

TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 7:00 P.M.
TRYON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Present: Mayor Jim Wright Mayor Pro Tem Roy Miller

Commissioners: George Baker, Bill Ingham, Happy McLeod

Staff Present: Town Manager Joey Davis Town Clerk Susan Bell

Police Chief Jeff Arrowood Community Dev. Dir. Paula Kempton

Town Attorney Bailey Nager

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. He asked for a moment of silence for those that are much less fortunate. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: CROP WALK PROCLAMATION

Mayor Wright presented a proclamation to David Riddle for the Crop Walk proclaiming October 18, 2015 as Crop Hunger Walk Day in Tryon. Mr. Riddle thanked the Mayor.

AGENDA ADOPTION

There were several items that needed to be added to the agenda. Item 8b. American Legion, Item 13b. ABC reappointment, Item 13c. Resolution of Intent to Lease to NPR and closed session minutes. Mayor Wright entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Mayor Pro Tem Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the minutes from the previous meeting and tax releases for Valinda Mitchell (2008-2013) total \$111.37, Head to Toe Salon \$22.17, Bill's Jewelry Store \$16.28, Kyoto Japanese Steak House \$9.99, R.E. Mevers, Jr. \$3,123.31, Dan Ferebee \$756.93, Jeffery Ely DBA Kathleen's \$22.76 and Kathleen's Gallery \$18.12. Commissioner Baker so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Town Manager Davis recognized Lieutenant Nick Stott, Officer Alan Corn, Sergeant Manny Zaragoza, along with firefighters Tank Waters, Johnny Hipp, Marshall Lipscomb and Scottie Gosnell who were the first to arrive at the 950 E. Howard Street fire. Many attempts were made to enter the house. A lot has been said about the departments. The officers and firemen are a great asset to this town.

Miller echoed what Davis has said. It was amazing to see them fight the fire. He watched the film afterwards and saw Stott using the fire hose while Zaragoza went to the door. He appreciates everything. That was part of his family that expired that night.

The next day Officer Stott came to show his respect and stayed until the body was taken to its final resting place. Miller thanked him.

HINCAPIE GRAN FONDO

Town Manager Davis stated that the annual Hincapie Gran Fondo is coming to town. He met with organizers last week. He then introduced John Cash. Mr. Cash thanked the officers from the town and the county. They do a wonderful job. This bicycle race began years ago in Europe. The money raised will go to Meals on Wheels in Greenville, SC. They have riders from every state and nineteen countries. Chuck Hodge professional bike rider brags on the police and fire from our area everytime. He thanked them for their help with the bike ride.

AMERICAN LEGION

Comm. Dev. Dir. Kempton introduced Michael Collins with the American Legion. Mr. Collins stated that the building was built in 1945 or 1946. They had borrowed \$15,000 to paint and do work inside and out of the building. They didn't think about the color. It is American Legion blue. He received a call from Ms. Kempton that the American Legion had violated the ordinance with the paint color and that he would need to go before the Planning Board. On the 10th he went before them and it was explained to him that the color didn't fit with the Historical District colors. It was voted to redo the paint color at a cost of about \$2,000 and suggested that he come before you this evening to seek some help with repainting.

Commissioner Baker stated that he had asked Mr. Collins to come before the council. They tried to make the building look better, raised the money and the color is wrong. Attorney Nager stated that the statute doesn't permit the board to help with money. Baker thought if they were fundraising then they could cook or donate the time of the police and fire.

John Davis asked if he couldn't appeal the Planning Board's decision. Kempton stated that Trade Street is the only historical district and she wanted to keep in mind that a variance is a high cost. Mr. Collins stated that their budget is about \$15,000 a year. This money goes toward helping veterans and helping upgrade the building. They have paid for the paving, put up benches and want to move the flag pole. Mr. Davis asked about the building beside the American Legion. There is mold growing out of the building, steps are falling and the board is not doing anything about this.

Mayor Wright thanked Mr. Collins for coming to the meeting.

TDDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Town Manager Davis stated that TDDA has hired a full time director. In-coming president Wanda May introduced Jamie Carpenter as the new director. Ms. Carpenter stated that she is excited to be here to help our community.

STREET CLOSURES

Town Manager Davis stated at your August meeting you adopted a new street closure policy. He has received two applications. One is to close Palmer between Trade Street and Maple on October 31 from 8-5 for the Rolling Art annual display and one is to close a portion of West Howard Street above Tryon Fire on September 26 to accommodate foot traffic for the Rock the Carolinas concert.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve the two requested street closures. The motion carried unanimously.

ABC PERMIT FOR EVENT AT HARMON FIELD

Town Manager Davis stated that Harmon Field Board Chairman Smith came to him asking if the Board could tentatively approve the alcohol permit for Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's fundraiser for Harmon Field. Their event is October 10th. Commissioner Baker stated not until the people are present and ask for this. They have to come before the board.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE APPLICATION FOR THE NCDOT BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLANNING GRANT

Comm. Dev. Dir. Kempton stated that the Town has been awarded a \$5,000 grant to develop a bicycle and pedestrian plan. This will make the Town eligible to apply for DOT money. Commissioner Baker asked who was matching the grant. Kempton stated that the Polk County Community Foundation is contributing the match and she needs the Board to pass the Resolution Endorsing the Application for the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant. Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that there was a study done several years ago that was spearheaded by John Vining. He asked if that could be used to speed up and utilize the plan. Baker stated that it was a private study. Kempton will ask him about this.

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to approve the Resolution Endorsing the Application for the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried 3-1 (Baker opposed).

STRATEGIC PLAN

Town Manager Davis stated that the strategic plan was done five years ago and needs to be updated. Public input has been solicited, council has given input. The Board may want to wait until the elections. This update includes the most recent census that was released two weeks ago. Commissioner Baker suggested a special meeting to go over the plan. All agreed.

ABC APPOINTMENT

Town Manager Davis stated that Dennis Durham's ABC Board term expires September 18, 2015 and he would like to be re-appointed. Commissioner Baker made a motion to re-appoint Dennis Durham to the ABC Board. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO LEASE TO NPR

Town Manager Davis stated that he had received a five year lease agreement from WCQS Western North Carolina Public Radio. Mr. Reed has tested, found no interference and they can turn it off remotely. He forwarded the lease to the town attorney. Town Attorney Nager stated that the board

would need to adopt the Resolution of Intent to enter a lease. He would have to advertise a public hearing ten days before the next meeting. The lease looks like the ones we've used in the past. It is for five years with a \$50 monthly rental. He has a few changes that needs to be discussed with them. The actual lease would come before the board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve the Resolution of Intent to Enter into the Lease with WCQS Radio. The motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Davis stated that the Suicide Awareness Walk was well attended. He thanked Tomara Black and Mary Prioleau for helping with the walk. Ms. Prioleau found it phenomenal, thanking the Police department, Fire department and all who helped with the food. Anne Day stated that this was a great event. Davis stated that the Saturday Lights event at the equestrian area (TIEC) starts this Saturday, gates open at 5:00 p.m. The Historical Museum's grand opening is September 26, along with the Toy Makers Anniversary event and a motorcycle ride. TDDA's annual meeting will be September 28 6:00 p.m. at Sunnysdale. The Public Information meeting will be October 5 at 6:00 regarding the Historic District. Comm. Dev. Dir. Kempton stated that she along with TDDA has sent out letters to the people in the designated area and ran a notice trying to get people to attend. Davis stated on October 11 he and Chief Arrowood will be attending the NCLM conference. He has been asked to speak on the body cameras that were purchased for the police. Chief Arrowood has been progressive and a leader in that field. The International Film Festival will be held October 9th & 10th. Everyone remembered 9/11. Kudos to the fire and police at a recent car wreck on Beaver Street. There were three firemen in the car with the driver and he had a heart beat when he got to the hospital.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner McLeod asked that everyone mark their calendars for September 26 3:30-5 to come to the Tryon Historical Museum grand opening. This has been in the making since October 2012. The museum is telling Tryon's story. They're going to have an auction of toys on Sunday after a short play. In the Strategic Plan section 8.3 it mentions working with TDDA. She will work with Wanda May, Jamie Carpenter and Paula Kempton to see how they can implement the plan.

Commissioner Ingham echoed McLeod on the issue of working together. He also welcomed Ms. Carpenter. He thanked Kathy Wright for her civil comments during the Duke Energy presentation. He hears complaints, but he also hears great things on the police and fire.

Commissioner Baker congratulated the Board for giving the police the cameras. He asked what happened with TEDx, he expected them to be here to give a report. Mary Prioleau stated that it was a phenomenal event. Mayor Wright asked that someone ask the ladies to come and make a report. Baker thanked everyone for coming this evening.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that at the Eastside Advisory Committee it was asked how we distribute information to our citizens. Some do not have access to the internet or get the bulletin. We need to come up with a way to distribute information. The first full week of October is Fire Prevention Week. The Fire department has free smoke detectors and someone that will help you put them in. He welcomed Ms. Carpenter and stated that she is working with a great crew at TDDA. The police and fire mutual aid is unique with Saluda, the Sheriff's Department, Columbus, Mill Spring and Landrum. He

feels it shows respect that they back each other up. He had been asked to see if the time could be changed on the Christmas parade to start a little earlier, because it gets darker earlier and the elderly have to leave. He appreciates the courtesy given to the Duke Energy representative. He has heard a lot of negativity on the fire of August 22. He, the Mayor, Town Manager Davis and Chief Arrowood met with the family on Wednesday. Response time seems like hours when there is a tragedy and only a few minutes has passed. The family is angry. Healing needs to take place and we need to help if there is anyway.

Mayor Wright stated that in the recent fire related tragedy a young man lost his life. He has been told that he was an outstanding young man. All have run across death, but this is a difficult situation. He, along with Chief Arrowood, Town Manager Davis and Firemen Waters attended the Eastside meeting. He is proud of council for going. It was a difficult meeting. He thanked Leah Justice for a very factual report in the bulletin. He encouraged everyone to look for smoke detectors in your neighbors houses. We have them and install them for free. You can't go through something like this without the fire and police. The firemen are volunteers, who have to get up at 3:00 in the morning, get dressed, drive to the fire department, start the fire truck, raise the doors and go to the fire. The response time to the fire was excellent by both groups. It was truly a tragedy. He attended the TEDx event and learned something from everyone that spoke. The suicide walk was a great deal. He welcomed Ms. Carpenter. He is proud of this board for listening to Duke Energy and listening to our citizens.

Commissioner Baker asked that Marilyn Doheny come before the board to discuss the quilt trail starting with the building that has been recently donated to the town.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Joan Roseberry asked that the weeds in front of the building that had been donated be cut. Commissioner Ingham stated that the weeds were just cut. Ms. Roseberry stated her concerns with the blind corner at Chestnut Street. Town Manager Davis stated that Ms. Kempton could check on this.

Anne Day thanked Chief Arrowood and his department for helping with the recent issues that they have had. Saturday is Thank a Police Officer Day. She has a group of people that would like to provide lunch on Friday.

Joyce Kimpton asked if the kudzu could be sprayed near Second Street and Carson Street. It is taking over the trees and railroad tracks and causing snakes in her area.

John Davis stated that he would appreciate any help getting the pavement repaired where Duke Energy cut a hole to work on the powerline. People have been tripping over it for six months. Town Manager Davis stated that he will get in touch with Craig Debrew from Duke Energy. Mayor Pro Tem Miller congratulated Tryon Distillery on their moon shine.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that there is a fire ordinance on the books and suggested getting homes inspected before renting them. The house that burned may have not been able to be lived in if it were inspected.

MOTION TO CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to convene to closed session to discuss personnel pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143.318-11(a)(6) and to approve closed session minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

The Board discussed having an employee recognition event. It was agreed that the Board would ask Manager Davis to make recommendations about this.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn by Commissioner Ingham was approved unanimously.

Jim T. Wright, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk