TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TRYON TOWN HALL - MCCOWN MEETING ROOM
WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples — Mayor Pro Tem Chrelle Booker

Commissioners: Bill Crowell, Bill Ingham — Absent: Crys Armbrust

Staff Present: Jim Fatland, Town Manager — Susan Bell, Town Clerk
Greg McCool, Public Works Director — William Morgan, Town Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alan Peoples called the meeting to order.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

1. TRASH ON TRADE ST. ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Commissioner BC: "You saw my text about the trash all over Trade St. The restaurants can't put the trash out on Trade St. on Saturday nights. They need to keep it locked up until Monday. It's pretty embarrassing."
Mayor AP: "We've got those containers down on the street."
Commissioner BC: "Well then we need to tell them to move it to the back."
Town Manager JF: "I think the solution has got to be a common-sense solution. Because you don't want employees coming down for a 2-hour minimum and time and a half to do it every Sunday. If we need them to give them plastic bags to find a location where they just drop it off and leave."
Mayor AP: "Well the other thing, with all the cans we have on the back there, it's not a whole lot of walking from anywhere to the trash can. How many of those trash cans do we own? Three? Four?"
Commissioner BI: "What, the big ones?
Mayor AP: "The big ones, the dumpsters."
Commissioner BI: "I don't know how many there are."
Commissioner BC: "Well, this was Trade St. Monday morning."
Mayor AP: "I know, I saw that."
Commissioner BC: "I mean we have dumpsters and it should be mandatory for you [businesses] to take your trash behind the building at night."
Town Manager JF: "I guess, Greg, do you have any ideas as far as the sanitation downtown pickups on the 9th? Because you and I talked about it and it didn't seem appropriate to have the boys come down on Sunday. But as far as which dumpsters the town owns, they could take it to?"
Greg McCool: "I think most of the dumpsters, even though the town owns them, somebody else is renting them. We have a dumpster but they pay a certain fee to use that."
Town Manager JF: "So like Buck's Pizza, they just pay…?"

Commissioner BC: “I guess we have to tell Tyler he’s no longer allowed to put his trash on Trade St. It has to go to a town dumpster at the end of the evening.”
Unidentified Attendee: “Saturday night at 7 o’clock, the trash can in front of Buck’s Pizza was overflowing and there were two additional bags sitting on the sidewalk. That was at 7 o’clock.”
Town Manager JF: “Somebody has to go to a place where they can take their trash before they go home.”
Mayor AP: “I think I’m going to ask the question again. I don't understand how we have dumpsters out and somebody is renting them.”
Town Manager JF: “Some people rent a dumpster from the town.”
Mayor AP: “Do they pay more than the standard fee to do that?”
JF: “Yes, it’s their trash. They’re paying for it. Rather than separate cans, they wanted a dumpster.”
Mayor AP: “If we have a place for another can, if someone would like to join in on that?”
Commissioner BI: “Well, you see, if some businesses are renting them then those that aren't renting them shouldn't be putting their trash in it. You're going to have a problem with someone putting their trash in a rented dumpster.”
Mayor AP: “We had a controversy over that last week.”
Town Manager JF: “Or we could do this… the folks share in the cost of the dumpster if they’re putting their trash in it.”
Commissioner BC: “Is there one in our parking lot down there behind McGourty’s? Where Katie D’s and used to be Huckleberry’s. Marengo’s, where does she put her trash?”
Town Manager JF: “There’s a dumpster in the back alley.”
Commissioner BI: “I would throw it in the back of his car when he's [Tyler] leaving, then circle around and throw it in the dumpster. But we’re going to have to come up with something.”
Mayor AP: “I have a question. What do businesses pay per month for trash pickup?”
Commissioner BC: “A lot!”
Town Manager JF: “Well they pay for more pickups because they have several pickups.”
Mayor AP: “I understand that and that’s why I'm asking… If you have someone that has a dumpster that we own, they're paying above that to use the dumpster?” [Yes] “ As far as I’m concerned, and I don’t know what it costs, put another one there. Those people who want to use that to get it off the street… They can either take it themselves, or they can pay the extra money to have access to a dumpster.”
Town Manager JF: “What if we had a dumpster down in the town parking lot area, have it shielded, and then some of the businesses who want to pay have access to a lock, but they are required to take their trash to the dumpster?”
Commissioner BI: “I'm not sure what the rate is for businesses, but if we provide business pickups, we should pick it up.”
Town Manager JF: “Not on a Sunday morning. This is one of those special instances.”
Commissioner BI: “Well, I guess my point is, I don't want people putting stuff in dumpsters. Everybody's got to be treated fair. If I'm paying for a dumpster, I don't want somebody else putting stuff in it.”
Town Manager JF: “What I'm saying is, like, there's no back entrance for Buck’s. They're putting trash out on a Saturday night. It doesn't make sense to have a town employee come down on a Sunday morning.”
Commissioner BC: “It's time that we say no more putting your trash on the sidewalk. We have a dumpster, each block, for all the restaurants. We're still charging you that six day a week pick up fee, but we have a dumpster. That's the best thing I can think of.”
Town Manager JF: “But the problem is, if the town owned the alleyway, like in Highlands when I was up there,

