

**TOWN OF TRYON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TRYON DEPOT – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM  
OCTOBER 15, 2024 7:00 PM**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples

Mayor Pro Tem Chrelle Booker

Commissioners Present: Bill Crowell

Staff Present: Jim Fatland, Town Manager

Susan Bell, Town Clerk

Greg McCool, Public Works Director

Tim Daniels, Planning Director

Brad Gordon, Harmon Field Superintendent

Scott Holt, Police Chief

Randy Darley, Sanitation Supervisor

Josh Walton, Fire Chief

William Morgan, Town Attorney

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order.

**II. INVOCATION**

Dr. Alan Purtill, Pastor of Tryon Presbyterian Church, led the invocation with a prayer.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Booker led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples asked for any deletions, additions, or corrections to the agenda. Town Manager Fatland gave an amendment to item 9—an agreement with the county for moving and removing trash and debris from the storm. Mayor Peoples made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of the amendment to Item 9. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples asked for any questions, comments, thoughts, exclamations, or clarifications to the Consent Agenda. He explained that the Consent Agenda is a list of minutes from the Tourism, Harmon Field, Planning, and Parks Committee Boards, Board of Commissioners, Tax Reports, Financial Report for September 2024, and Grant Status Report that everyone has access to. He entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Booker so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**TROPICAL STORM HELENE AGENDA ITEMS:**

**VI. REPORT FROM TOWN MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Town Manager Jim Fatland reported the following:

“On the agenda this evening, there are four items I wanted to talk to the community and the town board about dealing with Tropical Storm Helene. I wanted to go back a little bit, Mr. Mayor. I was here when we had Francis and Ivan, the storms back-to-back. The town purchased generators back in 2002 and later became operational. We put generators at the water treatment plant, sewer plant, Lake Lanier Pump Station, and the Town Hall Police and Fire Department. Those generators worked almost 9 days until power came on. On Thursday, September 26, knowing the storm was coming, I made the decision to close Town Hall at 3 p.m. and all the employees had left, except for emergency personnel, of course. And then I also decided to close Town Hall on Friday. In retrospect, the storm came pretty hard. During the storm and afterwards, the part I wanted to share with the council earlier is that I’m very impressed with the Town employees. They had to make decisions in the field. Things went wrong that we didn’t anticipate—two landlines at Town Hall went dead. The radio dispatch to communications went dead, so the Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works Department decided to use walkie-talkies to communicate, which they worked. And then I got a purchase order from our Public Works Director wanting to purchase additional ones to be prepared for a future storm. But during the first few days, the part I was impressed with (I think all were), is how the town employees came together, how neighbors helped neighbors, how our citizens became volunteers and come to City Hall, how the local churches stepped up and did yeoman work on providing food and supplies to our citizens in our county. Even in our local grocery store, Mr. Teaster years ago didn’t have a generator and after those two tropical storms, he purchased a generator 20 years ago which proved invaluable to his store to provide groceries to our community. Our Town employees were out cutting trees along with the water and sewer crews. At this time, Mr. Mayor, I’d like to call upon our Public Works Director to give his perspective of what happened and what he had to do to deal with it.”

Public Works Director McCool reported the following:

- He thanked everyone, including the people who work for Public Works
- Friday morning began with cutting trees, but stopped because it was getting dangerous
- About lunchtime they called in Gary Walker to help
- About at the same time, Chuck got in touch with Andrew McAllister to let him know that the Town were losing 1,200 gallons of water a minute from a busted line
- After 4 hours, Andrew and Gary were able to shut that off resulting in not a total loss of water, but with little remaining
- The water plant generator ran for approximately 40-some hours straight to make up the water that was lost

- Meanwhile, Gary Walker, Andrew, the Street Department, Luke, and Mason were cutting trees continuously from Friday through Sunday. Most of the roads in Tryon were at least passable or drivers had a way to get back around by some time on Sunday.
- Fuel was running very low for the generator at the lake. Greg was carrying 50 gallons at a time over there, which was a drop in the bucket to that thing. A local distributor was called but couldn't offer help due to no power pumping fuel. After making some calls, fuel was found at the Polk County bus garage.
- Brad, the Harmon Field Superintendent, used to work at the water plant. With Harmon Field in the state it was in, there was no need to do any work there, so Brad went up to the water plant and made water until 5:30 in the morning.

Town Manager Fatland called upon Fire Chief, Josh Walton. He reported the following:

- Brad Gordon called Fire Chief Walton since he used to be a fireman for the Town and asked how he could help. He came in on Friday and was very instrumental in one of the topics that was faced.
- The phenomenal work by Public Works was mentioned next. Their tree cutting and opening of roads helped the Fire Department tremendously.
- Steve Siler cooked meals all day for "I don't know how many days straight".
- Tracey Daniels set up a table where she was cataloging items that people needed. Planning Director, Tim Daniels helped. This was instrumental to the success of the food and supplies drive-through.
- The Fire Department started Thursday and cut 15 trees. The next morning at 5:30, they started again with trees and power lines. The weather started getting really bad so they went back to the station. That was when the weather hit hard. Immediately the valley was hit very hard. In addition, there were units at the fire in Landrum. Some of the topics throughout Friday include:
  - At 7 o'clock EMS was dispatched to a medical call in Saluda off 176. The unit had to turn around due to a tree down. On their way back to Tryon, the unit called again because of another tree down and were unable to return. They backed the truck in right at Twin Bridges. While waiting, they could see the water rising and starting to come over the Twin Bridges. The paramedics bailed out of their ambulance and took off up the trail and hid under a rock shelter. They were stuck for 6 hours before being rescued. Brad, with the New York task force, went up 26 and came down. He was their lead guy. One of the volunteer part-timers, Michael Purdy, started in from the bottom with the National Guard. As Brad and his team were working their way down, they got a report of a mudslide into a house with someone possibly trapped. Again, it was in Saluda's district, but Saluda was tied up on other things. Both teams pushed. Tryon's guys rescued the 2 paramedics. They went to the house with the mudslide. Unfortunately, that was the one fatality in the storm—it was off 176 in Saluda right across from the Twin Bridges. In addition, there were people walking/hiking who got caught. About 7 people in total were rescued and brought to safety from the Twin Bridge area.
  - A man came to the station and mentioned that his neighbor's house can't be seen. Fire Chief Walton drove to the house and saw that it wasn't where it was supposed to be. The task force was still there, so they waded through the water and checked the house but no one was in it. They checked the camper trailer and found a woman. She was trapped for 6

hours in the water with her three dogs and animals. All were rescued and brought to safety.

- Off Warrior Drive was a mudslide. The Fire Chief advised a woman to evacuate and she chose to stay. The mountain came down. She was able to swirl her way out of the wreckage and climb out. She was rescued along with her dogs.
- Friday was extremely busy with rescues, flooding, and a fire in Saluda so they didn't get an opportunity to help Public Works with trees like they thought they could.
- Every bridge on the left side of 176 was destroyed—Edney Rd and Caro-Mi. Autumn Lane is now a footbridge
- Tryon Fire Department, on a good month, usually gets 100 calls in a month. By Saturday, they had received over 100 calls.
- Tryon Dispatch set the bar high with logging information

Town Manager Fatland called upon Tim Daniels, Planning Director. He reported the following:

- He and his wife, Tracey Daniels, drove back to North Carolina from Philadelphia on Friday morning. Saturday morning, they arrived at the Fire Department and asked Fire Chief Walton if they could set up an information table. They were getting a lot of public traffic, so they decided to move it to the council room which worked out well because they were able to offer some verified information and squash some rumors that were going around. They offered public Wi-Fi, a place for people to charge their cell phones, and most importantly a landline for the public to use and touch base with family and friends. A Starlink was loaned to the town by the Polk County Community Foundation.
- The Council Room was open from Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> to Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, for the citizens to gather, donate, and receive supplies. Approximately 250 were served via the drive-through distribution after the hurricane. That number does not include the walk-ins and goods brought to Roseland and door-to-door delivered by many of the town staff, volunteers, and administration. They were very key in organizing and distributing them.
- He thanked Pam McCarty, Charlotte Behrens, Krissa Johnson-Sotemeyer, Lori Giddings, Marty Kerchoff, Jen Grubbs, Roman Derry, Esther and Michaela Lale, Hannah Watkins, Kate Price, and last but not least my spouse Tracey Daniels and my two kids, Liam and Mauren.
- He thanked Trade Street Diner and Huckleberries and other businesses that assisted the public, whether it be for food or Wi-Fi. Alan Casavant handed out burgers and hotdogs at The Fitzgerald. Trade Street Diner offered free hot showers, food, and Wi-Fi.

Town Manager Fatland thanked Public Works for helping the Town of Columbus with their generators.

Mayor Peoples said that all of this was able to happen because the town had generators. He then thanked Town Manager Fatland for making sure the town had working generators. Fatland responded; the town retained a maintenance contract to take care of all the generators. So, even though they're 20 years old, they're well maintained and ready to go. Also, all of the generators were filled in advance of the storm. The entire fleet had gassed their trucks and vehicles in advance of the storm.

## **VII. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONTATION FOR HARMON FIELD RESTORATION FROM STORM DAMAGE**

Town Manager Jim Fatland reported the following:

- The Harmon Field Meeting was held in his office on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, where he showed the members pictures of the details of the damage.
- The committee wanted the cleanup as quickly as possible.
- ServPro already began cleaning the bathrooms, food concession, and cabin
- The rent collected for the cabin and screened porch will be returned and those facilities will be closed until March 1.
- A partial reopening is to happen of the dog park, one of the ball fields, tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball gym area, and walking track
- Porta Jons will be brought in until the restrooms reopen—2 at the east entrance and 2 at the west entrance

Pictures of the damage to Harmon Field were shown. Harmon Field Superintendent, Brad Gordon, narrated.

- 8:00—started to flood
- 9:30—completely flooded
- Water levels over 4 feet in some areas of the park
- Soccer fields flooded
- Fencing took down at soccer fields, only posts remain
- Little creek and footbridge filled with sand and silt
- Many sidewalks/walking tracks washed away
- Screened shed completely washed away
- Part of boardwalk behind screen shed lifted and removed
- Fencing at the playground was knocked over like it wasn't even in the ground
- Pacolet River spiked at 18.1 ft
- In cabin, the water level got to 3 feet. ServPro cleaned out anything water damaged.
- At the backside of the cabin where the deck used to be, a tree fell and the propane tank was knocked over and leaking. The A/C unit knocked over to the middle of the cabin where the deck was.
- Water ripped through Barn Four (D) and silt piled up inside
- The entire footing washed out of one of the rings and took down fencing
- The Dallara Baseball Field pretty much washed away. There's a lot of trenching and pipe exposure and irrigation exposure.
- The gazebo turned upside down
- He ended by thanking Josh for his fire trucks, Scott and his crew for making sure people stayed out of Harmon Field, and Greg and his crew from Public Works.
- The park was closed Friday, September 27. It was partially opened back up on October 14<sup>th</sup>, only a week and a half later.

“The guys really worked hard... they did everything they could for the people of this town to get that park open, the roads open, and the water flowing. I don’t think a lot of people understand how lucky they really are. We do have areas of the park that are open: the dog parks, Baseball field B when you first pull in, the walking track, and the tennis courts. You can park at either entrance. The open-air gym will actually be open later. ServPro is cleaning the little kitchen area so if you see the guys, give them a thanks. Just try to stay away from the barriers. Let us do our jobs. I appreciate it.”

Town Manager Jim Fatland reported the following:

I've been in contact with our insurance company. And the way it works, our insurance company has to come out and look at the facility. They're going to be out Saturday afternoon to do a complete walkthrough of Harmon Field with Brad and I. And then once that's done, we'll find out what will get reimbursed from insurance. Then we go to FEMA next. I've got a big notebook for Harmon Field. I didn't plan on 600 pictures from you... he's got a lot of pictures. But they always said, take plenty of pictures, measure how high the water's up, and the more pictures you have, it'll strengthen our claim to our insurance company as well as FEMA. Our town clerk shared with me last week that some individuals in town had come by and dropped off checks totaling about \$3,300 to use in any way possible to help out the town of Tryon. I talked to the mayor that we really don't want to take on multiple projects. I talked to staff and we felt that maybe Harmon Field, if you saw the pictures, the impact of that park. I don't think insurance and FEMA are going to come early enough to cover getting the park back in the grandeur that we enjoyed the last year or so. So, we have before you, Mr. Mayor, a resolution as one idea from staff of a way the community could help a particular asset out. And we have other ideas too, but we thought this would be a way to start.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt a resolution to accept donations for repair of Harmon Field. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

## **VIII. PROJECT BUUDGET ORDINACES FOR STORM DAMAGE**

Town Manager Fatland reported the following:

Next item, Mr. Mayor, in speaking to our auditor and the local government commission, when FEMA comes in, they want to see good documentation of separating impacts of the damage. So, with support from our auditors, they recommended that we adopt two project ordinances to account for all the expenses from the storm. One is going to be the General Fund, and that will include the General Fund Street Department, Sanitation, Harmon Field, and the Fire Department. The second ordinance will deal with water, sewer, primarily, and damages we have there. So basically, we're asking the council to, for the General Fund, is transfer \$100,000 of fund balance to this project ordinance. And then our hope is to get money back from insurance, FEMA, and donations, depending on how much money we have to use out of the \$100,000. But we're asking the General Fund to

be the banker to get SERVPro out and get their amount here as soon as possible. The second one is asking for a transfer of the water and sewer fund balance of \$60,000 to deal with, we had damage to, as Greg mentioned, the water line by the Pacolet River got forced out, they had to reroute that. The raw water line had damage. And then there was an area over on New Market Street, I believe, that was hit as well. But we are going to create additional notebooks to put all these costs into these two projects. And then I'll go through them in detail to make sure documentation is sufficient. You just can't show, we have 26 hours of equipment. You need to show the dates and the hours you worked. I talked it over with Greg, and so, for example, if you used a backhoe from 7.30 to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m., that's documented. And the better job you document, the better chance you'll get reimbursement from FEMA. So, we have these two project ordinances before you if you have any questions.

Mayor Peoples asked if anyone had questions. Mayor Pro Tem Booker mentioned that photos taken from phones have time stamps. She said she heard Mr. McCool do a countdown for documentation and if everyone else has done the same, the town will be pretty good in terms of documentation. Mr. Fatland further mentioned that FEMA will reimburse for overtime work completed by the town employees. The debris removed from the streets by the town crews and water crews won't get reimbursed (unless they worked overtime), but he thinks it's important for the community to get back into what it was before the storm so people will feel free to come back and visit Tryon.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt two project budget ordinances for storm damages, one for \$100,000 from the Fund Balance and the other one for \$60,000 from the Water and Sewer Fund Balance. Mayor Pro Tem Booker so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

## **IX. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH POLK COUNTY ON DEBRIS REMOVAL**

Town Manager Fatland reported the following:

The next item is the three towns in the county have been meeting every day since the storm. We started on Monday following the storm on Friday. We meet every day at 1 o'clock, the town managers from Columbus, Tryon and Saluda, and the county manager along with emergency personnel and FEMA. And then the fire chief and police, they've been attending morning meetings at 10 a.m., I believe, at the emergency center each and every day. And one of the things that the county manager shared with the managers was the NCDOT is going to pick up all the debris in all these affected counties on public streets, private streets, as long as it's not a gated community, for no charge. But they need permission to come into each town. And I'm asking the council to support this. We may have our streets cleared, but there are several roads in the township with a Tryon address. And I would hate to have DOT think they don't have to come in if we said no. Also, one of the things that I asked our fire chief to follow up last Friday with the county was to put pressure on the Army Corps. And so, the fire chief called Army Corps, and I think the county manager was doing the same. We have to amend the letter that's come before you.

The Army Corps came out, and I went out with the Tryon Fire Department yesterday and saw the damage in the Pacolet Valley, and it's really really bad. There's so much debris in the river that if we got a lot of rain, it's going to be like a huge beaver dam type thing. So, the Army Corps was out there, and the Army Corps is going to take the lead and hire outside contractors to remove all the debris. And so, I amended the letter to the county manager, including not only the contracts with DOT, but also Army Corps, to allow them to come into our town limits and our township to clear the debris out. Any questions?

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the Interlocal Agreement with Polk County and with the Army Corps. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**ALL OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

**X. TRYON FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE WITH GREEN CREEK  
FIRE DEPARTMENT (JOSH WALTON)**

Fire Chief Josh Walton reported like he would still like to move forward with the trade, that was started last month, by resolution. It will give the fire department a smaller truck which will be very beneficial to them with the damage to the bridges in the county and being able to access those areas the best they can.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to accept Fire Chief's presentation for equipment exchange with the Green Creek Fire Department. Mayor Pro Tem so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**XI. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING LOAN OFFER FROM NCDEQ FOR BRAEWICK SEWER  
REHAB PROJECT**

Town Manager Fatland reported the following:

This is the Braewick Sewer Rehab Project. As you know, we've got a \$3.2 million project. \$2.6 million is 100% grants and \$600,000 will be a loan. When we opened out the bid, they came in much higher. And the consulting engineer recommended to cut the project back by \$600,000. And I suggested, no, I wasn't too keen on that. So, I contacted the staff at DENR and got the green light to advance additional loan approval of \$612,000 at an interest rate of 0.18% for 20 years. We took it to the LGC, which approves all loan financing in the state of North Carolina and they approved the \$612,000 loan. What we have before you tonight, even though they offered the money to us, you have to accept the loan. One is a resolution accepting the loan offer, and the second part is to amend the project ordinance to take it up to \$1,612,000, which includes one million in principal forgiveness. Are there any questions about this?

Mayor Alan Peoples entertained a motion to adopt Town Manager Fatland's presentation for accepting the \$612,000 loan and amending the Project Ordinance by increasing it to \$1,612,000. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.



Town Manager Fatland reported that the completion date will remain the same which is January 19<sup>th</sup> of 2025. The contractors, Braewick and WithersRavenel want to thank many of the residents of Gillette Woods for being very cooperative on helping them to grant easements to their property to get things done.

## **XII. FY 24-25 BUDGET ORIDINACE AMENDMENT NO. ONE**

Town Manager Fatland reported the following:

This is our first budget amendment for the year, and so I'll go through the key items for it. Last meeting, you approved doing a pedestrian deck at the corner of Pacolet and Depot Street just right behind us. The cost was like \$67,000. I'm recommending we fund that from investment earnings. As I shared with you at budget time, in prior years you're getting only like \$5,000. We moved much of our fund balance into the state investment pool, which is paying over 5% rate of return, so we're going to go from \$5,000 to about \$140,000 a year in investment earnings. I thought we'd take the investment earnings and pay cash for this particular project. Also, we're showing the \$100,000 that you just recently approved in the budget ordinance from the general fund balance to pay for Helene storm damage. And then the Tourism Fund has a small request. They want to appropriate \$1,500 of their fund balance for event marketing.

And then Harmon Field, the open-air gym project, was running behind schedule. And I guess I'm pleased they were running behind schedule because all the new appliances for our catering kitchen were in a dry area. After looking at the facility, I think the project should go forward. I know Will from Arts and Crafts mentioned to me, he said, Jim, I apologize. I left that metal door open and the water just rolled in and pushed out. Those walls by the basketball gym were designed to push out when the water came in, which that's what it did. So, I'm going to recommend appropriating \$25,000 of Harmon Field fund balance. The Polk County Foundation gave us a \$25,000 grant. We haven't asked for any of that money to come in yet. And then we got a grant from Duke Energy for \$1,150 to purchase a bench. That bench was in the storage shed and it didn't get washed away, so that's good. Then the Water and Sewer Fund, \$60,000, like we talked earlier, for Fund Balance to help out with storm damage. Then the Sewer Collection crew wanted to purchase new camera equipment, and it's badly needed. We did hire two new employees, Luke Arledge and Mason Merrill, who worked out really well with Andrew. I think this is valuable equipment for them to purchase at this point. So that's the budget amendment before you this evening, Budget Number One. Any questions?

Commissioner Crowell asked what the deck is made of for it to cost \$60,000. Town Manager Fatland said, "Well, it's track decking. I brought it to council at the last meeting. We had three bids. They ranged from \$60,210 up to \$145,000. Two were very high. Carlson Farmer, the low bid, he basically said, this is what, well, I think, is a lot of contractors bid high prices because they're busy. But it amazed me because I think Greg commented, because he's pretty handy on doing things, he's amazed that things cost so much. But also, too, he had to go through building approval with the county. John Walters did the design to make sure the footings and all this stuff passed. It will be holding pedestrians on it, open to the public.

But that's the price of today's market. In the last meeting, you guys approved the contract award and authorized me to come back with a budget amendment and that's what I'm doing now.”

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to accept the FY 24-25 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. One. Mayor Pro Tem Booker so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **XIII. REAPPOINTMENT TO TRYON’S ABC BOARD**

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to reappoint Jeffrey Close to Tryon’s ABC Board. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **XIV. DOWNTOWN/TDDA UPDATE**

Planning Director Tim Daniels reported the following:

Approximately 150 people attended the Barbecue Beat Down and we raised \$740. Congratulations to Steve Nealon on his big win. I hear he wore that belt around for days. Surprised it's not on him now. Our TDDA annual meeting will be at the Fitzgerald on Monday, October 21st from 6:00 to 8:00. There will be a panel discussing economic development in Tryon with Dr. Warren Carson, Alan Casavant, Julia Cowling, Mike Harriman, and Sherry Adams hosted by Kevin Parker. It'll be a nice little event. Please come at 5:30 for the ribbon cutting for the Fitzgerald. Fourth Friday, the 25th, the band we originally had scheduled had to cancel, so we are going to have karaoke on the plaza from 5:00 to 7:00 or 8:00 or beyond. We're going to charge \$5 a song if you want to sing, and all proceeds will go to Harmon Field Restoration. The Halloween decorations are up. Thanks to the sanitation crew for helping them get put up on the clock tower and Morris. The Halloween stroll is on October 31st from 5:00 to 7:00. Kiwanis is hosting a costume contest at 6:30 at the clock tower.

Beer Fest: we are still planning on moving forward with Beer Fest. Obviously, some breweries got hit in the area, so we had a meeting tonight. We are going to get some information this week and make a full-on decision regarding that. Please check social media for the time of Beer Fest and to stay tuned. And then back to Halloween. I need to ask for a road closure on Halloween the 31st from 4:30 to 7:30.

Mayor Alan Peoples entertained a motion to close the road at 4:30 to 7:30 on Halloween. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **XV. MINIMUM HOUSING/PLANNING UPDATE**

Planning Director Tim Daniels reported the following:

Shepherd Street, the new roof is on. I talked to Stephen who's doing renovations. The plumbing is getting in within the next week or so. The Peak Street test burn or

educational burn obviously got postponed. I talked to Chief Walton... If Asheville is unable to reschedule and get the multiple fire departments down to do the event, Tryon will just handle it and get it done so it doesn't get postponed for a couple months, so it's moving forward.

Fire Chief Walton reported that he talked with the Asheville Fire Department and they're looking at the beginning of November. The burn will be pushed back only a couple of weeks.

## **XVI. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Town Manager Jim Fatland said the following:

Just a couple of items. One is due to tropical storm Helene, the South Carolina application we made for the grant for Lake Lanier Dam rehab, they extended the deadline to November 11th, and everything is progressing on schedule. We'll turn the grant in probably ahead of time, but they did give us some additional time for that. Also, too, the tourism board a while back approved a parking study to be done for downtown. And I guess, Tim, just a brief update on the parking study. You've got the Foothills Regional Commission going to do that at a cost of \$5,000.

Planning Director Daniels agreed and said they should be starting in November so they should have some data produced in the near future.

## **XVII. COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT**

Commissioner Crowell: "Well, I just can't thank the staff enough. I've pretty much individually gone around and thanked you all. Great job. Bad situation, but great job. Thanks. I still have my concerns about when traffic lights are out that people think that means go faster. I really think we need to go ahead and buy some stop signs, put them on truck rims and when this situation happens, you put it on every single traffic light on 176. You make them stop because, well, we almost lost a person because two people decided they weren't going to stop and they crashed into each other. But it was getting so crowded up at the corner of Morris and people just blowing through that red light. It's constant. I really want to thank Gary Walker for coming out and fixing those water lines. I mean, it could have been critical to the town if we lost fire hydrant ability. So, all the water and sewer guys, thank you, fire, street, dispatch, thanks. That's it."

Mayor Pro Tem Booker: "We can't say thank you enough. We can't call everybody's names. And that's from the people that came out from Tennessee, Mississippi, and other places, Asheville, everybody that was in this, people came up. But yeah, we thank everybody that works for the town. I come up one day, and Susan was in the office, and I was like, hey, Susan, yeah. I like the idea of bringing back prayer to the council. It's been about seven and a half years since we actually had someone sitting, also someone invited to do prayers. I like that idea of that coming back. Again, I know that you all didn't get enough relief at the time or maybe enough sleep, but I just thank, I thank God. I thank God that he did send some relief for us, and you guys were able to work more efficiently. And without you, even if people had come

in from national or some people international, we had people from Canada. I've got friends in Canada; I checked with them. Everybody was looking out for us. And it seems as if North Carolina, in particular, was not mentioned in some places like New York and Cleveland, but it's a place where I have family. They thought we were all right. So, I think that we all helped to alleviate that situation, and they had people do different things to try to help us out. And I do not want to forget Roseland. Sometimes Roseland gets lost in the loop, but everybody over there was helping; everybody in the Roseland community was helping. And Stephen, I talked to Stephen quite often. He made trips to Roseland in between cooking, and he was offering everybody something. I'm telling you, that was the best pizza I've ever had. And again, it's just a huge, huge, huge thank you for the employees that work in this really tiny town, they're giving a lot of help. And I know we're going to need some help going forward." She also mentioned that Polk County's water and sewer issues were part of a Wall Street Journal article with Cliff Marr being interviewed.

Mayor Peoples: "I'm going to add to the thank you, folks. I went down to town hall, and from the 27th of September until the 10th of October, I worked 129 hours. I kept up with it, and I saw people in this town, outside our town, and in other places open their hearts that I haven't seen in a long time. There were a couple of times it kind of rained in my glasses a little because people were helping, and then there were times that people who got some help would come by and say thank you so very much, and they wanted to know what they could do for somebody else. That's the America that I love, and I love it a lot. That being said, citizen comments, please identify yourself if you'd like to speak with your name for the record."

#### **XVIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ann Day: "I want to add my thanks to your staff. They were incredible. I'm one of the lucky ones. I had a generator. I didn't have any damage to any property or anything, but our neighborhood, Bill knows it from being there years ago, came together like we used to. We had block parties. We ran drop cords from generators to houses that didn't have power to suck water out of a sump pump, run dehumidifiers, helped people sleeping on CPAPs. It was amazing for us, our neighborhood. And then to come down here and see what all of you did was just phenomenal. So, thank you."

Joyce Kimpton: "Ann provided us refrigeration for my granddaughter's insulin. Otherwise, we would have been in a lot of trouble, because that insulin has to stay cold. And for the people who did not grow up here, if you look back at the history of Tryon, you'll find out that this town has been built on volunteerism. Whatever was needed, the people in this town have always stepped up and taken care of it. So, thanks to everybody who took their turn and stepped up during this disaster."

Nick Fisher: "My compliments go to the mayor. I was sitting in town hall early on, when it opened up for Wi-Fi service, making phone calls, talking to a friend of mine, Skip Crow, and this gentleman, our mayor, walked in the room and pointed his finger at me and Skip and said, "Get up and grab the water and load my truck." Without question, we did it. So that's who our mayor is."

Ann Day: "I have one more thing, I'm sorry. For those of you who believe in Tryon, vote in Tryon, who vote on Election Day at Harmon Field. Obviously, that's not a possibility this year. Dr. Purtill and the

Tryon Presbyterian Church have kindly opened their doors, and that will be the polling place if you live in Tryon on Election Day.”

Dr. Alan Purtill thanked all of the Tryon staff.

**XIX. ADJOURN**

Mayor Alan Peoples entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

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J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

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Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk