

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GASTON
TOWN OF CRAMERTON

June 25, 2020

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., as a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum. Mayor Cauthen, Commissioners Abernathy, Atkinson, Neeley, and Rice stated their attendance. Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas was unavailable at this time. (Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas confirmed his attendance at 6:05 p.m.)

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Neeley provided the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda for this meeting: The Town Manager asked to revise the agenda “Agenda Items not Requiring a Public Hearing” to add the action item for the Board to consider adoption and approval of Resolution #2020-03. A motion was made by Commissioner Neeley to approve the proposed amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atkinson. Commissioner Abernathy voted yes; Commissioner Rice voted yes; and Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas voted yes. The motion passed 5 to 0 in favor.

Proclamation:

Independence Day Proclamation: A Proclamation celebrating July 4th as Independence Day in Cramerton (and in the United States) to honor America’s 244th year as an Independent Nation! A copy of the signed proclamation will be placed in the minutes book.

Resolution

Resolution #2020-02: A resolution supporting Powell Bill and regular maintenance funding for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The Town Manager stated this was the resolution that the City of Belmont had prepared and this will be signed and then forwarded on to our state legislators. A motion was made by Commissioner Rice to approved and adopt Resolution #2020-02. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas. Commissioner Abernathy voted yes; Commissioner Atkinson voted yes; and Commissioner Neeley voted yes. The motion passed 5 to 0 in favor. A copy of the signed resolution will be placed in the minutes book.

Work Session

Cramerton Updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Final Draft)

- i. **Presentation of Updated Master Plan by Eric Smallwood and Withers Ravenel.**
- ii. **Action Item: Considering setting a public hearing to consider approval of the Cramerton Parks & Recreation Updated Master Plan for Thursday, July 16, 2020 and direct staff to advertise accordingly.** Mr. Smallwood stated that the final draft of the Updated Master Plan was unanimously approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. This plan would be the guiding document for the Parks and Recreation Department for the next ten (10) years. Mr. Gary Warner with Withers Ravenel stated this plan is flexible and lists community defined goals. Cramerton continues with a lot of growth continues along with an aging population. A public information workshop was held on November 11, 2019 with approximately fifty (50) attendees. Discussion was held regarding the number of parks, greenways and other facilities located in the town. The Board asked what would be required to implement this plan and provide information to the public. Mr. Warner advised that once the plan is approved and adopted then the budget would need to be reviewed and Mr. Smallwood’s team would begin prioritizations. An executive summary would be provided with maps and a list of high priority projects. The Board thanked Mr. Warner for his presentation. A motion was made by Commissioner Rice to schedule a public hearing for July 16th. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas. Commissioner Abernathy voted yes; Commissioner Atkinson voted yes; and Commissioner Neeley voted yes. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor.

Consent Agenda (Action Item): Consider approval of the consent agenda.

Minutes

- i. June 11, 2020 meeting minutes.**

Budget Amendments for fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020

- i. Budget Amendments #2020-16; #2020-17; #2020-18.** A motion was made by Commissioner Rice to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atkinson. Commissioner Abernathy voted yes; Mayor Pro Tempore voted yes; and Commissioner Neeley voted yes. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor.

Agenda Items NOT Requiring a Public Hearing

a. Board of Commissioners

i. Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Budget

- 1. Action Item: Final discussion and consider approval of the FY 2020-2021 Cramerton Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule.** Commissioner Abernathy asked if the Goat Island playground repair project affect tonight's proposed budget. The Town Manager stated the playground project does not affect the proposed budget. A budget amendment was prepared and affected the fiscal year budget for 2019-2020. A motion was made by Commissioner Rice to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Cramerton Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule and set the tax rate at 47.5 cents as it currently exists. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neeley. Commissioner Abernathy asked if the proposed additional vehicle tax is a separate topic. The Town Manager stated the proposed vehicle tax would be \$15.00 per vehicle. Commissioner Abernathy voted no; Commissioner Atkinson voted yes; and Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas voted yes. The vote was 4 to 1 in favor.

- 2. Resolution #2020-03:** A resolution authorizing the collection of a motor vehicle tag tax pursuant to NC general statutes 160A-213. A motion was made by Commissioner Rice to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neeley. Commissioner Abernathy voted no; Commissioner Atkinson voted yes; and Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas voted yes. The vote was 4 to 1 in favor. A copy of the signed resolution will be placed in the minutes book.

ii. Public Art Murals on Cramerton Public Buildings

- 1. Action Item: Presentation, discussion, and feedback of two privately funded public art murals on Town owned buildings.** Renderings of the proposed art work that will be paid for with private funds and installed on public property was presented. The town will be responsible for upkeep and preservation of the artwork for ten (10) years from date of installation. The artwork would be heat adhered. The property being considered for the artwork are the salt building and the fire department. The artwork on the salt building will be 10 feet x 6 feet and the artwork on the fire department will be approximately 18 feet x 10 feet. A local artist designed the artwork. Commissioner Atkinson recommended that the artist's name be placed on the proposed artwork. An inset will be placed with the artwork. The artwork can be used for other branding and all licenses for this artwork has been given to the town. A motion was made by Commissioner Neeley to approve placement of the privately funded artwork on Town owned buildings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atkinson. Commissioner Abernathy voted yes; Mayor Pro Tempore voted yes; and Commissioner Rice voted yes. The voted passed 5 to 0 in favor.

b. Planning & Zoning

i. Urban Farming Ordinance in Cramerton

- 1. Action Item: Consider approval of amending Chapter 90 of the Cramerton Code of Ordinances to allow Chickens in Residential Zoning Districts.** The Planning Director stated this item was discussed at the last Board meeting and staff recommended approval of amending Chapter 90 of the Cramerton Code of Ordinances to allow chickens in residential zoning districts. The recommended setback for the chicken keeping area must be at least be fifteen (15) feet from any rear and side property lines. Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas asked what the permit cost would be. The City of Belmont charges \$25.00 and staff recommends the same fee for Cramerton. Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas asked about some verbiage clean up in section B paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 of the ordinance. Attorney Wolter stated this can be done and be brought back to the Board in July. Enforcement will continue to be suspended.

BIG BOARD: MT Land continues with ongoing conversation with staff and legal regarding a possible public hearing at the July 16th meeting. Attorney Wolter stated a possible hybrid style or meeting off site at another location may be scheduled for the first Board meeting in August. The surveyors should be on site at the Masonic Lodge parking lot no later than mid-July. The appraisal for the parking lot that was completed last year can be easily updated. Discussions continue with Mr. Fred Glenn about the historic Baltimore School. The Town Manager stated he has not received a response from the school system regarding the Helix R artwork. Commissioner Abernathy and Commissioner Neeley both stated that the school operations committee meets once a month and offered their help with this item. Information regarding the specifics for this artwork has been provided to the school system. Smaller wayfinding signage should be installed by the first week of August. No new information has been received from the federal government to Withers Ravenel regarding the brownfields grant. The Planning Director stated the town is waiting on NCDOT to move funds from the Cramer Mountain Road Sidewalk Project to the Cramerton and McAdenville Northern Connector Gateway.

NCDOT / Road Projects in Cramerton. Information was presented regarding improvements on Market Street. The NCDOT widening projects on Wilkinson Boulevard, Alberta Avenue, Wesleyan Avenue, and South Fork River Bridge are not being funded at this time.

Food Pantry. A Stuart W. Cramer High School student has asked about placement of a food pantry as part of her Girl Scout project. The pantry would be stocked with seasonal and shelf stable items. Attorney Wolter advised that a simple agreement would be needed allowing the town to monitor and remove items if deemed appropriate if the pantry is placed on the town's property. Discussion was held about the upkeep of the food pantry and monitoring of food donations. Staff was given approval to move forward with this item.

Manager's Report: COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Governor Cooper's announcement is to remain in Phase II with a mask mandate to include the office and work environment effective Monday. Masks will need to be worn in areas that are part of an inside common area. Employees will not be required to wear their masks while in their offices.

General Staff Reports (as needed)

Update from Two Rivers Utilities, Mr. Mike Bynum. A copy of report will be placed in the minutes book.

Police Department: Nothing to report.

Finance department: Nothing to report.

Fire Department: Chief Foulk stated the new Viper Radio system achieved through grant funding is complete and will be scheduled to become effective on June 30th at 8:00 a.m.

Parks and Recreation Department: Renovations on the bathrooms at Central Park started yesterday. Turf replacement on Goat Island will start tomorrow or next week. Fireworks will

be this Saturday around 9:15 p.m. No outdoor seating will be allowed on the lawn at downtown Centennial Park. A red balloon has been launched on Goat Island offering a visual aid to show where fireworks will be visible. Commissioner Neeley asked if the Central Park bathrooms will be open and ready by the Fourth of July. Mr. Smallwood stated no as a leak had been found when the water was turned on.

Planning and Zoning: Nothing to report.

Town Clerk: Nothing to report.

Town Attorney: Nothing to report.

Topics of Discussion for Each Commissioners:

Commissioner Abernathy thanked the Town Manager and his staff for this year’s budget process as it was more streamlined and efficient.

Commissioner Atkinson asked if a Shred-It Event had been scheduled for this year. The Town Manager stated no date has been scheduled at this time. Gary Fankhauser will have renderings for the landscaping for the Veterans Memorial at the next Board meeting. Temporary lighting onto the railroad trestle off of the C.C. Dawson Bridge will be available for viewing tonight and tomorrow night from 9 to 10 p.m. Rodney Baker is discussing this item with Steve Rackley as NCDOT has oversight of the C.C. Dawson Bridge.

Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas had nothing to report.

Commissioner Neeley thanked Mr. Smallwood for the placement of the red balloon on Goat Island so residents will know where they can park and still see the fireworks. She thanked the Planning Director for the project description and map as this was a very good visual aid. She remaindered everyone to wear a face mask, wear your hands for twenty (20) seconds, and maintain six (6) feet of social distancing.

Commissioner Rice stated he spoke with Adam Ragan with the Board of Elections about possible early voting locations in Cramerton. Mr. Ragan was advised to speak with Dr. Julen regarding possible available locations.

Mayor Cauthen stated he and several of the department heads will be meeting with representatives of the Carolina Thread Trail, Catawba Lands Conservancy, and Pharr Yarns for private donations to various Thread Trail projects throughout Gaston County. Discussions will include our vision about how we are growing and trail connectivity. Development continues at the Villages at Cramerton Mills Section 1D Phase 1D and the road is being cut in. Progress at the True Homes project which is located behind the South Fork Village Apartments looks great and the connector to the future Cramerton-McAdenville greenway trail head will be located there.

Public Comment

Note: The public comment section for the Cramerton BOC June 25, 2020 meeting will be received via email and read during this section of the meeting. Please see the end of this agenda for “electronic public comment” rules.

No public comments were received to the Town of Cramerton via the Sunshine list or Facebook. No comments on budget were received.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Neeley to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atkinson. Commissioner Abernathy voted yes; Commissioner Rice voted yes; and Mayor Pro Tempore Koutsoupas voted yes.

Mayor William Cauthen

ATTEST:

Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk