

**TOWN OF BETHANIA COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020**

On June 11, 2020, the Board of Commissioners meeting for the Town of Bethania was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Brent Rockett. In attendance at the Alpha Chapel were Mayor Brent Rockett, Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Leonard and Commissioners Randy Rogers, Tom Beroth and John Rogers.

Commissioner Tom Beroth gave the invocation. Mayor Rockett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to adopt the Agenda of the June 11th Board meeting. Commissioner Randy Rogers made a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously (Attachment A).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Rockett announced that former Commissioner Harold Fearington is battling cancer and asked those in attendance to keep him in their thoughts.

Mayor Rockett recently saw Mike West, owner of the Bethania Mill, who informed him that the current tenants, Muse at the Mill, recently filed for bankruptcy. The catering service they subcontracted with hopes to open in the former Muddy Creek café location in September. They would like to serve customers in house on the weekends.

Commissioner Beroth added that Chad Langford began work installing the fence near the courtyard today.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Leonard made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. The Board signed the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Commissioner Beroth explained the Financial Reports as of May 31, 2020 (Attachment B), stating we are right on track with our balances. Mayor Rockett stated the project replacing the steps to the greenway has been completed. He further added that Occupancy revenue has decreased sharply over the past 3 months (February was \$3,771, March was \$1,816 and April was \$895).

VISITOR CENTER UPDATE: Mayor Pro Tem Leonard announced that the Visitor Services Manager, Michele Williams, has returned to work, even though the Visitor Center is anticipated to be closed for the foreseeable future. She and Commissioner John Rogers have been meeting with Dr. Williams regularly to reestablish protocols and a new job description has been developed (to be reviewed by the Personnel Committee). Internet problems were discussed.

Pine straw will be delivered tomorrow and Alex will distribute in the appropriate areas, as well as do some work in the gardens. Discussion followed regarding a "Clean-Up Day". The Commissioners decided on Saturday, June 27 beginning at 8:00 AM. Mayor Pro Tem Leonard will forward the details to the Town Clerk for an email blast to the residents.

Mayor Rockett thanked Mayor Pro Tem Leonard and Commissioner John Rogers.

ADOPT 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE: Mayor Rockett stated that the Budget Hearing was held during the May 14th Board meeting. The proposed budget was sent to all residents via email and US mail prior to the May Board meeting. The tax rate will remain at 30 cents. There were no comments or questions.

Mayor Pro Tem Leonard made a motion to adopt the 2020-201 Budget Ordinance as written (Attachment C). Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Town Clerk, Karen Keller stated that there were 11 total tickets written during the month of May, with 9 of those being speeding tickets. The average MPH over was 19.33. There were also numerous security checks and neighborhood patrols. She updated the Commissioners on the recent robbery at the Bethania Emporium – three planters were stolen as well as a turtle. The deputies have been informed. Commissioner Beroth added that the Bethania Garage also had been broken into recently.

As a result of the Commissioner's request last month, the deputies have been monitoring the 3-way stop at Main Street and Bethania Road(s) as well as Main Street below the Post Office, coming into Bethania from Tobaccoville. They currently do not have a radar machine available to monitor traffic speeds at random locations. Commissioner Randy Rogers researched the cost of a post mounted speed trailer; they run about \$5,000. Commissioner John Rogers expressed concern about law enforcement vehicles going through town at a high rate of speed with lights flashing in the middle of the night.

Commissioner Beroth added that Bethania Road will remain closed to through traffic once the culvert repair near Doomey's Painting is completed because then the DOT is going to repair the culvert near Queens Grant Road. Commissioner John Rogers informed the Board of a tree down on Bethania Road; the Town Clerk will inform the appropriate agency.

Discussion followed regarding the July Board meeting. Commissioner Beroth made a motion to cancel the regular July Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding a date for the annual tree lighting. The Commissioners agreed on Sunday, December 6, 2020. The Town Clerk will contact Kirk and Judy House to see if they are available to attend and play their dulcimers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Commissioner Randy Rogers offered a follow up to last month's public comment question from Bethania resident Ron Hash regarding sewer connections on Main Street. He called the City of Winston-Salem to inquire about the process, which includes:

Starting and circulating a petition to all affected property owners and making them aware that by signing the petition, they agree to pay \$21.00 per linear foot for frontage, \$3,500 for a street connection and an additional cost to a private contractor to run a connection to the house. Commissioner Randy Rogers will contact Mr. Hash and update him with this information.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Beroth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted for approval, the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of June 11, 2020, consisting of three pages.

**Submitted by Karen Keller
Town Clerk**

APPROVED BY:

**Brent S. Rockett
Mayor, Town of Bethania**

**Michelle Leonard
Mayor, Pro Tem**

John Rogers

Randy Rogers

**Tom Beroth
Finance Officer**