

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.  
BILL LUTHER BOARD MEETING ROOM**

Mayor Jackie Warner called the regular meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7:03 p.m.

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Jackie Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Kenjuana McCray, Commissioners Jessie Bellflowers, Pat Edwards, Jerry Legge, and Bryan Marley.

**STAFF PRESENT**

Town Manager Melissa Adams, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Finance Director Drew Holland, Public Works Director Don Sisko, Deputy Public Works Director Bruce Clark, and Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin. Also present was Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation was led by Pastor Michael Mathis, Mission Field Ministries, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

Mayor Warner requested a moment of silence for Kit and Fred (Ping) Cole.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.**

*Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented with the addendum to New Business item g. for Discussion only no consideration of Resolution R2020-17 Closing a Portion of Crampton Road; as requested by Commissioner Bellflowers and the addition of New Business item h. discussion and possible action on the lake swimming area remaining open until the end of September; requested by Mayor Warner.*

**PRESENTATIONS.**

- a. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Alizdair Sebastien Ray.

Mayor Warner presented Alizdair Ray with a Certificate of Recognition for his participation in 4-H Congress and winning a trip to Atlanta, Georgia for his achievements.

- b. Presentation from USDA Related to the Public Safety Building Loan Approval Process.

Finance Director Drew Holland introduced the Town's Rural Development Representative Mr. Tobias Fullwood with the United States Department of Agriculture who joined the meeting via Zoom to update the Board on the Town's loan approval process. Mr. Fullwood commented

though it has been a long process, the Town's application for the Public Safety Building has been submitted to USDA and we are next in line for review and approval. Since the loan amount exceeds \$5 million the request will require a state review and a national office review. Mr. Fullwood remarked the hope is for the state review to be completed by this Friday so it can go before the national office sometime next week to be placed on the committee review schedule.

Commissioner Bellflowers inquired when Mr. Fullwood's office first received the application packet and whether it was complete. Finance Director Holland responded it is not a typical loan package, it is a process of sending documents as they became available such as the pre-application that was submitted roughly two years ago. Mr. Holland remarked it required a feasibility study to be submitted and due to the length of time it had to be amended three times as well as architectural drawings and bank information.

Mr. Fullwood commented the preapplication dates back to 2018 in which the USDA began reviewing the five-year financial history of the Town. Mr. Fullwood remarked the USDA takes full responsibility for the amount of time this process has taken. The USDA has been bombarded with grant requests this year and a special allotment of funds that delayed other items until the funds were spent.

Town Manager Adams requested Mr. Fullwood clarify there is no deadline for the submission that the Town had not met. Mr. Fullwood responded there are no deadlines as far as this program and nothing has been missed.

Commissioner Bellflowers inquired the timeline moving forward. Finance Director Holland commented as Mr. Fullwood noted, once approved by the state this must go before the national committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for a construction loan during the construction period that will be paid off by the USDA loan, locked in at the current rate, once the project is complete.

Commissioner Legge inquired if the Town is still projecting the same cost estimate of \$16.5 million. Finance Director Holland responded the cost is dependent on the bids we receive once the project is bid out. If the bids come back too high, we can reject them and rebid the project; if they come back lower then we will have less to borrow. Our loan is not to exceed \$16.5 million. Mr. Fullwood commented the construction market is very competitive due to the impact of covid-19.

c. Proclamation on the Anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Mayor Warner read the proclamation for the centennial anniversary of ratification of the nineteenth amendment.

## **2. PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

- a. Case P20-25: Rezoning of 0.99+/- acres from O&I(P) Office and Institutional District to R7.5 Residential or to a more restrictive zoning district, located at 5802 Rockfish Road, submitted by Fuad S. Alsaidi (owner) & Edina M. Amundsen (agent) (Hope Mills).

Planning and Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin commented the current residential structure has remained vacant for a number of years as there have been several failed non-residential projects approved at this location. The property owner is requesting a straight rezoning from the O&I(P) Office and Institutional District to the R7.5(R10) District and does not propose any construction for development.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing for Case P20-25 at 7:47 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against case P20-25. There were none.

Mayor Warner closed the public hearing for Case P20-25 at 7:47 p.m.

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, in Case P20-25, the Town of Hope Mills Board of Commissioners recommend approval of the rezoning from the O&I(P) Office and Institutional District to the R7.5 Residential District and find that the request is consistent with the Southwest Cumberland Land Use Plan which designates this parcel as "Low Density Residential". The Low-Density Residential designation allows for a density of 2.2 to 6 units per acre. The Board further finds that approval of the rezoning is reasonable and in the public interest as the district requested is in harmony with the surrounding existing land uses and zoning.*

- b. Case P20-29: Rezoning of 7.14+/- acres from R5A Residential to R6A Residential or to a more restrictive zoning district, located south of SR 1003 (Camden Road) & north of SR 1112 (Rockfish Road), east of the intersection of Camden Road & Rockfish Road submitted by Ellis E. Ehle, Jr. (owner) (Hope Mills).

Planning and Economic Development Director McLaughlin commented the subject property is a 7.14-acre tract that is currently developed with a manufactured home park. Director McLaughlin commented the property owner is requesting a straight rezoning from the R5A Residential District to the R6A Residential District which is a permitted use. Director McLaughlin commented County Planning staff does not recommend approval of this case.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing for Case P20-29 at 7:57 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against case P20-29. Two residents submitted comments to the Clerk's office via email. Town Clerk Starling read them into the record.

Ms. Jacqueline Terry, 6258 Rockfish Road, Hope Mills, NC. Ms. Terry has lived at this address since 1980 and she is in favor of the proposed rezoning as she has a good relationship with the residents and Mr. Ehle. Ms. Terry noted the community is well maintained and she wished for the property owner to offer more housing for those that desire to live in Hope Mills.

Mr. Ellis E. Ehle, Jr., owner of the mobile home Green Acres, commented he purchased the property, that was created in 1976, from his mother in 2008. Mr. Ehle requested the Board approve his request to rezone the mobile home park from R5A to R6A to allow for three additional mobile homes.

*Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, in Case P20-29, the Town of Hope Mills Board of Commissioners recommend approval of the rezoning from R5A Residential District to R6A Residential District and find: a. The approval is an amendment to the adopted current Southwest Cumberland Land Use Plan map; and that the Board of Commissioners should not require any additional request or application for amendment to said map for this request; b. The following change in conditions was considered in amending the Zoning Ordinance (Zoning map) to meet the development needs of the community: the developed manufactured home park has been in existence since at least 1971 and the requested district will allow the manufactured home park to be a conforming use once again; c. And this rezoning approval is reasonable and in the public interest because the district requested is in harmony with adjacent existing zoning and land uses.*

- c. Case P20-31: Initial zoning of 88.36+/- acres to RR Rural Residential or to a more restrictive zoning district; located on the southwest corner of the intersection of SR 1113 (Waldos Beach Road) & Saleeby Way, submitted by Bill Clark Homes of Fayetteville, LLC (owner) (Hope Mills).

Planning and Economic Development Director McLaughlin commented Phase II of the Preserve at Lake Upchurch subdivision was officially annexed by the Board on July 26, 2020 under Resolution R2020-09. As a large portion of the development is wetlands, Hope Mills and County staff discussed that the Conservancy District be attached to the initial Zoning Request of RR Residential.

Commissioner Legge inquired if the proposed case is the land that has already been cleared. Director McLaughlin responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing for Case P20-31 at 8:04 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against case P20-31. There were none.

Mayor Warner closed the public hearing for Case P20-31 at 8:05 p.m.

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, in Case P20-31, the Town of Hope Mills Board of Commissioners recommends denials of the initial zoning to RR Rural Residential and instead recommend approval of the initial zoning to RR Rural Residential with CD Conservancy District remaining where the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and Floodway is located. Staff finds this recommendation consistent with the Southwest Cumberland Land Use Plan designation of "Low-Density Residential", "Suburban Density Residential" and "Open Space". The residential designations*

*allow for a density of two units per acre and prefer public utilities. Approval of the recommendation is reasonable and in the public interest because the recommended zoning is in harmony with surrounding existing zoning and the land uses while still providing protection to the creek by leaving the CD Zoning where the SFHA and Floodway exist.*

- d. Case P20-32: Initial zoning of 43.92+/- acres to R6 Residential or to a more restrictive zoning district, located on the north side of NC 162 (Elk Road), north of Eagle Landing Drive, submitted by RC Land Ventures, LLC & William F. Beacht & Bobbie R. Beacht (owners) (Hope Mills).

Planning and Economic Development Director McLaughlin commented this is the initial zoning of the Sweetwater subdivision that was initially annexed on July 26, 2020 (please note this date was stated incorrectly, Annexation 2020-04 was approved at the July 6, 2020 regular Board of Commissioners meeting).

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing for Case P20-32 at 8:08 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against case P20-32.

Mr. James Nance, Attorney on behalf of client Carla Hardee. Mr. Nance commented the portion marked "R10" on the map included with this item in the agenda packet is a 5.36-acre tract of land that the developers do not own. Mr. Nance's client Ms. Hardee owns this piece of land and has had the deed since 2015. Mr. Nance provided the background information dating back to the 1980's regarding the deed to the land. Mr. Nance commented they have filed a lawsuit against RC Land Ventures, LLC for trespassing, waste and clearing the title of the deed.

Planning & Economic Development Director McLaughlin commented based on the information in the annexation petition submitted to himself and Town Clerk Starling from the developers, no known issues appeared. Mr. McLaughlin commented because the land has been annexed, if the Town does not move on the initial zoning it becomes un-zoned. The Town has the option to halt the project from moving forward until the land dispute is resolved. If the project is deferred, the time set for un-zoning does not halt.

Town Attorney Hartzog inquired the status of the lawsuit. Mr. Nance responded the lawsuit was filed on August 14, 2020 and is being served.

Director McLaughlin inquired if the Town has the authority to annex a portion of the land if the entire portion was advertised under the public hearing notice. Attorney Hartzog responded he is hesitant for the Town to proceed with any construction on this property and suggested a hold on the project until the lawsuit is resolved.

Discussion ensued.

*Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to rescind Sweetwater Annexation A2020-04 that was approved on July 6, 2020.*

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Town Clerk Jane Starling read the following comments submitted to the Clerk's Office via email:

Ms. Lori Rawls, 3717 Masters Drive, Hope Mills, NC, commented in opposition of the opening of Crampton Road due to traffic concerns.

Mr. Richard Luetgenau, 5758 Crenshaw Drive, Hope Mills, NC, commented in opposition of the opening of Crampton Road and noted per the NC general statutes the town can close any roads within its jurisdiction.

Ms. Marie Blackman, 3600 Crampton Road, Hope Mills, NC, commented in opposition of the opening of Crampton Road as Golf Acres is wonderfully quite and opening the road would change that.

Mr. John Todd Shouse, 3721 Masters Drive, Hope Mills, NC. Mr. Shouse, who has lived in Golf Acres since 1971, requested the Board permanently close Crampton Road into the Par Four Village project citing traffic congestion as the main concern.

Ms. Sandra Selover, 3615 Crampton Road, Hope Mills, NC. Ms. Selover is in opposition of the opening of Crampton Road for the proposed Par Four Village housing development citing traffic, speeding and the safety of the children in the neighborhood as main concerns.

Mr. Michael Seals, 3737 Masters Drive, Hope Mills, NC. Mr. Seals requested the Board officially close Crampton Road as the additional traffic it will bring Golf Acres is a cause for concern for the safety of the children in the neighborhood and the current state of the roads that will require resurfacing.

Ms. Linda Zomp, Hope Mills resident that did not provide an address, commented in opposition of the opening of Crampton Road as an entrance for a new housing development due to the increase in traffic, conditions of the roadways, and congestion on already overcrowded roads.

Mr. Michael Gillis, 3616 Crampton Road, Hope Mills, NC. Mr. Gillis expressed his concern for Golf Acres being vulnerable to break-ins with the Par Four Village project and opening of Crampton Road as an entrance through his neighborhood. Mr. Gillis further expressed his indignation for the way the Town handled the pending development of Par Four Village.

#### **5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. As approved during budget deliberations; Consideration of Jet Rodding Contract (Storm drain cleaning) in the amount of \$30,000.
- b. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting August 3, 2020.

## “END OF CONSENT AGENDA”

*Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to approve the consent agenda as read.*

### 6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Non-Hearing **Case No. 20-101**. Consideration of the Williams Liberty Point LLC; Subdivision Review; Hope Mills Subdivision Ordinance; Zoned: R10; Acreage: 17.52 ac. +/-; Located at 5300 & 5360 Corporation Drive (SR 23333 submitted by Williams Liberty Pointe, LLC (Developer) and Lori Epler C/O Larry King & Associates (Surveyor) (Hope Mills).

Planning and Economic Development Director McLaughlin commented this site is a portion of an overall 77-acre industrial development approved by the Board via case 20-017. The property owners are seeking to subdivide the proposed parcels out from the overall tract to prepare for the construction of the first building. The development of the first building was approved under Case 20-017.

*Motion made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve Case No. 20-101 Consideration of the Williams Liberty Point LLC; Subdivision Review; Hope Mills Subdivision Ordinance; Zoned: R10; Acreage: 17.52 ac. +/-; Located at 5300 & 5360 Corporation Drive (SR 23333 submitted by Williams Liberty Pointe, LLC (Developer) and Lori Epler C/O Larry King & Associates (Surveyor) (Hope Mills).*

- b. Non-Hearing **Case No. 20-104**. Consideration of the Murphy USA; C(P) Site Plan Review; Hope Mills Zoning Ordinances; Zoned: C(P); Acreage: 0.98 ac. +/-; Located at 3070 N Main Street (NC HWY 59); submitted by Carlos Gutierrez of Murphy Oil USA, Inc. (Developer); Kathleen Hervol of Greenberg Farrow (Engineer) (Hope Mills).

Planning and Economic Development Director McLaughlin commented this site is developed with the existing Murphy USA convenience store which was initially approved in 2000. The proposed project is for complete reconstruction with a new 1,400 square foot commercial structure and canopy that calls for 16 spaces at gas pumps and 7 additional onsite parking spaces.

*Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to approve Case No. 20-104 Consideration of the Murphy USA; C(P) Site Plan Review; Hope Mills Zoning Ordinances; Zoned: C(P); Acreage: 0.98 ac. +/-; Located at 3070 N Main Street (NC HWY 59); submitted by Carlos Gutierrez of Murphy Oil USA, Inc. (Developer); Kathleen Hervol of Greenberg Farrow (Engineer) (Hope Mills).*

- c. Discussion and Consideration of Public Access to the Board of Commissioner's Meetings during the Pandemic.

Town Manager Adams commented during the August 3rd meeting the Board instructed her to come up with three option plans for opening the meetings to the public again. Staff is willing to accommodate any of the plans the Board so chooses.

Mayor Warner commented she prefers the meetings to remain as they are out of an abundance of caution due to the amount of cases in our area.

Commissioner Legge, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and Commissioner Edwards were in agreement with Mayor Warner.

Commissioner Bellflowers commented he supports Plan B, opening the meetings back to the public, out of transparency.

Commissioner Legge commented he took issue with opening the meetings to the public again too soon.

Commissioner Bellflowers made a motion to move forward with Plan B, the motion died for lack of a second.

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, seconded by Commissioner Edwards, to continue with Plan A to continue to livestream meetings and allow the public to enter the Board room with a face mask for public comment with limited staff present, and the motion carried 4 to 1 with Commissioner Bellflowers voting against.*

d. Discussion and Possible Action Related to Ole Mill Days.

Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison commented staff wished for this item to be added to the agenda as concerns have been raised in regard to holding Ole Mill Days as the Governor's mandate may affect not only Ole Mill Days but Trunk r' Treat and other upcoming events. After meeting with the Police and Fire Departments, Parks & Recreation staff developed five alternatives for Ole Mill Days based on current social distancing guidelines:

- 1). **Option A** – Plan and facilitate Old Mill Days without any changes. Participants and attendees would be responsible for adhering to six feet social distancing, wearing face coverings, etc. Hand sanitizer stations would be strategically placed throughout the park, and food trucks will be properly spaced to encourage social distancing. Additionally, Town staff working at the event will be required to social distance and wear face coverings.
- 2). **Option B** – Only offer fireworks at the Old Mill Days, but the public will not be allowed to park at Municipal Park due to social distancing restrictions at public gatherings. The fireworks must be observed off site to promote social distancing.

- 3). **Option C** – (Cancel Ole Mill Days) Reschedule fireworks to be held at the conclusion of Trunk R Treat at sunset (6:30 P.M.).
- 4). **Option D** – (Cancel Ole Mill Days) Reschedule fireworks to be held at the Christmas Festival. The route of the Christmas Parade so that the parade ends at Municipal Park. After the parade, Christmas in Hope Mills will be held at Municipal Park, with the finale being the firework display.
- 5). **Option E** – (Cancel Ole Mill Days) Reschedule fireworks to be held during opening day for baseball/softball and Easter in Hope Mills (sunset at 7:45 P.M.).

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray commented she is not in favor of holding any social gatherings for the remainder of the year.

Commissioner Edwards suggested waiting to hold the events such as fireworks until Christmas.

Commissioner Bellflowers commented he was in support of Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray's comments and inquired the suggested date of the Christmas festivities for Option D. Director Morrison responded December 5<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Bellflowers responded he was in favor of Option E.

Commissioner Marley was in agreement with his fellow Commissioners and wished to tentatively plan the events for December, Option D, and if need be, reevaluate at a later date.

Mayor Warner noted Option E, holding the events in the Spring, and suggested the Town postpone the events for now and determine at a later date based on the pandemic.

*Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and carried unanimously, to cancel/postpone all Parks & Recreation special events with the exception of the option of holding a drive-thru Trunk r' Trunk and to allow the Veterans Affairs Committee to determine if they will hold a yearly Veterans Day event.*

e. Discussion and Consideration of Purchase and Bank Financing Approval for New Vehicles. The Town Board of Commissioners previously approved in the FY 20- 21 budget to purchase and finance eight (8) new town vehicles not to exceed \$323,000.

Finance Director Drew Holland commented of the banks that were sent RFP's for installment financing BB&T, now called Truist Bank, offered the best interest rates with a 5-year, 1.68% rate.

*Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to approve Resolution R2020-19 for the financing of eight new Town vehicles not to exceed \$323,000.*

f. Update on Tier 1 Special Meeting; as requested by Mayor Warner.

Mayor Warner reviewed a handout she provided each Board member from the recent Tier 1 meeting. The information provided options available to assist the County in moving out of Tier 1 status and partnerships to move us forward.

Mayor Warner commented she wished to create a committee or partnership for our most vulnerable to identify funding sources for our community. Those who are most vulnerable in our community are our children, senior citizens, and veterans.

If feasible, the committee would consist of: Town Manager Melissa Adams, Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison, County Commissioner Glenn Adams, Vernon Aldridge with Cumberland County Schools, a representative from the Veterans Hospital on Raeford Road, a member of the Hope Mills Veterans Affairs Committee, Rick Houpp with YMCA, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and Mayor Warner or Commissioner Edwards as a senior citizens representative.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray inquired if a component of this committee can be to determine transportation options for residents.

Commissioner Marley suggested Grilley Mitchell be the Veterans Affairs Committee representative. Mayor Warner responded Mr. Mitchell would tie in the ALMS House and homeless population as well.

*Motion made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to appoint a committee or partnership for our most vulnerable to consist of Town Manager Melissa Adams, Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison, County Commissioner Glenn Adams, Vernon Aldridge with Cumberland County Schools, a representative from the Veterans Hospital on Raeford Road, Grilley Mitchell of Veterans Affairs Committee, Rick Houpp with YMCA, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and Mayor Warner or Commissioner Edwards as a senior citizens representative.*

Mayor Warner called for a brief recess at 9:37 p.m.

At 9:41 p.m. Mayor Warner called the regular meeting back to order.

- g. Discussion of Resolution R2020-17 Closing a Portion of Crampton Road; as requested by Commissioner Bellflowers.

Commissioner Bellflowers remarked he requested this item as the proposed resolution is about preserving the safety of Golf Acres and Brightmoor neighborhoods and providing the residents the answers they have been waiting to hear.

Mayor Warner commented the Board shares the same feelings as the residents in Golf Acres and have listened which is why a Golfview Driveway Study Committee was formed.

Planning & Economic Development Director McLaughlin commented the Town does not have the authority to tell the developer to seek an entrance on Golfview Road, he has respectfully asked the developer to work with the Town to do so.

Commissioner Marley commented he deals with the overflow and cut-through of traffic in his neighborhood from a nearby apartment complex and posed the question as to whether Golf Acres residents use his neighborhood as a cut-through to bypass Main Street. Commissioner Marley commended Director McLaughlin on the answer he provided Commissioner Bellflowers as the issue is misinformation being fed to Golf Acres residents which could potentially run the developers away from working with the Town if it continues.

Director McLaughlin requested the Board allow the discussion to come from the Committee as they continue to work to amicably attain a solution that will be beneficial to all parties and wait to take any action on closing Crampton Road until a recommendation has come from the Committee.

Commissioner Legge commented he understands the concern as he deals with garbage in his yard due to the overflow in traffic and speeding cars on the once dead-end street in which he resides.

Mayor Warner reiterated each Board member is in support of the community but in order for the proposed solution to work, Town staff needs to be able to work with the developer and property owners to make it happen.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray commented an apartment complex that was not present when she first moved in to her home was developed at the beginning her neighborhood, though it is well kept and they do not experience issues from it. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray remarked she does not understand how the Par Four Development has taken a political spin as she has received numerous calls in regard to it and the Board created a committee in an effort to address the issue. She and her fellow Board members want the best for the community and travel the same roads as everyone else.

Commissioner Edwards commented if the community allows the Committee to continue discussions a common goal will be met.

Commissioner Bellflowers remarked he agrees with the goal to use Golfview Road as an entrance and is not opposed to the development but does not want it at the expense of the safety of the neighborhoods and the expense of roadway maintenance to the Town. Mayor Warner responded one of the property owners anticipated the street maintenance issue and offered to allow use of his access once development begins on the 20-acres

- h. Discussion and possible action on the lake swimming area remaining open until the end of September; as requested by Mayor Warner.

Town Manager Adams commented Parks & Recreation Director Morrison informed her extending the opening of the lake swimming area is feasible.

*Motion made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to amend the Lake Ordinance to allow for the lake swimming area to remain open until October 4<sup>th</sup>.*

## **7. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:**

### **a. Manager's Report.**

Rockfish Road Sidewalk Project: Nothing new to report.

Johnson Street Sidewalk Project: 90% drawings have been reviewed by NCDOT. Our engineer is evaluating the comments and working on making the appropriate changes. Due to the furloughs and the situation with funding at NCDOT, we have been instructed to stay in a holding pattern until further instruction from DOT. Still no change due to NCDOT - nothing new to report.

The Fountain Lane property: Surveyor is working on scheduling a date to complete setting the corners. This project is in the new 2020-2021 FY Budget. Public Works would like to wait until the bid on the work for the ADA compliance for Big T's building is received before obtaining bids for this project. It is still planned to have the construction of the parking lot during the off season for the Lake Park. Nothing new to report.

Former Episcopal Parish House vacant lot: PWC has installed the water meter. However, it was installed on the Town's 1" water line and not the 3/4" line, as requested. PWC is scheduling a date for reinstallation. Nothing new to report.

Trade Street Museum: The Historic Preservation Committee held their meeting on July 8th at this location. The decision was made to proceed with the ADA compliance upgrades to the building and to make it a period piece as part of a walking tour. Nothing new to report.

Pumphouse repairs in Heritage Park: Public Works staff have contacted five different contractors. Public Works has been unable to obtain quotes for a mason to do the repairs to the masonry. Nothing new to report.

The Town has signed the contract with the contractor that will complete the repairs to the Veterans Memorial Monument. Awaiting the contractor to schedule the repair work. Nothing new to report - still awaiting on the contractor to schedule a date to begin. Nothing new to report.

NCDOT recently re-ditched in front of the two houses (one on the corner of Sommer Drive & Rockfish Rd. & one on the corner of Deaver Cir. & Rockfish Rd.), but they did not complete the re-ditching in front of C. Wayne Collier Elementary School. We have reached out to them again regarding this issue.

Recently I spoke to Stormwater Director Beth Brown regarding the possibility of Cumberland County Schools and/or the Town planting some “water loving” trees (much like what we are planning at the Lake Park) along the fence line on Rockfish Road in front of C. Wayne Collier Elementary School. I asked her if she thought it may be helpful with some of the flooding issues in front of the school. Ms. Brown indicated that she thought that was a great idea, and she has been in contact with a representative of Cumberland County Schools. Ms. Brown held a conference call this past Monday to discuss the details. The trees should be planted within the next several weeks.

Ms. Jean Clark’s daughter Shelly Cooper, recently donated four framed pictures of the Hope Mills Lake taken by former Mayor Al Brafford.

We have contracted with Fleming & Associates to do an “as built” building assessment for the ADA renovation to the building owned by the Town and rented by Big T’s at the Lake Park. On Wednesday, July 29th they came to do their initial measurements of the building. On Monday, August 10th a representative met with Public Works staff to review several concept drawings for the building renovation.

Public Works has scheduled (4) four dead trees to be removed at the Municipal complex between the Parks & Recreation Building and Town Hall. The tree removal is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 14th.

Update on 5443 Fountain Lane property: As of this week, it is past the time frame that was originally given to the property owner to have the property cleaned up and cleared away. Our office has not received any calls from the owner in reference to requesting an extension. As I understand it, he has called and requested to speak during the Public Comments portion of the August 17th Board of Commissioners Meeting. Code Enforcement will begin the bidding process to obtain bids (the intention is to obtain at least three bids) to demolish and clean the property, ridding it of all structures and debris, including the fire damaged/dilapidated vehicles. Once we have obtained all of the bids, this case will need to go before the Board for approval. The Town will most likely file a lien on the property for the cost of the debris clean up. Attorney Dan Hartzog will advise the best course of action concerning this issue.

The Town of Hope Mills is planning to have Soccer; Parks & Recreation has 18 Teams signed up and a total of 216 participants. Practices will begin within the next week and they will be playing all the games on Fields 1 & 2 at Municipal Park starting in September. Parks & Recreation staff is following the CDC Guidelines for youth sports, as well as some special guidelines they have created within the Athletic Department. Below are some examples of what they will do to maintain social distancing and sanitize our playing areas throughout the season:

1. We are only playing against Hope Mills teams because playing against teams from other geographic locations heighten the risk on Covid-19 exposure. So, we will not travel outside of Hope Mills and no teams will travel into Hope Mills to play.

2. All parents / spectators will sit on the outside of our fields, the only individuals allowed on the playing fields will be players, coaches, fields supervisors and officials.
3. There will be hand washing stations located at the entrance & exits of our fields, all players and coaches will have to wash their hands before and after games.
4. We will supply extra players benches so players can spread out while they are not playing.
5. We will supply hand sanitizer on each playing field. As well as sanitizing wipes for equipment.
6. All coaches and field supervisor will have to wear a mask, it's up to the parent if their child should wear a mask.
7. There will be no unnecessary physical contact, such as high fives, handshakes, fist bumps or hugs.
8. We will also be giving all our coaches these guidelines and they must follow during practices.

Parks & Recreation staff is looking forward to this upcoming season, and take pride that we will be one of the only Parks & Receptions in the area to take these measures and have a safe season. After the success of summer camp, soccer will be the next big activity we offer for the youth.

The Contractor will be complete with interior painting at the Gary Dove Building this week, and we are anticipating installing new floor in the community room.

The Parks & Recreation Department plans to offer a virtual learning center in the large activity room at the Recreation Center for the first two weeks of school, and then transition to the Gary Dove Building thereafter, to allow the new flooring to be installed. Staff is preparing a flyer for our social media pages. Staff is ready to go live with registration on CivicRec on Thursday, August 13th.

Due to some issues after park hours, we contracted to install barrier gates on the entrance and exit at the Lake Park. The installation has been completed.

Reminder: I received notification from the Department of the Army, Special Warfare 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), that they will be conducting a training exercise in our area from August 10 – September 4, 2020. The Army personnel will wear civilian clothing and will display proper military ID. The training is meant to be nondescript so that they will not be noticed.

Municipal Arts Allocation Grant: I am pleased to announce we were notified on Thursday, August 13, 2020 that were awarded the Municipal Arts Allocation Grant from Fayetteville Cumberland County Arts Council. The grant is in the amount of \$3,000 and will go towards a mural on Trade Street that will be incorporated into a future walking tour. We will receive the contract by mail in the next few weeks.

Parks & Recreation reported an increase in revenue, a net profit (during a time when most businesses and recreational centers were shut down) after expenditures of \$19,137.87 for Summer Camp from last year and we have received enough soccer sign-ups to allow for 18 competing teams with 227 soccer participants and a net profit of \$7,350.00. The Parks & Recreation Department is to be commended for coming up with innovative ideas and keeping the department moving forward.

b. Reminders.

- August 24, 2020 **Parks and Recreation Committee at 6:30 pm** in the Recreation Center. August 25, 2020 **Appearance Commission at 6:30 pm** in the Recreation Center.
- August 27, 2020 **Veterans Affairs Committee at 6:00 pm** in the Recreation Center. August 31, 2020 **Board of Commissioners Workshop on the Subdivision Ordinance at 5:00 pm** in the Luther Board Room.
- August 31, 2020 **Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm** in the Luther Board Room.
- September 7, 2020 **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**- Town offices closed.

c. Department Monthly Reports

- Fire Department, July, 2020
- Police Department, July, 2020
- Inspections Department, July, 2020
- Permitting, July, 2020
- Stormwater Department, July, 2020
- Public Works Department, July, 2020
  - 1) Sanitation
  - 2) Service Garage
  - 3) Buildings & Grounds
  - 4) Street

**8. STAFF COMMENTS.**

**9. OFFICIAL COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Edwards congratulated Mayor Warner on the Municipal Arts Allocation Grant and thanked Parks & Recreation Director Morrison, Finance Director Holland and Planning & Economic Development Director McLaughlin for their efforts.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray thanked the Hope Mills Police Department, her fellow Board members, Town staff, South View High School, Second Harvest Food Bank and Director McLaughlin for a successful food drive this past weekend that serviced 500 families and thanked Town Clerk Starling for posting Rebuild NC flyers around Town Hall, and the Fort Bragg Deltas for collecting garbage. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray remarked she takes issues dealing with the community seriously and does not participate in political games at the expense of the people, her role is to serve the community.

Commissioner Marley thanked the group that collected garbage on Cameron Road over the past weekend and apologized to his fellow Board members for his candidness earlier this evening. Commissioner Bellflowers responded in agreement with Commissioner Marley.

Commissioner Legge thanked Town staff for their hard work and expressed his pride in our Town. Commissioner Legge commented the metal posts at the construction zone across the street need rubber tops as a safety precaution once the kids start back at school and expressed his sympathy for the loss of the Cole's.

Mayor Warner thanked Executive Assistant/Deputy Town Clerk Tiffany Shadik for her assistance in submitting the Municipal Arts Allocation Grant and Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray for reminding her of our eligibility. Mayor Warner thanked Public Works Director Sisko and Deputy Public Works Director Clark for always going out of their way to help the Town. Mayor Warner suggested the Town provide a directional sign for VFW Post 10630 on Davis Street

**10. ADJOURNMENT.**

*Motion made by Commissioner Legge, and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.*

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 10:24 p.m.

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Jackie Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jane G. Starling, CMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk