

**TOWN OF BISCOE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
March 9, 2020**

The Biscoe Town Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building.

Board Members Present:

Mayor Eddie Reynolds, Commissioner Gene Anderson, Commissioner Kay Kinch, Commissioner Dutch Anliker, Commissioner Lashaunda Ryan, and Commissioner Barry Jackson.

Members of Management Present:

Town Manager Brandon Holland, Town Clerk Laura Morton, Public Works Director Sam Stewart and Police Chief Shane Armstrong.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Town of Biscoe Code of Ethics provides that public officials and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the public; that governmental decisions and policy be made in proper channels of the governmental structure; that public office not be used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. In recognition of these goals and in keeping with the ethical standards of conduct for town public officials and its employees, disclosure of interest in legislative action must be stated for the public record. The mayor or any member of the town council who has an interest in any official act or action before the council shall publicly disclose on the record of the council the nature and extent of such interest, and shall withdraw from any consideration of the matter if excused by the council pursuant to G.S. 160A-75.

Agenda Adjustments & Approvals

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinch, seconded by Commissioner Ryan, and so the motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Anliker and so the motion carried unanimously to approve consent agenda items:

- a) Approval of February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b) Approval of March Monthly Financial Report

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

New Planning Board Creation

Manager Brandon Holland said part of the Land Use Plan that has to be in place by January 2021, a new Planning Board must be created. The following is the ad that was advertised in the newspaper:

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Applications are now being accepted for individuals to serve on a newly formed Planning Board for the Town of Biscoe. The Board will consist of seven members (5 appointed by the Biscoe Town Board and 2 appointed by the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners).

Set Public Hearing for Mike Park Game Room Application for April 13, 2020

Manager Brandon Holland presented a Game Room Application from Mike Park for a Sweepstakes Game Room. The location of the proposed game room is the old Vanderveer's Gas building located at 2927 Hwy 24/27 East, Biscoe.

The purpose of the Planning Board is to conduct studies and recommend plans, policies, and ordinances relating to the growth and development of the Town; makes recommendations concerning proposed major subdivisions and proposed land use ordinance and zoning map amendments. They are strictly an advisory board to the commissioners regarding the zoning elements of the Town. Normally, the board will meet once a month on Monday evenings, but the Planning Board will also need to be a part of the future land use plan process.

Application Mike Park of 3022 Briar Oak Drive in Duluth, Ga. was present at the meeting.

Applications will be taken through *March 23, 2020*. Applications are available online at www.townofbiscoe.com or may be picked up at Biscoe Town Hall located at 110 West Main Street, Biscoe NC 27209.

Mr. Park said he has several other locations in North Carolina including Angier, Wadesboro, and Spring Lake. He said we set up to cater to mature people. He said we haven't had problems in other locations. These types of games attract better clientele.

Commissioner Anliker asked if this was a gambling establishment. Mr. Park said no, it is computerized slots where people play one on one on self-contained games. He said it is categorized as sweepstakes which is different than gambling. Some towns allow them and others do not. Mr. Park also stated it is for adults 18 and up.

Commissioner Jackson asked why Biscoe, what interested you in Biscoe? Mr. Park said he has been looking for Towns and he is seeking the Town's blessing. He said we are an asset to other communities.

Manager Holland said the Board will need to set a public hearing for the April 13, 2020 meeting to receive public comments. This is part of the process for the requested Conditional Use Permit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan, seconded by Commissioner Anliker and so the motion carried unanimously to set a public hearing for the Mike Park Game Room Application for April 13, 2020.

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Set Board Retreat Meeting for March 20th - 11:00 until 5 pm and March 21st - 9 am until 1 pm

Manager Holland said Chris Aycock with the Aycock Group would be facilitating the retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to set Strategic Goals and Priorities for the Town.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kinch and so the motion carried unanimously to set a Board Retreat for March 20th from 11 am until 5 pm and March 21st from 9 am until 1 pm.

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Reminder of Upcoming Meetings

Town Clerk said the following was included on the agenda for information purposes only. Upcoming Board Meetings are as follows:

- Regular Monthly Meeting - April 13 at 7 pm
- Budget Meeting - April 20 at 6 pm
- Regular Monthly Meeting - May 11 at 7 pm
- Budget Meeting - May 18 at 6 pm
- Regular Monthly Meeting June 8 at 7 pm
- June 24 at noon – Year End Budget Meeting

Public Comment

Ms. Chambers and Ms. Bennett with We Only Win Community Center were present. They invited the Board to their Grand Opening on April 28th from 11 am until 1 pm. Their business is located at 104 West Main Street in Biscoe. They invited the Board to participate in their opening from 11 am until 1 pm. The ribbon cutting will be scheduled for 11:30 am.

Rev. Jim Patterson of 412 East Main Street in Biscoe shared his concerns about speeding from the stoplight to Bojangles. He said he witnessed a bad wreck. He said the police can't always be there. He requested medians in the middle of the road. Mayor Reynolds said that road is maintained by NC Department of Transportation. Mr. Patterson said he feels it is a safety issue. Manager Holland said the Town can reach out to NC Department of Transportation for possible solutions.

Ms. Jessica Horton of 407 Blake Street was present. She is a guidance counselor with Montgomery County Schools. She thanked the board for the speed bump on Blake Street. She also stated concerns about issues on Bruton Street. She said there are areas with deplorable housing and piles of trash. She said it is embarrassing and it depreciates property value. Mayor Blake explained the Code Enforcement program the Town Board implemented. Over 50 houses were identified. He explained there is a process that has to be followed but we are trying. He said this is one of the first items this Board approved. We are trying to get the Town cleaned up.

Board & Staff Reports & Upcoming Events

Mayor Reynolds asked the Board for their comments:

Commissioner Anliker said he has seen improvements through Code Enforcement already. He said it takes time. Anliker said it makes property values go down and we do not want that.

Commissioner Kinch said she is glad to see everyone out at the meeting.

Mayor Pro-tem Anderson thanked Town Staff for their hard work. Commissioner Ryan also thanked the citizens for attending the meeting. Commissioner Jackson thanked Public Work Director Sam Stewart for his help at the ballfields.

Manager Holland said there is a pre-construction meeting for the Bruton Street Project.

Mayor Pro-tem Anderson asked for an update on Burger King. Manager Holland said the site plans have been approved and their engineers were on site today.

Code Enforcement

Dennis with Code Enforcement was present. He explained there are 6 properties that have been completely cleaned. He discussed the time line and where they stand in the process. He also spoke of an issue on Shady Oak where a man has been living in a building for many years. He explained their job is to enforce and educate. He encouraged the Board to have citizens contact him. We look for church organizations to help those in need.

Commissioner Anliker asked if they employed a bilingual interpreter. Dennis said yes and we also use our smart phones.

Mayor Reynolds said I have only received one complaint and out of all of the letters that went out, that is not bad.

Rev. Jim Patterson said he may be able to help with some of the situations.

Fire Chief Sam Stewart reminded the Board of the Fire Department fundraiser on March 28th.

Strategic Planning Discussion, Chris Aycock, The Aycock Group

Manager Holland introduced Chris Aycock with The Aycock Group to the Board.

Mr. Aycock went through the purpose of the meeting tonight. He asked the Board the following:

- At the end of the process, what would success look like?
- What are your expectations for the process?
- What are the important elements for the strategic plan?
- What are some of the key broad issues?

He also provide Ground Rules for Effective Groups

- State views and ask genuine questions
- Share all relevant information
- Use specific examples and agree on what important words mean
- Explain reasoning and intent
- Test assumptions and inferences
- Discuss undiscussable issues

Aycock asked the Board

- At the end of the process what would success look like?
- What are your expectations for the process?
- What are the important elements for the Strategic Plan?

- What are some of the key broad issues?

The following are thoughts Board members shared:

Mayor Pro-tem Anderson said we have good working relationships in Biscoe. We love Biscoe and want what is best for the Town. We have to increase our tax base. He said another priority is getting the Town cleaned up.

Commissioner Ryan said she wants issues to be positive, transparent, and honest.

A few key topics that include opportunities and issues:

- Commissioner Kinch shared her concerns with the current housing being income based. She said there are issues with current housing and we need more housing
- Mayor Reynolds said we need a housing development that will provide affordable housing.
- Commissioner Jackson said we need to attract employers and business.
- Mayor Pro-tem Anderson said our young people are leaving and are not coming back.
- Mayor Reynolds said we have prime locations for growth. We have the Mega Park, the Interstate, and the Airport next to us in Star.
- Commissioner Anliker said we are a prime area right now with the interstate. He said we are working on Land Use and Development and we have a local community college. We just have to find people.
- Commissioner Ryan said we are restoring public trust with public servants through our new leadership. She said Chief Armstrong is doing a great job. She said safety is important. She said we are headed in better positive directions.
- Manager Holland said we have to lead up and down. He said we have a great team and this Strategic Planning Retreat will help us gather all of our thoughts.

Adjournment

There being no further business to bring before the Board, Commissioner Anliker made the motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Kinch made the second. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor



Town Clerk