

REGULAR BOARD MEETING of July 16, 2003, with Mayor Pro Tem Amy Patterson and Commissioners H. N. James, Hank Ross, and Mike Cavender present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Lamar Nix, Katy Stillerman, Debbie Putney, Kim Lewicki, Christy Kelly, Ginger Slaughter, Bill Lucas, George & Aleta Entwisle, and others.

I. Call to Order.

Mayor Pro Tem Amy Patterson called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda.

The Clerk reported that there had been one requested addition to the agenda--a request to remove trees in front of Reeves Hardware on West Main Street--and that the review of employment applications scheduled for Closed Session could be cancelled.

MOVED BY COMM. CAVENDER, SECONDED BY COMM. ROSS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

III. Approval of Minutes.

Copies of the minutes of the July 2 Regular Board Meeting and the July 10 Special Board Meeting had been distributed by mail.

MOVED BY COMM. JAMES, SECONDED BY COMM. ROSS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED.

IV. Reports.

1. It was reported that both the Utilities Committee report on a proposed indoor firing range and the Street Committee report on the Master Sidewalk Plan were not ready to be presented.

2. The Town Administrator distributed copies of several documents for information:

- A letter to Highlands Cable Group dated July 8.
- A letter to Highlands Cable Group dated July 14.
- Minutes of a Utilities Committee meeting of July 8 to discuss sewer extension policies.
- Minutes of a meeting with S. B. Association to discuss a preliminary report prepared by Pesterfield Engineering.
- Letter dated July 12 from Julian Franklin to the Mayor expressing concern over access to Satulah Summit for hiking.

The Town Administrator also reported that the August 4 meeting of the County Commissioners was scheduled to be held at the Conference Center in Highlands at 6:00 p.m. He also reported that the County Manager had informed him that the County Board had agreed to provide \$101,300 in funding in FY 04-05 for the Hospital Water Line, as discussed in the budget message; written confirmation had not yet been received but was being prepared.

Mayor Pro Tem Patterson asked about the letter dated July 14 to Highlands Cable Group. The Town Administrator said that he had learned that, following the July 2 meeting, wires had been illegally attached to several poles in Town; Mr. Bond had told him and the Mayor on July 11 that Town Engineer Lamar Nix had given him permission to do so, and the letter stated that Mr. Nix had denied that allegation. Mr. Nix was present at the meeting and confirmed that

at no time had he given Mr. Bond permission. The Town Administrator added that, in his letter of July 8, he had requested submission of several items, including the make-ready plan discussed at the previous meeting, within 90 day; otherwise he would recommend that the Board consider revoking the franchise agreement. The Board agreed by consensus that this matter should be placed on the agenda for consideration at that time if the items had not been submitted.

V. New Business.

1. Each Board member had received a copy of a letter dated June 17 from George and Aleta Entwisle, owners of Cashiers Dry Cleaners, requesting two 15-minute parking spaces in addition to the existing space. Mr. Entwisle was present and said that all of the employees in the area parked in the existing space, forcing his customers to double-park while dropping off or picking up clothing; he added that his business did not depend at all on foot traffic. He submitted a petition signed by 309 of his customers requesting a change in the parking.

Aleta Entwisle said that, alternatively, a loading zone for the business's van would be appreciated; it had to unload two to three times a day, which also caused a problem. She said that there had been two spaces until the year before last when one of them had been removed.

Debbie Putney, publisher of The Highlander, was present and said that the newspaper office on Fifty Street also had a problem, with people in and out all day and available spaces being occupied by the same cars every day; elderly customers had to park as far away as the Episcopal Church.

Comm. James suggested that the Street Committee review both requests, and the Board agreed by consensus.

2. Bill Lucas, project superintendent for Reeves Hardware, was present to request the removal of three trees on Town right-of-way in front of the new addition to that building on West Main Street. He said that two larger trees were interfering with the structure, and he felt a third tree would soon grow large enough to present a problem as well. Reeves would agree to remove the trees, replace them with smaller trees selected by the Town, and warrant them for one year. He presented a schematic drawing showing the location of the trees. He also said that plans called for planters and benches to be placed on or behind the sidewalk; he was informed that any encroachments on the sidewalk would have to be approved by the Town. Comm. Ross said that the two large trees were probably too large to save; he recommended that he and the Street Committee take the request under advisement.

MOVED BY COMM. JAMES, SECONDED BY COMM. ROSS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR REMOVAL OF THE LARGE TREE, PROVIDED IT IS REPLACED AS PROPOSED, AND THAT THE STREET COMMITTEE REVIEW THE OTHER TWO TREES AND PROPOSE REPLACEMENTS.

3. Christy Kelly was present and asked for permission to distribute some information to the Board, which she did.

VI. MOVED BY COMM. CAVENDER, SECONDED BY COMM. ROSS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was declared adjourned by the Mayor Pro Tem at 7:22 p.m.

Richard Betz, Town Clerk