

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners  
July 23, 2020

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on July 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. hosted in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C. and held electronically by Zoom meeting.

**PRESENT:** Lynda Sossamon, Mayor  
Barbara Hamilton, Vice-Mayor  
Mary Gelbaugh, Commissioner  
Ben Guiney, Commissioner  
Greg McPherson, Commissioner  
David Nestler, Commissioner

Michael Morgan, Interim Town Manager  
Amanda Murajda, Town Clerk  
Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney  
Kelly Ball, Attorney

**ABSENT:**

Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Lynn Bryant (Finance Officer), Chris Hatton (Police Chief) and Jake Scott (Public Works Director).

**VISITORS:** Dave Russell, Holly Kays, Teri Cole-Smith, David Schulman, Christine Taber, Lilly Knoepp, John Wermuth, Carrie McBane, Frank Huguelet, Tracy Mann, Kelly Brown, Destri Leger, JB Bost, Fleming Sanders, Dickie Woodard, Kelly Stribling, Carla Robinson, and Rob Smalls.

**AGENDA:** *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:** *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** None.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Hamilton thanked the Public Works department for their hard work during the excessive heat and thanked the Police Department for working on Yellowbird Branch during the construction detour. Commissioner Nestler reported that an elk had been seen on Yellowbird Branch. He reminded everyone to continue donations to the Community Table and to shop locally at Harold's Supermarket.

The meeting was interrupted by individuals expressing racial comments and music.

Commissioner Gelbaugh requested that in light of the negativity, for everyone to try to put a positive note out for businesses who are suffering. Commissioner McPherson also reiterated the unintended consequences of Dillsboro Bridge being closed and that businesses and residents are affected. He would like to request a discussion on hiring of a new Main Street Director position be on the next agenda. Commissioner Guiney reminded everyone that COVID-19 cases in the county are still on the rise.

The meeting was again interrupted by individuals expressing racial comments.

Mayor Sossamon called for a motion to recess the meeting. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to recess the meeting at 9:22 a.m. so that a solution to the interruptions could be figured out. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

*Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 10:32 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

Mayor Sossamon addressed the meeting and noted that the Town of Sylva meetings were open to the public and abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

*Commissioner McPherson made a motion to schedule a Special Called Meeting for Monday, July 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. The notice that will be posted in accordance with open meetings laws will detail the location. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Commissioner Guiney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

---

Lynda Sossamon  
Mayor

---

Amanda W. Murajda  
Town Clerk

DRAFT