

# TOWN OF WEBSTER

## Minutes for April 6, 2016 Board Meeting



The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Webster met for its regularly scheduled meeting at 1411 Webster Road. Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Billie Bryson, Commissioner Allan Grant, Commissioner Danell Moses, Commissioner Larry Phillips, and Mayor Tracy Rodes

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Leigh Anne Young

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Will Morgan, Shawn Paulus, Mike Poston, Louise Stephens, Justin Woodard, Michael Woodard

### *GENERAL MEETING*

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#### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Moses asked that the agenda be updated to include board appointments and delete CD investments. Mayor Rodes asked to add Justin Woodard to the agenda.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bryson motioned to approve agenda as amended; Commissioner Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the March 2 meeting were presented for review. Mayor Rodes asked that the section under Mayor's Report be clarified that the process described for repairing the basement would be completed in three phases as needed and caulking the crack along the sidewalk at the driveway as phase one. Phase two would include creating a sloped, cement feature along the sidewalk. She has verbal agreement from Scott Baker, but would get written agreement before completing phase two. Phase three would include sealing the basement walls.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Phillips motioned to approve the minutes as amended; Commissioner Bryson seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Informal Comments by Public**

Louise Stephens asked the board to consider Webster Cemetery when preparing the next budget and to attend the upcoming Webster Cemetery Clean-Up day on April 16.

Shawn Paulus introduced herself as a new member of the community. She and her husband are building a house in Webster.

### *CONSENT AGENDA*

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#### **Financial Report**

Danell Moses presented the end-of-month reconciliation and budget report for March 2016:

Beginning town fund balance per February report:	\$149,381.09
Deposits	72,487.64
Cleared expenditures totaled	19,902.19
Checking balance Macon	139,373.15
Ending town fund balance	\$139,373.15

Moses mentioned that new legislation requires each state agency, county, municipality, and local school administrative unit post its own budgeting and monthly expenditure data (including vendor payments) on its respective website, and that this data be in an easily searchable format that can be readily downloaded and analyzed. Webster's information will be posted with the minutes as a searchable pdf.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Phillips provided a motion to approve the financial report and Commissioner Grant provided a second. The motion carried.

### *ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS*

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#### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Rodes

- Reminded the council about the Webster Cemetery Clean Up Day on April 16.
- Reminded the council of the upcoming planning session on April 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and asked that commissioners prepare for the session by developing a list of proposed goals for the town and ideas for a community service project.



- Brought recent N.C. State legislation to the council's attention:
  - Teacher's pay increase had been approved
  - House Bill 2 had been approved and mentioned its limits on local government
  - State and Local Government Financial Data Transparency Law went into effect on April 1. This will require all municipalities to publicly post monthly financial data and budget information on their respective websites. This law also requires this financial data to be posted on the State's Local Government Commission (LGC) website. Rodes' research on the matter (Coates' Cannons, UNC SOG) led to the conclusion that until the State requests & specifies the standardized format and location to post this information, we will comply by posting this information on Webster's website, but await instruction for how to post it on the LGC website.
- Provided a basement update. Justin Woodard and Steve Alexander reported to her that the buildings' exterior crack at ground level had been caulked. When Mayor Rodes checked the basement after a mild rain, she reported that it was still leaking and took photos of the wet areas for future reference. It was noted that Brad Moses replaced two door knobs and repaired the light fixtures in the basement and stairwell.
- Attended various meetings throughout the month. Mayor Rodes stated that at the March 28 SW Commissioners Board meeting, Sarah Thompson had been named executive director of Southwestern Commission Region A to replace Ryan Sherby. Ryan Sherby's service was recognized with appreciation and his retirement was congratulated. Rodes also noted that there was verbal discontent expressed to Senator Davis in regards to the recent passing of HB2 by two regional representatives.

### Council Member's Reports

No council members had reports.

### *NEW BUSINESS*

**Justin Woodard** – introduced himself to new board members and said that his crew had begun working through Webster. He anticipates a busy summer session and hopes the board will be forthcoming with areas of concern. Mayor Rodes said he could store materials in the basement if needed and thanked him for checking in with her on a regular basis.

**Mike Poston** – introduced himself as the new planning director for Jackson County. He said his office helps with code enforcement and zoning ordinances. He invited council to contact his office with questions. Mayor Rodes mentioned that the planning board was working on a sign ordinance, a land use plan, and possibility of ordinance review. Poston said that new legislation was coming that would standardize the language of planning efforts.

**Planning Board Sign Recommendation** – The group recommended that the government district sign ordinance wording to be passed on to the Webster Board of Commissioners is:

Each sign should be constructed according to the following guidelines:

- maximum size of 10' by 10' by 4'
  - above ground level
  - including illuminating measures
- constructed with materials consistent with existing designs and surrounding areas
- no electronics

The board will send back the recommendation that the planning board works on the wording. Mike Poston mentioned that the county would be happy to help with that process in defining language that would meld the town's intent with the county's interpretation.

**Thank you card for resigning planning board member** Mayor Rodes will deliver a thank you card from the board, that was signed by all Commissioners present, to the family of Aaron Krauss for his service on the Planning board. She will also deliver a donut kit gift basket for his children to make and then to take him when they visit him in the hospital.

### Board Appointments:

Nominations for board of adjustments board: Laura Chapman

Nominations for planning board members: Krissy Mabry, Shawn Paulus



**MOTION:** Commissioner Phillips motioned to approve the nominations to the planning board and Commissioner Bryson seconded. Motion carried.

**House Bill 2:** Commissioner Grant said he believed the town should speak out against the recently passed House Bill 2 because of its discriminatory practices and restricting municipality power. Commissioner Moses provided a couple of reasons why she is against the bill and encouraged that the town voice their opinion against the bill less the state believe that we stand for it. Commissioner Grant said, “These are real waves that are moving through our country now. If we stand blind to them, even at a local level, we’re just not good citizens. I’m just so tired of the bad press North Carolina gets because of matters of principle.”

**MOTION:** Commissioner Grant moved that the Town of Webster resolve to adopt a “motion condemning NC HB2 for both its prejudicial usurpation of basic human rights for the LGBT community and the overriding of NC municipalities’ local control.” Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the resolution was signed by all present commissioners and Mayor Rodes.

### *OLD BUSINESS*

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- a. Planning Retreat Date
  1. The board set Friday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with lunch at noon.
  2. The board decided to contract with Gibby Catering with crab cakes, pasta salad, and vegetables for an estimated \$8-\$10 per head.
  3. Board members will bring desserts to share.

### *ADJOURNMENT:*

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Commissioner Phillips motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Moses seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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Tracy Rodes, Mayor

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Danell Moses, Town Clerk