

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 18, 2016 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL - MCCOWN ROOM**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples

Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ingham

Commissioners: Roy Miller, Bill Crowell, Crys Armbrust

Staff Present: Town Manager Zach Ollis
Police Chief Jeff Arrowood
Attorney Bailey Nager

Town Clerk Susan Bell
Comm. Dev. Dir. Paula Kempton

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order. He asked for a moment of silence for those on the East coast due to the storm. Mayor Pro Tem Ingham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples stated that he needed to pull Christine Cowles application for Tourism and add Coretha Littlejohn and pull the Resolution Endorsing the Building Reuse Application. Town Manager Ollis added Lake Lanier (8a). CDD Kempton added the time frame of contracts for Trace(8b). Mayor Peoples asked for any other changes. Being none, he entertained a motion to adopt the agenda with the deletions and additions. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any changes to the Consent Agenda. Being none, he entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, which includes the minutes and tax releases for D&P Unlimited, Inc. (\$9.19) and Out of Business (\$29.64). Mayor Pro Tem Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Peoples introduced Madison a senior at Polk County High School who has decided to follow the Mayor for her senior project. Everyone welcomed her.

APPOINTMENT(S) TO TOURISM AUTHORITY

Town Manager Ollis stated applications from Ken Dahlstrom, Leah Pyhala and Coretha Littlejohn are before you for the Tryon Tourism Development Authority. Mayor Peoples asked for a nomination. Commissioner Armbrust made a nomination to appoint Coretha Littlejohn to the Tourism Authority. The nomination carried unanimously.

Ollis gave an update on the applications. There is still one opening, but this applicant needs to be from someone who is collecting the occupancy tax. The Mimosa Inn is being cleaned and they are waiting on the building inspector that is coming in tomorrow. They will be partially open soon and fully open in the spring. Armbrust asked if she would be interested in the Tourism Board. She stated yes when she is open.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE BIKE AND PED PLANNING GRANT

CDD Kempton stated that this is just a reapplication to get funding from the Polk County Community Foundation to go in with Columbus to fill out an application for the bike and ped planning grant. Marilyn Doheny asked what this is about. Kempton stated that this is for the Town to apply for a planning grant for experts to come in and see if it is feasible to have bike lanes and sidewalks through Tryon and Columbus.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the resolution endorsing the bike and ped planning grant. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

LAKE LANIER

Town Manager Ollis turned over to the attorney. Attorney Nager stated that we had a definite communication break down earlier this morning. Mr. Kerhulas has spoken to Paula and Zach. The issue is that the board needed to take action within 30 days. He would like to ask if Mr. Kerhulas is acceptable with the board not taking action within the 30 days and making a decision at the next meeting. His proposal was recommended by the Planning Board. It was for unlimited commercial activity. What he gathered from the Board is that you were willing to allow limited commercial activity. Mr. Kerhulas stated he would like to get this cleared up as soon as possible. He is not going to put a stove on the dock. He would like for his customers to be able to sit while waiting on their table or sit after dinner. He would also like to hold weddings there and utilize the parking area.

Nager stated that the Boards options are to take a vote to allow this or to talk about. Peoples stated the Boards concerns are not for you, it's for when you sell the property. The new owners may wish to use it for other ideas. Mr. Kerhulas stated that you could look at it like that, but the county is not going to allow certain activities. Nager stated that you are asking the Town to go in with you to help get Greenville County to change the zoning. The Town has to be comfortable with their decision. Mr. Kerhulas stated whatever it takes. Nager suggested the board decide to make the decision at next month's meeting. Mr. Kerhulas is not objecting.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to defer the decision to the next meeting which is November 15, 2016 as proposed by the attorney. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACTS WITH TRACE & COMPANY

CDD Kempton stated that Trace is here to discuss the contracts and where he is at as he was told do at the last meeting. She had asked them to stop working on the sidewalks and move to Peake Street, because of all the events coming up. So they pulled off and went to Peake Street. They have finalized that and will be back onto Pacolet and Oak Street after the Beerfest. Todd stated that it would make it the end of November. He had hoped to have you a schedule tonight, but it will be tomorrow. Commissioner Ingham asked if they would be done by November 30. Todd stated that would be fine weather permitting. Commissioner Armbrust asked if he understands correctly Trace will not be working in Tryon for the next two to three weeks. Paula stated they will start back right after the Beerfest. Todd stated the sidewalks are safed up. Armbrust stated that's not true, because every day there are incidences. Todd stated that is safed up per DOT code. All handicap crossings are flush. Paula stated that they were worried with the festivals coming up. Todd stated that Peake Street is done.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve the finish date of the contracts to November 30, 2016. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

BBQ CONTRACT DISCUSSION

Town Manager Ollis stated that he had started working with the BBQ Committee. He has worked with Christina Feagan, Eric McKaig and Jeff Miller. What he needs from the board is a contract. The Chamber will look it over and the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors also will look it over and approve. Commissioner Crowell stated that he would like to see every physical structure on the contract, tennis courts, horse barns, swings, concession stands, etc. He would also like to see the fifty cents a patron go up to cover the cost. Commissioner Armbrust stated that he would like to see the festival not cost the Town anything. Historically it has cost the town every year. Commissioner Ingham stated that even if it cost a little he would like to see the festival stay. Mayor Peoples stated that he would like to see what it has cost the town over several years. Crowell would like for them to hire the police, pay them directly and it not be run through our payroll. Commissioner Miller would like to see the previous contracts. Crowell would like a representative from the BBQ Committee to be here next month. Miller stated that it has been five years since they have seen a contract. Mayor Peoples stated that we're not trying to gouge them, we just don't want to lose taxpayer's dollars. He asked if they were willing to share in the cost to run a bus into Tryon. Miller stated that Arbogast had made that suggestion years ago. Crowell stated Polk County Transportation Authority stated that their bus has to be per rider pay. Peoples stated that there are other places that have those type of buses.

TENNIS COURT UPDATE

Town Manager Ollis stated that the tennis courts have been an issue since the BBQ festival. Harmon Field Supervisor Aldred did good work with the flex court people. The trees between the road and tennis courts are an issue and the results are going to start showing up anywhere

between 2-5 years. There are two options. He would like the board's input before taking it to the Harmon Field Board.

Option 1) \$40,000 mill the asphalt that is in place down to the stone base and repave. The cracks are from the shifting of the courts.

Option 2) \$20,000-\$25,000 Resurfacing with a polyester/acrylic finish – fix the cracks

He asked the board if they had a recommendation. Commissioner Ingham stated that he hates to spend \$25,000 for a time frame of two years. Commissioner Crowell asked if the Town had a trencher to cut the tree roots. John Vining stated that the trees could die depending on the root system. Marilyn Doheny asked if anyone has done a cost study on the use of the tennis courts. Ingham stated that the courts are used regularly. Mayor Peoples stated that the Tennis Association donated a lot of money to make repairs. This was unfortunate and we will never get the money back that was put into the courts. Ollis stated that we are going to work on the contract. He's talked with Travis several times. He feels that whatever we do it is going to be a bandaid fix. We are looking at getting the best possible outcome for the best price. Everyone agreed to go with the \$40,000 option. He knows we have to work with the Harmon Field Board to move forward. He will present this to them.

MONTHLY PRIORITIZATION UPDATE

Town Manager Ollis stated that he would like to keep a list of projects and let the board help prioritize them. Whatever you want to add to the list you can.

- Tree across from Foothills Realty-feels that is dead - take it down, leave about six feet tall and possibly do artwork
- Maple Street Crosswalk- would like to repaint it and possibly re-work it, strollers entering go into the road-he and Paula have looked at this and feel that a ramp would work better than steps
- Sign straightening-Public Works is working on this
- Overgrown railroad – contact the railroad people to see about cutting
- Chalkboard art project
- Street signs with logos - could put Morris on them
- Town cleanup day
- Bicycle racks-need to see about locations-one has been donated
- Town Flag project for the Elementary School
- Make a town wish list and the process for reporting/donating
- Garden Club-a way to show our appreciation for all that they do
- Citizen of the Year/Month

These are small things, but it may be what will bring someone back to our town. These are ideas that I have received from others. He asked if it was okay to get started on the citizen of the year and asked for people to bring names to him. Commissioner Armbrust stated that council has generated a list to Paula that has some of the items on it. Some of the items have been taken care of, but most have not. He feels that it would make a difference and would like to see this

discussed at every meeting. Commissioner Miller stated that some of the items are out of the strategic plan. It was to see a measurement for the Town and would like to see the items completed. Mayor Peoples stated that it takes a while to get there. Miller stated that we have gotten behind because of the sidewalk projects. Ollis stated that he would throw that list to the top of this list. He knows that some of the items have been accomplished and some we still have to do. Miller asked if it would behoove us to get volunteers to clean up the railroad. Chief Arrowood stated that you might need permission from Norfolk Southern. Armbrust has sent pictures to the Vice President of Norfolk Southern in Virginia and he did respond. They are beginning in Asheville.

Helen Rangis stated that she thought the railroad was dead. Mayor Peoples stated that the people in Raleigh said they let a railroad line get away from them once and it will not happen again. They could put it back in use during warfare and ship to Charleston. Drew Bailey asked what happened to the day train going from Greenville to Asheville. Peoples stated the one million dollar cost.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Ollis stated that the audit started on Monday. Beerfest is November 5th. He thanked Harmon Field Supervisor Aldred for work done at Harmon Field. He thanked those from the Fire Department that went and helped out down east. He has been asked to have work sessions before the meetings. He thanked Crowell and Miller for their help with the tennis courts and Paula for working with him.

Mayor Peoples stated that we will try a work session next month at 6:00 p.m. to see how it works.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner Armbrust thanked citizens for welcoming those that were affected by the storm. He congratulated the Polk County Film Initiative for a successful event. He requested that staff and council evaluate a folder of materials that he had copied them on in order to develop a text ordinance to cover common consumption in designated public areas. Most often they are usually limited to Historical or Central Business Districts.

Commissioner Miller stated that this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, TFAC is putting on their first music and food festival. It is an outdoor event. The citizen of the month is a great idea. The first one should be Howard Greene, who's not doing well. He had a fall about a month ago. He loves Tryon. Hendersonville is under a Stage I drought with voluntary restrictions. He asked everyone to be aware and watch the news. He thanked Paula who he had a couple of meetings with. She has made sure that Peake Street was up to snuff. He and Paula had attended meetings with TDDA promoting Tryon. He thanked citizens for coming out tonight.

Commissioner Crowell echoed Armbrust and Miller. He thanked the firemen for helping those families down east. He met fifteen families during this time. The Town staff is doing a great job. Town Manager Ollis is a great addition to staff. He thanked him for being here.

Commissioner Miller asked for volunteers for the tourism office.

Mayor Pro Tem Ingham reminded everyone of the Hincapie event. The police crew will be really busy. He thanked everyone for their cooperation. He also thanked everyone for being here.

Mayor Peoples thanked Town Manager Ollis and crew for the cleanup on McCown Street. He has received a lot of positive comments on that. Another antique place is opening. Tybula Rosa is opening. A jewelry and clothing store is opening soon. Arledge Printers is closing, but Richard is opening a printer shop at the Tortoise Shell. It's nice to see things moving along. Two weeks ago he was chosen to attend the LELA program. It went for five days and 58 hours. He learned a lot. He found others face the same problems that we do. The best class that he had ever attended.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Marilyn Doheny stated that we need designated hours for the Tourism office. Make this a paid position. Commissioner Miller stated that Ms. Marge managed it for a very long time.

People who work don't have time to volunteer. Ms. Bailey stated that the high school has a key club that might be interested in volunteering. Commissioner Armbrust stated that they could with proper training and would get community service hours.

Joyce Kimpton stated that on one Sunday morning there was someone outside washing the street signs. She has never seen anyone do this before. That person was our new manager, Zach Ollis. The Historical Museum has the same problems with volunteers. Maybe the tourism, museum and TDDA could work together. Peoples stated that you have the same volunteers everywhere.

Jamie Carpenter reminded everyone of the Beerfest November 5th. On November 4th there are several businesses having the grand opening. December 2nd is the Christmas Stroll. The TDDA will start doing surveys soon.

Stu Davidson stated that we have Wi-Fi at Harmon Field now. On his Lake Lanier side, the Tea House could be still open if they hadn't have closed it for five years.

ADJOURN

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Miller so moved. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk