

TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 20, 2015 7:00 P.M.
TRYON TOWN HALL-MCCOWN ROOM

Present: Mayor Jim Wright Mayor Pro Tem Roy Miller

Commissioners Present: George Baker, Happy McLeod, Bill Ingham

Staff Present: Town Manager Joey Davis Town Clerk Susan Bell

Police Chief Jeff Arrowood Community Dev. Dir. Paula Kempton

Absent: Town Attorney Bailey Nager

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Wright asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Town Manager Davis wanted to add item 12 b. Polk County Film Initiative Presentation. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion to adopt the agenda carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Wright asked if there were any changes or corrections to the Consent Agenda, which includes the minutes from the previous meetings and tax releases for MVPCO LLC \$8.35, Eva Lankford \$4.28, Wyllys Taylor \$21.35, Margaret Parker \$15.99 and Kelli McGinnis \$7.48. Being none he entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL ROOM RE-DEDICATION

Town Manager Davis stated that the Board of Commissioners meetings have been held at the Fire Department since at least the early 2000's. The renovations were done on this room to move the meetings back to Town Hall. He thanked everyone for their efforts in getting the room ready. The Board also thanked everyone and stated they were glad to be in the room.

PUBLIC HEARING: LEASE AGREEMENT WITH WNC NPR

Mayor Wright opened the public hearing. Town Manager Davis stated that at the August meeting you received a request on housing WCQS equipment in your radio room on Tryon Peak. It has been checked for interference and can be remotely disconnected if there is a problem. The Board approved the intent to enter a lease at the September meeting and now before you is the actual lease. It has been reviewed and revised by Town Attorney Nager and revisions approved by WCQS.

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to approve the lease agreement with WNC NPR. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: SIGN ORDINANCE REVISION

Mayor Wright opened the public hearing. Town Manager Davis stated that the Board of Planning and Adjustment has proposed revisions to the signage requirements in the IP district. It was approved unanimously at their October 8 meeting. John Walters stated that they had discussed over several meetings and felt 25% increase in the IP District was appropriate. Polk County had approved 60 square feet for Midway Baptist Church. Commissioner Baker stated that our current ordinance includes support structure for the sign. He disagrees with including the support structure. Commissioner Ingham stated that he agreed with Baker. When you put a sign on the wall then that's support, but do you count the wall. Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that the Mimosa Inn sign is larger than the proposed. Walters stated that when it changes ownership they will have to conform.

Lorna Dever stated that the proposed sign is 59 square feet, including base (rock structure). The sign maker told her that they have never dealt with a place that counted the base and topper as part of the sign. Miller asked if we could have the person making the sign meet with Mr. Walters and Ms. Dever. Walters suggested moving it closer to the street and using another sign builder.

Mayor Wright asked if someone appeared before the Planning Board. Ms. Dever stated yes. Miller asked if the acreage had been taken under consideration. Baker stated there has to be consistency. Dever stated they have 500 feet of road frontage. Walters stated that three of the board met with the church.

Commissioner McLeod asked if anyone had taken in consideration the size of the property. It takes seven seconds to read a sign when passing at 35 miles per hour. Commissioner Ingham made a motion to table the sign ordinance revision. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Wright closed the public hearing.

Mayor Wright re-opened the public hearing on the WNC NPR lease and asked if there were any public comments. Being none, he closed that public hearing.

LAND ACQUISITION

Town Manager Davis stated that Barbara Fox is willing to tender the property at 134 Cleveland Road to the town. PWD Walker had mentioned to him that owning this property would allow the Town to widen Cleveland Road in the narrow curve at some point. He just needs the board to give him direction on how to proceed. The Board agreed that they would like to seek the property. He will get Attorney Nager to work on the paperwork to present to you.

SHORT TERM PARKING

Town Manager Davis stated that Chapter 75 includes your parking schedules in the town. He has talked with local businesses and he would like to make the first two spaces on Trade Street to the south of Maple Street 15 minute parking, along with the first two spaces on Maple Street as you come off Trade Street. The two spaces in front of 46 Maple Street he would like to make 10 minute parking. Commissioner Ingham stated that he didn't like the idea of changing the two spaces as you start down Maple Street. Commissioner Baker stated that he didn't like the idea of the 15 minute parking for

certain businesses. Davis stated that the signs would match the other two hour parking signs. Commissioner McLeod asked why have two hour parking limit signs, when it is not enforced. Chief Arrowood is going to revisit the two hour parking. McLeod agreed that Arrowood, Davis and Kempton need to take a look at this. It does look busier with all the cars. Ingham agreed if you take all the cars away it will look like a ghost town. Need to get input from everyone.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to make the two on Trade Street south of Maple Street 15 minute parking and the two in front of 46 Maple Street 10 minute parking. The motion carried unanimously.

