



MINUTES

**Town of Weaverville
State of North Carolina**

**Town Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 22, 2021**

Remote Electronic Meeting

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85948891960>

The Town Council for the Town of Weaverville met for its regularly monthly meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. as an electronic video meeting via Zoom Meeting.

Councilmembers remotely present were: Mayor Al Root, Vice Mayor Doug Jackson, and Councilmembers Andrew Nagle, Dottie Sherrill, Jeffrey McKenna and Patrick Fitzsimmons.

Staff members remotely present were: Town Manager Selena Coffey, Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson, Clerk/Planning Director James Eller, Finance Officer Tonya Dozier, Police Chief Ron Davis, Fire Chief Ted Williams, Public Works Director Dale Pennell, and Water Superintendent Trent Duncan.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Al Root called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval/Adjustments to the Agenda

Mayor Root noted that he would like to discuss a portion of agenda item 7A at this time. Mayor Root described Councilmember Sherrill's many years of service to the town including her service as a member of Council and Mayor as well as her organization of many town sponsored events. Mayor Root asked Council to consider a motion establishing the name of the area around the Community Center to be known as Dottie Sherrill Knoll at the Weaverville Community Center.

Vice-Mayor Jackson motioned to name the area around the community center as Weaverville Community Center at Dottie Sherrill Knoll. Councilmember Fitzsimmons seconded the motion and in a roll call vote all Councilmembers voted in favor of the motion to name the area around the community center as noted. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Root declared the agenda adopted as amended, adding agenda item 7D EV Charging Stations and 7E Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds, by consent. Previously listed agenda items 7D & E rolled to agenda items 7F & G.

3. Approval of the Minutes

With no comment related to the minutes and no objection, Mayor Root declared the minutes adopted.

4. General Public Comment

On a temporary basis due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, general public comments must be submitted in advance of the meeting. Comments are limited to no more than 450 words and must

observe normal rules of decorum. Only comments that are timely received will be read into the record during the public comment period. Public comments can be submitted (1) by **emailing** to public-comment@weavervillenc.org at least 6 hours prior to the meeting, (2) by putting your written comment in a **drop box** at Town Hall (located at front entrance and back parking lot) at least 6 hours prior to the meeting, or (3) by **mailing** your written comment (must be received not later than Monday's mail delivery) to: Town of Weaverville, PO Box 338, Weaverville, NC, 28787, Attn: Public Comments.

No public comment was received.

5. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Sherrill moved for the approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Fitzsimmons seconded the motion and in a roll call vote all Councilmembers voted in favor of the motion to approve all action requested in the Consent Agenda listed below. Motion passed 5-0.

A. Monthly Tax Report – *Information only – submitted by Buncombe County Tax Department.*

B. Budget Amendment: Community Center Contributions – *Allocation of \$5,200 in donations.*

C. Board Appointment: Board of Adjustment – *Appointment of Peter McGuire as an alternate member of the Board of Adjustment.*

D. Proclamations: Arbor Day, Earth Day and Proclamation Honoring Debera Roland Dixon.

6. Town Manager's Report

Ms. Coffey presented her Manager's report to Council which included information related to the sale of Police Department patrol vehicles, a sales tax update, a blood drive to be held at town hall, EV charging stations and the Arbor Day program.

7. Discussion and Action Items

A. Community Center Discussion Items.

Ms. Coffey presented Council with information related to a forthcoming facility use policy and application for the Community Center noting the specific areas of fee structure, reservations, facility use policies and fundraising which staff was seeking additional guidance on for incorporation into policy.

As it relates to a fee structure, consensus was gained to have the smaller room at the Community Center offered at a lower price than the main room. Councilmember Nagle noted his desire to have the rooms offered for free to town residents who wished to use the room(s) for non-commercial or nonprofit purposes while allowing a charge for in town commercial purposes and all out of town uses.

Regarding reservations, Mayor Root noted that the town should not offer the facility for use by the general public until after the July 4th weekend given that the expected completion date is May 17. Mayor Root reminded all that there may still be delays in opening the center therefore July 4 may opening may change.

As it relates to a proposed facility use agreement Mayor Root noted that the Town should adopt policies for problems that arise rather than try to forecast issues which may lead to policy which inadvertently restricts the use of the facility.

Councilmember Fitzsimmons described a brick sale which would commence in the spring. Consensus was gained to offer items which were crafted from the reclaimed wormy chestnut

wood from the former community center with proceeds going toward the town's fundraising efforts.

B. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Program Update.

Ms. Jackson presented to Council information related to the town's ongoing efforts toward MS4 Stormwater Program compliance. Ms. Jackson reviewed the draft stormwater management plan and outlined the next steps toward program compliance.

C. US Cellular Tower Easement Discussion.

Ms. Coffey presented material to Council related to a recent request for a perpetual easement on town property where an existing wireless communication tower is located. US Cellular is proposing a perpetual easement for \$217,000 instead of the ongoing lease which is \$22,250 annually. A discussion occurred related to if funds generated by the proposed lease agreement could be used toward community center fundraising efforts. Consensus was gained to have staff proceed with negotiations at a figure higher than that previously proposed by US Cellular and giving them the opportunity to contribute to the new Community Center as part of the negotiations.

D. EV Charging Stations.

Ms. Coffey described the previous consensus of Council to proceed with an application for grant funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Councilmembers Fitzsimmons and McKenna noted their desire to have the town proceed with the proposal. This became the consensus of Council as the expenditure of funds related to EV charging stations would be subject to Town Council approval in the form of a budget amendment at the April 2021 meeting.

E. Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds.

Ms. Dozier described impending COVID-19 relief funds to be offered to local jurisdictions from the federal level. However, at this time, very little guidance was available related to the allowable expenditures associated with these monies.

F. Merrimon Avenue Speed Limit.

Councilmember Nagle noted his desire to have the speed limit lowered on Merrimon Avenue from the southern municipal border to lakeshore drive from 45 mph to 35 mph making it consistent with the limit on the remainder of Merrimon entering downtown. Chief Davis noted a discrepancy on NCDOT speed limit maps which show all of Merrimon Avenue in town as 35 mph. Staff will continue to work with NCDOT on the resolution of these inconsistencies.

G. Quarterly Report – Public Works and Water Services

Public Works Director Pennell presented Town Council with the quarterly report for the Public Works Department.

8. Adjournment

Without objection, Mayor Root declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



James Eller, Town Clerk