

**TOWN OF TRYON**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY 19, 2015 7:00 P.M.**  
**TRYON FIRE STATION**

Present: Mayor Jim Wright, Mayor Pro Tempore Roy Miller

Commissioners: George Baker, Bill Ingham, Happy McLeod

Staff Present: Town Manager Joey Davis

Town Clerk Susan Bell

Police Chief Jeff Arrowood

Town Attorney Bailey Nager

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order. Commissioner McLeod led the invocation. Mayor Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wright presented Police Chief Arrowood with his certificate from the N.C. School of Government for successfully completing the Municipal Administration Course. He also recognized Marj Creswell who was not able to be in attendance for her many years of service to the Visitor's Information Center. The proclamation will be delivered to her.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

Town Manager Davis stated that he needed to add an item. Attorney Nager wanted to add item 8a. The Authority for the Town Manager to pursue collections of unpaid civil penalties by commencing small claims court actions as necessary. Mayor Wright entertained a motion to adopt the amended agenda. Commissioner McLeod so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Town Manager Davis stated that during the budget process, council has been working on a new position, Community Development Director. Two important tasks will be code enforcement and grant administration. There were seven applicants, he interviewed three and made a final decision. He introduced Paula Kempton. Ms. Kempton has been with Isothermal Planning & Development for the last sixteen years. You might recognize her from two of the last CDBG grants that the town received. The W. Livingston Street project and the East Howard Street sewer line project. The Board all welcomed her. Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that he has worked with Ms. Kempton since 2004 and feels the Town Manager made a wise decision. Ms. Kempton thanked the Board for this opportunity and stated she feels like she is coming home.

### **TRHC BUILDING**

Town Manager Davis stated that this is an ongoing discussion about the acquisition of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club building. Attorney Nager stated that he has prepared and tendered a deed to Mr. Mevers that he would use to convey the property to the town. There are a couple of items that would need to be discussed. The Board now has to decide if they want it. Mayor Pro Tem Miller asked if there were any concerns that the attorney has. Nager stated that the primary issues were environmental, such as mold. Davis had sent the report from Foothills Crawl Space. Commissioner Baker made a motion to accept the building. The motion carried unanimously.

### **VEHICLE FINANCING**

Town Manager Davis stated that the board discussed last week in your budget work shop the acquisition of two vehicles. One being an administration vehicle that's going to be for community development director, plus staff, plus public works will use when traveling to schools. The other one is kind of a split role between the manager and fire department. The loans are for five and six years with Macon Bank at 1.75% interest rate. Commissioner Baker made a motion to finance the two vehicles at Macon Bank at an interest rate of 1.75% for five years and delegate the Town Manager to sign the paperwork. The motion carried unanimously.

### **AUTHORITY FOR TOWN MANAGER TO PURSUE COLLECTIONS**

Attorney Nager stated that the town has one matter currently that the individual is not paying and the penalties are starting to add up. The Town's option is to go to small claims court and file a claim. He will start with a letter stating that the Town is going to take small claims action. Commissioner Baker asked if we couldn't send him to the collection agency. Nager stated after you file small claims. He will contact the School of Government to see what options the Town has. He knows that there are other areas that are having problems with barking dogs. Baker wants to give the neighbors some relief.

Commissioner Ingham stated that we should go ahead and give the Town Manager the authority. He then made the motion to give the Authority to the Town Manager to pursue collections of unpaid penalties through small claims court. The motion carried unanimously.

Miller asked if the Polk County Animal Control Officer has any more power. Chief Arrowood stated that his is usually for abuse. Miller asked about muzzles. Arrowood stated that if the dogs were outside during the day they wouldn't be able to eat and drink. Baker stated that there are no bad dogs, just bad owners. He shouldn't be able to abuse his neighbors. The attorney will continue to see what he can find out.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Davis congratulated Police Chief Arrowood for completing Manager's School. You now have three staff members that have finished the schooling, Arrowood, Davis and Bell. Thanks to everyone that came out and participated with TDDA and Polk County Community Foundation joint event: Tryon Making a Place. Anne Day helped organize the picnics and the low country shrimp boil for the Town. Town Hall is closed on Monday. The Blue Ridge Barbeque Festival will be here on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Tentatively we will look at scheduling budget workshops on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and he will invite the different entities to attend. He and Kim went out to the Saturday night lights series at the

equestrian center. There was a nice crowd and they have some really nice things going on. Saturday, June 6 NBC Sports will be filming. It will be about thirty minutes of promotion for Tryon and Polk County. Thanks to council for attending the County Commissioners meeting in support of the fire budget.

### **COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT**

Mayor Pro Tem Miller congratulated Chief Arrowood on his accomplishment. He personally thanked him for helping escort his family to and from Rutherford County during the recent death in his family. The next day Arrowood followed up by stopping by and checking on his mom. Miller sincerely appreciated everything. The culvert pipes were being repaired at Harmon Field today. He apologized to Anne for not attending the luncheon and told her he looks forward to working with TDDA and TTDA. He would also like to see the Parks Committee invited to the budget meeting. He lost his brother on April 26 and thanked everyone for being so kind.

Commissioner McLeod gives thanks for our employees each day. Arrowood's recognition makes her very proud of him and all employees. If you have any concerns over the budget please let us know. The Parks Committee meets on June 9 and invited everyone to attend. She is very proud of the Tryon Equestrian Center and the shows at Harmon Field. The last event at Harmon Field caused them to put in extra stalls. She encouraged everyone to attend the events.

Commissioner Ingham echoed what had been said about Chief Arrowood and welcomed Ms. Kempton. He saw the work being done at Harmon Field and stated that we have a wonderful park.

Commissioner Baker congratulated Chief Arrowood and welcomed Ms. Kempton. He feels sure that the barking dogs will be fixed. Need to revisit the water bill collection issues again soon. He is having difficulty getting the sidewalk committee going. He reminded everyone of his "Corner the Commissioner" meeting the day before the council meets.

Mayor Wright congratulated Chief Arrowood and welcomed Ms. Kempton. He thanked TDDA for the shrimp boil gathering as part of the "Tryon Making A Place". There was a great turnout. He thanked Town Manager Davis and staff for their work on the budget.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

Anne Day, speaking on behalf of the TDDA thanked everyone for participating with the "Tryon Making A Place" event. She asked that the board let the employees know that they are thankful for what they do. She thanked the police for helping with a dog running at large.

Mary Prioleau asked if there were any effort made by the Town to secure the alcohol permit for the equestrian center. Town Manager Davis stated that Vera had reached out to them and thought she had it. His understanding is once you are locked in, you are in it for a year. Commissioner Ingham stated that Tryon still gets business from them, because when Columbus came up short, Tryon had to sell to them. Ms. Kempton stated that she would talk with them.

Joyce Kimpton stated that she had called the Town Manager about the gas line. Davis stated that he will get with Jack Holmes to find out about locating the line.

She has a neighbor who rents the house next door that runs the stop sign. The police have her on camera. She has contacted businesses that have delivery trucks about running the stop sign. No body stops at the stop sign. Chief Arrowood will check on the legality of sending her a ticket in the mail. Commissioner Ingham stated that you have to almost pull out in the road to see if anyone is coming.

Anne Day stated that she and Mary have been appointed by TDDA to be on the sidewalk committee. Commissioner Baker feels that the committee will get going.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that he and Commissioner Baker have talked about the Jules Larson Committee. He feels that we need to get members back on the committee. This committee checks on head stones and works on keeping the brush picked up. Commissioner Ingham stated that he has seen fifteen people at a time out there working. Davis stated that PWD Walker is staying on top of things. He says that he can bring the grass cutting back in house. Commissioner McLeod stated that she will mention this to the Parks Committee. They are looking at grants for special projects like this.

#### **ADJOURN**

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

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Jim T. Wright, Mayor

Attest:

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Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk