

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ROUND TABLE MEETING OF THE LAKE LURE TOWN COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, 6:00 P.M. AT THE LAKE LURE MUNICIPAL CENTER

PRESENT: Mayor Carol C. Pritchett
Mayor Pro Tem David DiOrio
Commissioner Scott Doster

William Hank Perkins, Jr., Town Manager

ABSENT: Commissioner Patrick Bryant
Commissioner Jim Proctor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carol C. Pritchett called the round table meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Commissioner Scott Doster made a motion to adopt the agenda, as presented. Commissioner David DiOrio seconded and all voted in favor.

TOWN UPDATES WITH TOWN MANAGER HANK PERKINS

Town Manager Hank Perkins provided an update on the 2024 drawdown schedule and projects that will be in progress during the drawdown, the reservoir drain installation, and the Fire Department space needs study to work towards a new fire station.

COMMUNITY QUESTION & ANSWER

Mayor Pritchett invited attendees to ask questions.

An attendee asked when the lake drawdown will be scheduled. It was noted that the draw

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down will start January 1st to March 31st.

An attendee asked since we are spending 7.4 million dollars for valves can we reuse those same valves elsewhere. Commissioner DiOrio explained that the valves will be tied into the new dam.

Attendee asked what the town is doing to update the sewer plant and the water system. Manager Perkins stated that for the sewer we have a master plan study with our engineering firm La Bella to determine a location for the new plant and the technology that would be involved. Hank further explained that for the water system the town just finished our new water system management plan which includes a new tank at Firefly Cove.

An attendee asked if there were any plans to replace water pipes going down Memorial Highway. Manager Perkins stated that there were no discussion at this time.

The attendee expressed concerns about instances of air in the pipes. Commissioner DiOrio said that there were some instances due to breaks but they believe they are resolved.

An attendee questioned our ability to keep up with water supply with the town's growth. She stated that we didn't need to be dependent on anyone for our water needs. Commissioner DiOrio stated that part of the water management plan is redundancy and back up depending on where the demand is. The new framework is going to provide that redundancy. Commissioner DiOrio stated that we didn't have a water supply problem but a water distribution issue.

An attendee asked if the new sewer pipe is better, compared to the pipe that is currently there. Commissioner DiOrio stated that it is so much better but the big advantage is now we will be able to get to them if we need to do repairs. He further stated that the town is being proactive by taking care of the old system which buys us time to raise money and go after a methodical way to put in the new system.

An attendee asked why there was a change in the draw down from November to January. Manager Perkins stated that we could not get the equipment that was needed in time to start in November.

Council discussed the importance of maintaining a good relationship with legislature in relation to grant money to help with ongoing projects.

An attendee asked if there will be an access road from the north end of the lake to the west end. Commissioner Diorio stated there is an ongoing discussion with property owners, and Rumbling Bald who are in agreement that having an access road is needed for public safety.

An attendee asked why the power grid was so unreliable. Commissioner Doster stated that Duke is responsible for the power lines and they usually find it cheaper to repair the lines when they are damaged rather than to bury them.

Attendees asked why we couldn't get DOT to come out and cut back the trees and maintain the slopes. Mayor thought it would be a good idea to arrange a meeting with Duke Energy to

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address these issues.

An attendee asked if we employ a lobbyist and if we are happy with them. Commissioner DiOrio stated that we have been using a firm for the last 2 and a half years who is working on our behalf. He stated that we met with them recently and we are satisfied with them.

An attendee asked if the old ABC store is being offered as just the building or is town property included in that deal. Mayor Pritchett stated that the town is still accepting proposals at this time and council cannot make comment on the proposals. Manager Perkins stated that current proposers are interested in retouching their proposals and we will continue to take anything people have whether new or updated until we get a plan that the Town of Lake Lure is happy with. Commissioner Doster further stated that he could say that Pool Creek Park is most likely off the table. Commissioner DiOrio stated the zoning board is discussing the property to see how it can be zoned correctly since it is currently being zoned as commercial property. An attendee stated that it comes back to having a master plan with the green spaces as a priority. Manager Perkins stated that we have that going, the sequence of that right now is that we are going to finish the fire department master planning and figure out where the fire department is going to be. When we are done with that we are looking at doing the planning for the master plan.

An attendee wanted to know if there was a reason we can't put a sign on the old ABC building. Commissioner Doster said that we will put a sign on the building.

An attendee was concerned that there wasn't any talk regarding the 100 year celebration and the need to have a committee and community group put together. Mayor Pritchett agreed and stated that we did start having that conversation with Communications Director Laura Krejci. She stated that she would like to see a community group put together and put a plan in place.

An attendee questioned if there are plans to start work on the amphitheater. Mayor Pritchett noted that the Town is working with TDA and that the need to expand the parking lot is something to look at first.

An attendee noted that the visitor center closed their bathrooms during the Dance Festival. Mayor Pritchett stated that she would talk to the TDA about that.

An attendee brought up safety concerns regarding non-motorized vehicles traveling the lake. Commissioner DiOrio stated that the Police Department was asked to pick up enforcement to address this matter as well as putting a focus on a non-motorized vehicle ramp with signs explaining rule and other information.

An attendee made mention that the amount of trees fallen into the lake due to wakes eroding the banks was a concern. Commissioner DiOrio stated that the town is looking to maintain balance between protection the resource and boaters enjoying the lake.

Attendee asked about the progress of the cell tower. Manager Perkins stated that the plans have not changed and that it is going through permitting right now. He stated that the tower is expected to go vertical January of 2024.

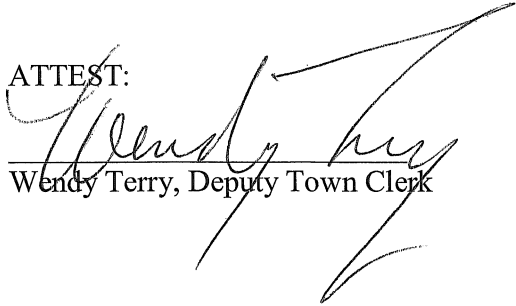
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Mayor thanked all in attendance and expressed appreciation for participation.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Doster made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Commissioner DiOrio seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

ATTEST:


Wendy Terry, Deputy Town Clerk


Mayor Carol C. Pritchett