if the town owned the alleyways, all the dumpsters were in the alleyway, all the recycling bins, there was no trash on the front street ever. Here we don't own the alleyway, they're all privately owned."
Mayor AP: "They may change part of that. In the meantime, I'm with everybody else. I'm tired of seeing open trash on Sunday morning, however we have to do that."
Town Manager JF: "I wish we owned the alleyways, but we don't. So, we've got to work it out. What I'm saying is, it's got to be a common-sense solution, because there's no reason the taxpayers should have to pay for Sunday pickup. They can take their bags and stuff to a location. Because our trash guys are out there early in the morning, on the weekdays and on Saturday to pick up the trash, way before the start of the week."
Commissioner BI: "Put it in the parking lot down there and tell them all it's just one day we're talking about."
Commissioner BC: "Well, I mean, no, I really think you ought to put it in the back every day. It shouldn't be on Trade Street. Because some of those businesses close and their trash bags are out there at 6 pm in the evening. And the racoons are all in it before sunrise."
Town Manager JF: "So which businesses cause Sunday trash problems?"
Commissioner BI: "I thought it was Buck's and Katie D's."
Commissioner BC: "Katie D's has hers back behind the fence."
Town Manager JF: "How many storefronts have nested trash out front?"
Mayor AP: "I've seen the one across from the theater overdone and stacked, so there's more than one. It's a different time."
Commissioner BC: "And the theater can hold their trash Saturday night, and then when they get there for Sunday matinee, they can take it around the corner to a dumpster instead of piling it. Because, you know, I've seen that trash spread out all over the ground."
Mayor AP: "Well, like I said, let the PWD and the manager figure out a way to do it."
Town Manager JF: "I think I'll just knock on a few doors and talk about a solution."
Mayor AP: "It's better to talk than to have a mandate at this point."
? "Yeah, just a further thought on what the mayor was saying. The trash next to the Nina Simone Plaza, there's like two barrels there, I guess. It's not just one day. It's many days it's overflowing. Regardless of whether there's an event there or not. And I personally, maybe I should have taken those license plates, have seen people pull in, get out of their car, go in their trunk, take the bag, mess up traffic…"
Commissioner BC: "Ten percent of our landfill fees are people from out of town. You go to Harmon Field, there's a gentleman, he drives there every day, gets out, puts his trash in that trash can. And a couple of times I took it out, took it back to his house on Warrior and laid it in his front yard. Well, I actually didn't lay it, I just tossed it and went on. But no, it's terrible how much money we spend every year on out-of-town trash."
? "I don't know how you stop that, but it's rather evident that it's more than just the businesses at the Nina Simone Plaza."
Commissioner BC: "Those trash cans need to be replaced."
Commissioner BI: "I wonder if we put some sort of signage on it. It wouldn't stop everybody. If there's nobody around, they're still going to do it. If there's something that says…"
Commissioner BC: "If we find your name on anything in this trash, it's going to cost you $500." "I don't know what else to do. You can't take them away. You need them out there."
Commissioner BI: "I'm talking about people on Saturday, visitors on Saturday and Sunday."
Commissioner BC: "You can have a little itty-bitty trash can like we have in other places. You don't put these massive cans out there that say, 'Oh, hey, throw your trash in there.' I mean the school had to lock there's up. Their dumpster was slammed full with Lake Lanier trash. They had to finally put a lock on it."
Commissioner BI: "I just don't want to get too ironclad to ask about anything."
Commissioner BC: "There are rules that need to be followed."

Anne Day: “You don’t have to get nasty. The businesses in this town should want the sidewalks and their storefronts to look presentable and welcoming. And the trash out there isn’t it.”
Mayor AP: “Something tells me we're going to end up having to buy one more dumpster and place it strategically.”
Town Manager JF: “With the merchants taking their trash to that location.”
Mayor AP: “Because I know Big Guns Coffee, I’ve watched him. He gets his two bags. He walks around that building, goes back there somewhere, and puts it in the dumpster and walks back. Every day when he closes. Anybody else could do the same thing.”
Commissioner BC: “Each block should have a commercial dumpster for those businesses.”
Town Manager JF: “We just have to get permission from the owners on the alleyway.”
Commissioner BC: “Actually it’s not an alley, it’s a cartway. There’s a difference. Believe it or not.”

STATUS OF THE NORTON SEWER LINE

Commissioner BI: “What’s the status of the Norton sewer line?”
Town Manager JF: “Good question. We’re going to play it by ear. The state budget is not approved, but the document itself has been released. I got a text message from a friend of mine that's in Raleigh. We asked the state for three projects. One was Hidden Hill, Oak Street sewer, and Grady/Markham. All three projects are in the budget. I asked for $2,223,500. That's what's being asked for by the state budget right now.”
Commissioner BI: “Do you have any idea when we'll be starting?”
Town Manager JF: “Well, the budget's got to be officially adopted at the state level. DENR should be working pretty quickly. There's no application process. It's our money. It's basically parked over there. I did talk to our engineer today and asked him to start designing all three projects. He had a proposal to do it, so he hit the deck running. So, we're going to start that clock immediately for that.
Commissioner BI: “Yeah. We did that. We're going to approve the budget in two months.”
Town Manager JF: “This is actually a faster process. Those people in those three neighborhoods, if we had to apply for a grant, we'd have to go through the design, get their approval with the application, and then go out to bid and all that type of stuff. Here, since the projects are relatively small, we can get this thing done quick and just turn the paperwork into the state, but they're going to process it very quick. So, this project will be done in 2024, not 2025 or 2026. But I agree, they've been waiting a long, long time. And at the retreat, as we said, is you've got the CIP that this board approved a couple years ago or whatever. That was step one. Step two, we're working on the mapping sewer project. That's going to be complete before we get points on these grant applications. We automatically qualify for $500,000 grants for everything we turn in. But the two applications that Withers-Ravenel turned in and the one we turned in from Summit Engineering all got turned down because they didn't rank high enough. And so once those mapping projects were done, and they told us they hoped to have it done in July or August of 2024 so we could start submitting applications in September 2024 for the master plan projects.
Mayor AP: “What’s the closing date on the Braewick stuff, the bids?”
Town Manager JF: “It’s September 21. We are going to open bids. We had zero bids on the bid opening schedule in August.”
Mayor AP: “We sat here for what, 5 hours?”
Town Manager JF: “So all we need is one bid, and hopefully it'll be within the budget. The budget's $2.6 million. But I did get a call from DENR. They do have some extra money for projects they've already awarded. And so, when the bids are open, I'm going to come back to the council and ask to do a change order to that project. When Dana Bolden made a presentation to the town board, he said part of the project is rehab, and part of it's just doing slip

lining. But I'm not sure. And of course, if you asked Andrew McAllister, he would have told us that the entire project, the pipes are old. So, I'm going to be asking them to do a change order with the low bidder and go to DENR for approval and get the thing done right.
Mayor AP: “I don't think that's going to be any different from what was behind my house. And we had a leak that went down, and they thought it was a few feet, it was 1,000 feet, and they had to dig every bit of it out. They literally ended up leaving part of it in the ground and just dug it with new pipe. Because a good part of it was Orangeburg pipe, which was useless when it was put in. It was estimated at 1,000 feet, and they had to replace every piece of it.”
Commissioner BI: “We've got some bad sewer problems around here.”
Mayor AP: “We do.”
Town Manager JF: “Well, the thing is, is there a master plan or strategic plan on water and sewer? You've got the CIP done, that's the major thing. Check. The mapping of the sewer and the water system is important. That's being done now. And then we'll have to get in line on September 24. But I said Hidden Hill, we pulled them out of sequence and went straight to Jake Johnson, our house member, and Tim Moffitt. And I think the state senator and both of them have been working with us, and they couldn't tell us earlier if it was in the budget until it officially got released this morning. But again, it's not approved, but I think it's getting really close.”

3. HARMON FIELD EXHAUST VENT FAN

Commissioner BC: “He needs to put a trash can with a trash bag under it every day, and at the end of the day, he takes his little trash bag and throws it in the trash, and then the next day, I mean, we'll pressure clean the walkway one time, but it's up to him to collect every drop of it. And we've still got the same problem out there on the sidewalk going down to White Oak against LeGaule. These hoods are supposed to come out, turn, and go straight up, and then you can have a breeze collection and a little breeze draft. But as it is, it blows out and just drips on the ground. And that one at Harmon Field was so bad that I had to pick my pants up and literally walk across the street because it was getting rank. That’s it for me.”

4. WORK SESSIONS

Mayor AP: “I want to throw out one thing. I've talked to several people about this on the work sessions. I think we should consider coming to the first meeting per quarter, scheduled for a year, and others as needed.”
Commissioner BC: “You mean this [meeting] right here?”
Mayor AP: “Yes. I mean, one of the people who wanted it most and proposed it now missed two of the last three. And I don't have a problem coming to a work session, but I have a problem taking off work early for what I'm doing, and basically moving through in 15 minutes.”
Commissioner BC: “Well, why don’t we move it to 6:30?”
Mayor AP: “That's why I said if we did it at the beginning of every quarter. Okay, September's going to be the beginning of another month. September would finish us up here because FEDS begins in October.”
Commissioner BC: “So you’re asking me to hold on to the grease in the trash for 3 months?”
Commissioner BI: “No, you can still bring it up regularly.”
Mayor AP: “If it’s something like that, quite frankly, I just threw an email to him.”
Commissioner BI: “I mean, I have no opposition to either way, 6:30 or quarterly. I really don't. But I don't think coming to every meeting for an hour is necessary.”

Commissioner BC: “I actually think they're useful in the big scheme of things. I say let's start it at 6:30 for a couple months and see how that goes.”

KUDZU

Anne Day: “I may be wrong, but it seems to me that oh, so many years ago when you all determined that you were going to do a work session, part of the reason for the work session was to review ordinances to beef them up where they needed to be or not. Have you done that?”
Commissioner BI: “That was a description of a work session to me.”
Commissioner BI: “What I remember, Anne, is, you know, Crys suggested we have a work session, but I don't remember it being for anything specific.”
Anne Day: “Well, the ordinances in question were the ones that dealt with weeds and grass cutting and things like that within the town limits. And I know for a fact none of that's been touched.”
Commissioner BC: “Yeah, speaking of weeds, the guy that bought the Automart.”
Anne Day: “That looks horrendous.”
Commissioner BC: “It does. I mean, that's the entrance to our town, and he needs to clean that lot up and kill the kudzu. It's overgrowing, getting onto the building. I mean, it's atrocious.”
Commissioner BI: “And that’s in town.”
Commissioner BC: “And it doesn’t cost anything to kill the kudzu.”
Commissioner BI: “I’m not so sure it’s in the town. Is it in the town?”
Commissioner BC: “Oh yeah. That’s Automarts across from the… next door to the bank. His kudzu is now encroaching onto our park below the dam. I’ve got 7 hours now cleaning the clock tower and up near the elementary school killing the kudzu and zero expense because I did it with a machete just chopping down big vines slowing it down. But I am now starting to spray back behind Rogers Park. You can’t even find the railroad tracks anymore.”
Mayor AP: “I think we ought to, whether it's the four mayors, the four managers or what, get together and come up with an idea to raise money for this county. If it has to work through the town, if it has to work through community foundation, I don't care. The idea is to kill kudzu on public and private property. If you aren't willing to put up money, this is my belief. If you aren't willing to put up money to kill kudzu on your property, then we aren't going to help. But if you're willing to do that and join in, because we've got places in this town where we kill our kudzu, and then 50 feet away it looks like crap. And the further you go, the more like crap it looks like.”
Commissioner BC: “We have an ordinance that says you're not allowed to grow kudzu in town or wisteria or poison ivy.”
Mayor AP: “I'm not disagreeing with you. I'm just saying that there's got to be federal grants, state grants, private grants, community foundation grants, we have to have all of it. Because I have no idea how many billions it'll take to get rid of all of it. Or if it's even possible to ever get rid of all of it.”
Commissioner BI: “I know you were working a lot with Bill Cooper on this.”
Town Manager JF: “I met with him several times. He would like the town in next year’s budget which we’re working on a plan. He wants to recommend Tryon do something similar to the Village of Flatrock where each year to give grants to homeowners and they’ll come in to spray the kudzu. He’s got money that’s been getting from the Appearance Commission from the county but they only get to spend it on publicly owned property. That’s the restriction the county’s given him.”
Commissioner BC: “Have we gotten a licensed sprayer?”

Town Manager JF: “The Town has licensed sprayers. I was going through the budget looking for more money in the state’s budget. There’s one town that got $100,000 for weed control. A lot of people get these approvals for anything. They did show $12 million for the Saluda Grade Trail in the budget so far.”
Joyce Kimpton: “For years, I have been talking and fussing and arguing with the town and with Norfolk Southern. Part of our kudzu and wisteria problem is their problem. They do not maintain their right of way. You're getting ready to put rails to trails through here. You need to guarantee the property ownership. Some of it's going to take care of that right of way. I'm fighting kudzu and wisteria every single day on my property. And it's all coming from the railroad track, all of it. You need to do something before you put rails to trails in.”
Commissioner BC: “I mean, if they'll pay for the equipment and the chemicals, I’ll volunteer to kill it.”
Commissioner BI: “As far as the work session goes, I think we should discuss that with everybody.”
Mayor AP: “No, I agree. It's not the first time I've mentioned this. No, I wasn't expecting a vote tonight.”

ADJOURN

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

_____
J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk