TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TRYON TOWN HALL – MCCOWN MEETING ROOM
JANUEARY 21, 2025 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples Mayor Pro Tem Skip Crowe

Commissioners Present: Bill Crowell, Tracie Morris, Julie Lambakis

Staff Present: Jim Fatland, Town Manager
Greg McCool, Public Works Director
Brad Gordon, Harmon Field Superintendent
William Morgan, Town Attorney
Randy Darley, Sanitation Supervisor
Lourdes Gutierrez, TDDA Exec. Director
Susan Bell, Town Clerk
Tim Daniels, Planning Director
Scott Holt, Police Chief
Steven Siler, Fire Captain/Public Information Officer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order.

II. INVOCATION

Mayor Peoples led the invocation with a moment of silence.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Crowe led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked for any deletions, additions, or corrections to the agenda. Manager Fatland added Item 4a, the swearing in of Town Clerk, Emily Dale. Mayor Peoples made a motion to adopt. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

a. Emily Dale was sworn in as the Town Clerk for Tryon.

V. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked for any questions, comments, thoughts, exclamations, or clarifications to the Consent Agenda. Hearing none he made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Crowe so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. UPDATE ON TROPICAL STORM HELENE DAMAGES AND RESTORATION

Town Manager Fatland reported the Town has not received any funds from FEMA. The FEMA representative will be in the office twice this week in order to properly load all of the data (invoices and cleared checks) into their system. He indicated that FEMA has received money and will start releasing it soon. One of the reasons this process has taken a long time is due to the mud and silt covering Harmon Field. FEMA required the Town to take samples of it and send it for testing. The results showed it was safe. Removal of mud should start mid-February. Polk County required the Town to get an appraisal of the cabin, two restrooms, and concession stand. If any repairs and improvements needed exceed 50% of that cost, those structures will need to be tore down. The boardwalk will not be replaced due to the price of rebuilding it. He and Brad are discussing options for restoring the empty library at Harmon Field and turning it into a community center.

Harmon Field Supervisor Gordon reported on the stalls at Harmon Field:

- The first barn near Harmon Field Rd had minor damage
- The second barn was hit hard with debris
- The barns closest to the river collected 3-4 feet of mud and have structural damage

Mayor Peoples expressed that safety concerns need to be considered when understanding why the park is still closed in some areas and to be patient.

Commissioner Lambakis asked if grant money can be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Town Manager Fatland was not aware of it but will look into it. He said that once some money comes in from FEMA, it will give a better indication of when reconstruction of Harmon Field will begin.

VII. ROAD CLOSURE FOR SUPER SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2025

It's the 47th year of Super Saturday and the road closure of Melrose from approximately 8AM to 3:30PM was requested. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt. Commissioner Lambakis so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. BOARD APPOINMENT TO TOURISM

Susan Bell reported that Steven Siler applied to be on the board. Mayor Peoples vouched for him. The mayor made a motion to appoint Steven Siler to the Tourism Board. Commissioner Lambakis so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS TO TOWN COMMITTEES

Town Manager Fatland reported that the Board approved the recommendation to establish additional committees, such as the Public Works and Finance, to offer great insight and recommendations to the Board. He asked for feedback from the council members about citizens who might serve well as members in these additional committees. Mayor Pro Tem Crowe responded that he's gotten positive feedback from

many citizens, Dr. Lox, Dr. Carson, and Dave Delancey. Commissioner Morris did not reach out to anyone but agrees that citizen input is needed and supports this effort. Mayor Peoples suggested reinstating a dinner for all committee members and volunteers in town at this time next year. Town Manager Fatland recommended that two citizens be added to the Public Works and Finance Committees. Commissioner Morris suggested three citizens.

Mayor Peoples made a motion to appoint 3 citizens as members of Town Committees. Mayor Pro Tem so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

X. DOWNTOWN/TDDA UPDATE

TDDA Executive Director Gutierrez reported that Tryon Midnight was well attended. She thanked Andy Millard for providing music, Dean Trakas for doing a wonderful job with the ball, and Ken Sprouls for the bagpipes. They hosted a Grand Opening at the Tryon Rejuvenation Station in conjunction with the Carolinas Foothills Chamber. They plan to continue coordinating with the Chamber. She thanked Skip, Tracie, and Julie for their assistance. TDDA will be hosting a Grand Re-Opening for The Nest, switching from an artisan market to a corner market. TDDA requested a street closure on March 29, 2025 from 12-2 on Trade Street for April Fool ’s Day. They coordinated with the Police Chief for coverage. It will include a parade, outhouse races, and Trashion Show on Trade Street.

Mayor Peoples made a motion for the closure of Trade Street on March 29, 2025 from 12-2PM. Commissioner Morris so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chili Cook-Off will be held on February 28, 2025 on Fourth Friday. Gutirrez provided applications of business owners for permission to use the Town logo. Mayor Peoples informed the Board that Morris was copyrighted in 1979. He asked if the usage of the Town logo will require a fee. Since the Town owns the logo, he suggested capitalizing on it since any money gained will go back into the Town. Commissioner Crowell suggested a yearly or lifetime fee, but enforcement of any fee will be a challenge so keep it simple. Gutirrez and Steven Siler were tasked for further researching trademark enforcement alternatives.

Commissioner Crowell asked how the judging will take place at the Chili Cook-Off. Gutirrez said judge’s choice receives the cauldron and a winner is chosen for people’s choice. Tickets will be sold this year. Money raised will go to the Tryon Fire Alliance which is a non-profit organization that supports first responders.

XI. TOWN CLERK RETIREMENT RECEPTION, DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM, 01/28/25 4-6PM

Town Manager Fatland reserved the Depot Room for Town Clerk, Susan Bell, to thank her for her 31 years of service for the Tryon.

XII. MINIMUM HOUSING/PLANNING UPDATE

Planning Director Daniels reported that 160 Cleveland Rd hearing is set for 02/17/2025 for the owner to provide an explanation of how the house can be rehabilitated.

XIII. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Fatland reported the Saluda Grade Committee, a citizen group, meet for the first time and brainstormed things that need to be addressed in order for the Saluda Grade Trail to come in. The town is involved in the lawsuit taking place against the Saluda Grade Trail Project because the Town owns four parcels of land with a tax value of over 1 million dollars. He recommends that the money the Town receives from the lawsuit can go to improvements for the trail.

The auditors are waiting for the CPA firm to put financial statements together. Fatland recommends a special meeting be called before the February council meeting.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORTS

Commissioner Morris: Thanked Town Clerk Bell for her many years of service.
Commissioner Lambakis: Thanked the attendees for showing up; thanked Town Clerk Bell; thanked Public Works for their hard work during the winter storm.
Commissioner Crowell: Mentioned the enforcement of the sidewalk ordinances and professional parking study; Planning Director Daniels confirmed that it will be sent next week. People can go online to Tryon Parking Study to complete it. Commissioner Crowell thanked Bell for all of her years. Crowell stated Woodland Park was in excellent shape. Town Manager Fatland reported the Parks Committee is a working committee that works on the weekends to maintain the parks. Commissioner Crowell asked if the Town owns part of the land where the sewer line runs down to Woodland Park. Public Works Director Greg McCool confirmed it’s an easement.
Mayor Pro Tem Crowe: Thanked Susan for her service with the Town and wished her good luck on retirement. He thanked Public Works, Fire Department, and Police Department for allowing him to observe how the Town operates.
Mayor Peoples: Thanked Susan and the Town for their dedication and hard work.

XIV. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Hearing none, Mayor Peoples moved to the next item on the agenda.

XV. ADJOURN

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