



**TOWN OF WEBSTER**  
**June 3, 2020 Public Hearings and Board Meeting Minutes**

**Members/Staff Present:** Mayor Tracy Rodes; Vice-Mayor Leigh Anne Young; Commissioners Allen Davis, Kelly Donaldson, Allan Grant, and Danell Moses; Town Clerk Debbie Coffey; and Attorney Will Morgan

**Members Absent:** None

**Public Present:** Jim McGinnis, Ed Paulus

*ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING*

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The Webster Board of Commissioners met remotely on June 3, 2020 at 5:05 p.m via Zoom for a Public Hearing to entertain public comment on the proposed Animal Control Ordinance.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Tracy Rodes called the public hearing to order at 5:05 p.m. She expressed the need to have an Animal Control Ordinance on the books should future problems arise. No written or oral comments were received prior to or during the public hearing. Mayor Rodes noted that written public comment may be submitted by email or dropped by town hall for the next 24 hours. The Board will review any additional comments before taking action.

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Grant moved to adjourn. Commissioner Moses seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.*

*2020-2021 BUDGET PROPOSAL PUBLIC HEARING*

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The Webster Board of Commissioners met remotely on June 3, 2020 at 5:10 p.m via Zoom for a Public Hearing to entertain public comment on the 2020-2021 Budget Proposal.

Vice-Mayor Young presented and read the budget proposal letter. No written or oral comments were received prior to or during the meeting. Mayor Rodes noted that written public comment could be submitted by email or dropped by town hall for the next 24 hours. The Board will review any additional comments before taking action.

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Moses moved to adjourn. Commissioner Grant seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.*

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING*

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The Webster Board of Commissioners met remotely on June 3, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. via Zoom for the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting.

**Call to Order/Ethics Statement:** Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. and read the Ethics Statement. No board member expressed any conflict of interest.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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



**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the April 1, 2020 Meeting were emailed prior to the meeting for review.

*MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried.*

#### *CONSENT AGENDA*

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**Financial Report:**

April Financial statements were provided prior to the meeting. May transactions currently include income of \$890.12 and expenses of \$1,775.07. Current Account Balances as of today are:

\$ 47,585.08 - Checking

\$ 45,848.70 - Elite Plus Money Market

\$ 38,742.95 - 48 Month CD

*MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.*

#### *ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS*

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**Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Rodes noted that the number of COVID-19 cases rose by 900 overnight. Jackson County is currently reporting 36 full-time residents, 2 part-time residents, and 22 non-resident cases.
- Governor Cooper has signed an extension of Executive Order 124 to last through July 29 which will mostly affect utilities.
- The mayor signed the NC Mayors' statement on the murder of George Floyd. Due to time constraints for publication of the statement, she did not have time to contact the board for prior approval.  
*MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to reaffirm and approve support of the NC Mayors' Statement. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.*
- Mayor Rodes will replant the flowerpots at the east welcome sign. Commissioner Young has weeded and updated the planting around the WWII Monument.
- There have been several bear sightings in the last weeks, so the mayor urged everyone to take down their bird feeders, store pet food indoors, and keep garbage cans and grills cleaned and inaccessible.
- The TWSA Annual Meeting will be held electronically via Zoom on June 23 at 5:30 p.m. this year rather than meeting in person due to coronavirus health concerns.
- Miss Lucy's Picnic may need to be postponed or canceled due to state limits on public gatherings regarding the coronavirus pandemic.
- A report of several (3) package thefts from mailboxes have been reported on Buchanan Loop. Another resident complained to the mayor of loud weekend activity, and trash in a resident's yard. The mayor will notify Matt Hawkins, our traffic patrol officer from the Sheriff's Department.



### **Council Members' and Clerk's Reports:**

The clerk reported that Jon Welch of Workplace Solutions gave an estimate of \$15 or less to shred the checks and deposit slips from the Entegra Accounts. The items were picked up by Mr. Welch on Monday, June 1.

#### *OLD BUSINESS*

1. **County Grant:** Catamount Electric was to begin the trenching work this week, but due to rental equipment being unavailable, it may begin this Friday. The mayor would like to meet with Commissioners Young and Donaldson to make final decisions about signage. Commissioner Davis volunteered to help with some of the preparation for the sign installation.

#### *NEW BUSINESS*

1. **Approval of the 2020-2021 Fee Schedule**

No price changes were proposed for the 2020-2021 fee schedule.

*MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to approve the 2020-2021 Fee Schedule. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried.*

2. **Approval of the new Jackson County Tax Collections Agreement:** County Tax Assessor Tabitha Ashe has sent new agreements to all the municipalities that the county handles collections for. Under the new agreement the county will keep 2% of all collections, up from 1.5%.

*MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the new tax collection agreement. Commissioner Moses seconded. Motion carried.*

3. **Adoption of the Animal Control Ordinance:** Guidelines provided by the NC SOG state that public hearings held electronically allow for written public comment for 24 hours following the adjournment of the public hearing. With those guidelines in consideration, a vote to approve the Animal Control Ordinance will be held following a 24-recess of this meeting.
4. **Adoption of the Resolution Approving Participation in the Southwestern NC Home Consortium and Authorizing the CEO to Enter Into and Execute a Home Investment Partnership Act Consortium Agreement:** Each entity served by Southwestern Commission has been asked to join the N.C. Home Consortium with Haywood County being the lead entity. Haywood County is developing the Consortium to access federal and other grants to build workforce and affordable housing. Concern was expressed about language on page 2, paragraph 4, and the lack of a termination clause. It was the consensus of the board to ask Sarah Thompson of the Southwestern Commission if the town would be obligated to provide 25% matching funds for projects outside of the town, to more clearly define the term "jurisdiction" in the document, and how the town's membership could be terminated if the need ever arose. It was the consensus of the board to wait until this information is available to vote on the contractual agreement.
5. **2019-2020 Audit Contract:** Burlison and Early has provided the audit contract with little change in terms from last year.



***MOTION:** Commissioner Moses moved to approve the 2019-2020 Audit Contract. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.*

- 6. ECBI Letter of Support:** Chief Sneed, as a member of the Southwestern Commission, has asked local entities to draft letters of support for the EBCI in their opposition to the Catawba Nation's request to build a casino in Kings Mountain. Commissioner Davis stated that he lived in the Kings Mountain area and has firsthand knowledge of the alleged illegal gaming that was mentioned in the draft letter provided by Chief Sneed's office. He feels the proposed casino could open the door for additional illegal activities, and that the casino would not be beneficial to that community. Commissioner Young acknowledged that the EBCI's local casino in Cherokee provided great economic benefit to our region, but expressed concerns about local governments involvement in issues of tribal sovereignty.

***MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved to approve the letters of support. Commissioner Moses seconded. Motion passed. AYES: Commissioners Davis, Donaldson, Grant, Moses; NAY: Commissioner Young*

- 7. 2020-2021 Budget Proposal:** As part of the *Act to Aid to North Carolinians In Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Crisis, (S.L. 2020-3, SB 704)*, section 4.31 of the new law includes provisions for remote public meetings held during a declared state of emergency. Guidelines provided by the NC SOG confirm that public hearings held electronically must allow for written public comment for 24 hours following the adjournment of the public hearing. Therefore, a vote to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Proposal will be held following a recess of this meeting to allow for 24 hours to receive and consider additional public comment before taking action.

***RECESS***

***MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved to recess the meeting until tomorrow, June 4, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried. The meeting recessed at 6:35 p.m.*

***RECONVENE***

**Members/Staff Present:** Mayor Tracy Rodes; Vice-Mayor Leigh Anne Young; Commissioners Allen Davis, Kelly Donaldson, and Danell Moses; Town Clerk Debbie Coffey; Attorney Will Morgan

**Members Absent:** Allan Grant

**Public Present:** None

***MOTION:** Commissioner Young moved to reconvene the recessed meeting at 5:30 p.m.. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried.*

Mayor Rodes noted the need to amend the agenda to include discussion of the 48-Month CD which matured for renewal on June 3, 2020, and the need for an appointment to the Planning Board.

***MOTION:** Commissioner Young moved to amend the agenda. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.*



**Adoption of the Animal Control Ordinance:** The clerk reported that no written public comment was received during the 24-hours following the Public Hearing for the Animal Control Ordinance.

*MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved to adopt the Webster Animal Control Ordinance. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.*

**2020-2021 Budget Proposal:** The clerk reported that no written public comment was received during the 24-hours following the Public Hearing for the 2020-2021 Budget Proposal.

*MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to adopt the 2020-2021 Budget Proposal. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.*

**Adoption of the Resolution Approving Participation in the Southwestern NC Home Consortium and Authorizing the CEO to Enter Into and Execute a Home Investment Partnership Act Consortium Agreement:** Mayor Rodes forwarded the email response from Sara Thompson answering the questions posed prior to the recess of the meeting yesterday. Commissioner Davis stated that he feels it would be a positive step forward for the region and found the clarification helpful.

*MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved to adopt the Resolution Approving Participation in the Southwestern NC Home Consortium and Authorizing the CEO to Enter Into and Execute a Home Investment Partnership Act Consortium Agreement. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.*

**48-Month CD:** The 48-Month CD reached maturity on June 3 and if not moved into another investment account will automatically renew at .05% interest. The Elite Money Market Account currently has a yield of 2.00%, but will also renew at the end of June at a much lower interest rate. Robin Parris, from Select bank, advised the clerk that the best course of action would be to transfer the CD balance to the money market account and set up an appointment to review possible options when the money market account is ready to review.

*MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to transfer the balance of the 48-month CD into the Elite Money Market account. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.*

**Appointment to the Webster Planning Board:** Dale Collins has agreed to fill the Planning Board term vacated by Walter Turner, who will continue as an alternate.

*MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to appoint Dale Collins to the Planning Board. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.*

**Miss Lucy's Picnic:** It was the consensus of the board that Miss Lucy's picnic should not be held in July due to the gathering restrictions imposed regarding the coronavirus pandemic, therefore, the town will not participate this year.

*MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to adjourn. Commissioner Moses seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.*

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

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Tracy Rodes, Mayor

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Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk