

Minutes of the Work Session of
The Liberty Town Council
Held on February 15, 2021 5:30PM

Present

Mayor: The Honorable Filmore York

Council: Chris Compton, Larry Coble, Don Herndon, Tyson Nixon
and JR Beard

Acting Town Manager: Terry Crouse

Town Clerk: Jessica Brown

Staff: Parks & Recreation Assistant; Logan Maness,
Library Director; Brenda Heindl Hornsby,
Police Chief; David Semrad; Fire Chief; Matt Talbott,
Finance/HR Director; Kathy Bond

Town Attorney; Bill Flowe

To Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and welcomed everyone. He remarked our Interim Town Manager Scott Kidd would not be here due to a COVID exposure.

Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Don Herndon made a motion to adopt the agenda with the changes of moving Kelly Raymond of Experience Liberty from New Business 8.7 to 3.1 and removing the 8.8 Grave plot buy back. Council Member JR Beard seconded the motion which passed unanimously with a roll call vote: Council Member Larry Coble voted yes, Council Member Don Herndon voted yes, Council Member JR Beard voted yes, Council Member Tyson Nixon and Council Member Chris Compton voted yes.

Adelaide Henry and Chris Turner Insurance of the Carolinas - Community Event Farmers Market

Adelaide Henry and Chris Turner handed out a copy of their power point with ideas for the Liberty Farmer's Market. They said at least one person from the Insurance of the Carolinas Office will be there on Saturdays. They have reached out to several local farmers and some have already said they will be coming out. They are looking at a possibility of a big kick off. Council Member JR Beard brought up waiving fees to encourage more vendors.

Kelly Raymond of Experience Liberty did not come to the meeting.

Billy Hardin - Experience Liberty Update

Experience Liberty wants to focus on targets that are achievable and make downtown businesses a priority. He and Interim Town Manager Scott Kidd went downtown and went door to door. They have put some numbers together for improvements which total \$21,740.00. The money needs to be spent before June since part of the Downtown Revitalization Grant. They need help from the Town. There is trash everywhere. The junk on the sidewalk should be handled by inspections. They will be hiring a contractor to do painting downtown and maybe Attorney Bill Flowe could draft something to hold the Town harmless if business agrees to let them paint for them. Council Member Larry Coble said they would need to get new benches and trash cans. Mr. Hardin said the Town will have to take some responsibility. Could the Town look into getting a vacuum system for the streets? Council Member JR Beard said the owners are responsible for some upkeep. Mr. Hardin said they will be using a neutral color for painting. Council Member Larry Coble suggested putting this in the agreement. Council Member JR Beard said this will be a very good start. Mayor Fil York said there is \$40,000.00 in grant money.

Information

Monthly Reports

The Town Manager has included the monthly Manager's reports in the agenda for the Council's review.

Logan Maness - Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation assistant Logan Maness spoke about a class she is having to make wooden door hangers. She is giving participants several choices. She is currently taking signage renewals for Waldridge Field and will be ordering signs at the end of the month. They have opened baseball and softball registration. There will be a tournament on April 19th. There are new basketball goals at Paul Henry. She is planning more programs for children and adults. She is working with the Chamber on a kickball tournament. They will go by Randolph County COVID protocols. We are still waiting to hear from the LWCF grant which would help to pay for an amphitheatre, splash pad, and a tennis courts with pickleball.

Terry Crouse- Public Service Update

There have been a lot of questions about the lack of water due to a system hack in Florida that has been in the news. Our Town's system is smaller and would be harder to hack. Since January 29th they have picked up something every day. They try to dump while the ground is frozen to avoid getting stuck.

Chief David Semrad - Police Update

Chief Semrad passed out a list of structural issues at the Police Department. It is not all that needs to be done but it is things that need to be done to lengthen the life of the building. Council Member Tyson Nixon asked how the committee was coming with finding alternative solutions for the police department. Chief Semrad said they are communicating and looking at metal buildings and possibly the Wells Fargo building. They have two new cars and two older cars for sale on gov deals. Mayor York asked about furniture left at a house on Raleigh Street where the man had barricaded himself inside. Public Service Director Terry Crouse said it is being addressed.

