

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
August 20, 2015

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on August 20, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Davis Woodard (Police Chief), Dan Schaeffer (Public Works Director), Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney), and Mike Beck (Fire Chief).

VISITORS PRESENT: David Nestler, David Noland, Tanner Hall, Holly Kays, Joyce Stratton

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Moody called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Moody requested that two items be added to the agenda: 1- ABC Board Discussion and 2- NAACP Discussion. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Moody noted the large turnout at the Mountain Faith Concert on the Creek on August 14th. He reminded everyone to vote for the band on America's Got Talent by phone or online at nbc.com. This is a well-deserved recognition for the band. Mayor Moody encouraged the public to continuing participating in the online traffic survey.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh told the Board that Full Spectrum Farms will be hosting a fundraiser for the organization on September 12, 2015 and all are invited. Commissioner Sossamon reminded the Board about the 50th Anniversary celebration for Mountain Projects on September 3, 2015 at Harrah's Casino. Commissioner Hensley attended a question and answer meeting sponsored by the NAACP to promote communication between the public and law enforcement officials. He commended Davis Woodard for a job well done under pressure. Commissioner Allen commended the professionalism Davis Woodard showed during an intense question and answer session at the NAACP meeting. Allen would like to see more of these types of meetings to help with racial issues. Commissioner Hamilton noted she was out of town for the NAACP meeting but that she supports the community and police department and believe they work well together and they need to keep the open dialogue. Hamilton also requested that everyone remember the service people in this county who are protecting us.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Dan Schaeffer updated the board on the progress of construction on Finch Street noting that the sidewalk had been poured and the street was taking shape. The Board will need to look at options of altering the use of the street to vehicles in the near future.

The Stearns building (Hooper) on Main Street now has roof decking and will hopefully be in the dry soon.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Woodard distributed a summary report to the board for the month of July and noted that the department received a tremendous amount of calls. An investigation from August 18th is still continuing and suspects will be named soon. Woodard told the Board that the NAACP meeting went well. He noted that he had been interacting with the community for 27 years and was fortunate to live in this size of a community. Woodard told the Board that the department had 3 new arrivals and 2 still on the way. Officers Moore and Brooks both have new daughters and Officer Peoples has a new son. The department may also be losing a sergeant to Henderson County. If this happens a new sergeant will be promoted and an officer hired. He noted that Judy Lau is now back at work after suffering from a heart attack and heart catheterization surgery. Woodard informed the Board that the first day of school is Monday, August 24th and that he will have 6 officers working that day along with 2 NCDOT message boards. One officer will be stationed at Bryson Farm Supply to keep traffic from blocking the intersection.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE—CHAPTER 22 REVISIONS

Chapter 22, Business License Registration, was adopted in June. At that time, fees that were still allowed were inadvertently removed. License fees for precious metal dealers, itinerant merchants, and peddlers must be added back to the ordinance. The revisions to this chapter add these categories back to the ordinance. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to revise chapter 22 as noted. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

ABC COMMISSION—David Noland, chairman of the ABC Board, came to the Town of Sylva Board to discuss the purchase of the building and land the Cashiers' ABC store now occupies. The ABC Board is asking for consent from the Town of Sylva and Jackson County to make the purchase. Noland explained that the ABC Board was approached by the current owner of the building to enter into a contract to purchase by owner financing. He distributed a handout to board members explaining the financial scenario of the purchase if it is made. The appraised value is \$635,000, the tax value is \$722,690 and the asking price is \$700,000. The store currently has a 20 year lease. The ABC Board believes that the location is very valuable and will continue to grow in property value over the next 20 years. If the purchase is not made, re-negotiations at the end of the term would have to be made, resulting in a much higher payment. The building is 4,000 square feet designed much like the Sylva store. Mayor Moody noted that the Cashiers' store had \$1,000,000 in sales the first year. Commissioner Gelbaugh asked if owner financing is the only option for purchasing the property. Noland responded that the ABC Board received one quote from a commercial bank. *Commissioner Sossamon made a motion that the Town of Sylva would consent and approve the purchase of the building and land for the Cashiers' ABC Store. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

In light of the motion and approval, Mayor Moody requested that the Town Manager write a letter to the ABC Board expressing their consent and approval.

NAACP PRESENTATION: Joyce Stratton, Assistant Treasurer, of the Jackson County chapter of the NAACP made a presentation to the Board about their 1st Humanitarian Awards Event, “Hats off Celebration.” They are seeking sponsorship from the Town of Sylva in the form of a letter of recognition and monetary donation. Mayor Moody noted that a letter of recognition has previously been mailed. Stratton thanked the police chief for attending the community meeting of law enforcement officials. Chief Woodard emphasized numerous times at the community meeting that the door is always open to his office. *Commissioner Allen made a motion to sponsor the event at \$125 for ½ page ad in their program. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Maurice Moody
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk