

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**November 10, 2020**

**THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN** held a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room, located at 9 South Main Street, Waynesville, NC.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Gary Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm with the following members present:

Mayor Gary Caldwell  
Mayor Pro Tem Julia Freeman  
Alderman Anthony Sutton  
Alderman Jon Feichter  
Alderman Chuck Dickson

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager  
Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager  
Esther Coulter, Administrative Assistant  
Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director  
Jeff Stines, Director of Public Services  
William E Cannon, Jr., Town Attorney  
David Adams, Police Chief

The following media representatives were present:

Becky Johnson, The Mountaineer

The following Speakers were present:

Roy Rodriguez, Owner of property  
Amy Murphy-Nugen, Homelessness Taskforce Director

1. Welcome/Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gary Caldwell welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He introduced a special guest, newly elected to represent Haywood County in The House of Representatives, Mark Pless. Mr. Pless came to the podium and said he was getting views to find out what is going on in Waynesville, Canton, and Maggie Valley. The people of Haywood County have not had a local representative in the House in a long time. He said that himself and Mike Clampitt are going to share the responsibility of Haywood County. He mentioned that if anyone needed anything to call him.

Mayor Caldwell reminded everyone that the Town of Waynesville Offices will be closed for Veterans Day November 11, 2020 and re-open on November 12, 2020.

Aldermen Chuck Dickson asked to be recognized.

Alderman Dickson said that he felt that out of concern for public safety, and due to the rapid rise the Covid-19 epidemic in North Carolina, anyone that wished to sit in the Board Room be required to wear a mask.

***Alderman Dickson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter, that all audience members that wish to sit in the board room be required to wear a mask. The motion carried unanimously.***

Alderman Dickson explained to the audience that there were masks in the back of the room, and if a person did not wish to wear a mask, or if they had an exemption, they will be accommodated. They could sit outside the Board Room and listen. If they wish to speak, they are welcome to write out any comments and they will become part of the minutes during the public comment session.

Several audience members spoke out and they were reminded that they needed to speak at the appropriate times. Police Chief Adams asked the audience to please wait their turn, and to be civil.

***Alderman Dickson made a motion that anyone who was not wearing a mask to please leave the room or have the police escort them out of the room. There was no second to the motion.***

Town Attorney Bill Cannon asked Mayor Caldwell to pause the meeting so that he could speak with Police Chief Adams as he was seeking legal advice about the motion. (time 6:39-6:54)

Attorney Bill Cannon asked the Board of Aldermen to go into closed session to discuss Attorney/Client issues.

***A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Julia Freeman, for the board to go into closed session. (Time 6:56). The motion carried unanimously.***

***A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Julia Freeman, to return to open session. (Time 7:13). The motion carried unanimously.***

Alderman Dickson said that since the motion did not receive a second, he is ok with that. He said many people came to the meeting without a mask, and it was not publicized or announced to them at the door before the meeting that they would be required to wear a mask, therefore they would not be asked to leave the room

## 2. Adoption of Minutes

***A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2020 Special called meeting as presented (or corrected). The motion carried unanimously. Page 3, Paragraph 4 the word form to from.***

Mayor Caldwell gave Peggy Hannah six minutes to present for her committee.

**Peggy Hannah  
268 Hemlock  
Waynesville, NC. 28786**

Ms. Hannah thanked the Board of Alderman, Mayor, and the Waynesville Police Department for everything they do for the people in Hazelwood. She expressed her concerns to the Board about taxpayer money being used to fund inmate housing because we as a town do not have the funds to provide good paved roads, maintain our water and sewer lines, increase our already understaffed police and firefighters, or even provide our employees with the health care that needs for their families adequately.

Ms. Hannah said that Haywood County has 70 plus non-profits to help people in need with restrictions and requirements must be followed. Many of the homeless do not wish to follow these rules, so they are denied help. She said she understands that there is a myth that everyone can be helped. In reality, many do not want help and there are even a larger number of people refuse to acknowledge that fact. She asked the Board of Alderman to please get involved and talk with county commissioners to address these issues we constituents are bringing to you and make them aware that it is the citizens of Waynesville being affected.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Town Attorney William E. Cannon, Jr. opened the Public Comment period.

**Lisa Overhultz  
26 Davis Ln.  
Waynesville, NC.**

Ms. Overhultz stated that she and her husband moved to Waynesville in 2017, and loves being here. She said that she doesn't appreciate the continued deterioration of areas like Frog Level and Hazelwood. Ms. Overhultz said that driving out South Main Street goes from breathtakingly beautiful to a crumbling ghetto appearance. She addressed the conditions of abandoned buildings, vagrants, and questioned the need for a methadone clinic, and said it was just a matter of time before someone gets hurt. Ms. Overhultz asked the Board what steps are being taken by the Town to remedy these problems.

**Erich Overhultz  
26 Davis Ln.  
Waynesville, NC.**

Mr. Overhultz said there had been a lot of frustration expressed by residents and business owners concerning the homeless being a nuisance, particularly in Frog Level. The Town of Waynesville Board of Alderman developed a Task Force to look at the various issues with the homeless. The Board told them that this was the best way to handle the issue, and each one of the Board of Alderman appointed various residents with various backgrounds from different areas of town to the Task Force. Mr. Overhultz said he is aware that the administrator is seeking permission to apply for \$350,000 grant from North Carolina Public Health and Human Services. This is without any findings or recommendations to the public from the Task Force. He said he understands that the purpose of the

grant is to educate and help with housing for people when transitioning from incarceration back into society. The plan is to seek matching funds from the Board which will eventually come from Waynesville taxpayers. The Bethel Professional building at 1534 S. Main St. has suddenly become a magnet for the homeless. He has seen a brochure for the Development Resource Center, and their aim is to provide a low barrier community entry, and to make it more affordable for people. They will have food resources, laundry, and personal storage. Mr. Overhultz said that residents in Waynesville wanted answers and transparency.

**Larry Payne**  
**161 Riverbend St.**  
**Waynesville, NC.**

Mr. Payne said six or seven years ago the power company put up a new power pole and left a good-sized hole. He had contacted John at public works and was told that someone had gone to see the hole and they could not find it. Mr. Payne said there is still a hole and if someone falls in it, that will be a liability for the Town

**Wanda Brooks**  
**63 N Hill Street**  
**Waynesville, NC.**

Ms. Brooks stated she had been placed on the Task Force to replace Joey Reece. She said that she feels there should be more residents and business owners on the Task Force rather than the people not effected by the homeless. She asked the board if they would consider placing the big blue recycle bins out in order to be an incentive for people to recycle.

**Jill Waskey**  
**1319 Eagle Nest Road.**  
**Waynesville, NC.**

Ms. Waskey said the town has gone to great lengths to limit the number of people in the board room and to make the audience 6 feet apart. She said if the social distance works then we shouldn't have to wear a mask, and the rules that are being put into place are nonsense. Ms. Wasky asked the Board to please consider what this is doing to our children, because we are training our children not to think freely and promoting a culture of fear with our children and society. She feels that children are not getting this virus. The only people in this county who have died from this virus are over the age of 65 and in ten months, we have had 36 deaths. She states that she is concerned with the future and freedom of this country.

**Leslie Adams**  
**1366 S. Main**  
**Waynesville, NC.**

Ms. Adams told the Board that she was a research scientist in the Bay area for over a decade. Prior to the last meeting she sent Town Manager Rob Hites links to 11 scientific sites of a journal publication on the dangers of wearing a mask. She stated that she has a medical condition and medical documents stating that if she wears a mask for a long period of time she could die. Ms. Adams said that her son has autism, suffers from child anxiety and has panic attacks when wearing a mask. She asked the Board

to lease consider this when deciding and voting to make new mandates and don't take our freedom away.

**Melanie Williams**  
**637 Crabtree Church Rd.**  
**Clyde NC.**

Ms. Williams explained to the Board that it is now November we are 8 months in the pandemic and Covid-19. She stated that people are not dying on the streets like we saw in China. She stated that, according to our Health Department, there are 783 positive cases as of November 6th and since March 665 people recovering without medical intervention. The Covid-19 section of hospitals across the state are at 6% capacity. Haywood County has a population of 58,223 with 36 deaths. We have shut down our county and we have become enemies with anyone who doesn't cover their face. The average life expectancy in Haywood County is 77-78 years old, so the people that passed away with Covid-19 could have passed away from natural life expectancy. We have not had one death under the age of 65, but we continue to ramp up the restrictions and we continue to persecute people who question the narrative. She asked the Board to prove that we should be scared.

**Bill Davis**  
**532 Westwood Circle**  
**Waynesville, NC.**

Mr. Davis said he appreciates how the mask mandate was reasonably handled earlier. He said masks harm the wearer because rebreathing your CO2 and moisture leads to fungal lung infection, which can lead to pneumonia and death. Mr. Davis said that the number of people in Haywood County that have died is less than four persons a month. He stated that the Cooper mandate is illegal, and everybody knows that.

**Valery Hubbard**  
**179 Goldfinch Ln.**  
**Waynesville, NC.**

Valery Hubbard spoke to the health reasons and science reasons of not wearing a mask. She said her Great Grandmother was alive during the Spanish flu era but did not die from the Spanish flu, but she died from bacterial pneumonia because of the mandated mask in Boston. It is our right to put what we want on our body and what we want to put in it. She stated that many people have health issues and they don't want their oxygen level going down. She stated that many people have asthma, congestive heart failure and many other conditions. She asked that people be given a choice and not be judged. She suggested that we look at the science reports, pray and ask for wisdom before you make decisions.

**Shiloah Rogles**  
**Waynesville, NC.**

Ms. Rogles said her family hasn't worn a mask all year. If the Covid-19 is real, we should be sick or dead. Kids need fresh air all day long to survive. If covid-19 is real, why would the restaurant workers let you take off your mask while eating. Does the Covid-19 pause to let you eat?

**Mia Seals  
Canton NC.**

Ms. Seals said that in her family they keep their immune system strong and healthy. She said her family does not use masks because they scare her and give her panic attacks. She stated that Covid-19 has been awful, and the lockdown has brought sadness because she has not seen her Dad since December. Ms. Seals said their business has also been affected. She asked the Board to please listen to them because they represent us.

**Joe Nicholson  
285 Youngs Cove Rd  
Candler NC.**

Mr. Nicholson thanked the Board for listening to what people have to say. He said he had moved here 2 months ago from California. In March when Covid-19 hit, his restaurant was closed and has remained closed. Since March they have heard ever changing narratives behind covid-19. First, they heard shut down business, slow the spread, flatten the curve. They never heard stop the spread. The narrative at that time was everyone had to get it with herd immunity. That was 8 months ago. He stated that we didn't want to overload hospitals all at once, so we locked down and we slowed the curve. He stated that we should quarantine the sick, not the healthy. Mr. Nicholson said that if you ask any doctor who wears a mask for their occupation, they will say that in the wrong environment and with wrong sanitation, it is completely ineffective. He stated that this is government empowerment to strip us of our rights. He asked the Board what is coming next, a mandatory stay at home, mandatory mask wearing in our own private home, or a mandatory vaccination.

### **C. CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

4. Call for a public hearing to consider the designation of the property at 53 Walnut Street as a local Historic Landmark.

Land Use Administrator Byron Hickox asked for a public hearing for the property located at 53 Walnut Street (Known as the Charles U. Miller House). The owners of the property, Austin and Tin Lee, have requested that it be designated a Local Historic Landmark. Mr. Hickox stated that on October 27, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to adopt the proposed ordinance.

*A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 to adopt the proposed ordinance for 53 Walnut Street to make it a local Historic Landmark. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **D. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Mayor Gary Caldwell turned the meeting over to the Town Attorney Bill Cannon. Mr. Cannon opened the hearing and said that staff would present for the request for annexation, then they will hear from the public.

5. Public Hearing to consider a request for Annexation for three parcels of property along Dellwood Road and Ivy Hill: 1778 Dellwood Road, PIN 8617-10-6618; "Lot 75" of Ivy Hill Subdivision, PIN 8617-10-6745; and "Lot 77", PIN 8617-10-7527.

Development Services Director Elizabeth Teague said the Town adopted the Annexation Ordinance for three lots owned by Roy Rodriguez, President of Big Rods Investments, Inc. a North Carolina Corporation doing business as Dickeys Barbeque. The Town must now assign a zoning designation to each lot since this property is outside of the Town's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction and was formerly part of the unzoned area of Haywood County. The Planning Board made a recommendation for zoning at their regular meeting on October 19 to zone the lot adjacent to Ivey Hill as Dellwood Medium Density Residential, and the lots that are adjacent to Dellwood Road as Dellwood Junaluska Regional Center Commercial. The basis of this recommendation is to maintain consistency with the surrounding area as well as to remain consistent with the 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

Town Attorney Bill Cannon asked the public if anyone would like to speak on the zoning for these 3 lots. Only 1 speaker came forward. Business owner Roy Rodriguez came to the podium. Mr. Rodriguez said that he wanted to build his 4<sup>th</sup> Dickey's Barbeque. He said the only reason for zoning the property is that the Health Department requires them to have access the Town's water and sewer system.

Town Attorney Bill Cannon closed the Public hearing.

***A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Julia Freeman, stating the zoning map amendments are approved and are consistent with the Town's comprehensive land use plan because:***

***Goal 1: Continue to promote smart growth principles in land use planning and zoning.***

- ***Create walkable and attractive neighborhoods and commercial centers***
- ***Encourage in-fill and context-sensitive development;***

***Goal 5: Create opportunities for a sustainable economy.***

- ***Promote Waynesville's downtown districts, inns, restaurants, and reputation as the "Gateway to the Smokies."***

***The motion passed unanimously.***

***A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson stating the zoning amendment and is reasonable and in the public interest because:***

***The proposed zoning is consistent with the surrounding land uses allowing for continued commercial development along the commercial corridor of Dellwood Road and providing a buffer area to the unincorporated residential neighborhood of Ivy Hill.***

***Alderman Anthony Sutton made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson to recommend the map amendments as presented. The motion passed unanimously.***

Town Attorney Bill Cannon opened the Public hearing.

6. Public Hearing to consider a Text Amendment to Land Development Standards Section 4.5 – Accessory Uses and Structures.

Land Use Administrator Byron Hickox said this was a Public Hearing to consider a Text Amendment to Land Development Standards Section 4.5 – Accessory Uses and Structures.

The Land Development Standards Section 4.5 defines accessory structures and establishes in Tables 4.5.2 and 4.5.3 the applicable standards, such as the maximum number of accessory structures permitted on a lot, maximum square footage, permitted locations, maximum height, and setbacks. These existing tables categorize lots into only three broad categories, which many consider to be too restrictive, especially for smaller properties. Staff has proposed a more graduated, “sliding” scale to amend the existing standards. At its September 21, 2020 meeting the Planning Board reviewed the staff proposal and voted to appoint a subcommittee to work with staff to resolve a few points of contention and return with a new proposal. The proposed amendment was considered by the Planning Board at its October 19, 2020 meeting at which the Planning Board voted to recommend to the Board of Aldermen the proposed amendment to this section of the LDS.

Proposed Table

<i>Standards</i>	<i>Single-Family/Two-Family Lots Less Than 0.5 Acre</i>	<i>Single-Family/Two-Family Lots 0.5 Acre – 1 Acre</i>	<i>Single-Family/Two-Family Lots Greater Than 1 Acre – 3 Acres</i>	<i>Single-Family/Two-Family Lots Greater Than 3 Acres – 5 Acres</i>	<i>All Other Lots</i>
<i>Permitted Location</i>	<i>Side or Rear Yard Only</i>	<i>Side or Rear Yard Only</i>	<i>Side or Rear Yard Only</i>	<i>Permitted In All Yards</i>	<i>Permitted In All Yards</i>
<i>Height</i>	<i>Not Greater Than Principal Structure</i>	<i>Not Greater Than Principal Structure</i>	<i>Subject to District Height Standards</i>	<i>Subject to District Height Standards</i>	<i>Subject to District Height Standards</i>
<i>Maximum Number Permitted</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>No Maximum</i>	<i>No Maximum</i>
<i>Maximum Area</i>	<i>1,000 Square Feet In Aggregate</i>	<i>1,500 Square Feet In Aggregate</i>	<i>1,500 Square Feet Per Structure 2,500 Square Feet In Aggregate</i>	<i>2,000 Square Feet Per Structure 4,000 Square Feet In Aggregate</i>	<i>No Maximum</i>

Town Attorney Bill Cannon asked the public if anyone wish to speak for or against the Amendment. No one spoke. Attorney Cannon closed the public hearing.



*A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson stating the zoning amendments are approved and are consistent with the Town's comprehensive land use plan because:*

*Goal 1: Continue to promote smart growth principles in land use planning and zoning.*

- *Encourage in-fill and context-sensitive development.*
- *Reinforce the unique character of Waynesville.*

*Goal 2: Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.*

- *Promote a diverse housing stock including market rate, workforce housing and affordable options that appeal to a variety of households.*

*. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson stating the zoning amendment and is reasonable and in the public interest because:*

*The text amendment balances the rights of property owners to construct reasonable structures on their property, and to approve the proposed text amendment to the Land Development Standards Section 4.5 – Accessory Uses and Structures. The motion passed unanimously*

Town Attorney Bill Cannon open the public hearing.

7. Public Hearing regarding a reimbursement agreement between the Town of Waynesville and Tribridge LLC.

Town Manager, Robert Hites said Tribridge LLC intends to construct 210 apartment units on the property previously occupied by a strip shopping center anchored by a BI-LO Grocery Store. They anticipate an increase in the tax base in excess of \$25 million. The developer requests that the Town reimburse them \$827,212 over a ten- year period for the public improvements needed to provide streets and utilities to the development. The improvements will be located on property purchased by the Town. In addition to the public improvements the Town will reimburse the developer for property adjacent to Richland Creek. The property will be used to locate a segment of the Town's Greenway and serve as an access point for trout fishers. The developer will reserve 20 units for moderate income tenants for the period of the reimbursement agreement. The ten-year agreement is based on the ad valorem taxes paid to the Town. The first four years of the agreement the Town will reimburse the developer 75% of the taxes paid. The rate will be reduced to 65% for the next two years and the remaining four years will be further reduced to 55%. Tribridge agreed to set aside 20 apartments for moderate income housing.

Town Attorney Bill Cannon asked the public who wished to speak for or against the agreement. There were no public questions.

Attorney Cannon closed the hearing.

***A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, Seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter to have Town Attorney Bill Cannon develop a reimbursement agreement with Tribridge LLC. The motion passed unanimously.***

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**8. Galloway Street Drainage Project**

Public Services Director, Jeff Stines said with this cost they would have to list this as a Capital expenditure and want permission to install drainage on Galloway Street per plans submitted by Dana Bolden, Bell Engineering. This project has an estimated cost of approximately \$16,000.00-\$20,000.00 of which funding is available from Streets and Sanitation Materials and Supplies.

***A motion was made by Mayor Gary Caldwell, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to consider approval listing Galloway Street drainage project as a Capital item. The motion passed unanimously.***

**9. Water Plant Intake Tower Repairs**

Public Services Director, Jeff Stines said that there is money left over from the Mud Valves and he would like to use it to repair the dissipater beams in the Intake Tower at the Water Plant.

***A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter Sutton, to consider approval of remaining funds from approved Capital Line (Mud Valves Install) to be used for emergency repairs to Intake Tower dissipater beams and list project as a capital expenditure. Approval for Mud Valves was \$60,000.00, Replacement cost(s) was \$25,870.00 with a balance of \$34,130.00. Dissipater beam project was quoted at \$21,950.00. The motion passed unanimously***

**10. Request for the Homelessness Taskforce to apply for a grant for the NC Department of Health and Human Service.**

The Homelessness Taskforce Director, Amy Murphy-Nugen said that the Homelessness Taskforce was created in February 2020 and due to the uncertainty safety measures and priorities regarding Covid - 19 we delayed meeting until June 2020. Since then the taskforce has been meeting actively to address the four charges given to us by the Mayor Gary Caldwell and the Board of Alderman.

1. This included researching the demographics of persons who are homeless in Waynesville and the causes of homelessness;
2. Examine stigmatization, criminalization and discrimination associated with homelessness;
3. Conduct a gap analysis to identify needs, existing community capacity, and additional resources necessary to prevent and respond to temporary and chronic homelessness; and,
4. Developing a collaborative community action plan to fill system gaps and improve existing programs.

As a Task Force, we also committed to addressing the continuum of community needs and opportunities:

- Strengthening service delivery systems

- Improve the quality of life for our neighbors who are homeless
- Addressing concerns of our neighbors, local businesses & faith community

Using KFF’s Social Determinants of Health framework, we developed work groups to focus these efforts as well as invite community participation. To constitute the work groups, we reached out to every individual who applied to serve on the TF as well as responded to individuals who indicated interest in serving on one of the work groups. Further, Alderman Sutton invited each Alderperson and Mayor to serve on one of the work groups.

Work Groups include:

**Structure:** 1-2 Task Force members on each working group, 3-5 community members invited to join (4-7 total in each working group), Task Force member takes the lead in convening; each group reports progress at Task Force meetings

**Community & Social Connections Team:** homeowner support—homeowners that live in proximity to homelessness, support systems for individuals who are homeless, addressing social cohesion Alderman Feichter.

**Economic Stability Team**—business support, employment/income support, affordable housing development Alderman Sutton

**Education Team:** prevention, early intervention Alderman Dickson

**Eviction, Foreclosure, Crisis Response and Winter Prep Team** Mayor Caldwell

**Health Team**—include physical, mental/behavioral—including substance use Alderperson Freeman

Each Work Group has been tasked with answering the following questions about their focus area:

--What do we know about \_\_\_\_\_ that we need to know? (i.e. known knowns)

--What don’t we know about \_\_\_\_\_ that we need to know? (i.e. unknown knowns)

Essentially—these are data-driven questions that tell us what data we have and what data we need to collect to make informed recommendations addressing homelessness in our community.

Each Work Group is also currently working on collecting data relevant to their focus:

The Task Force also participated in a Packing Party—held October 15 and organized by one of our Task Force members, Brandon Wilson, who is also affiliated with ABCCM and Veterans of the Carolinas, which oversees the program Homeless Outreach Partnerships for Empowerment (HOPE). In addition, local law enforcement participated as well as Allen’s Creek Baptist Church. The event was designed to stuff backpacks — known as outreach bags — to be distributed to homeless veterans. The packs contain sleeping bags, hygiene kits, flashlights, trash bags, socks, beanies and resource materials. The Eviction, Foreclosure, Crisis Response and Winter Prep also recently developed and released the Winter Cold Grace Plan for 2020-2021, which is our recommended plan for emergency homeless shelter for nights with forecasted temperatures below 32 degrees.

## Data Collection Strategy

Source	What	When	Who
Interview/Survey	Experiences of homelessness	Jan—March	Amy, Hannah *Trained in HSR
Listening Sessions	Key stakeholder groups	Jan-March	Amy, Hannah
Public Data	Social determinants of health	Nov—Jan	Work Groups— coordinated by Leads
Public Data	Socio-economic community profile	Nov-Jan	Amy, Hannah
Standardized Survey; Media Content Analysis; Public Data	Stigmatization, Discrimination, Criminalization	Jan-March	Amy, Hannah

Thank you for your time this evening to present information concerning a grant proposal we are suggesting the Town of Waynesville pursue. At our meeting last week, the Task Force on Homelessness discussed and unanimously approved a motion in support of the TOW considering pursuing the grant.

I have prepared a brief overview of the grant opportunity. I am happy to respond to any questions afterwards. Here is the who, what, where, when, and how:

**Who:** I, along with my colleague, Professor Beth Young have volunteered to prepare the grant application. Of course, we will prepare the application in collaboration with key and relevant stakeholders in our community—including law enforcement and service providers. Community collaboration among law enforcement, health departments, emergency services, jails and prisons, substance use disorder treatment providers, hospitals, health centers, clinics, pharmacies, and other not-for-profit and for-profit organizations serving justice-involved individuals are critical for a successful grant application and program.

We, Professor Young and I, are not asking to be compensated for the preparation and submission of the grant proposal; however, we are proposing to be part of the evaluation team for the grant—evaluation is a required component of the grant.

My colleague, Professor Young’s practice and research expertise is in substance use and substance use disorders. Her clinical experience includes employment with Mission Hospital, Elida Homes, Haywood County Psychological Services, and Family Preservation Community Services. She is an assistant professor in the social work department at Western Carolina University where she also coordinates our Substance Use Studies Certificate Program. She is licensed as an LCSW, LCAS and CCS. She provides clinical supervision for practitioners pursuing licensure as clinical social workers

and substance use specialists. She is the principal investigator for a 3-year, \$1.35 million grant received from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to oversee the Opioid Workforce Expansion Program (OWEP). The purpose of the Opioid Workforce Expansion Program is to enhance community-based experiential training for students who are preparing to become behavioral health professionals, with a focus on opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders prevention, treatment and recovery services.

**What: NCDHHS Supporting Justice-Involved Individuals with Substance Use Disorder during COVID19**

This request for applications (RFA) is to advance the goals outlined in the North Carolina Opioid Action Plan to prevent future opioid addiction by addressing the needs of justice-involved individuals with substance use disorder and expanding access to treatment and recovery support.

Specifically, the purpose of the grants awarded under this program is to advance the goal of the North Carolina Opioid Action Plan to reduce opioid overdose deaths by implementing key strategies under Connect to Care: Address the needs of justice involved populations. Justice involved individuals with substance use disorder are in critical need of support during the COVID pandemic.

**Where:** Focus of efforts in Town of Waynesville

**When:** Grants are due **December 14, 2020**, Awards announced **January 15, 2021**, awarded projects begin January 15, 2021 through September 31, 2022

Grant funds are one-time only funds and may not be extended beyond the contract term. A second RFA will be released January 2021 as part of the program awarded to NCDHHS by the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) grant. The second RFA is still under development.

**How:**

Organizations, including local governments, may apply for grants of up to \$350,000 per year for two years—for a total of \$700,000 to do one or both of the following:

- Option A: Create and expand pre- and post-arrest diversion programs to divert people with substance use disorders from jail to appropriate treatment options,
- Option B: Create comprehensive re-entry programs that help connect people to appropriate care upon release from incarceration,

We are proposed to develop a program in alignment with Option B.

**Option 1, Strategy B Program Requirements:** Comprehensive re-entry and jail discharge programs are designed to connect returning citizens to appropriate behavioral health and substance use treatments and supportive services upon release from incarceration. To be eligible to receive funds applicants must:

- Identify the law enforcement agency and local jail partners committed to supporting comprehensive re-entry and jail discharge planning programs and provide evidence of commitment that outlines support of what is proposed in project narrative. If the applicant is not a law enforcement agency, Sheriff’s office or Detention Center, application must include a letter of support from the law enforcement agency

- Design a linkage-to-care process that will be used to engage at-risk individuals prior to release from jail, or a description of referral and intake processes and jail discharge planning.
  - The program must have a dedicated linkage coordinator to connect people to behavioral health, substance use treatment, and other needed services. People who have lived experience and/or come from directly impacted communities should be prioritized.
  -
- Outline specific, evidence-based re-entry services that will be provided and describe how these services reduce the risk of overdose among justice-involved individuals, including strategies for connecting individuals to community jail-based MAT upon release from jail and referrals to accessible housing.
- - Linkage and navigation services should be based on the identified needs of the individual and can include navigation to primary care, job training, harm reduction, hepatitis C treatment, etc.
- Outline and describe how participants will be selected for re-entry services and programmatic plans to prioritize historically marginalized populations for program inclusion. Programs will be required to report demographic information of program participants and individuals served.
- Outline and describe how participants will be selected for re-entry services and programmatic plans to prioritize historically marginalized populations for program inclusion. Programs will be required to report demographic information of program participants and individuals served.
- Identify and respond to re-entry program challenges and service gaps related to COVID-19 and how the project plans to address these challenges.
- Include naloxone distribution to individuals and overdose prevention education upon release from incarceration.

Proposed Models and Frameworks of Care include:

KFF's Social Determinants of Health Framework

SAMHSA Guidelines for Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders from Jail and Prison

SAMHSA's Principles of Community-based Behavioral Health Services for Justice-involved Individuals

SAMHSA's Screening and Assessment of Co-occurring Disorders in the Justice System

## SAMHSA’s Tailoring Crisis Response for Rural Communities

Adapted model of aftercare, a community care model from Altschuler and Armstrong—recognized by the Department of Justice as an evidence-based model program.

The Homelessness Taskforce Director, Amy Murphy-Nugen said NC Department of Health and Human Services has established a Covid-19 grant program that would fund Opioid Addiction related programs to assist individuals who have experienced jail time in diverting them to alternate treatment programs aside from incarceration. The second element of the grant would be to provide re-entry programs for individuals who are being released from incarceration. The program permits a local government who is involved in law enforcement to apply for \$350,000 per year for a period of two years. There doesn’t appear to be any match required. The applicant is responsible for compensating the consultant for preparing the grant should such an arrangement be necessary.

*A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton to approve Amy Murphy-Nugen of the Homelessness Taskforce to apply for a grant from the NC Department of Health and Human Services subject to final approval from Board of Alderman. The motion carried unanimously.*

### 11. Review of Homelessness Taskforce applications and 5 vacant seats

Assistant Town Manager, Jesse Fowler said at the regularly scheduled Board of Aldermen meeting on October 27, 2020 the Board requested for staff to present them with the current applications for the Homelessness Taskforce. Currently, there are five vacant seats on the Homelessness Task Force. Attached are those applications for your consideration. Below is a list of Aldermen and the number of appointments open to each. You have a total of 16 applications. The vacant seats are due to attendance issues. Mayor Caldwell said when board returns in December have applicants ready.

- Mayor Gary Caldwell: 2
- Alderman Chuck Dickson: 1
- Alderman Jon Feichter: 0
- Alderman Anthony Sutton: 1
- Alderwoman Julia Freeman: 1

## F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

Town Manager Rob Hites called Downtown Waynesville Association Executive Director Buffy Phillips to explain the Night before Christmas event. Director Phillips said the event is Saturday December 12, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. It will have luminaries, First Baptist Church will do a living nativity, and she said she was not sure about wagon rides at this time. Ms. Phillips said the parking areas would be filled with venues. She added that there would be a Santa parade through town.

12. Manager's Report

Town Manager Rob Hites said there is a memo included from Haywood County Board of Education about the Brown Avenue Project Consideration. Mr. Hites stated they were going to terminate the project at this time the estimate came back much higher than expected.

***A motion was made by Alderman Jon Feichter, seconded by Alderman Julia Freeman, to terminate the Brown Avenue Project. The motion carried unanimously.***

Town Manager Rob Hites stated that staff recommends canceling the board meeting on November 24, 2020 due to lack of items on agenda.

***A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to cancel November 24, 2020 board meeting due to lack of items on agenda. The motion carried unanimously.***

13. Town Attorney Report

Town Attorney Bill Cannon said the sale of the Hazel street property will be take place at 11:00 am on December 11, 2020 on courthouse steps.

**G. COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD**

Alderman Julia Freeman asked if the board could start the Board meetings at 6:00 pm instead of 6:30 pm due to it getting dark earlier, and to consider the people that travel further during the winter months.

***A motion was made by Alderman Julia Freeman, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to use Eastern standard daylight-saving time to start the Board of Alderman meetings at 6:00pm instead of 6:30. The motion carried unanimously.***

Alderman Jon Feichter said he has heard from families of loved ones buried in the Cemetery and stated that they are very confused and have distrust in what the Town is doing. Alderman Feichter said he had spent some time in the Cemetery, and he has 2 suggestions. 1) If there is something that is an obvious danger to maintenance staff, he proposes to hold any removals until the next scheduled clean up. 2) He said he was unsure about what items were tagged and similar items were not tagged. Alderman Feichter proposed that when tagging is being done, they should have one cemetery staff and one committee member tagging the items.

There was much discussion concerning the rewritten Ordinance and items that have been tagged to be removed for this clean-up.

***A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to direct the staff to halt the clean-up until a meeting is held with the Cemetery Committee to confirm the process going forward. The motion carried unanimously.***



Mayor Caldwell asked Manager Hites about the easement for the Sutton property on South Main Street. Manager Hites stated that the easement had been executed from the owner, and if the cars parked there were not removed by the time the bridge work began, the Town had the authority to remove the cars. He said the bids for the bridge work would be presented at the December meeting.

Another item brought up by the Mayor Caldwell was the Hendrix Street study. Manager Hites said that the Town did not have the staff to conduct the study quickly, and that it had been contracted through J. M. Teague and Associates

**H. ADJOURN**

*With no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Julia Freeman, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. The motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

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Gary Caldwell, Mayor

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Esther Coulter,  
Administrative Assistant

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Robert W. Hites, Jr. Town Manager

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Eddie Ward, Town Clerk