

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
September 10, 2015

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on September 10, 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), Mike Beck (Fire Chief) and Eric Ridenour, (Town Attorney)

VISITORS PRESENT: David Nestler, Charles Pringle, Holly Kays, Howard Allman, Rose Bauguess, Corey Beebe, Charles Schmidt, Jeremy Edmonds and Tanner Hall.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Moody made a suggestion to move the Fire Department Discussion to the Reports section of the agenda. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to move the Fire Department discussion and approve the agenda as amended. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Corey Beebe from Franklin invited the Board and all others to a Community Day of Giving sponsored by his church on October 17th. He noted there will be music, free prizes, prayer, and a service at 2:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Moody reminded everyone of the parade immediately following the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to welcome home the Mountain Faith Band after their performances on America's Got Talent.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh told the board that a citizen had inquired about the possibility of installing a roof or cover over the Sylva Pool so that it could be used year-round. She also reminded everyone of the fundraising event at Full Spectrum Farms on September 12th. Commissioner Allen noted that there was a discussion of a pool cover several years ago and it should be in the minutes. He also said that Murphy and the Brevard Raquet Club have covers over their pool. Allen thanked Dan Schaeffer for installing a gate at Bryson Park. Commissioner Sossamon reminded everyone that Taste of Sylva will be on October 3rd.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling told the board that the County's comprehensive plan survey is open through the end of the month and encouraged everyone to participate in the survey. Dowling has submitted the full grant application to ARC for Sylva's comprehensive plan and should hear during October if it will be awarded. Dowling attended a meeting at the Southwestern Commission for the next round of NCDOT prioritization projects. Rose Bauguess, the RPO/TCC staff person, is recommending each county coordinate the submission of projects.

Dowling also attended a meeting at the County on a project called Foundation Forward. The county is planning to fundraise for this project to construct a monument to display the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights. Dowling told the board that the 2016 NC Main Street Manager's meeting will be held in Sylva in August 2016. This should bring great recognition and business to Sylva. Dowling will miss the October 1st meeting while she attends a Public Employment Law class.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: The planning board met on August 27th and is continuing their review of the zoning ordinances. Each meeting they will review certain sections and update the board as needed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mike Beck, Fire Chief, invited the board to their Open House on October 3rd. Beck told the board that he would like to postpone the Dillsboro substation project at this time and thanked the board for working on the project. Commissioner Hamilton thanked the fire department for their work.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Moody opened the public hearing at 5:42 p.m. and explained the hearing was to receive input on the traffic pattern on Main Street.

Charles Pringle asked the board for plans on Mill Street. He strongly supports diagonal parking on Mill Street and says that it would help traffic. He noted that there were 12 spaces in the first block of Mill Street compared to 40 on Main Street. The lack of spaces creates a hardship during special events.

Howard Allman, a member of the traffic committee and business owner, believes that two-way traffic is a beautiful idea but the logistics of it simply don't work. He believes it would be detrimental, create congestion, and gridlock traffic forcing visitors to avoid downtown.

Charles Schmidt believes the two-way plan is disastrous. The idea to drive and see the courthouse is good but one-way traffic forces visitors to get out of their vehicles take pictures, thus resulting in increased foot traffic downtown.

Greg McPherson supports the comments made by Charles Pringle for Mill Street. Diagonal parking would add to Mill Street. He questioned if there could be a left-turn only at Spring Street.

Police Chief Davis Woodard stated all points made are good but if there is not a left-turn only on backstreet, then the left lane will become a speed lane. Cones will need to be installed on Mill Street to prevent this.

Manager Dowling reviewed the latest statistics of the online traffic study and noted that 648 people had completed the survey as of 4:30 p.m. today. The respondents to the survey are overwhelmingly opposed to two-way traffic on Main Street. Dowling thanked Rose Bauguess for her help in applying for and receiving a grant to complete the traffic study.

Commissioner Gelbaugh asked Schmidt and Allman how they felt about diagonal parking on Mill Street. Schmidt responded that he was against it because when someone backs out of a parking space traffic will back up. Commissioner Sossamon responded that the angle of the diagonal parking could be steeper however, Allman responded that you reach a diminishing return at that point when the angle is so steep you lose parking. He agrees with Schmidt on

diagonal parking. Mayor Moody asked if traffic backed up at any time when it was temporarily down to one lane after the fire. Schmidt and Allman both responded yes. Allman noted that there is on average 14,000 vehicles that pass in front of his office on a daily basis. He believes that the turn from Spring Street to Allen Street needs to be eliminated and traffic flow would improve. Greg McPherson agrees with eliminating this turn as well. Charles Pringle noted that the traffic lights back up traffic and for businesses to remain open you need additional parking spaces. Rose Bauguess asked the board if they would like for her to propose a study to DOT to eliminate the turn from Spring to Allen Street. McPherson also questioned if there could be a turning lane into the Cogdill lot for traffic entering Mill Street and noted that a sidewalk is also needed there. Schmidt noted that during the construction of the new Fire Department building the turn from Spring to Allen Street was temporarily eliminated and traffic seemed to flow fine.

Commissioner Hamilton mentioned to the board that she had been approached by some residents asking if loading zones could be looked at as well. Commissioner Allen suggested that if Spring Street were one-way with a left-turn only to Mill Street then the right lane could be made a loading zone or parking area. Allen also asked if the traffic committee looked at one-way traffic on Main Street traveling towards the library. Bauguess noted that the curve at the end of Main Street near the fountain was too tight for trucks to make the turn.

Commissioner Hensley added that he feels two-way traffic will work but doesn't know whether citizens want it. Howard Allman noted that as he and Hensley had discussed, the amount of traffic on Main Street is much greater than years ago. Gelbaugh asked if Mill Street could be a primary two-way street but Bauguess added that Main Street would then be avoided. David Nestler asked if the diagonal parking on Mill Street was with one lane or two lanes the entire length of the street or could the first block be diagonal then two-lanes.

Mayor Moody told the board that Bauguess should mention to DOT the diagonal parking on Mill Street when staff and DOT meet. Hensley stated that everyone should familiarize themselves with the traffic study the town paid \$20,000 for. Greg McPherson added the idea of a bike lane to Main Street.

Being no further discussion, Mayor Moody closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

Mayor Moody invited everyone to the parade for Mountain Faith.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Maurice Moody
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk