



TOWN OF WEBSTER
May 4, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

The Webster Board of Commissioners met at the Webster Town Hall on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at 5:15 p.m. for the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting.

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

Absent: Commissioner Danell Moses

Public Present: Jimmy Ashe, Billie Bryson

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.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 6, 2022, were emailed prior to the meeting for review.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2022. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jimmy Ashe: Mr. Ashe addressed the board as candidate for Jackson County Sheriff. He noted that he was born, raised, and educated in Jackson County and has served three prior terms as sheriff. He has worked in many capacities in law enforcement, including as dispatcher, jailer, investigator, and Chief Deputy. He retired in 2014, but based on concerns with drug trafficking, overdose deaths, including those in the JC Detention Center, and general public safety from understaffed and under trained personnel, he felt the need to run for office. He fielded questions from the board, and when asked how his second administration would be different from the first, he addressed previous media attacks and responded that he was wiser and more mature at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Report: March financial statements were provided prior to the meeting. April transactions currently include income of \$5,724.59 and expenses of \$4,264.16. Account balances as of today are:

\$ 199,196.55- First Bank Business Essentials

\$ 85,528.24- First Bank Money Market

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



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor's Report:

- The picnic tables and benches from Park Warehouse for the JC Municipal Grant were delivered yesterday.
- Mayor Rodes passed out sample reports from the digital speed sign. Social Media pictures for appreciation for the sign will be arranged next week.
- April reports from JCSO deputies included 3 citations, 1 warning, assisting a stranded motorist, and an alarm response.
- Wastewater reports submitted by TWSA show an increase of 10% in viral load content, with reported cases in Jackson County increasing.
- Mayor Rodes asked Jake Scott, Sylva Public Works Director for recommendations for sidewalk repair & filling expansion joints.
- A citizen complaint about speeding on North River Road was received by email.
- UNC SOG is hosting a free webinar for elected officials on social media use. Mayor Rodes also reminded the newly elected commissioners that the required ethics training should be completed within twelve months of election.
- A Briarwood Road resident has looked into the process for a Variance Request for an addition to her legal, non-conforming lot, but has not applied at this time.

Council Members' and Clerk's Report:

- Commissioner Young is continuing to work with Attorney Morgan to draft a user-friendly version of the UDO. Mayor Rodes thanked her for the many hours she has spent on this project.
- Commissioner Collins noted recent news articles showing struggles in Waynesville with applying their UDO and controlling unprecedented growth, which underscores the need to keep the Webster Land Use Plan fresh and current.
- Commissioner Young reported that the Planning Board enjoyed their first in-person meeting and toured the ballfield area to work on recommendations for the park area.
- Commissioner Donaldson has been recommended and is waiting for approval to join the JC Parks and Recreation Board.
- Commissioner Davis reported that the time requirements to enter into a sister-city program is substantial and therefore is not feasible at this time .

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. ARPA Funding:** The first reporting cycle has been completed with the one-time revenue loss exemption selected to use funds for general operating expenses. Potential projects for the additional funds were discussed and included improvements to Town Hall and allocating funds for the JC Parks and Recreation project at the ballfield. Attorney Morgan suggested drafting a Memorandum of Agreement between the county and Town to provide delineation of liabilities and clarification of future maintenance. It was the consensus of the board that a pavilion and public restrooms are the top priorities for the Town.



***MOTION:** Commissioner Young moved to allocate \$30,000 for pavilion construction following approval of a MOA with JC Parks and Recreation. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.*

2. **Town Hall Repairs:** Ward Plumbing and Heating replaced the toilet valve kit at a cost of \$319. It was suggested that an annual service agreement may be considered to lower service call fees.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Review of the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget and Fee Schedule:** There were no recommendations for changes to the budget proposal. After discussion of the fee schedule it was agreed that the charge for a Variance Request Permit or Map or Zoning Text Amendment should be increased to \$200, and based on NC GS 160D regulations, the Conditional Use Permit verbiage should be removed.

***MOTION:** Commissioner Young moved to increase the charge for a Variance Request Permit and Map or Zoning Text Amendment to \$200. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried.*

2. **Community Picnic:** It was the consensus of the board that a July 4th date for the traditional Miss Lucy's picnic is not convenient for most Board members due to other obligations and vacations. There have been several community dinners in the past, each with varying themes and focuses. Mayor Rodes would like to choose a date after July and host the event at the ballfield area. The event would be geared towards fellowship with family games and fun as the main focus. An alternate location could be the gazebo area at SCC. A community grant from Duke Energy could be pursued to offset the cost. Commissioner Young suggested the Planning Board look at ideas for the event.
3. **Future Topics for Planning Board Action:** The Planning Board is working on a review of several ordinances including the Animal Control and Noise Ordinance to ensure they are current with state statutes governing the amount of fines that may be issued for violations.

ADJOURNMENT

***MOTION:** Commissioner Collins moved to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.*

Next Meeting:

June 1, 2022 at Town Hall beginning at 5:10 p.m. for the Public Hearing for Budget Adoption, Regular Monthly Meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk