



TOWN OF WEBSTER
October 5, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

The Webster Board of Commissioners met at the Webster Town Hall on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 5:15 p.m. for the monthly board meeting.

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

Absent: None

Public Present: Billie Jo Bryson, Brandon Core, and JCSO Deputy Matt Hawkins

Call to Order/Ethics Statement: Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and read the Ethics Statement. No board member expressed any conflict of interest.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the agenda amended to include the Animal Control Ordinance. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 7, 2022, meeting were emailed prior to the meeting for review.

MOTION: Commissioner Collins moved to approve the minutes of September 7, 2022. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brandon Core updated the Board on the Jackson County Historic Preservation Commission meeting. The Commission is planning to use the October and November meetings as a workshop forum to delve into standards for a county ordinance. They do not plan to meet in December.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Report: August financial statements were provided prior to the meeting. September transactions currently include income of \$12,062.01 and expenses of \$2,534.38. ARPA funds expended as of September 30 are \$15,660.32. Account balances as of today are:

\$ 240,153.41- First Bank Business Essentials

\$ 85,539.00- First Bank Money Market

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

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Joint Planning Session:** The Planning Board would like to attend a joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners to review and discuss the Land Use Plan, focusing on LUP priority projects prior to the Commissioners' annual budget worksession. A



target date of January 4, 2023 was selected. Commissioner Young reminded the board that the LUP is a living document to be reviewed and revised on a regular basis.

MOTION: Commissioner Donaldson moved to approve a Joint Session Meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Webster Block party Update:** The Block Party was a huge success, with 113 people in attendance. Duke Energy was the primary sponsor, with Civic Federal Credit Union donating \$250, and Ingles providing a \$20 discount for water purchased for the event. Mayor Rodes commended Commissioner Young, Picnic Committee, and Planning Board for their efforts in making the day so successful. Commissioner Donaldson has produced a video that has been shared on social media. Suggested improvements and additions to next year's event were additional signage, utilize email for invitations and limit mailings, and have a PA system, and adopt a policy for guests who wish to address the attendees.
2. **Funding for Webster Park Project:** North Carolina Senator Kevin Corbin was in attendance at the Block Party and told commissioners that he would work to secure some funding for the pavilion and park project. It was also suggested that grant opportunities may be available through Nantahala Health Foundation, with Lori Bailey being the point of contact.
3. **Halloween Plans:** Trick-or-Treating will take place from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm in Webster, Sylva, and Dillsboro, along with events at the Jackson County Recreation Department. Mayor Rodes will arrange for additional patrol hours in Webster, and will set up to pass out candy beginning at 5:00. Commissioner Moses will help beginning at 6:00 pm and will take care of cleanup. Michael Bonen-Clark will be on hand to assist.
4. **Speeding:** Patrol reports showed 24 hours worked for the month of September with 7 warnings for speeding, 2 other citations, and one response to assist JC EMS. Speeding is the number one complaint voiced by Webster residents. Deputy Matt Hawkins joined the board for the conversation, and noted that many offenders are Webster residents. Board members expressed to Deputy Hawkins a desire to see more state citations written to curtail speeding. Commissioner Young would like to compile a list of actionable items and invite additional stakeholders from the JCSO, NCSHP, and NCDOT to a meeting to address this ongoing issue.
5. **Agenda Format:** To continue with the new meeting format, it was suggested that all Council Reports be emailed to the clerk to be emailed in advance of the meeting with the agenda packet.
6. **Animal Control Ordinance Revisions:** Revisions to include language for farm animal regulations as set forth by state ordinances and specific verbiage regarding making violations punishable as a class three misdemeanor have been added. It was the consensus of the board to make those changes, set a date for the public hearing, and move forward with adoption of the revised ordinance.



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Rodes reported to the board that the Cashiers wastewater treatment plant project is on hold due to an 127% increase in projected construction costs.
- She attended the Southwestern Commission RPO/TCC meeting in Cherokee. The NCDOT draft STIP is available for review and the Commission's CEDS was presented to those in attendance. Cherokee's new electric school bus program was presented, and grant funding opportunities for the Opioid settlement funds were discussed.

Council Members' and Clerk's Report:

Commissioners Young and Collins provided updates via email prior to the meeting.

Highlights include:

- The Planning Board will not meet in October due to lack of quorum.
- Trout Unlimited has conducted two cleanups along the Tuckasegee in conjunction with the Cleaning Up the Mountains initiative.
- Construction on the house by Kitiwah Builders is continuing near the Old School property.
- Commissioner Moses informed the board of the SCC Health Fair to be held this Friday from 9:00 am until noon at the new Don Thomas Health Sciences Building.

ADJOURNMENT

***MOTION:** Commissioner Collins moved to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.*

Next Meeting:

November 2, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk