

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020 7:00 P.M.
BILL LUTHER BOARD MEETING ROOM**

Mayor Jackie Warner called the regular meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 7:22 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jackie Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Kenjuana McCray, Commissioners Jessie Bellflowers, Pat Edwards, Jerry Legge and Bryan Marley.

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Melissa Adams, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Finance Director Drew Holland, Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin, Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison, and Public Works Director Don Sisko. Also present was Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Pastor Michael Mathis, Mission Field Ministries, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.

Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of New Business item c. discussion of Yakalacky Outfitters agreement with the Town of Hope Mills.

Mayor Warner called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

2. PRESENTATIONS.

- a. Memorial Day Proclamation for Monday, May 25, 2020.

Mayor Warner read the proclamation for Memorial Day 2020.

Mayor Warner requested that residents fly their flags in recognition of Memorial Day.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- a. Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation Case Number A2020-02, Preserve at Lake Upchurch Phase II.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing for Annexation Case A2020-02 at 7:32 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against Case Number A2020-02. There were none submitted to the Clerk's office or individuals in attendance that wished to speak.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to close the public hearing for Case A2020-02.

Mayor Warner closed the public hearing for Annexation Case A2020-02 at 7:33 p.m.

- b. Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation Case Number A2020-03, Sweetwater Subdivision, Elk Rd.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing for 7:34 p.m. for Annexation Case Number A2020-03.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against Case Number A2020-03. There were none.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to close the public hearing for Case A2020-03.

Mayor Warner closed the public hearing for Annexation Case number A2020-03 at 7:34 p.m.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Joanne Scarola, Archer Road, Hope Mills, NC. Ms. Scarola commented she compiled a number of comments from fellow citizens. Ms. Scarola commented there has been a request for a Town-wide curfew due to an increase in crimes; residents have reported vehicle break-ins and gunfire occurring in Town, and residents have expressed displeasure with the fact recycling is not being collected yet they are paying for that service.

Town Manager Adams commented she spoke with the Chief of Police regarding setting a curfew and he did not indicate it was something that was warranted nor has an increase in crime been brought to her attention.

Town Manager Adams commented Waste Management informed the Town that they determined the best course of action would be to halt recycling collection as the Town was potentially facing fines due to the level of contamination due to garbage being mixed with recyclables. We do not have a current timeline as to when recycling will resume.

Mayor Warner commented there has been much confusion as the gunfire that has been heard is occurring on County property but due to the fact that the postal addresses are Hope Mills, residents are expecting Hope Mills Police to resolve the matter which is to be forwarded to the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting.

- b. Consideration of Acceptance of Streets and Infrastructure of Black Bridge Village Phase 1.
- c. Acceptance of the April, 2020 Financial Report.

“END OF CONSENT AGENDA”

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to approve the consent agenda as read.

Mayor Warner called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

6. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of Annexation Ordinance A2020-02 and Authorization for Staff to Begin Initial Zoning Request.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to adopt Annexation Ordinance A2020-02 and authorize staff to begin initial Zoning Request.

Mayor Warner called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

- b. Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of Annexation Ordinance A2020-03 and Authorization for Staff to Begin Initial Zoning Request.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to adopt Annexation Ordinance A2020-03 and authorize staff to begin initial Zoning Request.

Mayor Warner called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

- c. Discussion of Yakalacky Outfitters agreement with the Town of Hope Mills.

Commissioner Bellflowers commented Yakalacky Outfitters’ operation at Hope Mills Lake has been a safety issue over the past few weeks. Commissioner Bellflowers read an email he sent to the Town Manager this afternoon. The Town currently does not have a Memorandum of Agreement with Yakalacky Outfitters. The company was in correspondence with Parks & Recreation Director Morrison as they were working to finalize their agreement but issues were identified during the process. They have been operating a business and storing their kayaks and canoes at the Hope Mills Lake without a formal agreement.

Commissioner Edwards commented she was in agreement with Commissioner Bellflowers as she too has received negative feedback in regard to this issue.

Parks & Recreation Director Morrison commented he first began conversations with formerly named Lakeside Outfitters back in late fall 2019. The Town agreed to waive the initial RFP, due to the fact they are based in Hope Mills; made the need for an MOU clear; covered insurance requirements, and indicated they would negotiate the Town's fee. During their last meeting Mr. Morrison then realized they did not have a business license.

Mr. McLaughlin commented the Zoning Violation occurred when the business acquired a property on Trade Street, to store their kayaks, as they did not have a site plan permit.

Commissioner Marley inquired the repercussions if someone were to get hurt on the lake while operating Yakalacky equipment. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray inquired whether the business owner was under the impression they would be entered into a partnership with the Town. Parks & Recreation Director Morrison commented it was conveyed to Yakalacky that they would be entered into a partnership with the Town.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to inform Yakalacky Outfitters to suspend all operations, acquire the appropriate permits, and go through County for Zoning; and include Town Attorney Hartzog in the drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement and all documents of operations at the Lake Park.

Mayor Warner called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

8. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. Manager's Report.

Town Manager Adams provided the following report:

Rockfish Road Sidewalk Project: Contractor is expected to begin the week of May 25th or June 1st.

Johnson Street Sidewalk Project: 90% drawings have been reviewed by NCDOT. Our engineer is evaluating the comments and working on making the appropriate changes.

The Fountain Lane property: Nothing new to report.

Former Episcopal Parish House vacant lot: The RFP has been awarded for seeding the vacant lot. We are awaiting on the contractor to schedule a date for the seeding. Public Works is meeting with a plumber on Friday, May 15th to discuss the installation of a water line for sprinkler.

Trade Street Museum: Nothing new to report at this time.

Blackbridge Subdivision: The contractor has made the corrections that were identified during the reinspection. A Resolution Accepting the Streets is on the Consent Agenda for this evening.

Eel ladder: Nothing new to report.

The contractor for PWC that will be doing the painting of the water tank has completed the pressure washing and is working on erosion control.

Public Works has completed the site work preparation for repairs to the sidewalks (in accordance with the ADA Transition Plan) on both sides of the road along S. Main Street between Lakeview and E. & W. Patterson Street. The contractor began working on Thursday, May 14th.

Pumphouse repairs in Heritage Park: Public Works staff is in the process obtaining quotes for a mason to do the repairs to the masonry.

Public Works is waiting on the final draft of the ADA Transitional Plan. Once the plan is received, they will review the document before acceptance. Nothing new to report.

Public Safety Building: The Town's Inspections Department and Fire Marshall will finish its review of the construction plans for the new facility on Friday, May 15th. Our Architect, Scott Garner, will make any needed revisions to the plans and then get final approval from the Town. Once approved by the Town and USDA we will begin the bid process. We will send Requests for Proposals out and after bids are received, we will be bringing the lowest responsible bidder back to the Town Council for approval. Once the contractor is approved, we can set a date for the project construction to begin.

Parks & Recreation: Registration for all athletics sports and programs will go live on Civic Rec (online registration) on June 1, 2020. Girls Youth Volleyball will be offered as part of our athletic sports as part of our Fall 2020 Registration.

Planning and Zoning: Staff has continued to coordinate with Cumberland County staff regarding Hope Mills zoning cases that need Joint Planning Board approval. Cumberland County staff has informed the Town of Hope Mills that the Sign Ordinance and the Initial Zoning for Caliber Collision are both on the agenda for the upcoming June 16th Planning Board meeting. These cases will be scheduled to be considered by the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners in July. Economic Development: Plan review staff conducted a Zoom Sketch Plan meeting with Murphy Oil USA for their existing gas station located at 3050 N. Main Street. They are proposing to demolish and reconstruct the facility in the same location.

Staff has been contacted by a developer off of Camden Road for Phase 3 of the Pear Tree development. This development is located near the proposed 295 loop and the developer is interested in annexation. Staff will update the board when a full sketch plan meeting has been scheduled.

Staff has been contacted by a developer interested in the development of the former Fantasy Lake property. The proposed plan is the extension of the existing Timberlake Subdivision. When more concrete information has been presented in the form of a site plan, staff will update the Board of Commissioners.

COVID-19 Update - Town Operations: No changes are recommended at this time to the current operating procedures that have been in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are waiting to see what Phase II looks like before determining opening of the Parks & Recreation Building and opening of playground equipment. The public restrooms and the parking lots in the Municipal Park will be opened along with the Lake Park on Friday, May 22nd and fishing will be permitted, provided that social distancing requirements are met. Due to social distancing requirements, the swimming area will remain closed at this time, and there will not be any swimming allowed. However, we will continue to follow the guidance in the Governor's Executive Order No. 138 and will continue to monitor and assess the situation weekly.

Commissioner Bellflowers inquired if the pump at the eel ladder was repaired. Town Manager Adams commented a new pump will need to be purchased.

Discussion ensued regarding flags being placed at the Veterans Memorial for Veterans Day.

b. Reminders: All Dates and Locations are Dependent on the Governors Guidelines in place at the time.

- May 22, 2020 – Governors Consideration of moving to Phase 2.
- May 25, 2020 Memorial Day Holiday – Town Offices Closed.
- June 1, 2020 7:00 PM Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, Luther Board Room.

c. Department Monthly Reports.

- Fire Department, April, 2020
- Police Department, April, 2020
- Inspections Department, April, 2020
- Public Works Department, April, 2020
 - (1) Sanitation
 - (2) Service Garage
 - (3) Buildings & Grounds
 - (4) Street
- Stormwater Department, April, 2020

9. STAFF COMMENTS.

10. OFFICIAL COMMENTS.

Commissioner Legge thanked Pastor Mathis for providing the evening's invocation. Commissioner Legge commented he too has received complaints of shots being fired near Town and thanked Town Manager Adams for promptly addressing all issues brought before her.

Commissioner Bellflowers thanked Town Manager Adams and Finance Director Holland as well as all Department Heads for their work on the budget.

Commissioner Edwards thanked Town staff for their efforts.

Commissioner Marley commented he appreciates that there was no increase in taxes and commented in regard to the business operating at the Lake, the Town never wishes to close a small business, simply bring them into compliance.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray thanked the following businesses for providing meals for essential Town employees: Doug's BBQ, Chef Glenn & Company, Island Tease, Little Caesars, Robin's on Main, Elite Catering, and Marci's Cakes & Bakes. Additionally, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray.

Mayor Warner commented County staff has done a wonderful job in keeping local municipalities informed during the COVID-19 pandemic via Zoom meetings. Mayor Warner thanked Town Manager Adams and Finance Director Holland for a well prepared budget and expressed well-wishes for Pastor Mathis and his church.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Jackie Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jane G. Starling CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk