

**TOWN OF TRYON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 21, 2018 7:00 P.M.  
TRYON TOWN HALL: MCCOWN ROOM**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples                      Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ingham  
Commissioners: Bill Crowell, Crys Armbrust, Chrelle Booker  
Staff Present: Town Manager Zach Ollis, Comm. Dev. Dir. Tim Daniels  
Town Clerk Susan Bell   Police Chief Jeff Arrowood      Fire Chief Geoff Tennant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Peoples called meeting to order, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and requesting a moment of silence for those individuals affected by the recent flooding, landslides, and mudslides in Pacolet Valley along the US Hwy 176 corridor.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples requested to add 10b. Carolina Foothills, 10c. Resolution to request for qualifications for engineering services to investigate deficiencies in the inter-connect between the Town of Columbus, Town of Tryon and City of Saluda. Mr. Ollis also requested to add two items to the agenda: the first being a letter to Carol Fuller at the Isothermal RPO, withdrawing support of R-5838, and the second being a letter to Brian Burch with NCDOT requesting the “no build alternative” in reference to R-5838. This received extensive applause from the audience. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to accept. Councilman Armbrust so moved with no opposition.

**CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any questions, comments, or thoughts in reference to the Consent Agenda. None mentioned. He entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, which includes tax releases for John Franklin (\$9.10) and Ann Miller (\$7.76), along with the Order of Collection for the 2018 taxes and the letters to Isothermal Rural Planning Organization and NCDOT in reference to the “No Build Alternative” for TIP Project No. R-5838. Commissioner Armbrust so moved with no objections.

**Public Hearing: 2018-2019 BUDGET**

Mayor Peoples opened the public hearing after which time; it was turned over to Town Manager Zach Ollis for presentation of the budget.

a) Budget Message:

Delivered by Town Manager Zach Ollis and included a brief overview of the proposed budget as well as more specific numeric figures for each department within the Town. The budget includes COLA’s,

Capital Improvement Plan, money for repairs to the clarifiers and money for public works positions. This you do without raising taxes.

Wim Woody stated the way he reads this there is no tax increase. Mayor Peoples stated the fire tax will go up, but not the general fund tax. Chief Tennant said four cents on fire. Commissioner Armbrust asked for clarification on the tourism monies. Mr. Ollis stated he included this just in case the Polk County TDA doesn't occur. Whether or not it is approved the money that we have collected stays with Tryon.

Being no more comments, Mayor Peoples closed the public hearing. He then entertained a motion to adopt the FY18-19 Budget Ordinance. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VACANT SEAT APPOINTMENTS**

- a) Harmon Field Board of Directors: Re-appointment of Carolyn West to the Harmon Field board. Commissioner Ingham made the motion to re-appoint Carolyn West. Motion carried with no opposition.
- b) Re-appointment of Commissioner Bill Crowell to the TDA board. Commissioner Armbrust made the motion. Motion carried with no opposition.

#### **RESOLUTION TO SELL PROPERTY BY ELECTRONIC BIDS**

Town Manager Ollis stated this is a resolution authorizing the sale of real property by electronic public auction. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **TDDA MONTHLY REPORT**

Presented by Jamie Carpenter who advised that she had a long list and it had been quite a busy month for the Tryon Downtown Development Association. Upcoming events and monthly accomplishments are as follows:

- a) A committee for the creation and placement of public art is planned. This will be primarily metal sculptures.
- b) The majority of downtown businesses are now making use of the "open" flags which were purchased with a grant from the Appearance Commission.
- c) The annual meeting for the Tryon Downtown Development Association will be occurring at the Holy Cross Episcopal Church on 25 June at 6pm.
- d) The Farm to Trade dinner will be held in the Business District on 24 June, with members of the Polk County High School Band handling the serving duties.
- e) June's 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, downtown businesses will offer later hours to hopefully increase sales and tourism.
- f) Members repainted numerous fire hydrants in the downtown business area.

Ms. Carpenter also wanted to take the opportunity to thank Chief Tennant for his assistance and correction, during the painting of the hydrants and advised that she has one more thing to do to make sure they are compliant. Also, TDDA offers many thanks to Councilman Armbrust for his hard work in making the Nina Simone Day such an enormous success.

Bill Bartlett: Introducing himself as the new Director of Tryon Arts and Crafts. From Birmingham originally, but found his way to Tryon by way of California, but most recently lives in the Highland/Cashiers area. Desires to continue adult education in the arts, and also implement a program for senior citizens, and continue community outreach while offering classes at reduced or free costs.

### **OUR CAROLINA FOOTHILLS**

Chris Wicker, representing CycleNC which will be coming to the area on August 4/5<sup>th</sup>. Currently they have 240 bikers from 9 states that will be coming to the area to participate. Everyone is working together and they have great plans beginning with a welcome event at Rogers Park with Gigi Dover. There will also be a party on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, for which a donation from the Town in the amount of \$250 is being requested to offset the cost of the party. Commissioner Ingham made a motion to donate the \$250 and passed with no opposition.

### **RESOLUTION TO RELEASE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES TO INVESTIGATE DEFICIENCIES IN THE INTERCONNECT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF COLUMBUS, THE TOWN OF TRYON AND THE CITY OF SALUDA, NORTH CAROLINA**

Town Manager Ollis stated he had been approached by Jon Cannon about the operation of the joint water line. He would like to spend part of the settlement money to understand the scope and cost of engineering and construction repairs to make the waterline operational and to understand the storm damage done to the line during the recent storms. Commissioner Crowell made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager, Zach Ollis, had many items/accomplishments to touch on that happened over the past month.

- a) The Tryon Peak Project: graded and rebuilt the road, removed the old and installed a new propane tank, installed a concrete base and erected the new tower and completed all brush removal.
- b) Clean-up at Harmon Field was a huge undertaking, and also using Harmon Field as a "staging point" between loads of debris from Pacolet Valley made for what was ultimately a quicker clean-up. Also, many thanks to North Carolina Baptist Men, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Polk County Emergency Management.
- c) A new fire hydrant has been installed as part of the Streetscape Project.

d) Town Staff repaired water line breaks that occurred at Howard Gap/Hwy 108 and also Harmon Field Rd / Hwy 176. Town Staff also coordinated with North Carolina Department of Transportation to help with multiple bridge inspections, and also assisted with a number of local, state, and federal agencies to inspect the Pacolet River.

e) A number of preparations were completed around town and in Rogers Park leading up to the Nina Simone Day.

f) Leaf pickup is still an ongoing project, as there are still issues with the leaf machine, and there is also a possibility of a trench/culvert replacement at Harmon field in the near future.

g) Trace and Company has continued to handle curb and sidewalk installation.

h) There are also a couple of projects being looked at for future implementation: pothole repair, paving, sign straightening, as well as a beautification project for the Depot bank area to include cutting, trimming, and general clean-up.

He also thanked Karandall Gary for picking up trash within the town.

#### **EMPLOYEE COMMENT**

Chief Tennant wanted to make everyone aware of the upcoming gathering that will be held at Rogers Park. This will include barbecue and a band. It is open to any staff member county-wide and their families who assisted with rescue, recovery, restoration, and clean-up in the Pacolet Valley/Hwy 176 area during the May 18-June 1 mudslides, landslides, and torrential rains.

#### **COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT**

Councilman Bill Crowell: Many thanks to the Town employees, especially those who did such a fabulous job repairing the broken water lines.

Councilwoman Chrelle Booker: Huge thanks to all and especially to Crys in reference to his hard work with the Nina Simone Project/Day.

Councilman Crys Armbrust: many thanks to the citizens for coming out and for their participation, and special thanks to the Town of Tryon personnel/staff during the flooding/mudslide aftermath. I am extremely happy to announce that Streetscape is now complete, and may thanks to all who assisted with Nina Simone Day. Also would like to encourage attendance to the Farm to Trade Dinner on Trade St which is coming up in the near future.

Councilman Bill Ingham: Very happy that the sidewalk project is completed, and wished to extend many thanks to Jamie and the TDDA, and to staff of the Town of Tryon for all the overtime that was put in while making necessary repairs. To the Town employees...please accept the sincerest thanks from the Council.

Mayor Alan Peoples: Expressed some thoughts on Pacolet Valley based on his many years as a resident here. To the Town employees...please accept the sincerest thanks from the Council. And, on an unrelated note, Polk County Wolverines just won the North Carolina 1A Championship for the first time ever!

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS/ RESPONSES**

Olivia Pleasant Whiteside: thanked the Town Council profusely from herself and Melissa LeRoy who could not be in attendance for sending the "No Build Alternative" letter to NCDOT, Brian Burch, and the Isothermal RPO.

Dorothy Easley: Many thanks for allowing her to speak. She has put together a packet of all of the letters, emails, TDB articles, minutes of various meetings, research, etc which made it possible to stop the R-5838 project in its tracks. Ms. Easley is requesting that the packet be kept and made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Wim Woody: Mr Woody is a property on Hwy 108 and is opposed to the project. The state spent so much time and money creating these plans for naught, when all they had to do was come and ask the people what they wanted. Many thanks to the Town for cooperating with everyone and making this "No Build Alternative" letter happen.

Andy Haynes: Thanked the board for their courage, foresight, and vision in stopping R-5838.

Nowell Guffey: In reference to Wim Woody's comment...money wasted during the plan, and now Hwy 176 is being paved. Paving is starting 6/25, beginning with the milling process, and will take approximately one month to complete the entire project.

Becky Oliver: Many thanks to the Mayor and town Council for listening to their constituents, and those who want to stay and enjoy Polk County just the way it is.

Tom Brylow: Wants to thank the board for their leadership and for letting the government work for the people.

Teresa Pack Pate: stated that she has never been more proud of Polk County, Tryon, and all of its people.

### **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Ingham made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk