

**TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

**March 21, 2022
6:00 p.m. – Huntersville Town Hall
101 Huntersville-Concord Road**

PRE-MEETING

The Huntersville Board of Commissioners held a Pre-meeting at Huntersville Town Hall, 101 Huntersville-Concord Road, at 4:30 p.m. on March 21, 2022.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Melinda Bales; Commissioners Dan Boone, Rob Kidwell, Amber Kovacs, Lance Munger, Derek Partee and Stacy Phillips.

Mayor Bales called the pre-meeting to order.

Discuss Various Retreat Topics Nos. 8, 10, 14, 18, 25, 27, 28

8. CMS policy about schools in Huntersville, CMS Rubric, and Town's charter school options. Will wait to hear update on rubric before coming back for discussion.
10. Reduce Town Manager spending to 25K from 150K. General consensus was to keep as-is. A summary of all contracts over \$50,000 will be included with financial reports.
14. Pass a Non-discrimination Ordinance. No direction at this time. Staff working through concerns about enforcement.
18. Review language on whether a citizen can serve on multiple committees and discuss applications for boards and committees. It was the general consensus of the Board that names and addresses be removed from advisory board applications provided to the Board and that a map of the location of applicants be provided just showing the numbers. Service on more than one committee will be discussed at a future date. Town Attorney advised someone can only serve on a maximum of two committees, per statute.
25. Town Participation in NC League of Municipalities. Board requested staff bring back how much money Town spends with NCLM and information on services they provide the Town.
27. Noise Ordinance. General consensus of Board to have Police Department do a pilot testing program (until December 2022) with HPD using decibel meter. No citations will be issued during the pilot program.
28. Lighting Ordinance. No action at this time. Commissioner Kidwell to meet with Brian Richards on site when tested.

**REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Regular Meeting of the Huntersville Board of Commissioners was held at the Huntersville Town Hall, 101 Huntersville-Concord Road, at 6:00 p.m. on March 21, 2022.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Melinda Bales; Commissioners Dan Boone, Rob Kidwell, Amber Kovacs, Lance Munger, Derek Partee and Stacy Phillips.

Mayor Bales called the meeting to order.

Mayor Bales called for a moment of silence.

Mayor Bales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

STAFF QUESTIONS

Mayor Bales requested update on the Social Media policy.

Anthony Roberts, Town Manager, said the Board adopted a Social Media Policy for Town Employees and Town Social Media Sites on January 18. Staff will bring back a revised Social Media Policy for Elected Officials and Members of Appointed Board, Committees and Commissions sometime in April. Mr. Roberts pointed out that social media posts made by the Mayor or Board of Commissioners do not reflect the official views of the Town of Huntersville.

Commissioner Kovacs requested an update on K9 Officer Igor.

Chief Bence Hoyle provided update. K9 Officer Igor was seriously injured in a training accident. He was flown to NC State University for advanced surgery, which was done at no cost to the Town. They are expecting a 6 to 8 month recovery period. The goal is to try to get him back to work.

Mayor Bales reminded everyone that the Town Board has gone back to pre-Covid protocols and no longer accepts public comments for Town Board meetings via email.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

Gatewood Campbell – declined.

BeeJay Caldwell, 14521 New Haven Drive, addressed the Board concerning Huntersville Rosenwald School #2. *Refer to written comments attached hereto as Exhibit No. 1.*

Bob Inskeep, 15801 Delancey Lane, said this is a request for a traffic light to be installed at the corner of Northdowns Lane and Statesville Road in Hamptons Park, across from the Hamptons neighborhood. My wife and I are enjoying our 27th year as original homeowners in the Hamptons. We plan to remain here, despite the growth. However, it has become less fun to maneuver our way out of the neighborhood on many occasions. I'm here tonight representing our HOA Board, the 360 families in the Hamptons and 125 families in Greenfarm, the current businesses situated across Statesville Road to the west, mainly

Ortho Carolina, CENNTA, Ivybrook Academy and Arbor Ridge Retirement community. I understand there could be one more dental office there soon. There's a strong consensus among these parties for the installation of a temporary traffic signal, which NCDOT has acknowledged is warranted as a result of the traffic survey commissioned by the Town last September. There's already been one fatality and we think a light is the best temporary solution in advance of the completion of the Route 21 widening project which is under current projections to not be completed until probably 2028. It's my understanding the start date is December 2024. However, per my direct communication with NCDOT, the planned start date for the Route 21 expansion project may be extended due to current budget issues related to the state's 10-year Highway Improvement Plan. Meanwhile traffic will continue to increase as Arbor Ridge begins operation. It's my understanding that there are plans for a medical building across from Ortho Carolina. At this time the state indicates no funds are available, therefore monies for the installation of a temporary light will have to come from citizens – Hamptons, Greenfarm, as well as businesses across the street and hopefully the Town. There is no doubt as to the need, which today is showing peak volumes of 2,000 vehicles per hour going through there. We believe a light will reduce the risk of a serious accident. That's what we are all about here is safety. With the children's academy and the large volume of patients at Ortho Carolina and Charlotte Ear, Eye Nose and Throat, the addition of another medical facility, as well as the new Arbor Ridge, we think this is a much needed improvement to the highway safety we have in this town and would like to have your consideration.

Mayor Bales requested staff look at that intersection and report back to the Board.

Anthony Roberts, Town Manager, reported that the Director of Engineering already looked at it. Staff will email the Board an update.

Mayor Bales noted that Charles Hege, 13839 Beatties Ford Road, was present at the meeting and deferred his 3 minutes to Crystal Silvas.

Crystal Silvas, 13925 Beatties Ford Road, said obviously I'm here to discuss Community School of Davidson again. I did a request for emails related to this project. I received most of them and am through about a quarter of them right now, just to 2018. I'm more than a little bit concerned about what I've found so far. I've given you all a hand-out just outlining what I am going to go over so that you can see a few of the pictures. *Refer to Exhibit No. 2.*

We are going to start with the fact that this stadium was given funding as if it was a school, despite the fact that no school was built there, and it was known ahead of time that it would not be. Over and over from 3-6-2018 to 7-13-2018 NCDOT and the Town of Huntersville said this is not a school, you are not going to receive funding until a school building is built and students are going the required 180 days. That was constant. NCDOT confirmed the legislation on that. At a Town Board meeting, our previous mayor, John, wanted to confirm that reimbursement would not be given for any of the road improvements. It was confirmed by Jack Simoneau that it would not be given until a school was constructed. Then on 7-13-2018 at 4:21 p.m., Max Buchanan sent the following email:

Just spoke with Louis. The short answer is "yes". They are going to treat the site as if there is a building there from the start. Louis and NCDOT Administration is making the liberal interpretation that because they intend to use the site as a drop off and pick up for their Davidson campus, they'll reimburse when the work is complete.

Also indicated that CSD obviously have some influential folks with political ties.

That said, they will NOT reimburse for sidewalks and other improvements. I expect it will be tough not to follow the NCDOT interpretation.

Obviously, that email didn't make it to our previous board. That was kept with staff, which is obviously unacceptable. I don't know why they feel it is appropriate to not bring all of this information before the Board. I think it calls into question all of the projects that are currently going on, what else is being hidden. If our town is wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer money, money that I'm giving, on influential people with political ties, I have a serious problem with that.

CSD was labeled a stadium, which we all know by now is not allowed under Huntersville ordinance in a rural community. It was considered that over and over from 8-15-2017 to 12-7-2017. Then a meeting happened because a representative from the school reached out to Brian Richards and let him know they wanted to build by-right. At that point, all labeling went from being a stadium to multi-use fields. Whatever you call it, it's the same thing. There's a definition, there's permanent seating, it's not allowed. All that was presented to the Town Board was the fact that this is a multi-use field. They did not present the fact that no, it's not legally allowed to be there. They did not present the fact that there were going to be lights that are not allowed and bleachers that are not allowed. They just presented hey, this is good for the town, I assume because of influential people with political ties.

The stadium lights are still an issue. I sent a picture to some of you from my yard which is surrounded by trees, and I am still able to sit out there with no light from my porch or my home when their lights are on, which is at least five nights a week, and their PA system is used more than just football season. Our lighting ordinance 8.26.1 says "At a minimum, all lighting installations shall be designed to achieve no greater than the minimal illuminance levels for the activity as recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America." Football – there should be maintained a minimum average of 30 horizontal foot candles on the playing field for facilities with fewer than 2,000 spectators. This is 1,500 spectators and they're at 60 on the field. Twice what is allowed. That's why we have light trespass all over in our community. I did have the lighting plan sent to another engineer. It appears that what was sent to our team was false, that most of the light trespass in adjacent properties was above 2 despite the fact that they listed it as 0. That's a calculation. It's an outright lie and is proven by the fact that even tonight Brian let us know that they have been outside of our ordinance. I have a few extra questions. Why does Rob Cameron with Wells Fargo.....I'm out of time.

AGENDA CHANGES

Commissioner Munger made a motion to move Items 10.D, 10.I, 10.K and 10.L from Other Business to Consent Agenda as Items 8.B, 8.C, 8.D and 8.E and to defer action on Item 10.M (Adopt changes to Huntersville Ordinances Advisory Bylaws) until the April 4 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Commissioner Boone seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Munger made a motion to add a closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-319.11(a)(5) to instruct staff on negotiating the terms for the acquisition of real property to be held following Other Business.

Commissioner Kidwell seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kidwell made a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended.

Commissioner Partee seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes. Commissioner Kovacs made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2022 Special Town Board Meeting. Commissioner Munger seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Northbrook Subdivision – Phasing of Transportation Improvements. Commissioner Kovacs made a motion to approve request to modify phasing of transportation improvements required for Northbrook Subdivision consistent with NCDOT's approval. Commissioner Munger seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Timing Modification attached hereto as Exhibit No. 3.

Amendment to 150th Anniversary Committee Bylaws. The suggested changes will allow the committee to meet outside of normal business hours. The current bylaws require the monthly meeting to be held during normal business hours.

Commissioner Kovacs made a motion to approve amendment to the Town of Huntersville 150th Anniversary Committee Bylaws. Commissioner Munger seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Amended Bylaws attached hereto as Exhibit No. 4.

Resolution – Commerce Substation Surplus Transformer. On February 7, 2022, the Town Board declared a 30/40/50 MVA WEB Power Transformer at Commerce Substation as surplus. The sale of the transformer was authorized by advertisement of sealed bids. Power Asset Recovery Corp. submitted the highest, responsive bid to purchase the transformer.

Commissioner Kovacs made a motion to adopt Resolution to approve Purchase Contract for Commerce Substation Surplus Transformer. Commissioner Munger seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit No. 5.

Planning Board Rules of Procedure Amendment. At the 2022 Board Retreat the Town Board requested that the Planning Board Rules of Procedure be updated to reflect that they will be approved and amended by the Town Board.

Commissioner Kovacs made a motion to approve changes to the Planning Board Rules of Procedure. Commissioner Munger seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Amended Rules of Procedure attached hereto as Exhibit No. 6.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Historic Designation – Huntersville School #2. Mayor Bales called to order public hearing on the question of designating as a historic landmark the property known as the “Huntersville School #2” also known as the Dellwood Center, (including the exterior of the building and the approximately 2.787 acres of land listed under tax parcel 01908102 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office) located at 508 Dellwood Drive.

Kayleigh Mielenz, Planner I, entered the Staff Report into the record and reviewed request. *Staff Report and Staff PowerPoint attached hereto as Exhibit No. 7.*

Huntersville School #2, located at 508 Dellwood Drive, is one of six of surviving Rosenwald schools in Mecklenburg County. Rosenwald Schools were built to serve the African American population. The school opened in 1925 and remained in operation until 1958. Pottstown community members formed Huntersville Better Community Civic Organization to purchase the building and convert it into a community center in 1958. Since then, the building has been a gathering center and focal point for the African American community in north Mecklenburg County. The building is now owned and operated by the Town of Huntersville as a recreation and event center.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission held a virtual public hearing on March 14, 2022, focused on the question of designating as a historic landmark the property known as the “Huntersville School #2.” The Town discussed the possibility of adding a playground and/or nature trail on the Huntersville School #2 parcel in the future. Charlotte-Mecklenburg HLC confirmed they are open to the idea. Also discussed, possibly placing a preservation easement on parcel 01908144 to act as a buffer between adjacent development and Huntersville School #2. Parcel 01908144 is also owned by the Town of Huntersville and contiguous to the Huntersville School #2 parcel. These are preliminary discussions at this time.

Jack Thompson, Executive Director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, reviewed the history of Rosenwald schools.

Rachel Zwipf, 13021 Central Avenue, said I just wanted to come in today and ask you guys to go ahead and designate the Little School as a historic landmark. I am a transplant from Pittsburgh. I’ve been here almost 10 years and I have two sons. Once I learned about the Little School, we spent much time down there with different events within the community and being on the community staff of Pottstown now and helping get some change in the area, having that school preserved for our community is just greatly important to us.

Varona Wynn, 13219 New Haven Drive, addressed the Board representing North Mecklenburg Communities United, to request the Town Board approve recommendation of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission to designate Huntersville Rosenwald School #2 as a local historic landmark. *Refer to written comments attached hereto as Exhibit No. 8.*

Commissioner Munger said the ordinance indicates that a suitable sign may be posted indicating the property has been designated as historic. Do we have any specific plans to take care of that?

Mr. Thompson said a roadside marker would be appropriate. The Historic Landmarks Commission would be proud to partner financially with the Town in order to get that accomplished.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Bales closed the public hearing.

OTHER BUSINESS

Historic Designation – Huntersville School #2. Consider decision on designating as a historic landmark the property known as the “Huntersville School #2” also known as the Dellwood Center (including the exterior of the building and the approximately 2.787 acres of land listed under Tax Parcel Number 01908102 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office). Said property is owned by the Town of Huntersville and is located at 508 Dellwood Drive.

Kaleigh Mielenz, Planner I, noted it is Staff’s recommendation that the Town Board take action on the designation of Huntersville School #2.

Commissioner Partee made a motion to designate the Huntersville School #2 as a historical landmark.

Commissioner Kidwell seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit No. 9.

Petition #R21-16. Petition #R21-16 is a request by Mosaic Development Group to rezone +/- 9.8 acres at 9102 Beatties Ford Road from Rural District to Neighborhood Residential Conditional District for age restricted multi-family housing (Parcel # 01526437).

Brian Richards, Assistant Planning Director, entered the Staff Report into the record and reviewed request. *Staff Report and Staff PowerPoint attached hereto as Exhibit No. 10.*

The purpose of this request is to rezone 9.8 acres east of Beatties Ford Road from Rural to Neighborhood Residential Conditional District for up to 130 units multi-family development (age restricted).

Two ordinance modifications are proposed. One is for off-street parking and the second modification is for side yard parking. Staff is in support of the rezoning request, including the two modifications. The Planning Board made a recommendation to approve at their last meeting.

Commissioner Munger said in the first modification, Article 6, there’s a staff comment regarding reaching out to CATS to discuss the possibility of utilizing micro transit as an option for the development. What was CATS’ response to that?

