

TOWN OF HUDSON REGULAR MEETING

October 17, 2017

In Attendance:

Members Present: Mayor Janet Winkler, Commissioners, Larry Chapman, Tony Colvard, Ann Smith, Carl Wagner and Bill Warren

Others Present: Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Chief of Police, Andy Day, Town Planner, Teresa Kinney, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson and Town Attorney, Carroll Tuttle

Call to Order:

Mayor Janet Winkler called the October meeting to order, and Commissioner Carl Wagner led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer.

Discus/Adjust Agenda:

Janet presented the October agenda, and requested the following addition:

8(a) – Report from HUB Committee

Motion: (Bill Warren/Larry Chapman) to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Ann Smith) to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2017 Regular Meeting, the September 26, 2017 Recreation Committee Meeting, and the October 5, 2017 Work Session at the HUB. Unanimously approved.

Audit Report:

Cassie Wilson, an auditor for Martin Starnes & Associates, presented the Town's FY 2016-2017 Audit Report to the Board. Cassie stated that the audit received an unmodified opinion, which means a clean opinion. Cassie reviewed different reports within the audit, and she commented that the year ended in the "black." Cassie commended the staff and the Board on keeping the spending to a minimum.

Janet stated that she appreciated the report, and she thanked Cassie for presenting the report. Janet also commended the staff and the members of the Board for being good stewards of the Town's finances.

Presentation from NCDOT of Proposed Intersection Changes to Hwy. 321 & Mt. Herman Road:

Dean Ledbetter, of the NCDOT, addressed the Board to discuss the question of whether or not the Town wants to participate in a sidewalk project for the intersections involved with the Hwy. 321 Widening Project. Mr. Ledbetter stated that if the Town decides to install the sidewalks, the Town would pay 20% and the NCDOT would pay 80%. However, if the Town is not interested in having the sidewalks, the NCDOT will not have them installed.

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Mr. Ledbetter introduced Frank Gioscio, a Consulting Engineer for Vaughn & Melton. Mr. Ledbetter stated that Mr. Gioscio is involved with designing the Hwy. 321 widening project, and he would also be involved with designing the sidewalks. The group discussed the two places where sidewalk could be installed with the project: one is at the intersection of Hwy. 321 and Pine Mountain Road, and the other is at the intersection of Hwy. 321 and Mt. Herman Road. Mr. Ledbetter commented that crossing signals would be installed if sidewalks are installed.

Janet asked how far down Mt. Herman Road the sidewalk would start – would it begin at the Mt. Herman Road entrance to the college?

Mr. Ledbetter stated that typically, the NCDOT tries to stay in the project area for sidewalks. He stated that the Mt. Herman Road entrance to the college may be out of the actual project area. He added that on the other side of the highway, the sidewalk may not actually reach the Walmart/Burger King driveway, but it may reach the parking lot at Burger King.

Janet reviewed the question at hand – does the Town want sidewalks at these intersections?

Mr. Ledbetter commented that this project presents a wonderful opportunity to install sidewalks if the Town thinks it would ever want sidewalks in these areas.

Janet asked about at timeline for the project – would it be done the current fiscal year?

Mr. Gioscio stated that they are approximately 25% into the plans for the project, and adding sidewalks would not be difficult. He commented that it would basically be a matter of the technicians adding in the curb and guttering and sidewalks.

Tony Colvard asked what the Board would actually be voting for at this time.

Mr. Ledbetter stated that at this point, the DOT just needs to know if the Town is interested in a sidewalk project for these intersections. If the Town is not interested, they will no longer investigate sidewalks for these areas. If the Town is interested, there would be no commitment at this time – they would just keep sidewalks in the project, with the costs and designs coming at a later date.

Rebecca Bentley stated that John Marshall from the WPCOG, was also in attendance, and he is very familiar with bike trails, sidewalks, etc.

Mr. Marshall emphasized that this is the time to get sidewalks if the Town is at all interested. He added that even with grants, the Town's match would probably be at least 20%. Also, with this project, the DOT would cover a lot of costs the Town would be involved with in a grant process.

Rebecca stated that there was a question at a previous meeting as to whether or not these types of crossing encourage people to cross the highway.

John Marshall commented that people are going to cross highways if they want to cross – sidewalks or not.

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Ann Smith stated that both the community college and the school system have voiced concerns about installing crosswalks. Ann suggested that the Board discuss the project with Dr. Poarch from the community college as well as representatives from the school system before a decision is made. Ann commented that she would not be able to support the project if a vote is taken at this meeting. Ann also commented that she is a trustee for the community college, and she feels she has a responsibility to voice their concerns.

Tony Colvard commented that if we know people cross the highway regardless of whether or not there is a sidewalk, we need to make the crossing as safe as possible.

Motion: (Tony Colvard/Larry Chapman) to leave sidewalks as a part of the project at the Mt. Herman Road Intersection.

Discussion:

Rebecca asked what would happen if the Board decided at a later date to not proceed with the sidewalks.

Mr. Ledbetter stated that they would not be offended at all. He stated that they do not have costs at this time, and it would not be fair to ask for the Town to commit to the project at this time. He added that he understands the concerns from the schools, but he believes people cross the road due to a need to cross the road. He stated again that he would not be offended if the Town changes its decision in a few months.

The Board voted on the motion as follows:

Larry Chapman, Tony Colvard, and Carl Wagner voted in favor of the motion.

Ann Smith and Bill Warren voted against the motion.

The motion carried by a vote of 3 to 2.

Consider Resolution of Support of the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Application:

Teresa Kinney stated that Rebecca had requested that the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) work on a grant to get matching monies from the State to improve biking and pedestrian ways in Town. Teresa reviewed the grant process, and commented that if the grant is awarded, the Town would have to form a steering committee to oversee the project. Teresa added that grant, if awarded, would require a 10% match from the Town, with the project costing approximately \$35,000 to \$45,000.

Rebecca presented the Resolution of Support for the project for the Board to consider, and she stated that we would need to gather letters of support to go along with the application.

Motion: (Bill Warren/Ann Smith) to approve the resolution supporting the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Application. Unanimously approved.

The resolution was approved as follows:

Janet Winkler, Mayor
Town Commissioners:
Larry Chapman
Tony Colvard
Ann Smith
Carl Wagner
Bill Warren



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**A RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF THE
NCDOT BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, NCDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Division provides funding and technical assistance to develop comprehensive local bicycle/pedestrian plans, and

WHEREAS, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) assisted the Town of Hudson, in applying for the Bicycle/ Pedestrian Planning Grant to develop a comprehensive bicycle/pedestrian plan; and

WHEREAS, the NCDOT may provide grant funding along with matching monies from the Town of Hudson to develop a comprehensive bicycle/pedestrian plan for the Town of Hudson due to its history of coordination and collaboration on land use, transportation, and economic development issues; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hudson recognizes a need to promote better connectivity via alternative modes of travel to reduce congestion, improve air quality, increase tourism, promote recreation, improve health, and increase safety for existing pedestrians, motorists; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hudson will consider implementation of the future comprehensive plan through the recommended implementation strategies found in the future plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hudson is requesting the endorsement of the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which serves the Town of Hudson;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Hudson, Board of Commissioners adopt this resolution of support for **NCDOT BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN GRANT APPLICATION** on this, the 17th day of October, 2017.

A motion was made by Bill Warren and seconded by Ann Smith for adoption of the resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted, on this, the 17th day of October, 2017.


Janet H. Winkler, Mayor


Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk



Report from HUB Committee:

Bill Warren, HUB Committee Chairman, reported that the HUB Committee met with Lindsay Barrick, Caldwell County Arts Director, to discuss her vision for the HUB as an Arts Center. Bill stated that some of the suggestions for the HUB were:

- Touring company shows
- Different types of entertainment other than dinner theater (similar to The Old Rock School in Valdese)
- Art classes and exhibits
- Elementary school art shows
- Glass blowing presentations
- Provide an art supply store
- The JAM – Appalachian Teaching

Bill commented that when we offer or sponsor these types of programs, we are exposing more and more people to the HUB.

Bill also commented that the small towns that are doing well across the State typically all have a strong community college presence and a strong arts program. Bill added that he and Ann Smith have been in discussions with Kathy Carroll about applying for grants to update the kitchen area downstairs in the HUB and possibly even consider opening a restaurant. Bill stated that we are still in the fact-finding stages with the Arts Council partnership, with no recommendations to make at this time.

Lindsay Barrick was in the audience, and she stated that the Arts Council is thrilled to be partnering with the Town. She added that she is very excited to see what the future holds for the Town.

Public Comment & Informal Discussion:

Meeting – Park Master Plan Kick-Off: Rebecca stated that a meeting has been scheduled to discuss updates for the Park Master Plan for Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at McCreary Family Recreation & Fitness Center.

Annual Man & Woman of the Year Banquet: The 47th Annual Hudson Man & Woman of the Year Banquet was held October 13th at the HUB. Awards were presented to the following:

- Connie Minton – 2017 Woman of the Year
- Donald Austin – 2017 Man of the Year
- Caldwell Hospice – 2017 Organization of the Year
- The Local Bean – 2017 Business of the Year

Condolences extended to Carl Wagner and Janet Winkler: Rebecca stated that she would like to extend condolences on behalf of the Town to Carl Wagner in the loss of his wife, Lucy, and to Janet Winkler in the loss of her sister-in-law, Elaine Church.

Upcoming Events:

- “Annie” at The HUB – October 19th – 22nd and 26th – 28th

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- Haunted Hudson – October 26th 7pm-9pm

Adjournment:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Tony Colvard) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk