the head and the torso. To the rebranding that was discussed during the work session. He would like to see some graphics, letters and documents representing the organizational community by in on the new branding, particularly the tag line. Would like at some point to revisit the idea of RV camping. Kudos to the Beerfest, very impressive. He thanked everyone for coming. He trusted that everyone has a great holiday.

Commissioner Crowell reminded Jody who isn't here about the sand on Trade Street. He has swept it up twice. He thanked the citizens for coming out, thanked staff for everything they do and thanked Paige for Beerfest. He also thanked the ones that voted.

Commissioner Ingham thanked all the staff for everything they do and going the extra mile and congrats to the Beerfest.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker thanked everybody and wished everyone a blessed Thanksgiving.

Mayor Peoples also thanked the staff. He also wanted to thank a man who passed away this week. Alan Cantrell who died of complications with COVID at an early age. He had worked for thirty years as an EMT for upstate S.C. and Polk County. All he ever done was give. Town employees-he doesn't know how we could do any better. Nearly Perfect, Always Tryon.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none.

ADJOURN

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

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk