



### **GOLF CART ORDINANCE**

Police Chief Arrowood reported about a year we repealed our golf cart ordinance, thinking they could get the golf carts registered through DMV. After a year of questioning DMV and other agencies, he has found out that it is not as easy as what he had thought. You have to purchase the golf cart from one particular dealer down east. He is the only dealer that you can purchase one that can be registered and the purchase price is about \$8,000. He thinks we need to go back to the old ordinance to allow golf carts. We need something on the books or just say no golf carts. He has made a few changes. They will only need the basics, rear view mirror, seat belts, a sign on the back, brake lights and there will be no required inspection. If you drive at night, you will need headlights. The new ordinance will allow you to drive on any road that is 35 mph or less. You will have to show ownership of the golf cart and have liability insurance to get a permit from the town.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker asked how you identify the carts. Chief Arrowood stated we provide them a sticker to place on their golf cart. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the ordinance. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **FIRE ORDINANCE**

Town Manager Ollis reported this is the fire ordinance prepared by Chief Walton. There were some issues with the old ordinance. The main changes allow people to have a small fire pit and explains what you can burn in the fire pit. Chief Walton reported in the old ordinance you could apply for a burn permit. He changed that to say, only when special circumstances come up. They could come before you, if they have cleared an area and ask permission to burn.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the amended ordinance. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXCHANGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY WITH COLUMBUS**

Town Manager Ollis explained this resolution is authorizing us to exchange property with Columbus Fire Department. This describes the fire truck you saw earlier. Basically, this resolution states our truck is worth \$65,000 and we believe theirs is worth \$85,000 and we would like to exchange. Commissioner Ingham made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the exchange of property with Columbus Fire Department. The motion carried unanimously.

### **ALCOHOL ORDINANCE**

Town Manager Ollis reported the alcohol ordinance he is proposing is for future businesses in Tryon as well as success of downtown. He would like to take the consumption of malt beverages and unfortified wine consumption that is allowed downtown, to be allowed on Pacolet Street, between Trade St. and Walnut St., and on Maple Street, between Trade St. and Palmer St., and on Oak St., between Trade St. and Palmer St.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the alcohol ordinance amendment. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **TFAC-SHOWCASE ART**

Town Manager Ollis asked TFAC representatives to stand up and give your name. Monica Stephens 565 Cane Brake Road, Tryon and Jessica Pierce 355 Winterset Trail, Tryon, are on the Board of Directors at TFAC and are head of the exhibits committee. Ms. Stephens explained they would like to explore the installation of their free art gallery on Trade Street. A friend of hers is an artist out west and these have been very successful. They are built like and used like the little book libraries. You take a piece of art out and you put a piece of art in. It fosters an appreciation of artists. They also have directions to TFAC included. They have approached Billy McFarland and he is on board with this on his wall. His position is more toward the arts world with the Upstairs Art Gallery close by. Mayor Pro Tem Booker asked if Suzanne Coleman was a part of this. She had presented this idea a couple of months ago. They did not know her. Commissioner Ingham said it was the same idea and he thought you were part of that. Both said no. Mayor Peoples explained most of the board thought you were coming in her place. Ms. Stephens said no. They are going to put some of Mr. McFarland's artwork in the box first. The board agreed it was a good idea and thanked them for coming.

### **FIRE ENGINE PURCHASE**

Town Manager Ollis explained this discussion is continued from last month on which engine to purchase. William has gone through all the RFPs and Pierce was the responsive bidder (they checked all the boxes). If you would go ahead and make the motion to purchase the Pierce, we can move forward.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to purchase the Pierce fire truck. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **MINIMUM HOUSING UPDATE**

Town Manager Ollis reported that Tim has 160d and then 12b is the Capps Road item. Planning Director Daniels reported Canady Lane owners informed him they were having the property cleaned up on their own sometime around the end of March, beginning of April. Hopefully the town will not have to get involved with that. At 144 & 136 Cleveland and 161 Peak, he has requested to get into the locations to do inspections. If no arrangements are made then he can do an administrative inspection.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: CAPPS ROAD**

Mayor Peoples opened the Public Hearing. Planning Director Daniels reported on February 20, 2022 he received an application to rezone 282 Capps Road. Currently it is now Industrial 1 and applicant would like to change it to Residential 3. They met last Thursday with the Board of Adjustments and they unanimously voted yes in favor of recommending to you that we pass this rezoning. The entire strip along the river is zoned Industrial.

Laura Wiecker 1426 Hayes Road, Columbus, explained that she represents the people that are buying the property and with it being Industrial they can't live in it. There are two houses on each side and this change will not affect the neighborhood. For the seller, it can no longer be the daycare, that it was grandfathered in as. It basically makes her property unsellable. They would like to see this go through. Mayor Peoples asked for other comments. Being none, he closed the public hearing.

Mr. Morgan explained that it meets the necessary findings and it is reasonable with any officially adopted plans, which includes the zoning ordinance. A motion to adopt the ordinance covers all the basis.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the ordinance rezoning 282 Capps Road to R-3. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **TDDA UPDATE**

TDDA Director Henderson reported her report is included in the agenda packet. They have a lot going on this spring. The airstream rally is coming up. They actually filled up the first week of registration. A lot of people coming to Tryon are really excited about this. She is working with the restaurants and merchants downtown to make sure they are aware and well-staffed with these people coming to join us. They will be camping out in the downtown for the entire weekend. We are grateful for the opportunity to have them. TDDA are hoping to be working with Bill on some railing downtown soon. 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays are back. Chief Arrowood is working with the St. Patrick's Day parade people and everything is a go. They will start at Rogers Park and continue downtown to Harpers. They will have a little music at the end and a bagpiper. Let her know if you have questions.

#### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Ollis reported you have in front of you the packet for the revolving loan offer for \$2.2 million. It includes the offer letter, funding and offering acceptance paperwork, the insurance, the federal ID#, Duns #, and the sales tax certification of reimbursement. He explained the Town is applying for a \$2.2 million dollar loan with one million being forgiven to repair the Braewick line as well as other lines that feed into it and that it feeds into. Basically, what has occurred, we have been offered to turn the remaining \$1.2 million into a grant as well, so the whole project should be free. This paperwork is for the loan itself. They told him he didn't have to do this, just do the grant paperwork, but we are going to do this anyway, because he doesn't want anything to go wrong with this. We do this, it says we agree to pay the loan back. WithersRavenel is working on finalization of the other paperwork and he will submit that before April 1<sup>st</sup>. That should turn the remaining loan into another grant, so the \$2.2 million dollar project is free. Originally, we were going to use the ARP money to keep the burden on the citizens low, but now it will be free. He needs the resolution approved, along with everything in this package, just in case.

Mayor Peoples asked how long ago did we start the CIP. Ollis stated two or three years ago. Peoples explained that's how fast things works. How much have we received from the state? Ollis stated nothing. Peoples stated we are still waiting and this is the reason things are so slow, when money is coming from the state. All boxes have to be checked.

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

Town Manager Ollis thanked everyone. Jody and his crews have been extremely busy with water break after water break. In the month of February, PWD Morse reported seventeen. They have never seen this before. Chief Walton and crew worked really hard this weekend as they do every weekend. They had twenty trees down in one day because of the wind. He thanked Jeff and Randall for keeping things in line. Thanks to Tim. Thanks to Paige.

## COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Peoples thanked Representative Jake Johnson for his help with this project. He knows he had something to do with this. Town Manager Ollis asked if he would like to speak. Rep. Johnson reported he has a little legislative update. They just finished up the longest session in North Carolina history. At the end of it, they came in with the first budget they have been able to pass since 2018. That's huge and what you are talking about does come down the pipeline. In North Carolina, if we don't pass a budget, it's not like DC where everything screeches to a halt. You do have the budget from the previous year that will kick in. What that means is nobody gets raises, projects don't get funded and things really come to a slow. He just wanted to give a legislative update. He met many of you when he was a county commissioner for three years prior. He has been up in Raleigh since 2019. The total budget was \$25.9 billion, which is a 4.2 percent increase. It will be bumped up to \$27 billion between this year and next year. We will be seeing the federal funds coming down. They know these are tax dollars and whether we agree with them or not, we do want to supplement this good one-time funding, so that they can return more of your tax dollars. When he went to Raleigh, the most common thing he heard was broadband. If one thing gets done, while you are up there, make sure our kids get internet service back in our rural areas. That's something they are extremely successful in doing. The past investment was \$150 million over next ten years. Fifteen million is a drop in the bucket to what we need. This year, he chaired a billion-dollar investment, IT appropriations. They also put a provision in that would allow tier three counties to be able to apply for that money. They are trying to get good internet service to the area of the county that is not really reliable. We don't want to have our kids driving to McDonald's to turn in homework. On the finance piece, the state is doing really well over the past couple of years. People are moving here. They were able to cut the income tax from 5.25% to 3.99% over six years. They moved the standard deduction to \$25,500 to couples filing jointly, increased the child deduction by \$500 and limited tax on military pension. Starting in 2025, we are going to phase out the corporate tax to help keep us competitive with other states in the southeast. Going to redo the franchise tax to help small businesses and make sure businesses can deduct expenses from the PPP loans. A direct appropriation of \$425,000 for Tryon is on the way. Then \$6.5 million is on the way for the dam in Polk County. He thanked Town Manager Ollis for doing a great job of keeping them informed of what Tryon needed. They got \$15 million in the budget for the arts council to help re-coop what was lost due to COVID. He is open for any questions.

Mayor Peoples thanked him. Tony Waldrop who ran track in the late 60's and 70's just got elected to the N.C. Track & Field Cross Country Hall of Fame. He was asked to receive the award in his honor, but couldn't make it, so he called Representative Johnson and asked him to receive the award. He thanked him for representing Polk County. Rep. Johnson thanked the board and asked them to reach out anytime if they ever needed anything.

Commissioner Crowell thanked the staff for everything they do. He thanked Jody, Paige and Chiefs.

Commissioner Ingham thanked the staff. He likes seeing the crowd we have here tonight. Many nights we only have one person here. He has a letter from David Goss thanking the Town and employees for work done on a sewer blockage he had. They did a fabulous job.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker reiterated what everyone has already said tonight and everyone take care of yourself and drive safe.

Mayor Peoples thanked everyone. This is the best place he has ever lived.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS & REPORT**

John Wilson, 35 Galax Circle, spoke in opposition of the proposed gazebo and walking path behind his house. He asked the town to move the location of the garden and gazebo. The property was donated he understands, but the upkeep will come from our tax dollars. He felt community involvement, some type of meeting should have been held before deciding on the plans for the park. There is better space that can be used.

Nancy Gray of Lyncourt asked about the sewer leakage and asked about the report on-line and where we were at with the plans. Town Manager Ollis explained the report was the capital improvement plan done in 2012. As far as he knows, nothing has ever been done about the reports. A couple of years back, we did a capital improvement plan for fifteen years. We are trying to fix the issues, in looking at the Tryon City limits alone, we have around \$50 million in projects. Taxes are not an easy thing to approach. No one wants to pay for the improvements. We have to take out little bits of the plan as we can. We are going after more of the ARPA money, possibly up to \$15 million to put toward the current plan. We are required to report leaks to the state, like the one that happens on Braewick. It is reported every time and we get fines for that. You can go online and follow the reports. He hasn't received complaints from Galax Circle or Lyncourt. The only one is for your blockage and your porch is built over the pipe. Part of the plan is to move all lines on Galax. Any spillage he hasn't heard of anything, but there are times, our crews handle stuff and I don't hear about it. The system is over 100 years old.

Mayor Peoples explained that we had someone to do smoke testing and smoke came up everywhere. We repaired those lines and the next year more lines had problems. Ollis can update the report and get the new one on line.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to enter into closed session for 143-318.11(a)(3) to maintain attorney-client privilege. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

---

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

---

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk