

December 14, 2020 (REGULAR MEETING)

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Elkin, December 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Sam Bishop, Commissioners Cicely McCulloch, Robert Ball, Jeff Eidson, Will Gwyn and Tommy Wheeler.

Also present: Town Manager Brent Cornelison, Assistant Town Manager Adam McComb, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented for the consent agenda:

- Minutes of November 9, 2020 (Regular Meeting)
- Releases and Discoveries (included as Exhibit A)
- 2021 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Dates (included as Exhibit B)
- Resolution to Adopt the Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (may be found in Resolution Book 4, Page 2020-12-0250.
- Budget Amendment 2021-15 for ARC Community Grant (included as Exhibit C).

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

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS – TOWN ATTORNEY RAYMOND PARKER

- Town Manager Cornelison asked Town Attorney Raymond Parker to come forward and administer the oath of office to our newly re-elected mayor and two re-elected commissioners.
- Attorney Parker administered the oath of office for Town Commissioners to Tommy Wheeler and Robert Ball and for Mayor to Sam Bishop.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE – Mayor Bishop

- Mayor Bishop said the Board needed to elect a Mayor Pro Tempore as required in NCGS 160A-70.
 - o Commissioner Eidson nominated Commissioner McCulloch to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore.
 - o Mayor Bishop asked for other nominations.
 - There were no other nominations.
 - o Commissioner Cicely McCulloch was elected by acclamation to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mayor Bishop opened the public comments period.
- There being no public comments, Mayor Bishop closed the Public Comments period.

MAYOR AND BOARD COMMENTS FOR STAFF

- Commissioner Ball expressed appreciation for the financial report that had been provided to the Board at last month's regular meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

1. Consider a land donation and trail easement (Adam McComb)

- Town entered into a lease agreement with Dr. Charles Classen for land that the EVTA has invested over one hundred thousand dollars into for a mountain bike trail.
- Dr. Classen wants to donate this land to the Town to ensure these trails remain open for the public with the following requests:
 - o A sign indicating the property is named the "Adrienne Charles Classen Park Land" be placed at the entrance of the bike trail (signage cost \$55.00).
 - o An appraisal for the land be performed at no cost to Dr. Classen.
 - EVTA will reimburse the town half of the appraisal cost (total appraisal cost is \$1,200.00).
 - o A small section of the current mountain bike trail is located on land Dr. Classen intends to retain.
 - Dr. Classen agreed to donate a recreational trail easement for the small section of trail located on that parcel.
- Recreation and Parks Advisory Board recommends the town:
 - o Accept the donation of the land,
 - o Name the donated land as requested (Adrienne Charles Classen Park Land).
 - o Install sign as requested.
 - o Accept the recreation trail easement.
 - o Accept reimbursement from EVTA for one-half of the appraisal cost at a total cost of \$1,200.00.
- Dr. Classen has signed both the North Carolina Warranty Deed for the land donation and the Easement Agreement for the bike trail.
- Commissioner Gwyn made a motion to accept the land donation and the recreation trail easement as noted. There were no questions. Upon a second by Commissioner McCulloch, the motion was unanimously approved. (Copies of deed for land donation and trail easement included as Exhibits D and E respectively.)

2. Consider a request from "Friends of the Elkin Dog Park" to relocate the dog park (Adam McComb)

- Reviewed information regarding flooding in October (happened twice within 7-8 days) and damage to the Dog Park.
- Friends of the Dog Park are requesting that the Dog Park be relocated to property on Standard Street across from Crater Park Playground (formerly a car wash).
 - o Site has water access, on-street parking, is located on higher ground, and restrooms are a short walk away within Crater Park.
 - o Railroad has approved for this site to be used as a Dog Park.
 - o Recreation and Parks Advisory Board agrees this would be the most appropriate unused space for relocating the Dog Park.

- Introduced Stephanie Graff, a member of Elkin Friends of the Dog Park, to speak to this matter.
 - o By moving to the new area, we will not have to worry about flooding.
 - o It will be good to have access to water for the dogs.
- Town Manager Cornelison:
 - o Suggested using more of the property for parking.
 - o Talked about the town adding additional landscaping.
- Board discussed other locations.
- There will be no cost to the town other than in-kind services.
- Following additional discussion, Commissioner Gwyn made a motion to approve relocating the Dog Park from its current location to the former car wash property. There were no questions. Upon a second by Commissioner Ball, the motion was unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

- Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Appointment (Adam McComb)
 - o Advisory Board recommends Lisa Halbedl to fill the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.
 - o Commissioner Ball made a motion to appoint Lisa Halbedl to the vacancy on the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. There were no questions. Upon a second by Commissioner Edison, the motion was unanimously approved.
- Planning Board and Board of Adjustments Appointments (Sarah Harris)
 - o Terms expire this month for Barry Huff (in-town representative) and Jimmy Chappell (ETJ Alternate Representative).
 - Both have agreed to serve another three-year term each.
 - Planning Board and Board of Adjustment recommend reappointment of both members.
 - o We are taking applications for another in-town vacancy.
 - o Commissioner Ball made a motion to reappoint Barry Huff and Jimmy Chappell to serve another three-year term each on the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. There were no questions. Upon a second by Commissioner Edison, the motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER UPDATES

- Flooding
 - o We will not receive FEMA funding because this event was not declared a national disaster.
 - o Will be bringing a budget amendment at next month's meeting for the cleanup costs.
- Vine Line:
 - o Looking at other spots that might work better for them.
 - Parking space at the corner of East Main Street and Bridge Street (in front of the Wisdom Table) was approved as a loading zone/shuttle stop at last month's meeting.

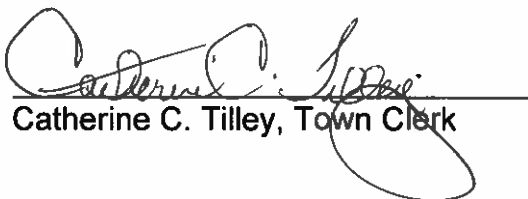
- Police Vehicles:
 - o All vehicles are in.
 - o Waiting for vehicle upfit.
- Santa Parade:
 - o Will be this Saturday starting at 2:00 p.m.
 - o Santa will be in a firetruck escorted by police officers
 - o Plan to travel throughout town.
 - Will not be stopping.
- Skip Adams:
 - o Will begin work the first of the year on the median at the intersection of Bridge Street and Main Street.
- Annual Retreat – Potential Dates:
 - o Looking at the last Friday in February (26th) or the first Friday in March (5th).
 - o Send topic suggestions to Brent
- COVID-19 Funding (CARES Act):
 - o Runs out December 31, 2020.
 - o Feel confident Congress will pass another act to reimburse towns after December 31st.
- Other discussion:
 - o Employees who have COVID-19 and need to quarantine.
 - Do they use personal time (vacation, sick hours, etc.) or will they be paid another way?
 - o Loading zone/shuttle stop:
 - Does this proposal need to come back to this Board, or to the Town Manager?
 - Following discussion, Commissioner Eidson made a motion to give Town Manager Cornelison authority to approve (or disapprove) the Main Street Advisory Board's recommendation concerning this project. There were no questions. Upon a second by Commissioner Wheeler, the motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Commissioner Gwyn made a motion to adjourn. Upon a second by Commissioner McCulloch, the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



 Sam Bishop, Mayor

Attest:



 Catherine C. Tilley, Town Clerk