

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
September 3, 2009

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regularly scheduled meeting on September 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Brenda Oliver and Commissioners Sarah Graham, Harold Hensley, Ray Lewis, Maurice Moody and Stacy Knotts

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Adrienne Isenhower (Town Manager), Brandi Henson King (Town Clerk), Dan Schaeffer (Public Works Director) and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney)

VISITORS PRESENT: Faith Bartholomew, Sebastian Kipp, Dine Plummes, Sabrina Feagans, Randy Messer, Samantha Temple, Wanda Messer, April DeBord, Samantha Mussaffa, Kasey Hensley, Loren Fouts, Betty Liu, Nikki Cormier, John Davie, Joan Stears, Christa McFall, Greg Bryson, Diane Stevenson, Jessica Philyaw, Karen Clarke, David Philyaw, Jane Harrison, Gibbs Knotts, Allison Brantley and Eric Moore

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Oliver called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: *Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

TENNESSEE TEEN INSTITUTE PRESENTATION: Mountain Projects was able to send a group of teens from Jackson County to Nashville, Tennessee to the Teen Institute to learn more about underage drinking and tobacco use. The teens have started a group called SAND, (Students Against Negative Decisions), to help reduce the amount of alcohol consumption and drug abuse by teens in the community. Mountain Projects is hoping to be able to get enough funding to be able to open an institute in Western NC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Greg Bryson and Diane Stevenson, residents of Nichol Arms Apartments, stated that the police department is not enforcing speeding, parking, drinking, drug and noise ordinance violations. Isenhower will schedule a meeting with Bryson to discuss his issues.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Oliver stated she attended the 75th Anniversary Celebration for the Great Smokies National Park.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Hensley spoke to the issue of allowing dogs in the Bridge Park. The majority of the emails he has received from people wanting to allow dogs in the Park are not residents of the Town of Sylva.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Isenhower reported that Dirk Hoyman is working on the plan for the Town's website. Isenhower also suggested the Board set up a time to go look at the Golden Age Center so they would be aware of the updates and repairs that would need to be done. The Board will visit the Center after their regularly scheduled meeting on September 17th. Mayor Oliver will be contacting Jim Nichol with the American Legion to see if they are still interested in leasing the building.

PUBLIC HEARING (JOHN DAVIE VARIANCE APPLICATION): Mayor Oliver called the Public Hearing to order at 7:42 a.m. John Davie of 568 Ridgeway Street is requesting a reduction in set-back requirements for his property to zero. Davie stated he made the same request to the Board about six years ago and it was approved then but he did not obtain a Zoning Certificate within six months from the date of the decision so he is now requesting the Board to approve his request again.

Commissioner Moody made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. The hearing was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

MAYOR'S AWARD: Commissioner Graham suggested adding the School, Grade and Age of the Nominee to the form. *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adopt the Mayor's Award Nomination Form with the changes made. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

DUKE STREET LIGHT ALLOCATION: At the August 20th meeting the Board voted to turn the street lights over to Duke Energy and allocate the additional funds from the street department fund balance. The designated fund balances can only be used for capital purchases per the Town's policy. *Commissioner Graham made a motion to move \$3,400 from contingency instead of the street department fund balance. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

SYLVA TO DILLSBORO SIDEWALK PROJECT: Dan Schaeffer stated that eight (8) of the ten (10) property owners that would be affected by the sidewalk project have signed rights-of-entry over to the Town. There are two (2) property owners that will not sign the right-of-entry because they feel they should be compensated by the Town. Bruce Williams and Jim Hage of Carolina Realty have approximately 133 ft and Patricia Kimbrall has approximately 465 ft. Jonathan Woodard of NCDOT stated that if the project does not get underway soon then the Town could lose the state funding. The Board will have to decide if they want to compensate the owners or condemn their property. *Commissioner Moody made a motion to table until the September 17th meeting. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

VARIANCE APPLICATION FROM JOHN DAVIE: Commissioners Graham and Hensley were in favor of granting the variance while Commissioners Moody, Knotts and Lewis were opposed. The variance was denied. Commissioner Hensley stated that the Board should not hinder owners from being able to use their own land.

STREET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR JACKSON PLAZA (POST OFFICE): The item is tabled until next month's meeting.

PARKING ISSUES (JOAN STEARNS): Joan Stearns requested at least two (2) 30-minute parking signs be added on Mill Street in front of her buildings. Stearns stated that short-term parking needs to be added to Mill Street to be conducive for businesses. Stearns also presented to the Board pictures of cars that parked in spaces on Mill Street all day and also cars parking in the loading zones for several hours.

Commissioner Moody stated that timed parking spaces would need enforcement and the Board cannot tell people not to park in spaces on Mill Street since it is public parking. Commissioner Graham suggested formally requesting business owners and their employees to park in the public parking lots. Mayor Oliver stated the Town should send a letter to businesses asking for their cooperation in off-street parking.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Graham made a motion to adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.*

Brenda A. Oliver
Mayor

Brandi H. King
Town Clerk