

Town Of Oakboro

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

March 15, 2021

7:00 PM

Mayor Little opened the Public Hearing. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider comments, for or against, the request for a text amendment change, amending Oakboro Zoning Ordinances by adding a "Mixed-Use District".

With no one signing up to speak, for or against, Mayor Little declared the Public Hearing closed.

Mayor Little welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the Town Clerk to call the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Efird, Commissioner Hathcock, Commissioner Huneycutt, Mayor Little, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Watkins and Town Administrator, Doug Burgess.

The Pledge of Allegiance to our US Flag was led by Mayor Little.

Commissioner Huneycutt had devotions.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$100,557.65. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Commissioner Efird made a motion to approve the minutes from February 15, 2021. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

OPEN FORUM:

1. Kelly Bigger with the Albemarle YMCA addressed the Board. She spoke on possibly having a YMCA Enrichment Camp for the children of Oakboro this summer. She specifically wants to target kids with nothing to do or ones staying at home alone. She is having great success with one in Norwood. The First Baptist Church in Oakboro has agreed to let the YMCA use their fellowship hall.

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It was discussed by the board and questions were answered by Ms. Bigger.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to set aside \$1500.00 from this current budget for this YMCA Enrichment Camp with another \$1500.00 given to the YMCA Enrichment Camp from budget in the next fiscal year. Commissioner Efirid seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

2. Roy Jackson addressed the Board. He has water running across his property at 1952 Redwood Drive. The Board agreed to send someone to look at this.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

- **Budget and Finance:** Commissioner Smith referred to Town Administrator, Doug Burgess. He reported that at this time in the fiscal year we should be at 67% with revenues and expenditures. The General Fund: revenues 87% and expenditures 71% - Water: revenues 74% and expenditures 61% - Sewer: revenues 74% and expenditures 63%.
- **Cemetery and Streets:** Commissioner Hathcock reported that he has had many complaints about pot holes and the barricade at W. 2nd. (Hwy. 205). Mr. Hathcock wanted everyone to know that the State owns W. 2nd (Hwy 205) and installed the barricade. Once all paperwork goes through with the State, the new route for 205 will be taken over by the State and W. Second will be given to the town to maintain. The town can decide if they want to remove the barricade or not. Commissioner Hathcock says that he and Commissioner Watkins will be driving all streets making lists of every pot hole and drainage problems.
- **Police Department:** Commissioner Huneycutt referred to Chief Smith. Smith started by having Sgt. Jason Eschert in the Board room as he recounted the injury Eschert sustained after he was assaulted after issuing a speeding ticket to a female who in turn tried to speed off and ran over his foot. Sgt. Eschert came to work the rest of the weekend. The Board was very proud of his dedication to his job. He was given a round of applause for a job well done. Smith also reported that in the last month, his officers conducted 741 business and neighborhood checks, wrote 131 citations, had 27 arrests, 201 calls to service and 44 felony packets in the last 6 months.

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- **Parks and Recreation:** Commissioner Smith called upon Head of Parks and Recreation, Josh Almond. Almond reported that they have decided to have a soccer season. 87 kids have signed up. There is increased activity at the park. The middle school cross country will have a meet there soon and there will be a disc golf tournament at the end of the month. Trey Whitley would like to have permission to install a 10 ft. Flag Pole with solar features that raise and lower the flag and two benches at the 205 park as part of his Eagle Scout badge. The Board agreed that he would be allowed to.
- **Water and Sewer:** Commissioner Efird referred to Doug Burgess as he reported the Town of Oakboro would be receiving monies from the American Recovery Act – known as the CARES act. The money can be used for specific things one being correcting some of the problems with our water and sewer system. Commissioner Efird reported that years ago, the town had a sewer impact fee that was in place and at that time the home building industry was in such a bad state that the town eliminated that fee. This would help us in paying for I&I and sewer capacity is hard for us to get right now, they are going to update the plant and we will be able to get more capacity soon but we can't approve any further building right now until we get our sewer upgraded where our town would get more capacity. We need to seriously consider bringing back the sewer impact fee. It would be a tremendous help to our town and the builders and developers are the ones that will be paying for this. It should be \$2000.00 per house or unit. Doug Burgess added that Stanly County is upgrading the waste treatment plant. Right now, they are going from .9 million gallons per day to 1.2 million gallons per day. As soon as that is finished, they are going to 2.5 million gallons per day. The cost of that is going to be passed on to the towns. We do not want our existing customers to have to absorb that fee and this a way that people that are coming in, using up that extra sewer capacity can pay for it. This is the perfect way to raise the funds to pay for it. We will have to buy capacity. We charged for capacity when we owned the treatment plant – the same way that they are going to charge us. Efird stated that all of the other towns do have a sewer impact fee.

Commissioner Efird made a motion to reinstate the Sewer Impact Fee in the amount of \$2000.00 to begin immediately. Commissioner Huneycutt seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

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- **Advisory Board/Code Enforcement: Commissioner Efird referred to Chief Smith. Smith reported that we have received 10 new home applications and 1 new inground pool application.**


Mayor Little asked if the Board was ready to make a decision on the Public Hearing on adding the Mixed-Use District to our Ordinances.

Commissioner Efird made a motion to add the Mixed-Use District to be written into our current ordinances. Commissioner Huneycutt seconded the motion and it carried with Commissioner Smith voting no.

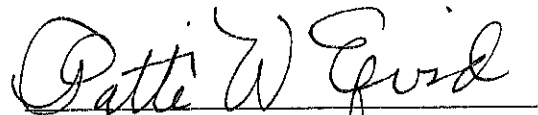
Mayor Little announced that Commissioner Hathcock would be our new representative for the RRRPO "Rocky River Rural Planning Organization". She looks forward to his reports.

This meeting is continued until March 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

This the 15th day of March, 2021.



Joyce H. Little, Mayor



Patti W. Efird, Town Clerk