



TOWN OF ROBBINS
Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 13, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Robbins Fire Department

I. CALL TO ORDER@ 6:00pm

PRESENT

Mayor Cameron Dockery
Mayor Pro Tem Nikki Bradshaw
Commissioner Brandon Phillips
Commissioner Kevin Stewart

ABSENT

Commissioner Jody Britt
Commissioner Lonnie English

II. INVOCATION – Mayor

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD NC G.S. 160A-81, 160A-81.1

V. CONFLICT OF INTEREST – *Does any Commissioner have a conflict of interest concerning agenda items the Board will address in this meeting?*

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

All items below are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will be held except on request of a member of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Bradshaw.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Phillips, Commissioner Stewart

A. Minutes from June Board of Commissioners Meeting

B. Surplus Items Sold for January 1-June 30, 2023

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Highland Charter School by Caleb Criscoe

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance declaring Road Closure for the San Juan Diego Horse Parade
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Bradshaw.
Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Bradshaw, Commissioner Phillips, Commissioner Stewart

- B. Addition of an Event Committee
(sample committee guidelines attached)

Bradshaw: I'll bring it up b/c I am the one that complained about it last year. We can go this route I don't have a problem with this, I think my request last year was to just get the board involved as much as possible b/c I'll even say I didn't know about Freedom Fest until we got to the last months meeting and the paper was laying on the table. So, I am not against us having kid's activities I have been told that the reason we have kid activities is for me. I will say I am for kid activities as long as we do it safely and correctly and again we can go this route I don't have a problem with this or we can make sure we have some members...we would rather be involved.

Mack: We want the involvement, I hope you will, you got to think Freedom fest, Harvest Fest these are the kinda things that went, I am glad it catches fire, I have had nothing but positive feedback for July 4th but it is a great stress on the staff. A lot of things, 4th of July particularly we use money we save throughout the year, we really don't know until we close the books how long our fireworks will be. I am all for it, that's just a sample ordinance, our ordinances are pretty clear with it, the committee of whoever that is proposed will propose a budget and those come to the board for approval individually. I mean the committee needs to be very flexible with the time. I'll definitely entertain it, that and if the committee does it, I can't have commissioners running over employees that's not the way the manager council format works.

Bradshaw: I don't think anyone wants to run employees, but you know we all live here and we all would like to have a part of planning and helping. We are all married we would all be welcome to help. If we are gonna help we would also like to be involved in the planning. That's not running people. And you and I talked last year after I had the situation with my granddaughter, we just the more people we have helping sometimes...let's play devil's advocate let's think about this..let's mark these things off the list b/c honestly everybody has different weaknesses ..strengths excuse me. Everybody has weaknesses too, but everyone has their different strengths they bring to the table. It's not a matter of us running anybody.

Mack: I'm just saying I think you are going down like legitimately manager-council government b/c that's been brought up when we were doing our research that a board member say I'm gonna be a committee chair and give me all your labor and we can't do that, but I'm saying if you have your committee then you plan that's fine. I have no problem with that. I am a master trained planner, we do it we go thru the checklist, the checking the blocks all the way from First Aid station we do it with the resources we have but if it's just more involvement and it's just that then we can just start a little sooner. And again I don't know if it's broke til we don't fix it, I mean we had a couple 100 last year and it was great and I'm pretty sure when you add in Branson Circle we had over 1000 this year. I think it's great but I mean the bigger it gets the more help we need. But with the town employees we had two planning sessions and final conditions checked that Monday and the white board is right there is Town Hall its posted. I got

Power points for all the employees that were involved, I don't want to mitigate ya'lls time make you feel like you have to work an event b/c you're the commissioners you should be out there shaking hands and kissing babies and I was very happy with the one commissioner identified a very easy safety thing and boom we took care of it. I like it but if its more being involved in the planning we can start sooner and be involved and get more feedback back and forth especially with Freedom Fest, the biggest thing is just the cost. But I have no problem I just I don't have an opposition, I'm cool with it if you don't have to have a committee you just want to have a little more feedback and interaction.

Bradshaw: Well that's all I've asked for is that we be a part of it b/c like I said we all live here. We don't mind helping, I'll be honest I don't mind watching a station or a ride or whatever it is we have. We were all in the dunking booth last year and nobody complained about that, but we don't know we can't help.

Mack: Town Hall is right there, I have a phone you can just call.

Bradshaw: If I don't know what's going on I don't know to offer my help. So that's what I'm saying if we could just be included in the planning then that's all that matters.

Phillips: I don't think we need a formal committee, I get the idea, I get the proposal to find 5 people to appoint but one all the time for a planning board to set up um and two if you get 5 people to appoint then you get 5 different personalities to spend this and this and this, I think the way we are doing it now is pretty good just a little more notification.

Mack: Again I want the feedback, we don't have all the answers we're just trying to do events b/c every time we do an event they ask where are more events and then ya'll come to me and say where are more events? A lot of it is cost driven.

Dockery: I was asked why can't you do that every month in the summer? Well it costs a lot of money, I get that..um so we are talking about right now the Farmers Day that's a whole different beast we are not involved in that? The Town is really not involved in that?

Mack: So to speak, but we have inserted ourselves more for the planning again.

Dockery: Planning what? What are we planning?

Mack: Planning and operations is like my thing and I get really weary if we don't have see a plan. The Fire assoc has been very gracious to include us so we know like I'll have a product for yall in the next week that will show what the road closures are; the safety procedures are, what the size is, that part I think yall were definitely left in the dark, if it's a town event we have an over arching responsibility. We have not impeded on the association only wanting to show support for it b/c we are attached to it. Little things like traffic barriers, we need them for the town so we bought them and use them for event. We bought the water barriers for safety for the events.

Dockery: So basically its Farmers Day, Freedom Fest, and Harvest Fest that's the three events?

Mack: And Christmas Parade and you'll see on your packet the Greenspace is rented for an event for the next 3 Saturdays

Kevin: I'm ok as long as they stay active

Mack: it's rented every week, stellar scoops doing a movie night and no cost to us and it's the cultural center of the town

Dockery: Commissioners what action do you want to take on this if any this evening? Are we saying we just want to be a little more involved on the planning earlier on? Or you wanna form a committee? I'm asking you guys.

Bradshaw: I think we just need to be more involved earlier on b/c we struggle to get committee members for other things too so

Phillips: Same and I worry the committee will get limited funds

Kevin: I don't have a problem with the committee, as long as they stay active, I know three years ago we established the beautification committee they might have met once, they just won't stay active.

Dockery: So I guess for now what we are saying is as a board we will forego a committee process and be a little more involved on the front end of events, is that what we're saying?

All nod- Ok

Logistical Update: **Add to agenda (C)**

Mack brought up to the board if we could pass resolution added by Wooten Engineers regarding DWI piggyback NCWRA grant for our Capital Project Ordinance. Resolution for a different department therefore needing Board Approval this evening.

Mack we are ahead of the program and vote to continue forward with DWI project for Water System Improvements

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Bradshaw, Commissioner Phillips, Commissioner Stewart

X. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. June 2023 Managers Report

Updates Very busy month

Closing out Low Water Crossing received a check for \$179,000 from FEMA this week Happy to get a Final Closeout and take it off the agenda.

Working on the FY24 books

Viola is working on the Tracy Brown Tank, there aren't just people playing on the tank. Met with Sandhills Boys and Girls Club it was a very good meeting, very positive. The main outtake was they wanted to include us in their strategic plan to be briefed on the 23rd of August. It was relayed to them that we are entertaining it. We have a public building that may suit their needs. Next step would require a public bid for just the asbestos removal. Their timeline is Summer 2024. Those contracts take time. Structure would be similar to Hope Academy, long term lease

Bradshaw: so are they looking at starting their work on the building Summer 24?

Mack: They want to occupy by then.

Bradshaw: What was the 8/23 date?

Mack: It's their big board meeting.

Dockery: So if I remember correctly, it was a submission, we said at the last meeting it was around \$200,000 for abatement roughly with repurpose that building and have the boys/girls club in there to me that's a win-win. I mean weren't we gonna pay nearly that to have it demolished?

Mack: Essentially it was \$225K for asbestos and then \$70-\$80K to demolish.

Dockery: With the programs, It would be great thing for the town.

Mack: Very positive feature and with the resources they bring are unmatched.

Dockery: Next step is to meet with them and see if they want to take it to the next level basically.

Mack: Correct, timeline stands and they can move forward if we do XYZ.

Mack: Sidewalk Proposal-hold off and present a full proposal. This company gave us a great quote to repair the 127 falling hazards in the main downtown district. Just the tripping hazard will be beneficial. To add to the Fire Dept last minute at end of budget transmission went out \$6800 and we had that in capital outlay, Timmy picked it up this morning and they are doing the labor his self.

Bradshaw: The audit that's coming next month is that the new audit company?

Mack: Yes

Bradshaw: They will come here and do it like we used to have it?

Mack: Yes-Horner paving got a dozen potholes patched and they are gonna come back in August; Daniel Gray passed his certification for water distribution B which is great so he got a raise and that was what Davis Reynolds would do for us. Update pictures in your packet 3 major busts

Couple staff meetings to have everyone on the same page and remind people of the manger council form of government, I am true believer in this form of government b/c it works. Ya'll represent the people in their needs and wants and we go find it, its so successful. We got a lot of great things coming up on the docket coming up. You know next month is gonna be a great month, I just want us to keep going in a positive direction and if there are any problem with performances just let me know it's not a big deal. Day to Day operations I got that. Not everyone is perfect but I love our staff I think they are great. Anything that's going on is always settled and I'm very confident the team we have now is the team that's going to bring us into the future. Very positive in teh way we are going. I'm not going anywhere I'm too boneheaded to get run off so if its broke let me know. If its a problem with an employee let me know, I probably already know about it. Very optomistic about future. I always say we, us, team. Very prodcutive month and really appreciate the support and that's all I have for my report.

Kevin: Can you give us an update on some of the larger code enforcement projects?

Mack: Yeah we are up to about 27 right now. I can send you the spreadsheet. We have had some good feedback and we have only had to collect one fine so far. OTher than the sewer issue. They fix them and we inspect them and go street to street. I think people realize and we are addressing the property owners.

Dockery: The one in my neighborhood is a whole lot better.

Mack: Its unfortunate that all that had to happen. Its a process. We are motivated. Its right there in our ordinances.

Dockery: The texaco station

Mack: They have gotten warnings-communication breakdown and excuses Showing progress

Stewart: Salisbury Street

Mack: Move the cars and doing legal research and we have been working on this due to zoning. Everyone is hours and hours of research to issue warnings. Got to do it right.

Bradshaw: Can you give us an update on H?

Mack: I know they put out a work session to announce and talk about the Opioid Crisis Water and Sewer the last thing I went to was County UDO meeting I went to they steered into a Water Sewer conversation that County was gonna get another million gallons from Harnett County per day, so they don't suspect any big water deals with anybody this year.

Dockery: that's disappointing

Stewart: they are shooting themselves in the foot by saying this.

Mack: I maintain the same thing I've said for a couple months, we are in the green our water system is profitable. Rates are sustained again 2 years in row. We just carry on like it is. It's really helping our bottom line to help our capital reserve. It's making money to provide better services which fine by me.

Dockery: I just say in a public meeting. I would be open to doing another deal with Montgomery county. Rather than Moore. I don't mean to buy more water I mean for our infrastructure here. We seem to be being snubbed at by the other end of the county. Maybe Montgomery County won't be so snobby. Forgive me for saying that.

Mack: Well as far as infrastructure-Regionalization is County lines are arbitrary, they again we aren't gonna get the money for water treatment plant because we have that source. I have talked with Mike their public works director and told him we are gonna meet soon and talk about that. The biggest thing for me is like contact maintenance, when we blow a line in the middle of the night they have 24 hour maintenance crew. How hard would it be to add us to assist us

Dockery: We were really wanting to do a deal with Moore county but would their be anything legally prohibitive of us being able to deal with another county as a municipality? To go outside of our county, b/c our county is going outside of our county. As a municipality, Robbins, is there anything illegal about us going into negotiations outside of our county?

Mack: You talking about to own our water system?

Dockery: yes

Al Bensoff(town attorney): If DEQ was ok with it, its theoretically possible Mayor. But DEQ monitors and licenses the water system and in theory its possible and DEQ likes water systems, sewer systems to be combined. They like regionalization.

Dockery: I wonder if it would be advantageous to have a conversation cause someone might get an idea they are serious about doing something with someone. I'm just very disappointed how this thing has fludged out so far personally.

Mack: We have had meetings with Frankie, he likes us even now with our reduced usage. We are still a viable customer. Under teh context that we have a economic growth would we have that possibility.

Dockery: The chairman of the board of commissioners from county said in our company out by our reservoir, this would be a great backup for our drought. IT seems to be the county is not interested in that now, maybe Montgomery County would be interested in using that resource. I think it would be advantageous to have a public meeting and discussion so some folks know we are serious about it. That's just my opinion. I'm not speaking for the board at all that's just my opinion.

Bradshaw: The last time I asked we had not got our insurance rates in did we have a big increase or I know we didnt have a decrease I'm sure.

Mack: That was one that was 7.8% that was an estimate they gave us ahead of time so we budgeted for it.

Bradshaw: That's just medical?

Mack: That's medical, and dental didn't change. The town liability insurance was significant. No one had any real complaints. Good moral, our new provider very accessible.

Bradshaw: BCBS- he is just the middle guy.

Stewart: I have one thing remember the library contacted me. The Karl Robbins Foundation they have supported teh libaray for years. Their budget from the town we have not increased it in 3 years, they have a lady that cleans the library weekly and currently she gets \$200 a month, they would like to have an increase to \$2600 to cover 52 weeks bring that before the board to find \$2600 to cover that, they are facing decrease funds from the other sources.

Mack: I do owe them a meeting and I talked to her a couple weeks ago.

Dockery: do we need to discuss about teh library

Mack: I asked the committee for thier assistance and tehy found somebody.

Stewart: I think the \$2600 was out of foundation.

Mack: I'm not sure I think it was in a line items, this is just a cleaning lady. We have had no trouble. I can bring it up for vote next month

Dockery: Any other questions. With no questions this will be our opportunity for commissioners comments.

XI. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Phillips: Thank everyone from the Town all the good work they did for Freedom Fest, glad to see we had a good turn out, I've got nothing but positive feedback, it's good to see when people come to Robbins the town look alive and not look like a ghost town. Without Freedom Fest I noticed, a few years you drive down Middleton St, not a car or business nothing going on and now it's something all the time its busy. It's what I like to see.

Stewart: I would like to say the same thing, thanks to the town and staff for putting on the Freedom Fest, it was very good and heard feedback from it and it was positive, appreciate the hard work.

Dockery: I would just say that I bet I had 50-75 comments in town and the only negative comment was this, people wanna buy the shirts we were wearing. They say how do we get the shirts?

Mack: It really came down to cost, we can recoup.

Dockery: I think they will buy alot of these shirts.

Bradshaw: Nothing

Stewart: Do you have a comment on this?

Mack: If you remember a citizen, Charlie Smoak asked if we could do that and Jessica did all the leg work and it was approved by the State and we ordered a sign. We sent those invitations to all the VIPs (state reps, county commissioners) and Chief Brown has been accommodating and that week is purple heart day near Farmers Day. So after the parade when they usually do the opening ceremonies. It will fit in with the patriotic opening of Farmers Day. We have purple heart recipients to sit front and center. Very simple but symbolic. I will give the history of the purple heart. Kick off great american event. The CZO requires conference for zoning certification.

Bradshaw: What is CZO?

Mack: Certified Zoning Official

Bradshaw: I've asked him to not use so many acronyms

Mack: On stop shop for minor subdivisions I can check the plats and do a one stop shop plat review as long as I keep the certification. Surveyors can come in leave the plat, review it within 24 hours and pay \$75, it pays for itself.

Dockery: Is there no reason for closed session this evening?

Mack: No Mayor

Stewart: Hate to have the attorney here and not use him

Mack: Al comes once a year

Dockery: Ask for a motion to adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Bradshaw, Commissioner Phillips, Commissioner Stewart

XII. CLOSED SESSION *(if needed)*

XIII. COMMISSIONER'S UPCOMING MEETING/EVENTS

Upcoming Events

Greenspace Rented

July 15, 22,& 29

Farmers Day August 3-5

Purple Heart Ceremony August 3rd Kickoff of Farmers Day

Aye___

Nay___

Cameron Dockery, Mayor

Jessica Coltrane, Town Clerk