

TOWN OF WEBSTER
February 6, 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, Allan Grant, Danell Moses, and Kelly Donaldson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Louise Stephens; Attorney Will Morgan, Smith & Morgan Law; Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk

GENERAL MEETING

Ethics Statement

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

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Rodes presented the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Moses made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Grant seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the January 2, 2019 council meeting, and the special meeting on January 14, 2019 were emailed prior to the meeting for review. Commissioner Moses would like to amend the minutes to include a space before the Consent Agenda heading to improve the page layout.

MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to approve the minutes of January 2 as amended. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Grant moved to approve the minutes of January 14. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.

Informal Comments by Public – Mrs. Stevens asked for clarity concerning Webster’s recently adopted Charitable Contributions Policy. She asked if the Cemetery Committee will need to send a written request to the town before its customary annual contribution. Mayor Rodes stated that a simple letter or email would be sufficient.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Report

December Financial statements were provided with the agenda packet. January transactions currently include:

- Income of: \$10,454.86
- Expenses of: \$6,324.80
- Current Account Balances are:
 - \$88,085.09 – Checking
 - \$25460.88– 11-Month CD
 - \$38,154.22 – 48-Month CD

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



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Rodes attended TWSA meetings on January 8 and 22. Jeff Goss has been named Vice-Chair and signatory for the TWSA Board.
- Mayor Rodes attended the RPO/TCC and Southwestern Commission meeting on January 28. David Wasserman was guest speaker for the RPO meeting and outlined the points system for ranking road projects for funding and construction. Traditionally, rural areas such as western North Carolina are at a disadvantage because prioritization is based on population. Construction of the Hwy. 107 project has been delayed by one year. Mayor Rodes spoke with Jack Debman about the need for improved shoulders on North and South River Roads before the Hwy. 107 project begins because they will be heavily trafficked as alternate routes. There is also the need for safe, designated parking for anglers accessing the Tuckasegee River. She will follow up her conversation with an email to Mr. Debman. Bob Coates spoke to the Southwestern Commission meeting about the importance of the upcoming census.
- The Jackson County Municipal Grant has been approved. Additional information will be forthcoming.
- Mayor Rodes has spoke with Dr. Kim Elliott, Jackson County Schools Superintendent, about a shared use agreement for parking at the softball field should the Pocket Park project move forward. Dr. Elliott requested Mayor Rodes attend the March School Board Meeting to discuss the proposal. Mayor Rodes also spoke to Sheila Hoyle, Southwestern Child Development Center Director, about partnering with the park proposal. Ms. Hoyle suggested that if a multi-use clause could be added to their insurance, then the Center would be willing to allow public use of the existing playground when the preschool is not in session. Mayor Rodes stated that she feels the time is right to pursue the park proposal with all stakeholders.
- Sallie Taylor will present the Blue Zone Initiative at the April 3 meeting. The focus of this initiative is to improve the health and well-being of the community through public/private partnerships.
- Mayor Rodes is seeking clarification on whether Webster needs its own Floodplain administrator, or if that falls under resources provided by the county.

Council Members' Reports

- Commissioner Young reported that the Planning Board is very active with Commissioner Moses and Shawn Paulus working on updates to the Land Use Plan, and Commissioner Young and Sara Stahlman working on the Pocket Park proposal. Eric Myers has collected delayed harvest fishing information, and discussed forming a task force to develop a bike/pedestrian plan on North and South River Roads, along the Tuckasegee River.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Schedule Annual Planning Session:** A planning session is needed to work on plans and budget for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. The consensus of the board was to tentatively schedule it for April 12 at 12:30. The meeting will take three to four hours and lunch will be provided.
2. **Additional Work Session:** Mayor Rodes noted that an additional session may be needed to follow up with work on the Pocket Park proposal. It will be called if necessary.



OLD BUSINESS

1. **County Grant:** The grant has been approved, but no specifics about requirements or dispersement have been received yet. If the grant is awarded as a reimbursement, it may require a budget amendment.
2. **Proposal and Site Plan for Pavilion/Pocket Park:** Commissioner Young outlined the proposal emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Ron Mau stated during the January 14 meeting that building this park should be easy, in that Jackson County already owns the property and infrastructure is in place. Additionally, all stakeholders will benefit with the development of the Pocket Park. Should the board vote to pursue the proposal, Commissioner Young will present the proposal to the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Board during their February meeting. If the project is funded at the county level, it is not sure how much input the board will have in the design of the park, but the proposal includes several interesting examples.

MOTION: Commissioner Moses made a motion to accept the proposal and to move forward with the recommendation for the Pocket Park proposal. Commissioner Grant seconded. Motion carried.

3. **Website:** Nathan Thornton has approached Mayor Rodes about updating the website. It was the consensus of the board to have Mr. Thornton present a proposal to the board at the March meeting. Mayor Rodes also noted that the G-Suite administration page is still showing Joyce Pope's name in specific instances, and would welcome some help navigating the new G-Suite administration page process.
4. **Interlocal Agreement:** Mayor Rodes noted that we now have a better understanding of what is covered by the Interlocal Agreement. The town should receive applications for requests for map/text amendments, most variances, and for conditional use permits. The county administers Zoning Ordinance enforcement and permitting under the agreement. Commissioner Young would like additional clarification of what is enforced by the county.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Grant moved to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Webster Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at 5:15 p.m. in the Webster Town Hall.

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk