

March 8, 2021 (REGULAR MEETING)

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Elkin, March 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Sam Bishop, Commissioners Cicely McCulloch, Robert Ball, Jeff Eidson and Will Gwyn. (Absent: Commissioner Tommy Wheeler [excused])

Also present: Town Manager Brent Cornelison, Town Attorney Raymond Parker and Town Clerk Cathie Tilley.

Mayor Bishop welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He asked Police Chief Monroe Wagoner to lead our Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bishop explained Commissioner Wheeler was absent and asked for a motion to excuse him from tonight's meeting. Commissioner Eidson made a motion to excuse Commissioner Wheeler from tonight's meeting. Upon a second by Commissioner Ball, the motion was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented for the consent agenda:

- Minutes of February 8, 2021 (Regular Meeting)
- Consider approving new Recreation and Parks Department fees
- Consider passing a resolution directing the town clerk to investigate a petition of annexation (may be found in Resolution Book 4, Page 2021-03-0253)
- Receive town clerk's Certificate of Sufficiency (may be found in Resolution Book 4, Page 2021-03-0253-A)
- Consider Passing a Resolution Fixing a Date of April 12, 2021 for a public hearing for the petition for annexation (may be found in Resolution Book 4, Pages 2021-03-0254 and 2021-03-0255)

There were no questions regarding the consent agenda. A motion by Commissioner McCulloch to approve the Consent Agenda was seconded by Commissioner Gwyn and was unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- Proclamation Recognizing March 2021 as Women's History Month
 - o Mayor Bishop asked all women to come to the front.
 - Read the proclamation and expressed appreciation to the women for their contributions to society.
 - Presented the proclamation to Cathie Tilley to display at Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mayor Bishop opened the public comments period.
 - o Lisa Freeman – 447 Hawthorne Road
- There being no other public comments, Mayor Bishop closed the Public Comments period.

MAYOR AND BOARD COMMENTS FOR STAFF

- Mayor Bishop asked for comments for staff.
 - o Commissioner Gwyn:
 - Expressed appreciation for a productive retreat.
 - Mayor Bishop and other commissioners agreed.

REGULAR MEETING

1. EVTA Update (Speakers: Jason Taylor, Chairperson; Keith Sidden, Vice-Chair; Bob Hillyer, Board Member)

- Presented Board with a handout updating accomplishments over the past year, and highlighted several points including but not limited to:
 - o Still 100% volunteer based—3,680 volunteer hours logged during pandemic.
 - o Trails are an outlet for Elkin/Surry County residents and for visitors from surrounding areas, and are an economic booster for local businesses.
 - o Completed Klondike Lake “Forest Bathing” Trail (received nationwide attention).
 - o Completed Hurt Bridge, held Insane Terrain 5K and 10K, and completed Thomas McComb’s beginner Mountain Bike Course.
 - o Will be celebrating EVTA’s 10th Anniversary.
 - o Several projects planned for Carter Falls (Bridge of Dreams, enlarge parking lot and Dream Ribbon campaign).
 - o NC Trail Days scheduled the first weekend in June.
 - o Elkin/Jonesville unification project.

2. Consider a Conditional Use Permit Extension for Partin Solar, LLC (Sarah Harris)

- Prior to this presentation, Commissioner Eidson requested to be excused from this portion of the meeting due to a possible conflict of interest. Commissioner McCulloch made a motion to excuse Commissioner Eidson from this portion of the meeting. Upon a second by Commissioner Gwyn, the motion was unanimously approved.
- Partin Solar is requesting an extension on their Conditional Use Permit for Level 2 Solar Energy System on parcel numbers 4962-00-81-2148 and 4962-04-62-9838.
 - o Conditional Use Permit was approved March 9, 2020.
- Reason for extension is the pandemic caused delays that could not be overcome:
 - o Unable to begin construction the fall of 2020.
 - Interconnection deadlines with Duke Energy were pushed out and prevented system connection to the transmission system until 2021.
 - Both primary supply partners of the modules that will be used sent notification that they could not deliver equipment to the site for 36-40 weeks (due to COVID).
- Design and procurement:
 - o All inverters and transformer skids along with substation transformer have been procured.

- Project has completed all the primary development milestones.
 - Civil design substantially complete.
 - Structural and electrical designs expected to be ready to submit for permitting in March.
 - Southern Current has made substantial investment in the design and development of this project.
 - Partin Solar has invested nearly \$3.5 million in equipment that is sitting in a warehouse unable to be put in service due to these delays.
 - Provided letters and purchase orders from suppliers that note the supply chain delays.
 - Commissioner McCulloch made a motion to approve this request from Partin Solar, LLC to grant an extension on their Conditional Use Permit for Level 2 Solar Energy System. There were no questions. Upon a second by Commissioner Ball, the motion was unanimously approved.
- Mayor Bishop welcomed Commissioner Eidson back to the meeting.

COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS (Town Manager Cornelison)

- Main Street Advisory Board (MSAB):
 - Jennifer White:
 - Stepped down effective February 15, 2021
 - Term expires April 30, 2022
 - Will continue as a volunteer on this board
 - Will continue as main organizer of Light Up Elkin
 - MSAB recommends Claire St. Cyr to fill this term starting March 16, 2021 through April 30, 2022
 - Amanda Edgerley:
 - Does not wish to be reappointed to another 3-year term when it ends April 30, 2021
 - MSAB recommends Shannon Lazar to fill this vacancy starting May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2024
 - Commissioner Eidson made a motion to approve the recommendations to appoint Claire St. Cyr as a member of the Main Street Advisory Board beginning March 16, 2021 through April 30, 2022, and to appoint Shannon Lazar as a member of the Main Street Advisory Board beginning May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2024. There were no questions. Upon a second by Commissioner McCulloch, the motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER UPDATES

- Agenda:
 - Requested that commissioners let him know if they want to continue receiving printed copies of the agenda packet.
- Zoom Meetings:
 - Discussed whether to continue Zoom meetings.
 - Following discussion, there was Board consensus to continue Zoom meetings to see if there is more response.


- Budget Workshop:
 - o First budget workshop will be April 12th at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Commissioner Eidson made a motion to recess until April 12th at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Upon a second by Commissioner Ball, the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting recessed at 6:35 p.m.



Sam Bishop, Mayor

Attest:



Catherine C. Tilley, Town Clerk