

YANCEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
September 4th, 2018
7:00 PM

The meeting of the Town Council was held in the Council Chambers at the Yanceyville Municipal Services Building on September 4th, 2018 7:00 PM.

Council Members present: Alvin Foster- Mayor, Odessa Gwynn- Mayor Pro Tem, Brian Massey, and Margie Badgett-Lampkin

Council Member absent: Keith Tatum.

Staff: Brian Collie- Town Manager/Clerk, and Kamara Graves-Assistant Town Clerk,

Item 1: Call to Order

Mayor Alvin Foster called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Meeting opened with a prayer. He asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Foster also stated that the Yanceyville Town Council rules and procedures reflect the revisions of the North Carolina open meeting law of the North Carolina General Statutes, a copy of the Yanceyville Town Council rules and procedures are available upon request.

Item 2: Review and Adoption of Agenda – Mayor & Council

Mayor Foster asked Town Council for a motion to adopt the agenda with the deletion of Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11- Attorney Client Consultation, & Contractual. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion to adopt the agenda with said changes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Massey and passed with a unanimous vote.

Item 3: Consent Agenda- August 7th, 2018 Minutes

Mayor Foster asked Town Council to review the minutes from the August 7th, 2018 Town Council Meeting. After a short review, Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion to adopt the minutes from the August 7th, 2018 Town Council Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Massey and passed a unanimous vote.

Item 4: Public Comment

None

Item 5: Yanceyville Fire Department FEMA (SAFER) Grant- Chief Vernon Massengill

Vernon Massengill, Yanceyville Fire Chief updated Town Council on the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from the Department of

Homeland Security by way of FEMA that the Yanceyville Fire Department was awarded. Chief Massengill explained that the SAFER Grant is a three- year grant for \$131, 280 with no local match. Chief Massengill noted that Volunteer Fire Departments across the United States struggle with recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters. He explained that the Department of Homeland Security started the SAFER Grant around eight to ten years ago. The grant opportunity was created to help with securing volunteers for Volunteer Fire Departments. He noted that the grant funding will allow recruitment and retention of new members. It will also, pay for medical physicals, training, purchase of turn out gear, pay a small stipend to existing firefighters who attend training sessions, etc. Chief Massengill asked for questions, comments, or concerns.

Mayor Foster stated on behalf of Town Council he would like to thank Chief Massengill and the entire Yanceyville Fire Department for the great job and services that they provide for the citizens of Yanceyville as well as Caswell County.

Item 6: Public Hearing/Forum -Yanceyville Pavilion Park

Mayor Foster requested a five -minute recess to convene in the Maud Gatewood Art Gallery to resume the Public Hearing/Forum for the Yanceyville Pavilion Park of the Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Foster welcomed and thanked everyone for coming out to be a part of the Public Hearing/Forum for the Yanceyville Pavilion Park. He noted that Town Manager Collie will be passing out a short survey for everyone to complete and submit. He explained that this is a Public Hearing/Forum so when making a comment or asking a question please state you name for the purpose of minutes.

Town Manager Collie explained that this Public Hearing/ Public Forum gives everyone an opportunity to speak on the conceptual idea for the Pavilion Park. He noted that at this time funding has not be lined up, but there are several funding sources to be considered. Town Manager Collie stated that he feels the Pavilion Park would have a positive impact on Downtown Yanceyville as well as the County if done properly. Town Manager stated that this project isn't something that is conceptually brand new there are several Towns and Counties in North Carolina that have playgrounds/splash pads. Town Manager Collie stated that he had the opportunity to speak with the John Smith, former City Manager of Dobson, North Carolina. He noted that Mr. Smith indicated that because of the implementation of the Town Park which includes a playground, splash pad, walking track, and stage their Downtown next to Town Hall really has increased their economy and foot traffic.

Mayor Foster thanked Town Manager Collie for the overview of the project and opened the floor for questions, comments, suggestions, and or observations. Mayor Foster clarified that the Yanceyville Town Council has endorsed the concept with the end goal of improving Downtown Revitalization.

Mayor Foster asked for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion to go into Public Hearing/Forum. The motion was seconded by Councilman Massey and passed with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Ruby Sartin Hovatter, member of the Caswell County Veterans Memorial Committee, expressed that the CCVMC has been working extremely hard over the last two years fundraising to build the Veterans Memorial. She explained that she is concerned with the location of the Pavilion Park. She noted that the Veterans Memorial would be located at the end of the Town's green space. She indicated that the Veterans Memorial will honor Veterans, Firefighters, EMS, and Sheriffs' Deputy. Ms. Hovatter feels the Pavilion Park should be placed in another location. She feels that the proposed location will be a distraction for the Veterans Memorial, the Caswell County Historical Association House, and the Old Historic Courthouse. She noted that in her opinion most tourists that come to Yanceyville are older and retired. She felt that they would not like to view the Veterans Memorial if you have children yelling and screaming. Ms. Hovatter noted that she has been a school teacher for 50 years, and in her experience, children get excited when they are in water. She expressed that the Pavilion Park would harm the Memorials and desecrate the serenity of the Veterans Memorial. Ms. Hovatter suggested seeking another location for the Pavilion Park.

Ms. Tammy Carter, Caswell County Local Foods Council, asked would the venues be too close to each other? However, could they not complement each other in some way? Ms. Carter noted that there are two different groups of people and events happening at different times. She explained that economic development will bring in a different group of people.

Town Manager Collie explained that the focus is not just a playground it is a recreational concept. The events in Town are community driven in an effort to incorporate all age groups. He noted that he felt the Pavilion Park would increase foot traffic and be an economic driver to help with revitalization of businesses downtown.

Mr. Steve Oestreicher commented on revitalization in downtown, but what business are downtown? Mayor Foster commented that you have to provide something to encourage someone to consider starting a business downtown. Mr. Oestreicher, asked is it possible to do the Pavilion Park incrementally? And what would the insurance claim be? Mayor Foster explained that there is always liability in doing business.

Ms. Debbie Watlington commented that she was involved with the Veterans Memorial at Dan Daniels Park in Danville Virginia. She noted that across the street from the Veterans Memorial there is a playground, ball fields, etc. Ms. Watlington stated she feels you can incorporate everyone with proper boundaries. She encouraged all to visit Dan Daniel Park, Danville VA.

Mrs. Elin Claggett commented that her concern comes from an environmental health perspective. Mrs. Claggett noted that the splash pad could potentially be a reservoir for bacteria, mildew, and water borne pathogens. Mr. Franz Holt, Town Engineer explained

that the system for the Pavilion Park would be a recycled system with chemicals similar to a swimming pool that would perform testing daily.

Ms. Reagan commented that if Yanceyville gets the Pavilion Park here children would come a lot because she would not have to travel outside of the County.

Ms. Jeanine Bustamante, Member of Park Pavilion committee, noted that the system for the Pavilion Park will be a recirculating and automated system. It will cut down on water waste and constantly running test to check the water quality. She explained that if there are any discrepancies in water quality the system will automatically shut down.

Ms. Karen Williams asked how is the Pavilion Park going to be financed, and are our taxes going up? Mayor Foster answered at this time we are looking for grant opportunities.

Mrs. Karen Oestreicher asked who would provide daily supervision for the Pavilion Park? Town Manager Collie answered there will have to be rules and procedures for the park, but essentially it will be unsupervised to a certain extent. He noted there will be video surveillance system.

Mr. Scott Kindle addressed the economic impact. He explained that there are Cities and Towns all across the State that you can use as a case study with any recreational investment. He noted that he has five years of experience with the City of Greenville. Mr. Kindle explained that Greenville has spent a lot of money on the recreation department they have one of the nicest little league fields in the heart of the Greenville. The City of Greenville has been booming for the last ten years. He noted that most of Yanceyville's money is going out of Town to surrounding Town and Cities. He explained that the Pavilion Park is offering accessibility for those with disabilities so not only can you keep the money in the Town of Yanceyville, but you are able to bring people from other areas.

Mrs. Vanessa Richmond-Graves commented that there is a park across the street from Town Hall can it be utilized? And has the Town looked into it? Town Manager Collie explained that particular property is privately owned. Town Manager Collie explained the point of the Public Hearing is to get feedback. Mayor Foster stated all comments and thoughts will be considered in moving forward with the project.

Mrs. Shannon Morteز commented she is extremely excited about the Pavilion Park for one reason. She explained that we have spoken very passionately about the notion of preserving the past while embracing our future. She expressed as a young family in the County I have seen a lot of public effort go into preserving the past, but I have seen very little effort go into embracing the future, telling my family that we are welcomed here, and my children that they are important enough to the Town of Yanceyville to have a Park that they are welcomed to use.

Mr. Jason Morteز asked has the Town done any kind of numbers on foot traffic for the Downtown area? Town Manager Collie noted not at this time.

Mrs. Tammy Carter stated that economic development encourages economic development.

Mr. Stephen Barmann commented that the Veterans Memorial and the Pavilion Park would complement each other. He also suggested adding a biking trail. He noted that he felt insurance should not be a deterrent in moving forward with the Pavilion Park.

Ms. Caitlyn Farthing stated that it is very important to teach the youth the history of Caswell County and honor those who fought for us, but we also need something that draws youth to Downtown Yanceyville.

Councilman Massey commented that the Veterans Memorial is a great idea because all gave the ultimate sacrifice for our Country. They gave their lives so that we could be free, and if any Veteran on the wall could hear the laughter of a free child or free adult, they would smile knowing that their life was not given in vain.

Mrs. Nikki Bettis stated that security is a major priority because vandalism does occur. Security cameras will be built into the potential grants, and the continued working relationship with Caswell County Sheriff's Department would also help with security.

Mayor Foster stated that if anyone has any additional to comments write them down on the surveys and or email them to Town Staff. Mayor Foster thanked everyone for coming out and participating in the Public Hearing/Forum.

Town Manager Collie thanked everyone for coming out and voicing their questions and concerns.

After the discussion Mayor Foster asked, for a motion to go out of Public Hearing/Forum for Pavilion Park. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion to go out of Public Hearing/Forum. The motion was seconded by Councilman Massey and passed with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Foster asked for a motion to go back to Regular Session. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion to go back to Regular Session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Badgett- Lampkin and passed with a unanimous vote.

Item 7: First Avenue Parking Discussion

Mayor Foster updated Town Council on the First Avenue Parking Discussion. He noted that Town Council has discussed this item several times in the past. Town Council requested North Carolina Department of Transportation to possibly make First Avenue a One- Way from Main Street to West Main Street. NCDOT viewed the problem area and decided to add additional signage.

Mayor Foster stated that during the time that the Winstead Auction is taking place the cars that are legally parked on Main Street causes issues with line of sight, a driver traveling on First Avenue from West Main Street towards Main Street has to pull into the roadway to make sure they are able to safely proceed. Mayor Foster also noted that there are also cars that are parked illegally, which also makes it impossible to travel on First Avenue safely.

Mayor Foster stated that he would like Town Council to give him authorization to send a letter to the North Carolina Department of Transportation in reference to making First Avenue a One- Way from Main Street to West Main Street.

Mayor Foster made a motion to request that the North Carolina Department of Transportation One-Way Frist Avenue with traffic flowing from Main Street to West Main Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Massey and passed with a unanimous vote.

Item 8: Caswell County Holiday Synthetic Ice Rink Discussion

Town Manager Collie stated that he was approached by Bryan Miller, County Manager with the idea of potentially going after a grant through the Dan River Regional Foundation “Make More Happen”. The grant funding would be used to purchase equipment for a Synthetic Ice Rink during the Holiday months. The Synthetic Ice Rink would be placed on the concrete pad in front of the Pavilion Stage at the Municipal Services Building to incorporate the Caswell County Historical Association Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Town Manager Collie explained that if the grant is awarded he would need a consensus from Town Council on allowing the County to place the Synthetic Ice Rink on the concrete pad in front of the Pavilion stage. He noted that he had discussed with Town Attorney Farmer liability concerns, and explained that no Town Staff or Personnel would facilitate or oversee any operations of the Synthetic Ice Rink. Attorney Farmer recommended that the Town prepare a lease agreement with the County, which would indicate that the County would be fully responsible for Synthetic Ice Rink. Town Manager Collie clarified that Synthetic Ice Rink is temporary and only for the holiday months.

Mayor Foster asked for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion to allow the County to use the concrete pad in front of the Pavilion Stage at the Municipal Services Building for the Holiday Synthetic Ice Rink with a signed lease agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Massey and passed a unanimous vote.

Item 9: Town Manager Report

Town Manager Collie noted that Public Works Department Part -Time Position of Grounds Maintenance Technician had been filled. The main duty of the job is trash pick-

up within Town limits among others. He stated that Mr. Sean Lewis is doing a good job. The job allows a minimum of 8- 20 hours weekly.

Assistant Town Clerk Graves announced the October 6th, 2018 First Saturday Cruise- In event will start at 5pm with the Buttermilk Creek Band as entertainment and food for purchase by Central Caswell Ruritan.

Assistant Town Clerk Graves also announced that on October 18th, 2018 the Town of Yanceyville will host the Joint Council Meeting at the Yanceyville Municipal Services Building at 6pm.

Item 10: Informal Discussion/ Public Comment – Discussion & Comments must directly relate to agenda items

Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn addressed Code Enforcement she stated they there are a several areas in Town in with high growth of grass and trash. Town Manager Collie stated that the Town Code Enforcer Official is very proactive in getting letters out and flagging properties with violations. Town Manager Collie noted that there are steps taken with repeat offenders.

Councilwoman Badgett-Lampkin addressed a street light on Dillard School Drive that doesn't work. She stated that she has call Duke Energy several times with the issue, but it hasn't been resolved at this time. Mayor Foster stated that he would assist in contacting someone to help with the issue.

Item 11: Adjournment

Mayor Foster asked Town Council for a motion to adjourn the Town Council Meeting. After no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion to adjourn the Town Council. Councilman Massey seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote.

Brian Collie- Town Manager/Clerk and Kamara Graves- Assistant Town Clerk prepared the above minutes. They represent a brief description of those matters that were addressed at this meeting. A detailed account of this meeting is available for review on tape at the Yanceyville Municipal Services Building.

Respectively Submitted:

Alvin Foster, Mayor

Brian Collie, Town Manager / Clerk

Kamara Graves, Assistant Town Clerk