



TOWN OF WEBSTER

Minutes for September 6, 2017 Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Webster met for the regularly scheduled, monthly meeting at Webster Town Hall, 1411 Webster Road. Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. A dinner reception to honor Larry Phillips' retirement was held before beginning town business.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Rodes, Mayor; Commissioners Billi Jo Bryson, Allan Grant, Danell Moses, Leigh Anne Young, and Larry Phillips.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Joyce Pope, Webster Town Clerk; Will Morgan and Michele Smith, Attorneys; and Louise Stephens, Webster property owner. Susan Phillips also attended the dinner in honor of Larry Phillips' retirement which was held at the beginning of the meeting.

GENERAL MEETING

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Rodes requested deletion of the Sheriff's Department agreement from this agenda and that it be added to a future agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the August 2nd meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Phillips motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Moses seconded. Motion carried.

Informal Comments by Public

Webster community member, Louise Stephens, thanked the board for their continued support for the cemetery.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Report

Finance Clerk Joyce Pope presented the financial report. It was noted that a duplication appears on the membership dues area and needs to be corrected. Also, a right-hand column is needed showing amount remaining in the expense budget areas and percentage of budget.

Beginning town fund balance per April report:	\$150,485.68
Cleared expenditures totaled	1,190.09
Deposits	968.09
Checking cleared balance Macon	87,817.29
Macon CD 12	25,076.78
Macon CD 48	37,319.61
Ending Town fund balance	\$150,263.68

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

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rodes distributed a Mayoral Report to the board. Highlights include:

- The Jackson County Recreation Department installed the bike rack at the ballfield.
- The bike train event has downsized but is moving forward.



- The Mayor posted bicycle safety information on the Town Facebook page
- In order to move forward with a pavilion, a comprehensive plan is needed. Mayor Rodes will get more information on the specifics of what is needed. The county owns the land but wants a plan from the Town of Webster. Commissioner Phillips asked how the Town might use the Pavilion. Rodes said that the pavilion could be used for informal community gatherings, children's birthday parties, reunions, etc. Young stated that the Town needs an outdoor, gathering place for residents. Moses pointed out that previous Town surveys have shown support for a community space from residents. Rodes mentioned that a grant is available from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Fund. Commissioner Young agreed to look into the grant.
- When the Town next works on the sidewalk, a bike ramp uphill across from North River Road needs to be added. The one that was recently added by DOT will be helpful for Duke's trucks to access the power pole there, and for bike access to South, but isn't lined up well to access Webster coming from North River Road.
- The property owner with shrubbery blocking visibility has agreed to trim foliage back. However, the diagrams and appendices are missing from our Zoning Ordinances on the website that explain the sign/visibility triangle more clearly to help homeowners understand how to comply with Town guidelines. The Town Clerk will address the website update.
- TWSA is required by new NC legislation to reconfigure their "impact fees" to meet new state guidelines for fees now called "system development fees."
- Duke Energy has requested a rate increase in NC of an average 16.7% residential, 11.4 for commercial, and 9.9 for industrial users. The typical residential user will see an increase of about \$18.52 per month. Duke says the increase is for coal ash waste management, a move toward clean energy, and increased reliability of service.
- Repairs are scheduled for the town rental apartment and the Town Hall basement when Sarrett returns from vacation.
- The mayor will contact previous Planning Board members to see who is still interested in serving; Shawn Paulus is currently the Chairperson. The board was asked if anyone would be interested in participating in the planning board. Commissioner Young volunteered to act as a liaison between the Town Board and the Planning Board.
- The Adopt-a-Highway cleanup date is September 16 – 30.
- Sheriff deputies made a traffic stop in August that involved getting a warrant and making an arrest involving methamphetamines, paraphernalia, and marijuana.
- Joe Rhinehart is willing to be reappointed to the Jackson County Historical Preservation Committee for a three-year term ending on August 1, 2020.
- The board was reminded to do the ELECT Mandatory Campaign Finance Training. Training is available at <https://ncgov.csod.com>.
- Elections will be held November 7th. The One stop voting dates are October 19- November 4th.

Council Member's Reports

Allan Grant attended the Jackson County Advisory committee meeting on August 31st. There was no quorum, but Grant reported the following items of discussion:

- A full community park is planned for Old Savannah. Bids went out August 16th. Estimated price is \$300,000. The park will include playground, ball fields, etc.
- Girls' softball is moving to Mark Watson Park and will include a batting cage.
- The Town of Whittier will have a full park in the future on Gateway Road, according to current plans for the 8-acre site. Duke Energy owns the site and is going to lease it to the county. Environmental studies are being done.
- The Sylva Pool had a good season despite a two-week delay in opening. The pool is slated to be used for at least two more years and a new pool is in the county's future plans.
- The river has been busy, especially with bellyak paddlers. The county now owns 8 bellyaks and 8 canoes. A purchase order has been established for stand-up paddleboards (SUPs).
- Greenways have been wrapped into a joint meeting with Jackson County. Commissioner Young is interested in becoming involved with greenway planning. The next public meeting will take place on November 30th at 6pm at JCPR Center.
- A long-range goal is to have mini-parks, or pocket parks, throughout the county.



OLD BUSINESS

- 1) **Halloween Planning.** The Board decided to have candy available 5pm – 8pm on Tuesday, October 31. Mayor Rodes will hand out the candy from Town Hall. Usually Safe Kids comes, sets up a tent, and hands out glowstick bracelets. Mayor Rodes has emailed to express that we appreciate their involvement and hope they plan to attend again this year. Allan Grant will come at 6:30pm to relieve Rodes. Rodes asked the board if they wish to pay for additional law enforcement coverage. Phillips suggested emailing the Jackson County Sheriff and requesting additional coverage. At the minimum, it was decided that flashing lights at each end of town and a marked car at the midpoint Buchanan Loop was needed.
MOTION: Commissioner Grant motioned to spend additional funds for law enforcement for Halloween. Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Potential candidates to serve out Commissioner Phillips' term.** The board discussed potential replacements for retiring Commissioner Larry Phillips. Mayor Rodes has identified two candidates to talk to. Commissioner Moses presented the board with a list of Webster property owners in the comprehensive list, excluding current members and residents who have already stated they are not interested. Phillips said that Rick Fulton is interested in being more active; Moses asked if he would be interested in serving on the planning board. Mayor Rodes would like to ask Julie Spiro for suggestions. Rodes also posted the opening on Facebook and received three likes, with whom she will follow up. Moses suggested sending out postcards to potential residents. The board will communicate in the future about sending out postcards.
- 2) **Appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission.**
MOTION: Commissioner Phillips made a motion to reappoint Joe Rhinehart to the Historic Commission for a three-year term ending August 2020. Billie Jo Bryson seconded. Motion carried.
- 3) **CEDS comments.** Board members were reminded that comments have been requested on Access Southwestern Commission's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for 7 WNC counties at <http://regiona.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CEDS-Draft.pdf> by September 25th. Comments are valuable and considered by the Commission. Rodes stated that the need for reliable Broadband is imperative for the County's economic and educational success.
- 4) **Discussion of possible comprehensive plan** (including softball field area/covered pavilion). Mayor Rodes stated that in light of the information that Commissioner Grant presented, Webster would do well to move forward with a comprehensive plan. Rodes suggested having a map printed of the area and have a Board work session to discuss options. Michele Smith suggested requesting help from John Jeleniewski. Commissioner Young stated she would be willing help put together a plan.
- 5) **Discussion of organization of Webster Town Board and Planning Board.** A future discussion may be needed to discuss changing the size of the Town Board from 5 board members and a mayor to a smaller number. The Planning Board used to require 9 members and has been downsized to 5 members. The Planning Board could address the comprehensive plan needed by the Town. Phillips suggested the Town consider meeting more often in order to accomplish more and be more active in Town business. The priorities are to 1) fill Commissioner Phillips seat; 2) put together an active planning board; then 3) address the Town Board organization.
- 6) **Possible Work Session Scheduled for September.** The board was asked if there is a time in September or October to plan a work session. Friday, September 15th was chosen to hold a special meeting for a Town Board Work Session for the purpose of Land Use planning, and Halloween event planning. The meeting will start at 1pm. Notice will be placed on the website and the outside board.



- 7) **Budget Request to move \$1,000 from Miscellaneous Line Item to Repairs Line Item.** This was voted upon and approved in the July Board meeting. The budget will be adjusted to reflect the previously approved line item transfer from Miscellaneous of \$1,000 to administration, \$1,00 to the sidewalk repair area, \$1,000 to repairs, and \$1,100 to miscellaneous.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Grant moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Reminders - Next Meeting is Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 5:15pm

ATTESTED BY:

Tracy Rodes

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Joyce Pope, Town Clerk