

**Town of Pilot Mountain
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Monday, September 11, 2023
7:00 PM**

Members Present: Mayor Evan Cockerham, Mayor Pro-Tem Donna Kiger, Commissioner Rachel Collins and Commissioner Scott Needham

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

Call to order 7:00 PM

Mayor Cockerham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. After a moment of silence, Commissioner Kiger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Collins made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented and it was unanimous.

Presentations

Surry County Schools

Surry County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Travis Reeves was present to address the Board. He presented a presentation to address the future of Palmer Field. The Surry County Board of Education has received an athletic repair and renovation grant and they have looked for the best way to spend those funds. Over the last several years they have been making improvements to athletic facilities and middle and high schools and they are proposing upgrades at Palmer Field. He presented a short and long term proposal for Palmer Field. The short term would include upgrades to the field and surrounding area and the long term proposal would be to secure longtime rights to use this field. If approved, they would like to start work on the project in the fall. Chad Freeman explained the renovations that were proposed to include; removing the fencing, take out the dugouts, take out the backstop and demolish the two story building. They would then come back in and put a larger dugout on each side, put a storage area on the first base side, a press box area and PA area attached to the third base dugout and new back stop. With the demolition of the building, it would open up the area for more seating. The approximate cost for the renovations would be \$80K. Mr. Freeman stated that if allowed to improve the property this would be at no cost to the town and if granted permission to proceed they could move forward with the bidding process. Construction and upgrades would have to be complete before softball season starts early March. Dr. Reeves asked about the long term use of the pool and Palmer Field. Commissioner Needham stated that he would like to know the details. Mr. Reeves stated that the two attorneys could work together to create a long term agreement that would help the community and future students to utilize the facilities. Commissioner Kiger stated that she didn't want the tax paying citizens inside town limits to be burdened with the cost. She asked if they could help the town get funding from the county when they start their new budget since we got nothing from this year and only 20% of membership at the ACC lives in the town limits. We are providing a facility for the entire Pilot Mountain community and would like support from the county to be able to provide these facilities for the schools and everyone else in the community. Mr. Reeves stated that he would be willing to talk to the Surry County Board of Commissioners about the importance of the Armfield Center and facilities for the school athletic

programs. After further discussion. Commissioner Kiger made a motion to approve the upgrade plan presented and it was unanimous.

Public Comment

No comments

New Business

Recreation and Parks Update

Randy Ingram stated that the weight room updates had been completed and this makes the Armfield more competitive with surround communities. He thanked the Board for making it possible to update the facility and there have been lots of positive comments received.

Main Street Coordinating Committee Appointments

Mr. Boaz stated that there were two vacancies on the committee. Applications have been received from Michelle Fallin and Maria Watson. Commissioner Collins made a motion to appoint Michelle Fallin and Marie Watson to the Main Street Coordinating Committee and it was unanimous.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Boaz stated that the utility cuts had been repaired. The Planning Board will meet in October to discuss permitted uses in Central Business District. He is still looking into the trap, spay, neuter release program. There are approximately 320 water meters that are not working. They have received 168 of those and they will be installed in the next few weeks. These are covered under warranty and there is no cost to the town.

Mayor and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Needham – No comments

Commissioner Kiger – She is excited about the direction that the Armfield Center is taking and the updates to the athletic fields. She is proud of all the updates and upgrades that he Board has been successful in for the whole town.

Commissioner Collins – She asked that everyone remember those families and heroes from 9/11. She also thanked our first responders; police, fire and rescue, for all that they do for our community.

Mayor Cockerham – He's had some people approach him about the stray cat issue. He reminded everyone that feeding wildlife is not permitted. He also addressed the 12% increase in water/sewer rates. He remind citizens that this was bringing the town up to date and helping with critical needs and the ability to provide quality drinking water to the citizens of Pilot Mountain.

Other Business – No other business

Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Holly Utt
Town Clerk

Evan Cockerham
Mayor

3615