Mr. Richards said it is in their long-term plan, but they are redeveloping and reevaluating the routes in the northern area right now. It’s not programmed or paid for at this point in time, but we feel that the programs that Mosaic is going to offer for their residents will help support them getting around as they need in the meantime.

Commissioner Boone made a motion to approve Petition #R21-16, rezoning of 9102 Beatties Ford Road, from Rural to Neighborhood Residential Conditional District. The Town Board finds that the rezoning as outlined in Part 4 of the Staff Report is consistent with Huntersville Zoning Ordinance 11.4.7(d), 11.4.7(e), Huntersville 2040 Community Plan policies LU-2.1, LU-5.1, LU-6.1, LU-7.1, LU-8.1, LU-10.1, T-

3.1, and the Beatties Ford and Mt. Holly-Huntersville Small Area Plan. The Town Board further recommends approval of the requested modifications: Modification 1, reduction of the number of off-street parking from 139 to 125 spaces; and Modification 2, the side yard parking along Beatties Ford Road with a 20' buffer to screen the parking lot from Beatties Ford Road. This recommendation for approval is contingent upon the applicant successfully addressing all outstanding staff comments and potential NCDOT comments. It is reasonable and in the public interest to amend the Zoning Ordinance because the rezoning is consistent with the envisioned usage and development pattern set forth in the 2040 Community Plan and the Beatties Ford and Mt. Holly-Huntersville Small Area Plan.

Commissioner Phillips seconded motion.

Mayor Bales called for the vote to approve Petition #R21-16.

Motion carried unanimously.

Petition #21-14. Petition #R21-14 is a request by Mecklenburg County to amend the conditional district rezoning plan for their recycling facility at 12230 Statesville Road (Parcel # 0172040). The property is zoned Special Purpose Conditional District and the purpose of the amendment is to expand the boundaries of the active area of the facility.

Brad Priest, Principal Planner, entered the Staff Report into the record and reviewed the request. *Staff Report and Staff PowerPoint attached hereto as Exhibit No. 11.*

Since the public hearing, an updated tree survey has been completed and they are conforming to the application requirements for saving specimen trees. They added a note on the plan committing to work with the Town to establish the alignment of the greenway once it is proposed to go through the property.

The Planning Board recommended to approve with conditions on February 22, 2022.

Commissioner Boone asked will cooking oils or animal waste be processed at this center in the future?

Mr. Priest said the current application is under an inorganic residential household waste recycling program and that's the use that's shown under the Zoning Ordinance. If there was a change significantly from what it's doing now to going into organic food waste, oil waste or animal waste, that would be a different aspect as treated under our ordinance and they would have to come back in to modify the rezoning plan and maybe even get a special use permit. The answer to that question would be no, they would have to come through that other process.

Commissioner Boone made a motion in considering the proposed rezoning Petition #R21-14, the North Mecklenburg Recycling Center Expansion, the Town Board recommends approval based on the amendment being consistent with the Huntersville 2040 Plan policies LU-1.1, LU-5.1 and LU-11.1. The plan shall be updated to include a completed tree survey showing conformance to tree requirements and with a footnote regarding the future greenway location. As part of this expansion, the applicant shall dedicate to the Town the land needed to construct and maintain the rear Verhoeff Drive connection as determined by Planning staff. It is reasonable and in the public interest to approve the rezoning plan because the center is an essential service for local residents. The applicant has partnered with the nearby community of Plum Creek to address the concerns and to go on record to address potential future concerns as they relate to noise and smell. The additional turn lanes on Statesville Road

as required by NCDOT shall be constructed. All staff comments that remain outstanding shall be satisfied in the plan. The applicant will make best efforts to mitigate the smell and acknowledges that they are subject to the Town's ordinances regarding nuisances.

Commissioner Munger seconded motion.

Mr. Priest said as a point of order, the one additional condition that was added to the plan in the motion in regard to the Verhoeff Extension right-of-way, the applicant has not put into record that they have agreed to that condition, so that would be required.

Jeff Smithberger, Director of Solid Waste for Mecklenburg County, said that's going to cause some problems in the fact that the Solid Waste group does not control that piece of property. Part of the property is controlled by Central Piedmont Community College. The other portion of that property is owned by Mecklenburg County, but leased to the Town of Huntersville. We would have to reopen that lease to see if that could be possible. Where this particular road goes is within approximately 10' of your existing softball fields and likely doesn't meet the zoning setbacks. It's likely a provision that could never be met, so this one provision would likely mean stoppage of the expansion of the facility. What I would ask is that while we look into this particular issue, that you allow our expansion to continue. As you are aware, Mecklenburg County works with the Town of Huntersville proceeding by the lease that we have for that area out there now. I would like for these two issues to be sort of de-linked and continue on working through that with the Planning staff from the Town of Huntersville and the folks within the Huntersville Parks & Rec Department and Mecklenburg County Park and Rec Department. I had talked with the director of Mecklenburg County's Park and Rec today regarding this and reopening the lease would likely take quite a bit of time to make sure everything is correct in it. It was last done when the CPCC facility was opened and installed out there, but at this point my ask to you tonight is that Mecklenburg County will continue to work with you, but please de-link these two things.

Commissioner Munger said what's our comfort level with the explanation as to whether or not we would actually get the Verhoeff Extension, because I know right now it's not a 5-year solution. It's not something we need in the next 5 to 10 years. From what I've heard from staff, it's likely a 20 to 30 year thing because I know we are getting the turn lane to come into the front and obviously we don't want you to change your traffic pattern. We understand it took some time to develop that, but in that 15-20 year timeframe where traffic starts to stack up and people start to say we really need to have that secondary entrance, we would like to have that option.

Mr. Priest said from the staff perspective, I think we are comfortable with the wording that the county is talking about....let's work on it to see what we can work out and move toward that direction. As was discussed at the Planning Board, the immediate need for the connection is probably not there because of the turn lanes being put in, that's going to add some additional stacking. We had a stacking issue previously at the facility on 21. That was rectified by moving the goal post and moving the gate way back in the property so you could stack more people into the facility, plus putting turn lanes into the facility, so that probably helps out a lot. The immediate need is probably pushed back and so from Staff's recommendation, we'd be fine with just working with the county and try to make that happen in the future.

Commissioner Kidwell said in the information we were given it said staff recommends that establishing the rear connection and having additional access as discussed would be beneficial for the site, especially considering Highway 21 will be likely divided in the future. I think it's important that this conversation doesn't end here and potentially we get quarterly updates of where we are at with this extension

because I think it's going to happen sooner than 20 years that we are going to need it. Personally, because as we go into construction that becomes a superhighway so to speak, we are going to need additional access to that facility.

Mayor Bales said I guess the question is does the Board feel it's important to get a quarterly update. That just seems like a short amount of time.

Commissioner Munger said that seems pretty tight. I was thinking once a year.

Commissioner Boone amended his motion to take out the part that stated "As part of the expansion, the applicant shall dedicate to the Town the land needed to construct and maintain the rear Verhoeff Drive connection as determined by Planning staff."

Commissioner Munger seconded amended motion.

Mayor Bales called for the vote to approve Petition #21-14.

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment – Holbrook Park Tennis/Pickleball Court Lights. This budget amendment is for replacing the light controlling system and feed for the Holbrook Park Tennis/Pickleball Court lights. These funds come from the Park Capital Reserve Fund. There have been numerous light issues at this complex and the controls and contactors are over 23 years old. This will take care of the issues with lights not working or going off due to inadequate controls and power feed. This new system can be controlled remotely and will notify the Town of any issues.

Commissioner Kidwell made a motion to approve budget amendment transferring \$24,000 from the Park Capital Reserve Fund to Capital Expense line for Holbrook Park Tennis/Pickleball court lights.

Commissioner Munger seconded motion.

Mayor Bales called for the vote to approve budget amendment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment – Shade Shelter. This request is to use Recreation Center Sponsorship Funds from the NovantHealth Sponsorship to fund the purchase of a shade structure outside of the Recreation Center. This will provide more outdoor covered space for programs and events.

Commissioner Munger made a motion to approve budget amendment for \$25,000 from Recreation Center Sponsorship funds to fund shade shelter to the Capital Expense line.

Commissioner Kidwell seconded motion.

Mayor Bales called for the vote to approve budget amendment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment – Greenway Trailhead Art Piece. The Public Art Committee, the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Greenway, Trail & Bikeway Commission have all unanimously recommended that the Town use \$35,000 from the sponsorship line to go along with the \$10,000 private donation to fund the Downtown Greenway Trailhead art piece. The Town Board approved the selection of the artist and the art piece on December 6, 2021.

Commissioner Partee made a motion to approve budget amendment to move \$35,000 from the sponsorship line and the \$10,000 private donation fund to fund the Trailhead art piece.

Commissioner Phillips seconded motion.

Mayor Bales called for the vote to approve budget amendment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Contract – Greenway Trailhead Art Piece. The Public Art Committee and the Greenway, Trail & Bikeway Commission have chosen Landis Sculpture Studio to create a public art piece for the Downtown Greenway Trailhead.

Commissioner Munger made a motion to approve contract with Landis Studios for the Downtown Greenway Trailhead art piece.

Commissioner Kidwell seconded motion.

Tracy Houk, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, confirmed that no taxpayer funds are involved in this project.

Mayor Bales called for the vote to approve the contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

Contract attached hereto as Exhibit No. 12.

Resolution – Right-of-way and Easements for Arahova Drive Project. Stephen Trott, Director of Engineering, reviewed the project. The project entails rebuilding the roundabout at the intersection of Arahova Drive and Boulder Park Drive. *Refer to PowerPoint attached hereto as Exhibit No. 13.*

Commissioner Munger made a motion to approve a Resolution to acquire right-of-way and easements for the construction of the Arahova Drive Project with the following modification: The Town Manager is not authorized to move forward with the condemnation of the parcels that may not be negotiated for purchase without separate Town Board approval.

Commissioner Kovacs seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit No. 14.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Munger made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-319.11(a)(5) to instruct staff on negotiating the terms for the acquisition of real property after 5-minute recess.

Commissioner Kidwell seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Town Board returned from Closed Session.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS/CLOSING COMMENTS

Mayor Bales

- Attended groundbreaking for Arden 55+ community.
- Metropolitan Transit Commission met on March 23.
- Joint CEO Roundtable between Lake Norman Economic Development Corporation and the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce is March 23.
- Lake Norman Regional Economic Development and the Lake Norman Education Collaborative hosted Journey 360 Program where area high school students toured three manufacturing sites.

Commissioner Phillips

No Report.

Commissioner Boone

- Caterpillar Ministries and Ada Jenkins will host a Festival of Services event in Huntington Green on April 2.

Commissioner Kidwell

- Next Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization meeting is March 23.
- Veterans Representative from the VA will have office hours at Town Hall on March 23.

Commissioner Kovacs

- Provided update from the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Munger

- Attended groundbreaking for Arden 55+ community.
- Will be attending two Huntersville 101 sessions on Wednesday.
- Consider supporting local non-profits.

Commissioner Partee

- Huntersville Police Department has free child safety gun locks.
- Bring awareness to Cool Kids Clubhouse.

Mayor Bales called for any Closing Comments.

Commissioner Phillips said this is our last meeting during Women's History month and I wanted to read this quote to you from Maya Angelou especially because so many of the great things that keep happening in our community are because of the women on our staff, the women that participate in this community and it says "Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women." I feel that it's very relevant tonight with the great progress with the Dellwood Center.

Commissioner Partee said my statement is addressing a commissioner's twitter fallout that we have been enduring. I just want to clarify my position as an elected Huntersville commissioner regarding the twitter statement posted by one of the sitting commissioners. I will not allow myself or the Town to be held hostage by the public because of one person's questionable indiscretion. I represent the voters, residents, communities and Town government and I took a sworn oath to protect the integrity of our town and my position as commissioner. And I repeat, I took a sworn oath to protect the integrity of our town and my position as commissioner. I am addressing what I consider to be the predatory language that was posted on social media that has caused a tremendous amount of backlash and anger. My Facebook page has been violated. I have received phone calls and emails directed towards Board members and this Town government. When the Town of Huntersville is afraid to have a tent at a fundraising event in Veterans Park because of angry backlash, it's time for someone to step up to the plate and not put their head in the sand, hide, or run away from the negativity. I am the face of Huntersville and I'm sure not hiding for the next two years of my term from the public without articulating my position on this matter. Now I'm addressing those persons who have been victimized because of the language used by this commissioner in their tweet. I feel your pain. I hear your anger. I hear the anxiety of reliving the abuse. I speak to you from a position as a certified trained expert and former special victims investigator working with victims that were children, adolescents, and adults. My wife Michelle is retired from SVU with the same credentials. We are both trained to interview children who were sexually abused. My fellow board members are unaware of the predatory deviance that are lurking in our churches, our schools, streets, and in our families where trust has turned into abuse. To those persons demanding action or justification, I hear your pain and anger. But only this person alone who posted this tweet can resolve your emotional anger, your painful outcry, and bring you closure. This is my personal statement.

Commissioner Munger said I'd like to share a statement tonight which I borrowed heavily from Senator Corey Booker that I feel is appropriate in our current climate. "There's a saying that the lowest form of human knowledge is opinion. We all have them, it requires no accountability, no understanding, no compassion. Whereas the highest form of human knowledge is empathy. It requires us to place our own egos in check and enter the deep wisdom of living in our one collective world. It's hard, but as we go about our day today, may we all spend a lot more time listening and actually hearing one another, acknowledging our differences while celebrating our commonalities and less time judging each other."

Commissioner Kidwell said I would like to address something that is closer to home and that is violence – teenage fighting at Birkdale. I received way more emails than I care to regarding the fighting that's going on over there. It was six teenagers against one and we received emails from concerned parents and they are like what are the police doing, what is Birkdale doing. Birkdale hires six off-duty officers from the Town of Huntersville, on top of their own security personnel. What you might not know is Regal Cinema is not part of Birkdale. It's actually a separate entity. They have one security guard. He works inside. He doesn't come out. I really want the community to email the General Manager at the Regal Cinema and say please start having additional security behind your building. This is where these instances are happening. I also want to reach out to the families out there to speak to their children. I'll tell you, I was a wild youth. If I could stay out past curfew, speeding cars, having fun, I did it. But speak

to your children about de-escalation. Talk to them about how to work through conflicts without violence. It's tough when you are a teenager and you've got your hormones going on, trying to impress everybody and their brother, but seriously talk to your kids. Nothing is solved by fist fighting. Nothing is solved when it's six on one. If you can agree to disagree and walk away, that is the best course of action.

Mayor Bales said I would like to also encourage our kids to use 911, not to just pull their phones out and video. That does no one any good. Encourage your kids, you can call 911 and it can be anonymous. That is something that I don't think our kids are doing enough these days. They are concerned by retaliation. If you can do it, you can call 911 and be anonymous. Just say there's a fight going to happen wherever and let the police know and they can then handle it. If they don't know, if you are posting it on Facebook or Twitter and wherever, they are not going to know. The police will not know until well after the fact, so thank you for those comments as well around Birkdale, but I do think we need to also encourage those students and those kids to use the tools that they have readily available because every single one of them have one of these.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved this the 2nd day of May, 2022.