

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 13, 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
Fire Chief Joey Davis

Town Clerk Susan Bell
Comm. Dev. Dir. Paula Kempton
Town Attorney Bailey Nager

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order. Commissioner Miller asked for a moment of silence to remember victims of the Oakland fire, the two police offices in Americus, Georgia and all the discord that is happening across our nation. Mayor Pro Tem Ingham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked to add item 6 the election of Mayor Pro Tem. Being no other items, he entertained a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples ask if there were any changes to the Consent Agenda, which includes the minutes and tax release for The First Church of Christ (\$1,497.00). Being none, he entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR PRO TEM

Mayor Peoples stated last December there was discussion on the Mayor Pro Tem. It was discussed that Bill Ingham would be it for a year and then Crys Armbrust would be it for a year as he was high vote getter. He then entertained a motion to appoint Crys Armbrust as Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Pro Tem Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

Town Manager Ollis stated that there is an amendment before you on alcohol. It helps to clear up issues with Roger's Park summertime events. It allows alcohol on the North side of Trade

Street between Palmer and New Market Road. This will help businesses out. Jamie is working on an art crawl. This will allow people to stroll downtown sampling wine and purchasing art.

Mayor Peoples asked if it required more readings than what we are doing. Ollis stated no. Anne Day asked if it included Sidestreet Pizza. Ollis stated no. It includes the sidewalks between Palmer and New Market and the Town controlled plaza area between the hours of noon and 11:00 p.m. It doesn't include any thoroughfare.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the Municipal Alcohol Ordinance Amendment. Mayor Pro Tem Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION PLANS FOR STORY BOOK VILLAGE

CDD Kempton stated that during a special meeting scheduled on December 1, 2016, the Board of Planning and Adjustment reviewed and approved by unanimous vote, the preliminary plans for a major subdivision. It includes seven lots at 55 Markham Road, parcel T7-A8. The preliminary plans were submitted by Tom and Lainie Coeby for Story Book Village Subdivision. The project will create a seven lot subdivision in an R-4 district. The lots will be arranged around a private street with common green space in accordance with Cluster Residential requirements. An existing buffer of trees will surround the development. The scale of the proposed houses will be consistent with surrounding development at 1200-1400 square feet. The applicants of this request have satisfied the mapping requirements as shown in the Town of Tryon's Subdivision Ordinance and have received approval from the Board of Planning and Adjustment to seek approval from the Board of Commissioners. A final plat will be submitted for approval to the Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Pro Tem Armbrust stated that he had attended the Planning Board meeting. It was a great presentation and will be wonderful for that area. Commissioner Ingham agreed that this will be nice for the area.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve the preliminary subdivision plans for Story Book Village. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

METER TESTING POLICY AND FEES

Town Manager Ollis stated that Pam had presented to him the idea of setting a meter testing policy. The meters have an expected life of twenty years. The battery in the transmitter will usually die before that. If a customer wishes for the town to test the meter before it's time and it is found that the meter is okay then there will be a charge, but if the meter is found not working then there will be no charge. The fee will be around \$200.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the Meter Testing Policy. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

TOURISM DISCUSSION

Town Manager Ollis put this on the agenda to discuss several different things, one being the World Equestrian Games meeting that was held at the Tryon Fine Arts Center. Mayor Pro Tem Armbrust stated that all four commissioners attended the meeting with TIEC. It was a good thing to begin dialogue. The Tourism Authority operates under the Town of Tryon. It's activities are to be authorized and supervised by municipal government, the Town of Tryon. It's authorized and supervised by the Town Manager in close conversation with the Community Development Director. Some statements were made concerning the branding. The implications were that the branding for Historic Tryon was approved by the Town of Tryon. That is not true. It was used as branding phrase for our historic downtown district and came from TDDA. There was no previous direct contact with the Town about this upcoming meeting, nor were there any invitations to Councilman, Mayor or Town Manager to participate in this information session that was specifically designed for the Town of Tryon. The problem as he views it, is that it is incredibly difficult thing when wearing multiple hats, especially when one of those represents a public municipal hat and the other represents a privately owned business. The problem is that the lines of authority become blurred to easily if one is not concerned with context and protocols of the ensuing conversations.

Action points: a meeting needs to be held with the tourism chair and board members, Town Manager and Community Development Director to discuss the protocols, rights, privileges and authority. The second meeting needs to be with TIEC, with both Sharon and Molly. It may be more important to meet with TIEC first and he knows that a request has been sent to TIEC.

Commissioner Ingham stated that you can't have someone speaking for the Town that maybe doesn't have the town's permission could be a violation of code or ordinance. Anything that is proposed as a town event or function for the town should be run through the proper channels. Armbrust stated everything should be run through the town manager. Commissioner Miller stated that he agrees with everything said. He feels that the Board should give him the direction and if after the fact there are still issues then we should give him the direction and power to remedy the situation as he sees fit.

Commissioner Crowell stated that he has a problem with the Village of Tryon. We are the Village of Tryon and they are the International Equestrian Center. Miller stated that he and Paula attended a meeting with TDDA, Sharon and Molly from TIEC and it was stated then that they would not venture down that road. Morris and Tryon needs to be protected. Things shouldn't be promised through our tourism without going through our Board, Town Manager, Town Attorney and Community Development Director.

Commissioner Ingham stated maybe we can show them that we are not happy, but he doesn't want to start a feud. Armbrust stated that we tend to allow Tryon brand to be devalued but it has much value and we should be mindful of how fortunate we are to have the brand. It's our responsibility to protect the brand. Ingham stated that they are promoting our brand and there are a lot of people that are going to hear about our brand that may not have heard of us

before. There is a line to walk. Armbrust stated that there is an avenue to walk because of the World Equestrian Games. It is a two week long horse show and we will be here long after that.

Miller suggested forming a strategic planning committee to see how we can get the most out of the world games, including the Zach and Paula, along with two members of tourism and two members from TDDA and citizens. They shouldn't come to just see TIEC and not see Tryon. Crowell stated that we could offer parking services and shuttle them there. Armbrust stated they would welcome this, but his concern is that we maintain open and clear lines of communication.

Commissioner Ingham made a motion to direct the Town Manager and Community Development Director to hold meetings with the Tourism Board and TIEC. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim Vanhecke member of TDDA stated there is a lot of confusion with those involved with the World games. Trying to bring everyone together is a great idea. He hopes the planning meeting will be held soon, so that TIEC knows where to go and ask questions. We have to move expeditiously. Carol Browning member of TDDA, SCORE and Our Carolina Foothills wants to make the Town aware that committees are being formed for marketing, transportation and customer service in both Polk County and the Landrum areas. TIEC is going to be concerned with their inside walls. We need to find out how to benefit from this long term, working together and not duplicating efforts. Patti D'Arbanville stated from the minute that TIEC arrived she feels they have been running over Tryon. They were supposed to have vehicles transporting people from TIEC to Tryon to use our stores. They have a village with restaurants, grocery stores, boutiques, artisan affects and pottery. She went to a meeting about naming the place Tryon Village and they weren't going to use the name Tryon. Now they are using the Tryon name. Ms. Browning stated that there is a misconception about the number of people coming (500,000). The numbers will much less approximately 100,000 (about 5 to 1 ratio).

Ingham stated that they will be operating on European time for the two weeks and will never have 500,000 people at one time. Crowell stated that the maximum capacity of their facility is 25,000 and everything will end around 3:30. Peoples asked what the max was that attended the BBQ festival. Crowell stated 19,000 and you couldn't hardly move.

Wanda May, President TDDA stated that one of our charges is for branding. Normally there is a comprehensive planning project before you come to a branding conclusion. Tryon Village was started about a year and half ago. She asked if there were any way legally to protect the brand while working on this. Armbrust stated Tryon is a historic community, but Historic Tryon is not a brand it is a marketing phrase. To the best of his knowledge nothing can be done to protect that marketing phrase for our downtown or historic district. Attorney Nager stated he would have to look into this. Ollis stated that he will look into options of protecting Tryon's name and will report back to you next month.

Peoples stated that we need to market it correctly. Mr. Vanhecke stated they are using the website tryon.com. Crowell stated the tourism board has been trying to acquire it for about ten years and have recently done that. If you google Village of Tryon it comes up in Raleigh.

Jamie Carpenter stated that the Village of Tryon and Historic Tryon has branding standards that she has worked on. She will present to you at the next meeting.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISCUSSION

Town Manager Ollis stated that he wants to put the Christmas decorations before you to get citizen input. He has heard comments that there should be colored lights instead of white lights and a few other suggestions. Ingham stated that colored lights or white lights are always going to be an issue. Mayor Peoples stated that we are always talking money. Last year we spent over \$20,000 on decorations. Citizens have went and bought lights for the town. The Town has nice decorations. Commissioner Crowell stated that he has two white trees and a colored tree. Commissioner Miller stated that some towns invite citizens to help decorate. Ollis stated that everyone did a great job. Armbrust suggested colored lights on the town tree. Miller stated that people do come to towns to look at Christmas lights.

Patti D'Arbanville suggested seeking the after Christmas sale. She would be willing to make a donation. Anne Day stated that a group of people would like to see the old time trees around the poles again. Tom Coeby suggested looking on the gov.deals website. They have a section for commercial lighting under seasonal or festive lights at a fraction of the cost.

MONTHLY PRIORITIZATION UPDATE

Town Manager Ollis stated that he has included a list of things to do. The lights on the dogwoods are now on timers, so that they can be left up year round. Jamie has an idea for the trees between the dogwoods and will be working on that. Commissioner Miller stated that he had seen a lot of work and he appreciates the efficiency and effort. Mayor Pro Tem Armbrust stated that the sign straightening needs to be all signs. Miller asked that if you see a street light that is not working tie a ribbon around it or get the pole number and call Zach or Blake and they will contact Duke Energy. Commissioner Crowell stated that Duke is starting to replace with the LED down lights. Commissioner Ingham stated that our list is long, but it is being worked on and if you see something please call it in. He gave our crew tons of credit for their work.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Ollis updated the board on the tennis courts at Harmon Field. One of the post was hit so hard that they are going to have to pull the sleeve and put in a new one. The flex court is being installed. He thanked the Polk County Community Foundation for providing the funding for the Christmas parade. He thanked Jamie Carpenter and TDDA for the Christmas decorating. He thanked the Public Works crew for helping with the decorating. They have done a great job while doing there other jobs. He thanked the Fire Department for their help

with the parade. They are making the fruit bags for the kids as we speak. He congratulated Chris Cochran and Daniel Walker for their successful completion of the Trenching and Shoring Course.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner Crowell thanked the town crew, Zach and Paula for everything they have done. The decorations look the best we've had in years. He would like to see more foot traffic and more visitors. The town is moving forward. He is proud of the town and the way things are going now.

Mayor Pro Tem Armbrust thanked TDDA for a phenomenal Christmas Stroll. He thanked the council for its cooperative spirit to accomplish the business of the town. He thanked Zach, Paula, Public Works and TDDA for the decorations. He thanked all business owners and property owners who have stepped up to make Tryon a place to live, work and play. He wished everyone a wonderful holiday.

Commissioner Miller agreed with Bill and Crys. He thanked town staff, Zach, Paula, Public Works and TDDA for the decorating. Downtown looks great. It brings him back to his childhood days. He thanked the water department for working in the night repairing broken water lines. He thanked the citizens for coming out tonight. He thanked business owners. A while back someone had said Tryon is like a ghost town, well this year they have run all the ghost out of Tryon. He wished everyone a happy holiday and a safe one.

Commissioner Ingham thanked TDDA, business owners and Chief Arrowood's crew for closing the street when we have events. He reminded everyone of the Christmas parade and Tryon's Midnight. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor Peoples stated after his thirteen years as mayor he still believes this is the best place to live. Tryon has more ability than any other place in the world. He has worked with seven councils and this is the best one yet. We've got more done in one year than any other years.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Jamie Carpenter with TDDA thanked the Mayor and Wanda May for helping with the tour of the homes. She thanked the Mayor, Town Manager and Commissioner Ingham for creating a new tradition of lighting the Christmas tree. She thanked the public works crew for helping with the Christmas lights. Cowan's is the only empty store front, but they have great decorations in their window. The passport program is still going on. Tryon's ball drop is at 10:00 p.m. on Trade Street. The street will be closed and there will be a live band. TDDA held their entrepreneurship meeting on the 8th and she thanked Paula for attending.

Commissioner Miller asked that everyone bring their kids to the parade. There will be s'mores, face painting, candy, hot cider, hot chocolate and Marcie the Balloon Fairy.

Town Manager Ollis reminded everyone to get your bag at the Fire Department, then come and enjoy the s'mores.

ADJOURN

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk