

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
July 9, 2015

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on July 9, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Maurice Moody and Commissioners Danny Allen, Barbara Hamilton, Harold Hensley, Mary Gelbaugh, and Lynda Sossamon.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Davis Woodard (Police Chief), Eric Ridenour, (Town Attorney)

VISITORS PRESENT: Dorothey Coe, Barbara Jones, Dodie Allen, Faustine Wilson, Sheryl Rudd, Crystal Cogdill, Denna Sherrill, David Nestler, Becca Scott, Jessi Stone (Smoky Mtn. News), Joe Bill Mathews, Jay Ball, April Dixie Brendle, and Tanner Hall.

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Moody called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dorothey Coe questioned the Board on why there are five bars in the downtown area. Recently, her son visited the bars and became intoxicated and no one refused to sell alcohol to him. She believes the bars are not obeying ABC laws.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Moody thanked the sponsors of the July 4th fireworks, music and festivities.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh commended the July 4th festivities. She asked if the police department could give the board updates of call logs and also distributed to the other board members public comments she received pertaining to the public hearing to be held at this meeting. Commissioner Sossamon also thanked everyone for the July 4th festivities. Sossamon requested that the September 3rd board meeting be postponed until September 10th so that the board can attend Mountain Project's 50th Year Celebration.

Commissioner Sossamon made a motion to move the 1st regular board meeting in September to September 10th so that the board members could attend Mountain Project's 50th Year Celebration. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Hensley thanked the visitors for attending the meeting and participating in the public hearing on traffic patterns. He also thanked Wayne Smith for the use of his property for the July 4th fireworks. Commissioner Allen thanked the visitors for attending; Allen commended the work put forth on the July 4th celebration activities. He noted that one attendee of the festivities requested that Main Street be closed next year. Commissioner Hamilton also commended the July 4th celebration and thanked the visitors for attending the meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling told the board that the League of Municipalities has a risk management review consultant visit the Town to identify potential risk hazards for the Town before OSHA visits in the fall. The annual main street statistics report should be completed within a month. Dowling reminded the board of the joint meeting with the Town of Dillsboro board to discuss a fire department substation. The meeting will be on Monday July 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Dillsboro Town Hall. Dowling thanked Town Intern, Caroline Edmonds, for her work at the Town and noted that Edmonds has accepted a full-time position with the Planning Department of Jackson County.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: The planning board met on June 25th to review design standards in the B-2 and B-3 zoning districts and residential density.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

TRAFFIC PATTERNS. The public hearing opened at 5:40 p.m. Manager Dowling explained that the board had requested input on the current traffic patterns on Main and Mill Streets. Teague Engineering out of Waynesville completed a traffic study on 2-way traffic. The Town distributed an on-line survey and as of the date of the meeting had received 576 responses. Dowling reviewed the current standing of the survey.

Jay Ball, owner of The Jewelry Outlet, asked the board how many times a person could take the survey. He stated that the statistics could be skewed and made to say anything if you could take it more than once.

Barbara Jones asked why the Town installed the traffic posts in the left lane. Mayor Moody responded that the posts were installed to prevent the left lane from being a passing zone. Commissioner Sossamon also noted that the posts were installed for safety issues with backing out of a parking space. Ms. Jones noted that she would like to see the lanes back like they were before installing the posts.

Livingston Kelley told the board that the left lane with posts installed has not been an issue and is safer. He noted that he is very concerned with 2-way traffic being implemented and that it would create disaster, it would not be feasible, and would not be safe for deliveries.

Dodie Allen commended the board in their support of the July 4th activities. She noted that she is adamantly opposed to 2-way traffic on Main Street. She likes the way the pattern is now with the posts in the left lane and believes it provides safety. Allen noted that implementing 2-way traffic would create a bottle-neck on Main Street. She believes that Mill Street should be one lane and have diagonal parking.

Sheryl Rudd also commended the board for the July 4th activities. She noted she was representing businesses on Mill Street at the hearing. They do not want 2-way traffic as they believe it would deter anyone from coming on Mill Street to their businesses and make it more difficult for those actually wanting to visit to access their business. They would like to see diagonal parking on Mill Street.

April Brendle noted the July 4th celebration was good and would like to see Main Street blocked off in future years. She noted that she does not like the posts in the left lane. They back traffic up to the end of Main Street. She believes that customers are not coming to town because of this. She would like to eliminate the red light on Spring Street and prohibit traffic from Allen Street onto Spring Street.

Jay Ball told the board that businesses are off in revenue because of the posts in the left lane. He noted that statistics will prove whatever motive is wanted. He told the board that proper law enforcement would prevent issues with traffic, that common sense would tell anyone what they needed, and common sense would tell you that 2-way traffic will not work. He thanked commissioner Hensley for visiting his business and asking his opinion on the traffic. He noted that Commissioner Allen also visited his business. He believes that enforcing the law would be better and the board should work closer with everyone.

No further comment. The public hearing was closed at 6:08 p.m.

DESIGN STANDARDS ORDINANCE: The public hearing opened at 6:08 p.m. Manager Dowling explained that the planning board is trying to accomplish a consistent look with the B2 and B3 zoning districts. No public comment. The public hearing closed at 6:10 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

SWEAR IN PLANNING BOARD MEMBER. Mayor Moody administered the oath to Joe Bill Mathews.

Ordinance 38-43: Changes to Design Standards in the B2 and B3 Zoning Districts. *Commissioner Sossamon made a motion to approve changes. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT: *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the fee schedule amendment. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PERSONNEL POLICY: Manager Dowling reviewed the changes presented in the personnel policy and explained them to the board. The most significant change to the personnel policy was to the requirement of service time for health insurance upon retirement. Any personnel hired after 7/1/2015 must complete 20 years of continuous service with the Town to be eligible for health insurance upon retirement. That insurance would continue up until the earlier of social security disability or the retiree reaches age 65. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the presented changes. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Maurice Moody
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk