

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
March 3, 2016

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on March 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Lynda Sossamon and Commissioners, Barbara Hamilton, Harold Hensley, Mary Gelbaugh, Greg McPherson, and David Nestler.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Davis Woodard (Police Chief), and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney).

VISITORS PRESENT: Qunitin Ellison, Sheryl Rudd, Russ Harris, Jeannine Sowers, Boyd Sossamon, Nicold Dexter, Tyler Watras.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Commissioner Gelbaugh 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: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon thanked those who attended the board retreat.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Hamilton noted that there was a lot of excitement about the movie being filmed in Sylva. Hamilton added that she enjoyed the board retreat and that Sarah Thompson did a great job as facilitator. Commissioner McPherson invited everyone to an arts reception for Gayle Woody tonight at the library. He would like to suggest the board maybe consider sponsoring the local arts council group in support of community art. Commissioner Hensley said the retreat was good. Commissioner Nestler wanted the board to know he would be attending the Dillsboro Town Board meeting on March 14th to ask for support for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund that Sylva is working on. Nestler thanked the Planning Board for their hard work.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling told the board she had received a conditional use permit application for a 54 unit apartment complex beside of the old Nick and Nates (across from the hospital). The Planning Board will hear this request March 14th and the Board of Adjustment (Town Board) will hold a public hearing April 7th. She will send the staff report and information after the planning board meets. Dowling reminded the board that the next budget work session is March 10th at 10:00 a.m. The departmental requests are due this Friday. Dowling also found out that the manager's budget roundtable is April 28th at 12:00 p.m. in Asheville. The Board has a budget work session at 10:00 a.m. that morning. Dowling would like to request that the meeting be moved to 8:30 a.m. Dowling also told the Board that she would miss the March 17th meeting for the NC Main Street Conference in Goldsboro.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: The Planning Board met on February 18th and reviewed the hanging sign ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 38-102(2)(b): Manager Dowling explained the revisions made by the Planning Board after the Town Board asked them to revisit the previous proposed amendments. Hanging signs under an awning would have a maximum size of 6 square feet and signs above an awning or where there was no awning would have a maximum size of 16 square feet. Commissioner Gelbaugh asked if the bracket size listed in the ordinance could be bigger to at industry standards. Tyler Watras gave the board information on brackets as well as discussed documents he sent the board by email concerning hanging signs. Mayor Sossamon noted that the intent was so that the sign could be no wider than 4 feet and still allow for the bracket.

Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the ordinance as written with one revision to paragraph 3. The paragraph should read as follows as ready by Attorney Ridenour:

3. One hanging sign is permitted above a canopy or awning per street level business, provided the sign does not exceed 16 square feet. Such sign may extend no more than 4 feet, 6 inches, with the width of the bracket extending no more than 5 feet from the building wall. One hanging sign is allowed for upper story businesses, but such sign must be shared with other upper story tenants and not exceed 16 square feet.

The motion carries with a unanimous vote.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST—ALCOHOL: Sheryl Rudd and Nicole Dexter addressed the board requesting that the board amend their ordinance on alcohol and allow it at special events in town. The ordinance currently does not allow alcohol at all on town properties. They have an event planned for April 9th at Bridge Park and would like the ability to sell alcohol. Rudd told the board they understand that certain state requirements must also be met including designating an area that participants must remain while partaking in alcohol consumption. They also believe that would generate additional revenue in the local economy. Commissioner Hensley stated that he did not agree with changing the ordinance and that alcohol should not be allowed. Commissioner Hamilton asked, to clarify, if this would be on a case by case basis or if the proposed changes would be across the board. Manager Dowling explained that it would be on a case by case basis. An application would be presented to the board and then the board would decide whether or not to approve it. Chief Woodard stated that if you have alcohol you have the potential for problems. This would also require more police presence.

Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to instruct the Town Manager to create a resolution of intent to amend Section 4-2 of the Town's Code of Ordinances and schedule a public hearing on April 7th. Voting in favor of the motion were Commissioner's Gelbaugh, Hamilton, McPherson, and Nestler. Voting in the negative was Commissioner Hensley. The motion carries.

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO CLOSE STREETS: Manager Dowling explained that Ben Guiney sent a letter of request to the Town asking for Robert, Washington and a portion of Cowee Streets be closed. These streets were paper streets and never opened by the Town of Sylva. There is no intention at this time for the streets to be opened. If the resolution is approved, all adjoining property owners will be notified. *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to approve the resolution of intent to close the mentioned streets. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF PRODUCTION & TRAFFIC DETOURS—THREE BILLBOARDS INC: Manager Dowling explained the filming needs, including the possibility of temporarily removing a traffic signal are at the intersection of Spring Street and Main Street. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve the resolution of intent. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

POLICE DEPARTMENT TAKE-HOME CAR POLICY: Manager Dowling explained that the board approved the use of take-home cars on January 28th and instructed the department to development a policy for the use of take-home cars. Commissioner Nestler, Hamilton, and McPherson all noted that the policy was written well. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the policy. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

CLOSED SESSION: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS. 143-318-11(a)(6) regarding the Town Manager's evaluation at 7:12 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion carries with a unanimous vote and the Board entered into regular session at 8:23 p.m. No action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk