

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021 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, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 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

Interim Town Manager Bill Zell, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Finance Director Drew Holland, Public Works Director Don Sisko, Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison, Parks & Recreation Assistant Programs Director Meghan Freeman 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 Reverend Tim Gore, Liberty Hospice Chaplain, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.

Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented.

2. PRESENTATIONS.

- a. Public Safety Building Project Update Presented by Scott Garner, Architect.

Finance Director Drew Holland recognized Scott Garner to provide an update on the Public Safety Building Project.

Mr. Garner commented the project is on schedule with no pending change orders at this time. The projected completion date is December 2022, with current completion at 10-12%, with most of the completed work underground such as 23% earthwork foundations for exterior walls. Storm utilities will begin tomorrow. Mr. Garner remarked they will work to avoid change orders, where possible.

- b. Presentation from Veterans Suicide Awareness Prevention (VSAP) Regarding a Triathlon Event Scheduled August 7, 2021.

Mr. Ricky Love, president of VSAP and Ms. Samantha Lubin, Swim Race Coordination, both active-duty Army Officers, provided an overview of the Veterans Suicide Awareness Association and the proposed triathlon scheduled for August 7, 2021. Parks & Recreation Director Morrison and Deputy Fire Chief Lopez consulted with VSAP to determine parking and roadway activity as well as safety/aid setup for the event.

Commissioner Legge inquired if residents can sponsor triathletes. Mr. Love responded they can and the event sponsor will provide online payment options.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to approve the Veterans Suicide Awareness Prevention Triathlon Event scheduled for August 7, 2021.

- c. Proclamation of May as Older Americans Month.

Mayor Warner read the proclamation for Older Americans Month.

- d. Proclamation of May 3, 2021 to May 7, 2021 as Air Quality Awareness Week.

Mayor Warner read the proclamation for Air Quality Awareness Week.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- a. **Case P21-19:** Rezoning of 1.79+/- acres from R10 Residential to C(P) Planned Commercial/CZ Conditional Zoning for restaurants and retail or to a more restrictive zoning district, located at the northeast side of N Main Street, south of Camden Road, submitted by Joseph P. Riddle III and Trina T. Riddle (owners) and Lori S. Epler on behalf of Larry King & Associates (agent).

Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin commented the applicant is proposing a 5-tenant building with a proposed Starbucks and Jersey Mikes Subs featuring a drive-thru and 70 parking spaces.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing at 7:32 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against Case P21-19. There were none.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve Case P21-19 rezoning of 1.79 +/- acres from R10 Residential to C(P) Planned Commercial/CZ Conditional Zoning for restaurants and retail or to a more restrictive zoning district, located at the northeast side of N. Main Street, south of Camden Road, submitted by Joseph P. Riddle III and Trina T. Riddle (owners) and Lori S. Epler on behalf of Larry King & Associates (agent).

- b. **Non-Public Hearing CASE NO. 21-036.** Request for a Site Plan Review, Hope Mills Zoning Ordinance; Zoning: C3; Total Acreage: 0.43 Ac. +/-; Location: 2598 Hope Mills Rd; Submitted by Jerry Cummings on Behalf of Macias, LLC. (Owner). (Hope Mills).

Planning & Economic Development Director McLaughlin commented the subject property is a 0.43-acre parcel addressed as 2598 Hope Mills Road with 100 feet of frontage. The site is regulated under the C(P) Planned Commercial District with an existing vacant 1,151 square foot commercial building with two additional commercial structures in the rear. The applicant/property owner simply wishes to utilize the vacant office space.

Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to approve Case No. 21-036 site plan review, Hope Mills Zoning Ordinance; Zoning: C3; total acreage: 0.43 ac. +/-; location: 2598 Hope Mills Road; submitted by Jerry Cummings on behalf of Macias, LLC.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Mr. Rod MacLean, 5435 Fountain Lane, Hope Mills, NC. Mr. MacLean cautioned the Board in exploring media sources as an article he read in a local publication cited false information on state laws and responded to him harshly.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Consideration of Approval of Draft Minutes from the April 5, 2021 Regular Meeting.
- b. Consideration of Approval of Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council Membership Manual.
- c. Acceptance of March 2021, Financial reports.

“END OF CONSENT AGENDA”

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

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Revision to the Historic Preservation Committee Ordinance Changing the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) Back to a Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Requested by Commissioner Bellflowers.

Commissioner Bellflowers requested the Boards consideration in designating the Historic Preservation Committee as a Commission, once again, for the many historic restoration projects in Town such as the Mill House and Chapel.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray remarked in the past, individuals were appointed to the Commission that did not meet the qualifications to serve and that was discussed in open session. Therefore, she is not in favor of designating the committee as a commission. Commissioner Edwards was in agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers to change the Historic Preservation Committee back to a Commission and the motion failed to pass, 3 to 2.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion and Consideration of Planning for New Resources to Support Local Recovery. Requested by Mayor Warner.

Mayor Warner commented the Town will be allotted \$2.3 million by June 15, 2021 and another \$2 million at a later date. Mayor Warner requested the Board consider options for the use of the funds.

Commissioner Legge inquired if the funds could be used for bus/transportation options to Fayetteville and the hospital. Mayor Warner responded the funds would not be recurring.

- b. Discussion and Possible Action on Researching Media Outlets or Creation of Media Outlets to Cover the Town of Hope Mills. Requested by Commissioner Marley.

Commissioner Marley remarked the Town is in need of coverage for the Board meetings and special events as media coverage has been lacking with the loss of the Sandspur and Observer.

Discussion ensued regarding paying for media coverage options, putting out RFP's, mailers for residents, and ideas for free coverage.

The consensus of the Board was for Deputy Clerk Shadik, Town Clerk Starling and Interim Manager Zell to discuss and bring back media coverage options to the second meeting in May.

- c. Discussion and Possible Action Related to July 3rd Celebration.

Assistant Parks & Recreation Program Director Meghan Freeman provided an overview of two options for the July 4th celebration. Option 1 would include fireworks with the park not open to the public and a drive-thru parade at South View High School and Middle School with the contractors scheduled for July 3rd to reschedule for Old Mill Days. Option

2 would be a full-fledged Fourth of July celebration to include food trucks, various vendors, a parade, a band and fireworks.

Discussion ensued with the majority of the Board members not in favor of holding an in-person July Fourth celebration due to COVID and the inability to enforce social distancing and mask wearing.

Mayor Warner suggested a porch parade to include businesses.

Further discussion ensued regarding other municipalities July Fourth events.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and the motion carried 4 to 1, to cancel the July Fourth and postpone supporting events until Old Mill Days.

8. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. Manager's Report.

Interim Town Manager Zell provided a report included in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Bellflowers inquired if the Town will finish the Trade Street Mill House ADA requirements as the Historic Preservation Committee was provided with the estimate for the ramp and sidewalk.

Town Clerk Starling commented the Board voted at the Budget Retreat to use the funds for the finish the chapel inside and out and to begin the design-build for the bathrooms.

Mayor Warner remarked in regard to the Johnson Street Sidewalk Project and recent accident on Johnson Street, the residents need to be informed on what will happen with the roadway changes. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to approve completing the Mill House ADA ramp and sidewalk at a cost of \$11,500.

b. Reminders.

- **April 22, 2021 - Veterans Affairs Committee** meeting at 6:00 pm in the recreation center.
- **April 26, 2021 - Parks and Recreation Committee** meeting at 6:30 pm in the recreation center.
- **April 27, 2021 - Appearance Committee** meeting at 6:30 pm in the recreation center.

- **May 3, 2021 Mayor's Youth Leadership** meeting at 6:00 PM remotely and in the front conference room.
- **May 3, 2021 Board of Commissioners** regular meeting at 7:00 PM in the Luther Board Room.

Mayor Warner commented the Mayor's Coalition meeting is May 7, 2021 and it is the Town's turn to host. If it is not virtual it will be at Parks & Recreation or Town Hall.

c. Department Monthly Reports

- Fire Department, March, 2021
- Police Department, March, 2021
- Code Enforcement, March, 2021
- Permitting, Jan, Feb, Mar.,2021
- Parks & Recreation, March, 2021
- Stormwater, March, 2021
- Public Works, March, 2021
 - (1) Sanitation
 - (2) Service Garage
 - (3) Buildings & Grounds
 - (4) Street

9. STAFF COMMENTS.

10. OFFICIAL COMMENTS.

Commissioner Legge thanked staff for their hard work and Commissioner Bellflowers for sitting in on the Historic Preservation Committee meeting for him.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray thanked the staff that participated in the Household Hazardous Waste event and reminded of the Pedestrian Plan Virtual Workshop scheduled for April 29 and the blood drive scheduled for Saturday.

Commissioner Bellflowers remarked he enjoyed the Household Hazardous Waste and Spring Clean Up and received positive feedback from residents that wished the event would occur more than once annually.

Mayor Warner remarked the Lakeside Christian Concert is scheduled for Sunday, May 2nd from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the Town Manager candidate interviews will take place on April 30th and May 1.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

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

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Jackie Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jane G. Starling CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

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