



TOWN OF SYLVA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 5:30 PM
Board Room, 83 Allen Street Sylva, North Carolina

MINUTES

PRESENT: Blitz Estridge, Commissioner
Mary Gelbaugh, Mayor Pro-Tem
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Natalie Newman, Commissioner
Johnny Phillips, Mayor
Brad Waldrop, Commissioner

Paige Dowling, Town Manager
Amanda Murajda, Town Clerk
Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT: Jake Scott (Public Works Director), Chris Hatton (Police Chief) and Robbie Carter (Police Lieutenant).

VISITORS: Luther Jones, Nelia Waldrum, Leigh Anne Young, Dave Russell, Chuck Hall and Carol Hall.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Phillips reported that he met with Kevin King, the new Jackson County Manager and also met with Mark Letson regarding paid fire department employees.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh reminded everyone of the Tuckasegee River Clean-up event. She noted also that Raymond Street, Cowee Street and Maple Street had areas that the pavement needed to be fixed. Commissioner Waldrop apologized for missing the previous two meetings for family events. He expressed his disappointment in the Board's decision to deny the Sylva Pride parade. Commissioner Jones announced a benefit luncheon for the Karup family and the birth of their child. Commissioner Newman read a statement from herself in about her disappointment regarding Sylva Pride.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling reported the following:

- Budget Update: The balanced draft budget will be sent to the Board April 18th.
- Greening Up the Mountains is just over two weeks away. Preparations are in full swing.
- Project Updates:
 - Bridge Park: The Bridge Park project is on schedule. The observation deck will be started next week. One weir is completed, and the other is a little over halfway installed.
 - Public Restroom: Cinderella Partners should be back onsite early next week. A local contractor will remediate the unsuitable soil. Materials are being delivered on site. The projected completion date is now June 5th.
 - Bryson Park: Playground equipment has been ordered.
- We have been conducting interviews at the Police Department to try and fill the vacant positions.

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NEW BUSINESS

PINNACLE PARK MASTER PLAN—DISCUSSION ONLY: Commissioner Gelbaugh commented the proposal had great ideas for the park and she liked the outdoor classroom option. Commissioner Waldrop agreed with Gelbaugh.

CLOSED SESSION: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS. 143-318-11(a)(3) to consult with the town attorney at 5:49 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

Commissioner Newman made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion carried with a unanimous vote and the Board entered into regular session at 6:48 p.m. No action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

Johnny Phillips
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk