

**TOWN OF WEBSTER**  
**April 3, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes**



The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Webster met for a regularly-scheduled meeting at Town Hall, 1411 Webster Road. Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Tracy Rodes; Vice-Mayor Leigh Anne Young; Commissioners Billie Bryson, Kelly Donaldson, and Allan Grant

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Danell Moses

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ken Buchanan; Louise Stephens; Town Attorney William Smith, and Town Clerk Debbie Coffey

*GENERAL MEETING*

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**Ethics Statement**

Mayor Rodes read the Ethics Statement. No board member expressed any conflict of interest.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Grant moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

**Informal Comments by Public**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the March 6, 2019, council meeting was emailed prior to the meeting for review.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Grant moved to approve the minutes of March 6, 2019. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

*CONSENT AGENDA*

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**Financial Report**

February Financial statements were provided with the agenda packet. March transactions currently include:

Income of \$12,445.39

Expenses of \$4,252.29

Current Account Balances as of April 3, 2019 are:

\$74,365.13 – Checking

\$25,522.68 – 11-Month CD

\$38,225.21 – 48-Month CD

**MOTION:** Commissioner Grant moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bryson seconded. Motion carried.



*ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS*

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Mayor's Report: Mayor Rodes emailed a Mayoral Report prior to the meeting.

Highlights include:

- Mayor Rodes polled the commissioners as to their topics and priorities for discussion at the Planning Session to be held next Friday. In addition to formulating the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget, she listed short-term rental units, investment of capital improvement funds, the annual community dinner, and the impact of the Highway 107 Project on Webster traffic counts as items for the agenda. Commissioner Young added community involvement and events as important also.
- Mayor Rodes will be out of town on April 17 – 22 and asked Commissioner Young to be available for signatory needs and Commissioner Donaldson to take care of lowering the flag if necessary.
- TWSA has received a grant for a feasibility study on taking over the wastewater treatment facility at WCU. Should the study show a favorable outcome, a vote by the forming entities would be required before any formal action would be taken.
- Mayor Rodes attended the Southwestern Commission RPO/TCC meeting last Monday. The Town Manager of Waynesville addressed the group about developing affordable housing, and EBCI Chief Sneed outlined the opposition of the EBCI to S.790, a bill to allow the Catawba Nation to build a casino in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. He requested regional support from the region's towns and counties to protect Cherokee gaming by opposing S.790.
- The town will also request traffic count information for Webster. Rodes will draft a letter to DOT Board of Transportation Representative Jack Debman to request shoulder repairs and improvements to North and South River Roads.
- Rodes may also contact the TDA to request assistance in providing adequate parking for fishermen accessing the Tuckasegee.
- Nathan Thornton was unable to attend the meeting tonight due to a court date out of town.
- Mayor Rodes received a noise complaint email about loud music near the river. The complainant was unable to identify the exact location of the music. Mayor Rodes stated that residents themselves, and then the board should handle such issues using good neighbor tactics.
- The NCDOT Litter Sweep will be held April 13 – 27. Mayor Rodes encouraged everyone to find an opportunity to be involved.
- Commissioner Donaldson is working on increased traffic to the town's Facebook page and updating our website.
- Mayor Rodes encouraged the board to contact our state representatives to support HB431, The Fiber NC Act, to improve broadband access in North Carolina.
- Mayor Rodes would like to schedule a community event in conjunction with finishing the Jackson County Municipal Grant landscaping project and hopes it will coincide with Memorial Day to honor our WWII veterans.



### **Council Members' Reports:**

Commissioner Young and Commissioner Grant attended the Jackson County Parks and Recreation (JC P&R) Board Meeting to present the Pocket Park Project proposal. Commissioner Grant stated that support is growing for the project. Rusty Ellis, Director for JC P&R, has included the project in a five-year plan to be completed in phases. Jackson County commissioner Gail Woody expressed her support of the project to Commissioner Young.

Commissioner Young also provided an update on the Planning Board meeting held last night. Rose Bauguss from the Southwestern Commission addressed the board with transportation needs including the upcoming Highway 107 Project. Once underway, this will cause a large increase in Webster's traffic volume as people detour around the construction. The higher volume may lead to more favorable numbers for scoring for DOT project funding for future improvements. Commissioner Grant stated that North River Road still needs improvement, as cars are frequently hitting the bank below his house.

Mayor Rodes gave a shout-out to Sara Stahlman for the prompt work on the Planning Board minutes and all the members of that board for their dedicated work. Mayor Rodes requested clarification on the "River Road Task Force" that has been included in the Planning Board's meeting minutes. She noted that this is not a project that the Planning Board was tasked with or that the Town board had received updates about.

### *NEW BUSINESS*

1. Resolution To Oppose S. 790: EBCI Chief Richard Sneed addressed the Southwestern Commission (SWC) Board last month with concerns about the Catawba Indian Nation to build a casino in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. The EBCI provided statistics showing the negative impact a competing casino would have on our county and region. Chief Sneed estimated that a competing casino could reduce their visitor traffic by 33%, and cause them to cut 1,000 jobs.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bryson moved to adopt the Resolution in Opposition of S.790 Allowing the Catawba Indian Nation a Casino in North Carolina. Commissioner Grant seconded. Motion carried four to one. Yea votes were Commissioners Bryson, Grant, Moses, and Donaldson. Nay vote was Commissioner Young.

2. Planning Board Composition/Direction: Krissy Mabry has asked to be placed as the alternate Planning Board member, with Eric Myers becoming a regular member.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Young moved to appoint Eric Myers to the Planning Board as a regular member and make Krissy Mabry the alternate member. Commissioner Grant seconded. Motion carried

### *OLD BUSINESS*

1. County Grant Project: The board agreed to have a community workday to finish some of the planting for the project. Lighting options are being researched. Mayor Rodes would like a recommendation from the planning board and a vote or consensus



on awarding the landscaper project bid. Bids were received from BH Graning and Elite Landscaping.

2. Pavilion Pocket Park Update: Was discussed during Council Reports.
3. Website: Commissioner Donaldson has looked at the website and Facebook page and feels he could freshen the look and content. There are still unanswered questions as to the scope of services and cost to contract a new website with Nathan Thorton. It was the consensus of the board to allow to Commissioner Donaldson to work on it and not contract it out at this time.

Mayor Rodes received a complaint from a North River Road resident about not having street lights, specifically one at the end of their driveway. The resident voiced concerns about the lack of services received by the residents who live along North River Road. Before lights could be added, public hearings would need to be held. Mayor Rodes pointed out that the last street light plan took around two years to complete and several residents attended the public hearing to express their opposition to adding street lights on Buchanan Loop. Commissioner Young agreed that public input would need to be considered before lights are added.

*ADJOURNMENT*

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**MOTION:** Commissioner Grant moved to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Work Session – Friday, April 12, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 5:15 p.m.

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Tracy Rodes, Mayor

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Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk