

Town of Pollocksville
Regular Meeting
March 14, 2023

Present: James V. Bender, Jr. – Mayor

Guest List: Attached

Sherry Henderson – Commissioner
Ellis Banks – Commissioner
Nancy Barbee – Commissioner
Vic Bryan – Commissioner

Toni Floyd – Town Clerk
Pat McCain – JCSO Deputy

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Declaration of a Quorum

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Pollocksville held its regular schedule meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at the Pollocksville Town Hall. The meeting was open to public attendance as well as participation via Zoom. Mayor Bender called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. With four commissioners present, we had a quorum.

II. Introduction of New Business

None

III. Approval/Adoption of Final Agenda

Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve and adopt the agenda as amended to include Commissioner Bryan's request for unfinished business. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2023

Commissioner Henderson made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Banks seconded the motion and all were in favor.

VI. Presentations to the Board

A. Jeff Mallard, Pollocksville Rotary Club: The Pollocksville Rotary Club is seeking permission for a special project. The club would like to do some landscaping at the Welcome signs at each end of town. They already have full funding for the project, and the plantings will be maintained by the Rotary Club. The Rotary Club has the approval of property owners. Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept their proposal, with a second from Commissioner Barbee. All were in favor.

VII. Action Items

A. Affirmation of email vote to grant permission for use of the Town Hall: On Feb 18th Mayor Bender sent emails to board members requesting permission to use Town Hall for filming a movie. Filming will occur on March 25th. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to affirm the

positive email vote results, with a second from Commissioner Henderson. Commissioner Henderson asked about charging a rental fee. She feels that we need to be consistent in whatever we do. Commissioner Barbee sees the filming as a way to build public image. Commissioner Barbee also stated that this is a sequel to a previous film by the same producer, D'Aja Fulmore. Ms. Fulmore is a native of Jones County. After the discussion the board voted and all were in favor.

VIII. Reports

- A. Public Safety – Commissioner Banks: Officer McCain provided his schedule for March and April and included a summary of citations at the bottom of the schedule. Commissioner Bryan reported that motorists are getting the message on Pollock Street. Commissioner Henderson asked about cars parked in the road on Green Hill Street. Officer McCain has only seen them parked on the grass.
- B. Mayor's Report – Mayor Bender:
 - 1. Grants: EEG Grant -Leslie Bartlebaugh is working with the contractor to be sure he starts on time, which should be in early April. NCEM Grant – The contractor has some concerns about how property owners will react to how things are planted and where the sidewalks are going. Specifically mentioned properties were the Barrus house, the Morgan house, the access beside the Post Office, the Carter house, the old Parker Motor and Armstrong store. BRIC grant-The committee has requested further information on elevation for various buildings along Main Street. We are still trying to get reimbursement to the Parsons for work already completed, and that is part of the hold up on the grant.
 - 2. There was a Resiliency funding forum on February 28th. Kaine Riggins with BRIC was one of the presenters, and he had a slide which listed Pollockville as the recipient of \$1.08 million dollars, but that grant is not completely finalized.
 - 3. Carbon Reduction Plan: Applications are due this week and will be completed through the COG for \$450,000 to extend sidewalks all the way down to Highway 58. This grant requires a 20% match, which is \$90,000. We may be able to get some of the funds by combining with our Main Street project.
 - 4. Senator Humphrey asked for a "wish list" from the town, and that list has been submitted based on input from board members. The list will be included with the minutes.
 - 5. The NC Department of State Water Infrastructure is going to provide \$4,410,000 for our sewer project and an additional \$1,200,000 to move the lift station.
 - 6. LFNC will not be providing a fellow this year
 - 7. Maggie Battaglin from NCORR did a presentation during the Resiliency forum which highlighted Pollockville and how the Town had been able to leverage multiple funding sources for various projects.
 - 8. We have requested an invoice from DEQ for the \$60,000 that we have to pay as part of our acceptance of the \$3,000,000 ASADRA grant. Mayor Bender asked for a motion to approve payment from the fund that the finance officer deems appropriate, once the invoice arrives. Commissioner Henderson made the motion with a second from Commissioner Barbee. All were in favor.
 - 9. The Filling Station applied for \$15,000 grant through the Presbyterian Church.
 - 10. Legislation is supposed to be on the calendar on March 15th about changing our election dates to even-numbered years.

- C. Department of Public Works – Robbie Tew and J.J. Chadwick: Fourth Street project is not completed. We are still waiting on paving. They have not been paid. Todd Meadows asked if the town wanted to continue contract for mowing and the board agreed.
- D. Town Clerk/Finance Office
 - 1. Check Register, BvA for February, 2023 were presented to board members prior to the meeting. The Cash Report and Bank Reconciliation will be provided after the auditor completes a couple of adjusting journal entries. Commissioner Henderson asked about a couple of line items on the BvA being on the high end with still a few months to go. Ms. Floyd stated that some of our utility expenses have increased this year, and any adjustments needed will be made prior to the end of the year.
 - 2. Budget Amendments for approval: Commissioner Henderson made the motion to approve BA 2023-18 to transfer ARPA funds to Fund 30 revenue replacement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Banks and all were in favor.
 - 3. Update on RFQ responses for a new auditor: Mayor Bender reported that we sent out seven RFQs and only received one proposal, from Thompson Price Scott & Adams. The price quoted is \$18,000 for regular audit plus \$3,000 each for single state and single federal audits. Mayor recommended that we remain with Barrow, Parris, & Davenport as our audit firm for \$17,000. A motion to remain with our current auditor and permit us to execute the contract was made by Commissioner Barbee and seconded by Commissioner Banks. All were in favor.
 - 4. Other: HB 122 passed and requires the state treasurer to withhold sales tax revenue if audits are not submitted on time, up to the amount of our audit contract. HB 273 would require two public hearings on our budget regarding tax and rate increases and also to notify residents by mail. Governments under 2,000 residents would not be required to hold two meetings.
- E. Beautification/Economic Development – Commissioner Barbee
 - 1. Commissioner Barbee wanted to know if we want to do another Pollapalooza in the fall, and asked what we had decided about Christmas lights. Mayor Bender stated that it was too expensive to provide electricity to the other side of the street because those poles are not owned Duke Power. Commissioner Henderson asked if they have solar lights.
- F. Planning and Zoning – Mayor Bender:
 - 1. Nothing
- G. Attorney-David Baxter: We have already discussed the legislative action that he planned to discuss.

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. Road Noise-Commissioner Bryan: He has talked with the DOT resident engineer from Kinston, Jeff Cabaniss, and Mr. Cabaniss is going to Raleigh to acquire more information on a feasibility study. There is nothing we can do about the expansion joint sound except plant trees along the highway. Also, there isn't anything that can be done about the noise coming down the river. Dealing with the highway noise will be a long-term issue.

X. New Business

XI. Public Comment

Alice Strayhorn asked about getting people to clean up around their property. She wanted to know if that included the property just before the nursing home, but Mayor Bender told here that property is not in our jurisdiction.

XII. Closed Session (if necessary)

XIII. Announcements

Town Board Meeting, April 11, 2023

Filming at Town Hall on March 25

XIV. Adjournment

Commissioner Banks made the motion to adjourn with a second from Commissioner Barbee. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Floyd, Town Clerk

Approval Date 04/11/2023