Brenda Heindl Hornsby - Library Update

New employee Gisela Pacheco has been leading a bilingual story time which has been well received. They would like to add a secondary porch under the porch they already have with the Ella Lowe fund. They would like to add picnic tables and have been granted money for an eco explorer space with wifi. They would like to create a garden space in the center. The Rose Garden club is going to help redo the landscaping. They would like to provide craft kits and free books this summer. She gave out a diagram for the porch. Council Member JR Beard said the concept was very nice and Public Service Director Terry Crouse said this would be a good time to look at replacing the sidewalk as well. Council Member Tyson Nixon asked if they register children for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library? Brenda said they encourage it but are not able to register for them.

Chief Matt Talbott - Fire Department Update

Chief Talbott said his Assistant Chief Jason Phillips works at Randolph Hospital and they hope to coordinate to have COVID vaccines out of the Fire Department soon.

Safety Department - Terry Crouse

We are currently awaiting results from the OSHA visit. There will be some policies that need to be put in place that were not in place.

Administrative Reports

Manager's Report

Acting Town Manager Terry Crouse gave report. They had a water leak on Swannanoa but the street is now back open. Several contractors came to the CDBG pre bid meeting. The bid opening will be February 25th. They had a preliminary AIA water/sewer meeting. They are awaiting notification on the ASADRA (lift stations).

Finance Report

Finance Director Kathy Bond gave report. Property taxes are down since last year. She has hired a Part time worker up front. Her name is Miriam Pilarski. She started a week ago and is learning quickly. They will be looking over the Budget Calendar tonight. There will be a lot of Budget Amendments next month to clean up line items. She will be getting budget worksheets to department heads

New Business

Lead for NC (LFNC)

Lead for North Carolina (LFNC) is a fellowship program in local government for recent college graduates. Fellows increase capacity in governmental units and work on transformative projects throughout the course of their fellowship. This is to discuss the possibility of one of these students working with the Town. The Town would pay about \$13,000.00 per year and would get to interview prospective students. The consensus of the Council was to go ahead and apply.

Budget Calendar

This is the proposed Budget Calendar for the 201/2022 Fiscal Year. The Budget Retreat will begin at 9:00AM on Thursday March 11, 2021 at Town Hall.

Cap on Satellite Annexation

This is to discuss a bill that Representative Allen McNeil is working on that Liberty may want to be added that exempts Liberty from a 10% cap on satellite annexation. The consensus was that the Council does want Liberty added. A letter will be sent to Representative McNeil to let him know.

Budget Amendment #25

This amendment is to move funds from General Fund Balance Appropriated to the Police Department expenditure line item Capital Reserve for building maintenance.

Budget Amendment #26

This amendment is to move funds from the Police Department expenditure line item Capital Reserve to Police Department.

Council Member Larry Coble said he would like to hear from the Police Steering Committee and hear where they are with options for another building before making all repairs.

Del Pearce of the Police Steering Committee came forward to speak. The committee has gotten behind due to COVID. They have looked at some steel buildings but contractors are hesitant to give exact numbers. They will have something to present within the next sixty days.

ADA Transition Plan

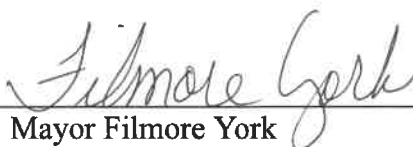
There are proposals attached from the PTRC (Piedmont Triad Regional Council) and WithersRavenel to make the Town compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Acting Manager Terry Crouse said this was something Town Manager William Doerfer had worked on before he left and thought was very important. Town Attorney Bill Flowe said we may need some more guidance on this. Council Member Larry Coble said he felt we had other issues in Town that need to be addressed first. They may want to table until another meeting.

Mayor Comments

Mayor York thanked everyone for coming out and the good discussion.


Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Council Member Tyson Nixon motioned to adjourn the meeting and Council Member Larry Coble seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Member Larry Coble voted yes, Council Member Don Herndon voted yes, Council Member Tyson Nixon voted yes, Council Member JR Beard voted yes and Council Member Chris Compton voted yes. The meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Filmore York

ATTEST:



Town Clerk