STREET CLOSURES

Town Manager Davis stated that TDDA request to close Trade Street between Maple and Palmer from 3pm to 10pm on Saturday, December 5 for the Christmas Stroll. The Town of Tryon Fire Department request Trade Street closure between E. Howard to New Market from 5pm to 6pm on Wednesday, December 9 for Christmas Parade, with a makeup day of December 16. TDDA also request Trade Street to be closed between Palmer and Oak Street from 6pm to Midnight on December 31 for the Tryon Midnight event. Also Depot Street on November 7 for the Beerfest from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to approve all four street closure requests. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

TEDX PRESENTATION

Town Manager Davis invited TEDx representatives to attend and give a presentation. Loti Woods stated that the event was a great success. Tickets were sold out within 72 hours. There were twelve speakers. It was a most empowering community event. It put Tryon on the map.

TRYON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTATION

Town Manager Davis invited representatives from the Tryon International Film Festival to give a presentation. Lavine Cuddihee stated that they had approximately 800 people attend (65% were from out of town). They screened 50-51 films in two days. It was a great event and they are planning one in 2016. People want to experience this place.

INTERCONNECT REPAIR

Town Manager Davis stated that the three town managers agree on recommending Jonathan Hollifield as the engineer for the interconnect line repair project. Each town has to approve the engineer.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to move to Jonathan Hollifield as contractor for the interconnect line repair project instead of Joel Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Davis stated that the Hincapie Gran Fondo will be held this Saturday, October 24, the Halloween Stroll is October 31, the Town Elections are being held on Tuesday, November 3 and Town Hall will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day. There will be a parade in Columbus.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner McLeod stated that she is on the Parks Committee and each member is assigned a park to report on. The Town is working on a grant with the Town of Columbus and City of Saluda to participate in a putting in a bike trail from Tryon to Columbus. The Polk County Foundation has already put up the local match. Look at the wonderful things going on in Tryon with TEDx and the International Film Festival. The Museum has opened and has had 157 visitors stop in. They are open Thursday through Saturday and have fifteen volunteers.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that near the bump out cars are using the space for golf carts to park cars. He had safety concerns. The Town has demolished two houses on Fairview. Tryon Plaza Motel is for sale. The trees at the intersection of Berry Street and Highway 108 need to be looked at. He suggested talking with NCDOT. The trees belong to the Urgent Care. He is concerned of the safety. Community Director Kempton will talk with him. He asked about the smoke detectors. Davis stated that they have done a lot of installations and he is checking on the lithium batteries. They can get the fire extinguishers filled or replaced.

Commissioner Ingham thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Commissioner Baker also thanked everyone for coming out tonight and invited everyone to attend. Mayor Pro Tem Miller echoed them by thanking everyone for coming and for clarification he still lives in Tryon.

Mayor Wright thanked the TEDx presentation and the Film presentation. The ideas are new and innovative to Tryon. The Museum is off and running. These are all good additions to Tryon. He reminded everyone to get out and vote. The percentage to turn out has been pathetic in the past elections.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Karandall Gary stated that this is the first meeting that he has attended. He has some concerns. He would like to see the same care given to the east side of Town as everywhere else. This is a beautiful area. Everything is important. Mayor Wright stated that at every meeting they give citizens a chance to speak on issues and welcomed him to the meeting. Commissioner Ingham stated that the Eastside Committee meets every quarter also. Commissioner Baker stated that he holds "Corner the Commissioner" meetings on Mondays before the commissioner meeting from 3:00-6:00.

Gary stated that his uncle was the one that lost his life in the recent fire. There has been a lot of bickering going on. It's not us against the Town, they just have concerns. Miller stated that they needed to create harmony and as leaders build a bridge. Mr. Gary has taken the lead, by handing out flyers in the community about the smoke detectors. Davis stated that he came to the Fire Department to pick up smoke detectors and he told him that the town would print the flyers for him, if he would like. Gary remembers when he was young looking forward to coming to Super Saturday and the movies. It's not about being poor, rich, black or white. He thanked the board for listening.

Lewis McCrary asked council to enforce the ordinances on debris for the Jervey Palmer building. Bill Cummins stated that they are concerned about their property values because of all the debris. He is concerned that the ordinances are not being enforced. Town Manager Davis stated that there are different rules for commercial property than residences. He will check on legal action. He turned it over to the Division of Air Quality a couple of months ago. He will check with the inspector.

Jamie Carpenter with TDDA invited all to attend the Tuesday coffee meeting at 8:00. The bike race will be coming through Tryon around 10:00 a.m. Saturday.

Doug Arbogast reminded everyone that early voting started October 22-31.

John Davis asked who could add to the directional signs. CD Director Kempton stated that she is working with Planning and Zoning and TDDA on how to handle.

MOTION TO CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to enter into closed session to discuss personnel pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143.318-11(a)(6). Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim T. Wright, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk