

TOWN OF BISCOE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
June 8, 2020

The Biscoe Town Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, June 8, 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/Moment of Silence/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.

Public Comment

The following spoke during public comment forum:

Mr. Jim Patterson of 412 East Main St in Biscoe with Heavenly Solutions Ministry was present. He said that a lady Rebecca Greene, an employee at Wal-mart, passed away and the family was asking for assistance. He explained Heavenly Solutions is a resource center in Biscoe that he funds out of his pocket. The Center helps with food, clothes, and the homeless and domestic violence. He said he would like the Town to help his business out.

Mayor Reynolds said is there a crisis center in Troy? Patterson said no it closed. He said this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Mr. Patterson said the Lord said to bring it to the town. Mayor Reynolds said Brandon and I will talk about this request. He asked Mr. Patterson to stay in contact with the Town.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and so the motion carried unanimously to approve consent agenda items:

- a) Approval of May 11, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
- b) Approval of June 2020 Monthly Financial Report

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Public Hearing #1 - Interim Budget Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Town Manager Holland presented the Interim Budget to the Board. He explained that due to the County's Tax Revaluation and the Manager Holland presented the following interim budget:

§ 159-16. Interim budget - *In case the adoption of the budget ordinance is delayed until after July 1, the governing board shall make interim appropriations for the purpose of paying salaries, debt service payments, and the usual ordinary expenses of the local government or public authority for the interval between the beginning of the budget year and the adoption of the budget ordinance. Interim appropriations so made shall be charged to the proper appropriations in the budget ordinance.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinch, seconded by Commissioner Ryan, and so the motion carried unanimously to recess the regular session and call to order Public Hearing #1 – Interim Budget Public Hearing FY 2020-2021.

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

No one spoke during the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anliker, seconded by Commissioner Kinch, and so the motion carried unanimously to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular session.

Manager Holland said because of the virus new General Statutes said you have to wait 24 hours to adopt the budget. The approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 will be included for approval on the June 24, 2020 meeting which will be at noon.

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Public Hearing #2 – Game Room Application Public Hearing

A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Kinch, and so the motion carried unanimously to recess the regular session and call to order Public Hearing #2 – Game Room Application.

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Mr. Jim Patterson of 412 East Main St in Biscoe spoke against the Game Room application. He said the name speaks for itself. He said there is a lot of crime in these areas. He said this needs to wait awhile because of the virus. Mr. Patterson said he is against gambling. It could bring a hardship to those with gambling problems. He said cameras do not keep crime away.

Mayor Reynolds asked if game rooms would be addressed in the new zoning laws. He asked Manager Holland if the Board should wait on this request because of the zoning changes. Manager Holland said I would recommend the Board table the request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan, seconded by Commissioner Anliker, and so the motion carried unanimously to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular session.

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

After a discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Ryan, seconded by Commissioner Anliker, and so the motion carried unanimously to table this request until the Biscoe Planning Board completes the Land Use Plan and Updated Zoning Ordinance which will include game rooms.

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Discussion and Approval of Strategic Plan

Town Manager Holland presented the proposed Strategic Plan to be Board. The Plan was drafted by Chris Aycock from a Board Retreat in March. Manager Holland explained that because of the virus, some of the dates had to be moved to the fall.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anliker, seconded by Commissioner Kinch, and so the motion carried unanimously to approve the Biscoe Strategic Plan.

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Attachment #1

Discussion and Decision on 2020 Summer Operations

Manager Holland discussed the 2020 Summer Operations for Biscoe Pool. He said other towns have made the decision not to open. He said the Health Department is recommending we do not open. Holland said we are continuing the daily maintenance and upkeep.

Mayor Reynolds said Biscoe has the most COVID-19 cases. Commissioner Ryan said opening would cause angry people if we have to limit the number in the pool. Commissioner Kinch and Commissioner Anliker said they thought it was for the best not to open under the circumstances.

Mayor Reynolds asked about other parts of the park. Manager Holland said softball practice is allowed. The rest of the park is subject to Phase 2 of the Governor's Plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anliker, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and so the motion carried unanimously to not open Biscoe Pool for the Summer 2020 Season due to the pandemic. (COVID-19).

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Appointment of Planning Board Member

Manager Holland announced the Town needs two Planning Board members; two of the former appointees decided they were unable to serve (John West and Benjy Dunn).

A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Kinch, and so the motion carried unanimously to appoint Jim Patterson to serve on the Biscoe Planning Board.

AYES: 5; NAYS: 0

Manager Holland asked the Board to provide staff with another name.

Golf Cart Discussion

Mayor Reynolds asked Police Chief Shane Armstrong what he was able to look into the Golf Cart policy/ordinance. Chief Armstrong said yes. He had looked at Star and Candor's ordinance. He said I do not think this is a good idea. Armstrong said their ordinances say 16 and up are allowed to drive the golf carts around. A suggestion was made to raise the age and keep within the quadrants an not crossing 24/27 because it is dangerous.

Commissioner Jackson asked why citizens are asking to be able to use gold carts. Is it for mobility? He said I haven't talked to anyone. Commissioner Kinch said one of the requests is coming from someone whose father had surgery and it would be easier for him to get around. Mayor Reynolds asked if the Town needed to stipulate only those who are handicap can use golf carts. He asked Chief Armstrong what keeps someone from using golf carts now? Chief Armstrong said nothing but if we stop them we have to charge them as we would a vehicle.

