

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 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, June 1, 2020 at 7:01 p.m.

GOVERNING BODY 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, Police Chief Joel Acciardo, Fire Chief Chuck Hodges, Deputy Fire Chief Steve Lopez, Public Works Director Don Sisko, Deputy Public Works Director Bruce Clark and Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin. Also present was Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Dr. Ron Godbolt, Word of Truth Ministry, Inc., 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 Legge and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented.

2. PRESENTATIONS.

- a. Presentation by Police Chief Joel Acciardo in Response to Citizen Concerns.

Mayor Warner thanked Chief Acciardo and our entire Police force for their efforts.

Chief Acciardo commented he compiled a sheet of crime statistics from January – April of 2019 to compare last year to the current year. Chief Acciardo noted in most cases the crime rates have remained the same and, in some cases, have lowered by about half.

In regard to drug paraphernalia, in a 90-day period from March to May, the Police Department conducted 3,024 street checks.

In regard to the gunshots that have been heard nearby, Chief Acciardo commented if citizens call in the Police will attempt to locate where the shots are coming from but the current issues cannot be enforced as our Ordinances are not enforceable outside of Town limits as most of the gunshots that are being heard are taking place on County property.

Commissioner Bellflowers commented in the past few months various reports on social media have claimed that citizens have called 911 to report broken windows and other incidents but the Police never arrived on scene. Chief Acciaro responded that approximately ten years ago the Town consolidated with Cumberland County dispatch; every time a citizen calls 911 the call is automatically recorded and stored in their data servers. If Police truly did not arrive on scene to investigate it would seem likely that a citizen would lodge a complaint which would be brought to the Chief's attention to look into; that has not occurred. Chief Acciaro requested that Commissioner Bellflowers forward any future complaints he receives as he takes the matter very seriously.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, Commissioner Edwards and Commissioner Legge complimented the Police for their hard work and positive reputation.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- a. Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget Ordinance.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing for the fiscal year 2020-2021 at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against the 2020-2021 fiscal year Budget. There were none.

Mayor Warner closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

The Board of Commissioners may or may not adopt the proposed Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule. A final copy of the proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget Book will be handed out at the meeting.

- Consideration to adopt the 2020-2021 FY Budget Ordinance.
- Consideration to adopt the proposed 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Fee Schedule.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to adopt the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget Ordinance.

Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to adopt the proposed 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Fee Schedule.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Ms. Cynthia Phillips, 5247 Heather Street Hope Mills, NC. Ms. Phillips thanked the Board and all Town staff for their quick response and keeping residents safe due to the recent events taking place nationwide.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2020 Regular Meeting.

“END OF CONSENT AGENDA”

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

6. OLD BUSINESS: NONE.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. NON-Public Hearing **Case No. 18-020.** Consideration of the Nickoy Grey – Motor Vehicle Sales; C(P) Site Plan Review; Hope Mills Zoning Ordinance; Zoned: C(P); Acreage: 0.43 ac. +/-; Located at 3121 N Main Street (NC HWY 59); submitted by Nickoy Grey (Developer) (Hope Mills).

Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin commented this is the previous case from the April meeting. The September 2019 site plan was approved for motor vehicle sales featuring customer parking in the front with sale vehicles displayed in the rear. At the April 20, 2020 approval of the vehicle repair structure, the Board of Commissioners noticed that the development was not being operated in a manner consistent with what was initially approved on the site plan in September of 2019. As the site plan indicated customer parking in the front, staff noted that the business owner had been displaying sale vehicles in the front although the approved site plan indicated it in the rear. Town staff sent a Notice of Violation to the property and business owners giving them 30 days to take corrective action. In response to the Notice of Violation, the business owner has filed a new site plan showing the vehicle display area in the front with customer parking area to the rear.

Commissioner Marley inquired if the owner complied with all of the Town’s requests as noted in the Notice of Violation. Mr. McLaughlin replied the owner did comply.

Commissioner Bellflowers there is no ADA accessible parking and ramp even though it is noted on the site plan. Discussion ensued regarding parking spaces and handicapped required based on Planning and Zoning requirements.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to approve Case No. 18-020 Consideration of the Nickoy Grey – Motor Vehicle Sales; C(P) Site Plan Review; Hope Mills Zoning Ordinance; Zoned: C(P); Acreage: 0.43 ac. +/-; Located at 3121 N Main Street (NC HWY 59); submitted by Nickoy Grey (Developer) (Hope Mills) with the addition of the handicapped accessible parking and ramp.

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. Change Order has been sent to NCDOT for approval.

Johnson Street Sidewalk Project: 90% drawings have been reviewed by NCDOT. Our engineer is evaluating the comments and working on making the appropriate changes. Nothing new to report.

The Fountain Lane property: Nothing new to report.

Former Episcopal Parish House vacant lot: PWC will be installing a water meter within the next few weeks for the purpose of irrigation for the vacant lot next to the Chapel. The water usage will be billed to the Town at the lower irrigation rate. Public Works is hoping the water line installation will take place within a week or so.

Trade Street Museum: Next steps and timeline will be discussed at the Special Budget Meeting on June 1st at 5:00 p.m. Nothing new to report at this time.

Eel ladder: Public Works has ordered another pump for the eel ladder.

The contractor for PWC that will be doing the painting of the water tank has completed all the preparation work and has begun painting the primer/under coat on a portion of the water tank.

The repairs to the sidewalks on both sides of the road along S. Main Street between Lakeview and E. & W. Patterson Street have been completed.

Pumphouse repairs in Heritage Park: Public Works staff is in the process obtaining quotes for a mason to do the repairs to the masonry. Nothing new to report.

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 Marshal have finished their review of the construction plans for the new facility. We are currently waiting on USDA final authorization/approval.

COVID-19 Update - I have prepared another Public Memorandum regarding Town operations regarding phase 2 of the Governor's plan to reopen; a copy is attached to this report. In addition, I have attached a copy of a Press Release regarding the **restart to our recycling program effective Wednesday, June 17th**.

The Notice to proceed has been executed for the Golfview Greenway driveway and parking lot project. Diamond Constructors is hopeful they will begin a projected date of June 1st.

Mayor Pro Tem McCray, Police Chief Acciaro and myself, met this past week with DeSandra W. Washington, Ed.D., Associate Vice President Academic Support and Dr. Jolee Marsh, Associate Vice President for Corporate and Continuing Education - Fayetteville Technical Community College concerning letters of Support from the Town and Chief Acciaro; for FTCC on the Golden LEAF Opportunity for Work Initiative, Cumberland Works. After meeting with them; both Chief Acciaro and I drafted letters of support and forwarded each to them. In addition, we have sent a second letter of support for the hiring initiative.

The Town is in the process of applying for funds through the CARES Act Funding for COVID-19 related expenses, through Cumberland County.

Parks & Recreation Special Events and Programs: Parks and Recreation staff is currently accepting registration for Summer Day Camp. To comply with the Governor's order, staff has put in place the following guidelines: In preparation for a ½ capacity Day Camp, staff are following these guidelines in compliance with the Governors order:

- a). Only children and staff who are required for daily operations and ration will be allowed inside the day camp facility.
- b). Counselors will be restricted to one room with one group of children (we have a total of 5 counselors). To reduce the number of people coming in and out of rooms, "floater" counselors will not be used.
- c). Staff will conduct daily health screening on all individuals who are entering the building. This screening will exclude individuals who are in any of one of these four categories:
 - a. Person is showing any of the symptoms of COVID-19.
 - b. Person thinks they could have COVID-19.
 - c. Person has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - d. Person is awaiting the results of testing for COVID-19.
- d). Children and staff who share a home (including siblings) or who have been in close contact with anyone in the four categories above will be excluded from day camp.
- e). Staff has participated in a teleconference with Cumberland County Schools on May 28th which is a requirement to participate as be a site for the free prepared lunches.

Parks & Recreation has begun to accept registration for Adult Outdoor Fitness. Classes will be offered outside, and to ensure compliance with distancing recommendations the following precautions are being taken:

- a. Instructors will conduct daily screening of participants.
- b. Participants are required to bring their own weights, mats and weights.
- c. Participants are strongly encouraged to wear face masks.

d. Social distancing while exercising will be strictly enforced by the instructor.

Athletics: All refunds for Spring sports have been processed and checks will be mailed out in the next two weeks. Registration for Fall Sports will begin June 1, 2020 online. A tent will be set up outside the Parks and Recreation Center for citizens that want to register in person.

Golfview Greenway – The Contractor began work on the parking lot today, June 1, 2020. Public Works was scheduled to begin mosquito spraying two weeks ago but have not yet begun due to weather conditions. They hope to begin this week, provided the weather cooperates.

Personnel from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety - Division of Emergency Risk Management will be installing gauges on the Hope Mills Dam in the near future. They indicated it is not necessary for a representative of the Town to be present when this occurs.

Commissioner Bellflowers inquired the cost of the seeding at the vacant lot next to the chapel. Public Works Director Sisko responded \$2,770.

- b. Reminders. - Meetings subject to change based on conditions present immediately prior to their date.
- June 10, 2020 @ 5:00 PM – Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, in Parks and Recreation Building.
 - June 15, 2020 @ 7:00 PM – Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting, in the Luther Board Room in Town Hall.
 - June 22, 2020 @ 6:30 PM – Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting, in Parks and Recreation Building.
 - June 23, 2020 @ 6:30 PM - Appearance Commission Meeting, in Parks and Recreation Building.
 - June 25, 2020 @ 6:00 PM-Veterans Affairs Committee, in Parks and Recreation Building.

c. Committee Liaisons update on Committee Activities.

- Commissioner Pat Edwards- Appearance Committee, Mid-Carolina Council of Government
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Commissioner Edwards commented the Mid-Carolina Council of Aging participated in a conference call on May 19th that primarily focused on transportation for seniors and access to services.

- Commissioner Jerry Legge - Historic Preservation Commission, RLUAC (Regional Land Use Appearance Committee)

Commissioner Legge commented the Historic Preservation Commission did not meet and he had a conflicting appointment and was unable to attend the RLUAC meeting.

- Commissioner Bryan Marley-Veterans Affairs

Commissioner Marley commented the Veterans Affairs Commission met on May 28th to discuss some concerns. One mainly being if the Town has a policy in place in regard to special events taking place on Town property. Discussion ensued.

The Commission also discussed the flags not being lowered on Memorial Day; the need for a taller flag pole for the American flag at the Veterans Memorial; buying a wind proof flag; handicapped accessibility for the Veterans Monument where the dog park is located and additional maintenance issues at the Veterans Monument.

Town Manager Adams commented though she is not against the addition of handicapped parking for the Veterans Memorial, the dog park would need to be relocated as we do not want to do away with it.

- Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray- Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, Cumberland County Air Quality Stakeholders Committee

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray commented the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee will meet this month and the Air Quality Stakeholders Committee will meet in July.

- Mayor Jackie Warner- FAMPO Transportation Policy Board, FCEDC Municipal Advisory Meeting Liaison

Mayor Warner commented the FAMPO Transportation Policy Board met via Zoom and went over the NCDOT project delays due to COVID-19. Mayor Warner also attended the Senior Tar Heel Legislature meeting virtually to discuss and pass along the needs of the senior community to our legislature. Additionally, Mayor Warner participated in a virtual Scouts of America meeting to help the scouts earn their merit badges.

9. STAFF COMMENTS.

Attorney Hartzog commented it was nice to see everyone in person as previous recent meetings have taken place on Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. OFFICIAL COMMENTS.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray commented based on Commissioner Edwards Committee Liaison report, she would like to engage in conversation in regard to transportation for our area seniors and disabled. Dr. McCray thanked all Town staff for their hard work and requested the community work together through this difficult time nationwide.

Commissioner Legge thanked Town Manager Adams and Finance Director Holland for their hard work on the budget and wished everyone be safe and God bless.

Commissioner Edwards wished everyone well during this difficult time.

Commissioner Bellflowers commented all staff should be commended for their work on the Budget and noted the first \$14 million budget in the history of Hope Mills was approved this evening, without a tax increase.

Mayor Warner thanked the Pastors Coalition for offering their support for our First Responders, should they have any needs during this difficult time locally and nationwide.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

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

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Jackie Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jane G. Starling CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk