

**Town of Pilot Mountain
Board of Commissioners Special Meeting
Thursday, February 18, 2021
Regular Meeting via Zoom 6:00 PM**

Members Present: Mayor Evan Cockerham, Commissioner Rachel Gilley, Commissioner Donna Kiger, Commissioner Scott Needham and Commissioner Dwight Atkins

Staff Present: Town Manager, Michael Boaz, Town Attorney, Ed Woltz and Town Clerk, Holly Utt

Call to order 6:00 PM

Mayor Cockerham called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Cockerham extended condolences to the families of John Shelton and Mark Marion. He also mentioned that Dennis Manuel had been admitted to the hospital and asked everyone to keep those families in their thoughts and prayers.

Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Atkins made

Public Comment

No comments

Board & Committee Reports

New Business

Water & Sewer AIA Presentation

Kenneth Orie with Withers Ravenel presented the findings of the AIA study.

Police Vehicle Funding

As part of the FY 20-21 budget, the Board agreed to finance the purchase of a new police vehicle. Mr. Boaz presented quotes from First Citizens and Home Trust Bank. Home Trust bank has the lowest rate of 1.48%. This would be five annual payments of \$8,133.58. Commissioner Needham made a motion to approve the financing terms from Home Trust Bank and it was unanimous.

Minimum Housing Code Ordinance Amendment

Mr. Boaz explained that the NC General Assembly has consolidated the land use and development regulation statutes into NCGS160D-1201. This ordinance amendment would make technical changes to the Minimum Housing code to reference the new statutes. Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve Ordinance No: 2021-1 and it was unanimous.

Animal Ordinance Amendment

Mr. Boaz stated that East Surry High School has been keeping chickens as part of their animal science curriculum. This is a violation of the Town's existing ordinance regarding chickens in the Town Limits. Jared Jones, Principal of ESHS, has asked that the Board consider granting an exception to the rule so

that they can continue the program. The proposed ordinance amendment would all NC public schools and exception for keeping no more than 50 hens for the purpose of aiding in the school's animal science curriculum. Commissioner Atkins asked that the language include "on school property". Commissioner Kiger also asked that the ordinance to include Surry Community College so this wouldn't need to be revisited again in the future. Commissioner Atkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance Amendment with the proposed changes and it was unanimous.

DWR Grant Application Resolution

Mr. Boaz stated that the Town would need to reapply for the DWR grant funding for the Streambank Restoration Project. It took longer than expected to get the easements for the project and the grant lapsed. Commissioner Atkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-3 and it was unanimous.

Administrative Reports

Town Manager's Report

- The Facebook page for the Comp Plan is up and running. The first public engagement session will be March 15th through April 3rd at the Charles H. Stone Memorial Library.
- There will be meetings for the DAC program every 4-6 weeks
- Funding approvals for projects should go to the LGC in March
- Applied for a grant with the state that would put in two vehicle charging stations at Town Hall. The grants are funded via the Volkswagen settlement funds
- Mr. Boaz has made the decision to have the retreat later in the fall
- The draft for the 2021-2022 will be presented in April

Mayor and Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Atkins: Appreciates the work that Mr. Boaz has put in to get these projects rolling. He also mentioned that he attended the finance meeting at the Armfield Center. They raised more money than needed but they still have other significant items that need to be fixed in the pool area and they will be needing the \$10k commitment from the Board. Harry Wilson would like to meet with the Board to update the Board and try to keep the capital projects going without losing assets.

Commissioner Kiger: Stated that since we are no longer meeting in person to please find a way to include the pledge of allegiance in the zoom meetings to honor our flag and county. She thanked all the departments for all the assistance during a crisis. The Civic Club is planning Mayfest in hopes that it will still happen.

Commissioner Needham: Thanked the PW department for patching the potholes and the town for working on the charging station grant.

Commissioner Collins: Expressed appreciation for emergency services, linemen and first responders that keep us going day to day.

Mayor Cockerham: Stated that recreation is a big part of life in Pilot Mountain. He, along with Mr. Boaz, will be meeting with Leah Tunstall and Harry Wilson in a few weeks to go over their numbers and bring something back to the Board. He also mentioned the businesses coming to Main Street which is a great for the town. He thanked everyone for their patience with the several construction projects going on around town.

Other Business

No other business to discuss.

Adjourn or Recess

Commissioner Collins made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Holly Utt
Town Clerk

Evan Cockerham
Mayor