

**Town of Pilot Mountain
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2020
Regular Meeting 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Mayor Evan Cockerham, Commissioner Donna Kiger, Commissioner Hilda Willis, Commissioner Kim Quinn and Commissioner Scott Needham via Zoom web meeting.

Staff Present: Town Manager, Michael Boaz, Town Attorney, Ed Woltz, Town Planner, Andy Goodall and Town Clerk, Holly Utt via Zoom web meeting

Call to order 7:00 PM

Mayor Cockerham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public Hearing on unopened portion of Simmons Street

Mayor Cockerham opened the public hearing for the closing of the unopened portion of Simmons Street.

No comments from the public.

Mayor Cockerham closed the public hearing.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Public Comment

The following public comments were read by Mr. Boaz:

Sheri Fields

Physical Address

1210 Pete Allen Circle, #8, Winston Salem, North Carolina 27103

To the Pilot Mountain Commissioners

The traffic that comes and goes daily on Bullington Lane has become a Hazzard. I have sat in the living and watch tractor trailers trying to maneuver trying to turn on our narrow road forget that someone comes flying off Main Street making a left turn and all of a sudden there is a truck taking up both lanes. I have to go through our yard to pull out on the road as I will not back out of the driveway scared I'll get hit by a car or truck. This road has become a speedway instead of a small cross through road. Our house is the only home on this road and the traffic is such as a highway. We fought to get this road paved and it's already crumbling. Please do something to make this better. My father John Roy Bullington Jr didn't live to see this improved but I hope we do. thank you for anything you can do to make Bullington. Lane a safer Road

Sincerely

Sheri Bullington Fields

Mary Meijboom, 204 N Carson Rd, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

I am writing concerning my health and well-being of the citizens that live on the east side of Pilot Mountain. I know that the town of Pilot Mountain has a noise ordinance. However, it does not seem to be reinforced. Regardless of decibel readings, each evening when I go to bed I have to listen to the noise coming from the New River Tire Recycling plant. The beep-beep back-up sounds and the noise from the grinding machinery keep me awake until I finally fall asleep. I am sure that these sounds are even more audible and disturbing for people living on Main Street and Academy Street!
Why is that restaurants and bars have a closing time and have to adhere to the noise ordinance while the tire recycling plant is allowed to run all night long in the MIDDLE of our town!?

Invariably, each time after having washed my white van, the next morning I find it covered in soot! We would like to invite commissioners to visit this side of your town and see how our properties are covered with a grey film caused by the soot from the plant. Can you imagine what our lungs look like??!! In addition, our property has lost value!

Several other citizens of the town living on the east side of town have complained about issues we are having with the recycling plant for five or more years. We seem to be speaking to deaf ears! Would you like to live on this side of town under these conditions!

Consent Agenda

- April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- April 24, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Needham made a motion to approve the consent agenda and it was unanimous.

ABC Board Report

Mr. Boaz stated that sales for the month of April 2020 were \$152,354. This is a 31.48% increase over April 2019 sales of \$104,397.

Unfinished Business

Closing Unopened Portion of Simmons Street

Mr. Boaz explained that property owners, Brent and Carmen Long have requested that the Board consider closing an unopened portion of Simmons Street. This street has never been opened and it doesn't allow access to any properties. The road currently terminates on the Long's property. Commissioner Quinn asked if the town would need access to do maintenance. Mr. Boaz stated that the town would retain an easement for water and sewer lines. Commissioner Quinn made a motion to close the unopened portion of Simmons Street and it was unanimous.

New Business

DDO Color Palate Discussion

Mr. Boaz stated that a color palate had been adopted as part of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) in 2018 which included an expanded color palate. With the expansion of the color palate, it has been challenging for staff trying to determine if a color is close enough to the color palate to approve it. He also noted that painting is something that could be done over a weekend. If a building owner does not come to Town Hall to get a permit the project could be completed before staff is aware that the painting is done. Andy Goodall stated that Mount Airy had a similar situation. If building owners are looking to get a façade grant, then they would follow the color palate. Discussion ensued about

compliance and enforcement. It was the consensus of the Board to have the Planning Board review the color palate.

FY 2021 Budget Discussion

Mr. Boaz presented a draft budget for FY 2020-2021. He explained that this was a very conservative budget due to COVID-19 and amendments could be made throughout the year. This budget reflects a decrease of around 14% with no new spending or increases to employee compensation. The Board scheduled a budget workshop for Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM with location to be announced.

FY 2019-2020 Budget Amendment 5

Mr. Boaz explained that this budget amendment would account for fund balance that will need to be used for two capital projects, Sunset Sewer and Water Treatment Upgrade. This money will be reimbursed to the town but not before fiscal year-end. This budget amendment is only an accounting function for year end. Commissioner Willis made a motion to approve FY 2019-2020 Budget Amendment 5 and it was unanimous.

Minimum Housing Code Violation – 225 E Main Street

Mr. Boaz gave an update on the housing code violation at 225 E. Main Street. He noted that the owner of the property had not made any necessary repairs or demolished to the structure. It was deemed unsafe in December 2019. The owner was not present for the hearing on January 2, 2020 at 2:00 PM. The next step would be for the Board to adopt the ordinance to demolish the structure and clear the lot at a cost of approximately \$5,000. Discussion ensued about whether or not to move forward due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Cockerham mentioned to the Board that they could go ahead and adopt the ordinance and choose when to enforce at a later date. Commissioner Kiger made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-04 and it was unanimous.

Administrative Reports

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Boaz addressed Bullington Lane. He stated that town staff had inspected the road and the drainage tile is in good shape. It had been recommended to make this a one-way street. Chief Jackson stated that since it is such a narrow street, it would be better for traffic to turn off of Highway 52 By-pass and make it one way with traffic headed south. Commissioner Needham stated that he would be more comfortable putting this on the agenda for June. It was the consensus of the Board to add Bullington Lane discussion to the June agenda.

Mr. Boaz addressed the public comment regarding New River Tire Recycling. He stated that the Board had previously hired outside counsel to address the issue. They reported back to the Board that the town had followed all the guidelines and they are limited in what they can do to address the problem. Mr. Boaz stated that he did not want the public to think that the town is ignoring them. Attorney Woltz stated it would be better left to the affected citizens to take action.

- Town Hall is still closed due to COVID-19. It may take longer for staff to respond, but they will be called back.
- Late fees, delinquent fees and utility shut-offs are still suspended
- All events have been cancelled for June and possibly July

- Two water quality tests were missed in 2019. There is no concern for the safety of the water because all test did pass, they just weren't completed in time. A letter will be mailed notifying citizens later in the week.

Mayor and Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Needham: Asked that everyone be safe and vigilant. Be kind to one another and take care of each other. He commended everyone that has to work during the pandemic.

Commissioner Kiger: Asked that everyone continue to be safe during Phase I. She is very proud of the community and the work that has been done by different organizations feeding children and families. She asked that Mr. Boaz address the public comment from April about citizens being able to have chickens inside the city limits.

Commissioner Quinn: Expressed appreciation for all essential workers. She noted that there was political turmoil state wide and communities are struggling with lay-offs and unemployment and her heart goes out to everyone in that situation. The community is really pulling together and doing a great job with what we have.

Mayor Cockerham: Reiterated what others had said. He mentioned the "Mask the Town" which is recommended by the CDC. The Gitman Bothers/Brown & Church are making mask and selling them at cost. Diane Blakemore at the library has supplied over 300 masks. He also wanted to let everyone know that had sent in public comments that they were being heard. There should be something on the agenda in June about the possibility of chickens in the city limits. The folks on Bullington Lane are also being heard. He encouraged those citizens affected by NRTR to reach out to the state for guidance. He thanked the Police Department for doing an excellent job during this pandemic.

Adjourn or Recess

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Holly Utt
Town Clerk

Evan Cockerham
Mayor