Commissioner Jackson pointed out that no other towns have as busy streets as we do. Commissioner Kinch asked if we could raise the age to 18 and require insurance. Commissioner Jackson asked if those interested could come to the Board and be approved. Manager Holland said they would have to register annually. Mayor Reynolds said there would need to be a screening process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Anliker, and so the motion carried 4-1 to allow Town Manager Brandon Holland and Police Chief Shane Armstrong to work together to come up with an ordinance.

AYES: 4; NAYS: 1 (Voting No – Mayor Pro-tem Gene Anderson)

Board & Staff Reports & Upcoming Events

Town Clerk Laura Morton reminded the Board of the June 24, 2020 meeting at noon (year-end budget amendments and approval of budget) and the Drive-thru Breakfast – Wednesday, June 19 at 9:30 am.

Commissioner Anliker thanked those in attending for being there.

Commissioner Kinch said she would like to thank the Police Department for participating in the March for George Floyd. She also thanked Mayor Reynolds for participating in the walk too.

Commissioner Ryan and Mayor Pro-tem thanked everyone for participating in the march. They also thanked those who attended the meeting and town staff.

Mayor Reynolds said Biscoe lost 2 people this past week former Town Commissioner Warren Shiver and Town Volunteer Bill Thompson. He said, after talking to Brandon and Laura recently, the Town should plant a tree for each of them in their honor and we should continue this process when someone passes that has given significantly to the Town.

Mayor Reynolds said he is very happy with where Biscoe is now. He said the walk on Sunday went well and he thanked everyone who participated. He said we are going through some hard times right now, but we will get through. He said I hate we can't open the pool but it is for the best. Mayor Reynolds also said he hoped the town could help Mr. Patterson as well as other community centers in the next budget.

Fire Chief (and Public Works Director) Sam Stewart said they had 2 people come in at the Fire Department that wanted to volunteer to be on the Fire Department to help the community. He thanked the Board for their continued support of the Fire Department.

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 7:45 pm



Mayor

Town Clerk

Attachment #1

Town of Biscoe Approved Strategic Plan

Executive Summary

The purpose of this strategic plan is to provide a framework, overall direction and specific guidance to the Town Council and Town Staff.

The Town Council of the Town of Biscoe with support from staff, held a strategic planning board retreat on March 20 and 21, 2020. Chris Aycock, President of The Aycock Group, was engaged to facilitate the strategic planning process and create this strategic planning document.

First, The Town Manager presented a report on "the state of the town". Secondly, The Town Council completed a SWOT (Analysis of external opportunities and threats, and internal analysis of strengths and weaknesses).

Based on this foundation, the Town Council established four goals. Goals are not listed in order of importance.

- Goal 1: Utilize all facilities to promote opportunities and quality of life for all citizens of all ages.
- Goal 2: Increase economic development by being progressive, attracting business, and promoting growth.
- Goal 3: Improve the quality of life.
- Goal 4: Increase financial health to support the growth of the town.

The Town Council developed specific objectives for each of the four goals to provide guidance and specific direction on how goals should be addressed which are listed in this plan.

The Strategic Plan will be monitored formally by the Town Council quarterly at board meetings and updated yearly.

The Town Council and the staff of the Town of Biscoe value actively listening to the citizens and providing responses in a timely manner. They proudly seek to serve the needs, opportunities, and desires of the people of their great town.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Utilize all facilities to promote opportunities and quality of life for all citizens of all ages.

Objective 1A: Hire a recreation director.

- Benchmark other recreation programs by the end of November 2020.

Objective 1B: Establish a recreation committee that includes one commissioner by the end of November 2020.

Objective 1C: The recreation committee (with assistance from staff) will create and implement a survey that asks citizens what their views, desires and needs are for recreation programming.

- Post the survey on social media and on the town's website.
- Include the survey in water bills.
- Work with church leaders to distribute the survey.

Goal 2: Increase economic development by being progressive, attracting business, and promoting growth.

Objective 2A: Create an ongoing list of available land that will be helpful for attracting businesses, retaining and growing existing businesses and promoting entrepreneurship. This list will include price.

Objective 2B: Develop approaches to enhance the town's online presence to market the town, attract businesses, and provide updated information on housing.

Objective 2C: Market the town and reach out to business leaders, both external and internal, utilizing a diverse array of methods.

Goal 3: Improve the quality of life.

Objective 3A: Invest in the youth of the town. Determine ways to use the town's current existing facilities and services and potential additional programs as well as grants to further benefit the wellbeing of and opportunities for the youth of the town.

Objective 3B: Hold a community-wide town clean-up day event annually.

- The first clean-up day will take place in 2021.

- Advertise the event in many ways including on the radio station, water bills, social media, and through the churches.

Objective 3C: Encourage youth groups, schools, and churches to continue their participation in enriching the attractiveness of the town.

Objective 3D: Hold events that serve the elderly and people with handicaps that share and train people on the resources available for repairs and renovations of housing and apartments.

Objective 3E: Explore how inmates can help with enhancing the beauty of the town.

Goal 4: Increase financial health to support the growth of the town.

Objective 4A: Build on the town's financial health and continue to increase the fund balance.

Objective 4B: Share information on the resources available for small businesses. Find direct and creative ways to distribute this information.

Objective 4C: Continue to find grants to benefit the quality of life for the citizens and the growth of the town.