

Town Hall Meeting
Monday June 5, 2017
6:30 p.m. Stanford L&N Depot

Council member Deatherage opened with prayer. Mayor led in the pledge
Council members Ronnie Deatherage, Peggy Hester, Scottie Ernst, John Sallee, Sara Givens were present. Council member Dr. James was absent.

Mayor Carter thanked everyone for attending. Mayor stated there will be no agenda we will talk about anything that pertains to city government.

Mayor Carter informed those in attendance he would like to keep comments from each person between 5 to 10 minutes.

1.) Mayor Carter opened floor for discussion about downtown parking.

Mayor Carter informed those in attendance Mr. VanHook and Mr. Sullivan were here to answer concerns.

Amy Hazlett- Stevens commented about problems with downtown parking. Amy said she is thankful for visitors Mr. Correll brings to town. Amy said she lives downtown and can never find a parking space.

Amy said she is a 13 time heart attack survivor and lives in upstairs apartment. Amy said people who work for the insurance company park in the street, they block everything. Amy said this isn't fair to other businesses. Amy commented if we are going to grow and progress parking issue will need to be addressed. Amy said she has pictures with dates showing employees using parking spaces.

Rose Mary Hazlett asked Mr. Sullivan and Mr. VanHook what had been decided about the eatery on the sidewalk. Mr. VanHook responded city council knows what has been proposed, the plan is the same as it was at the last meeting. Mr. VanHook explained the eatery is against the building and the sidewalk is by the curb. Mr. VanHook said this is clear in the drawings. Mr. VanHook said he had no additional comments.

Mayor Carter asked Mr. VanHook to address water issue under the buildings. Mr. VanHook responded the wooden floors in the buildings have rotted and there is substantial damage. Part of the project will replace those areas. The grading and drainage areas are being improved to take water from back of building down to Aspah Creek. Mayor Carter asked if there would be problem with sitting in the sun.

Mr. VanHook responded ARB will ultimately be asked for awning like the other businesses.

Mr. VanHook responded to question asked about solving water problems without expanding the sidewalk. He said he suspected engineering was done to accommodate that. Mr. VanHook said there are unknowns as far as utilities are concerned whether we can stay without causing further damage.

Mr. Sullivan added to get water from back of the building to the front pipe cannot be flat. The plan was to extend sidewalk out due to underground utilities. If we can't do this we may need to put sump pump in to pump water to storm drain. Mr. Sullivan explained café became a by-product after talking to engineer. Mr. Sullivan said current walk area between bench and curb are 24 inches. Extending sidewalk out will provide 56 inches. New storm drains will be put in so water runs away from the building.

Merle Tappan asked about curb cut off. Mr. Sullivan responded this will remain the same.

Tom Moser asked are we waiting for transportation department to approve this.

Rose Mary Hazlett asked if electric goes off is there industrial sump pump for this. Mr. Sullivan responded price for the block is \$200,000.

David Faulkner asked if project crossed the whole block. Mr. Sullivan responded just in front of the Bluebird not the whole block.

David Faulkner asked if the city garage is open. Mayor Carter responded it is open to the public. David asked if Chamber could encourage businesses to park in the garage. David gave Mr. Correll credit for creating a beautiful downtown.

Tom Moser said he had not seen a city policeman walking on Main Street in five years. Mayor Carter agreed they need to be present more.

Council member Ernst suggested possibility of the need to go back to two hour parking. Mayor Carter agreed saying this is something we may need to look at.

Tom Moser asked who would be in charge of this. Mayor responded council and ordinance is needed. Council member Ernst suggested putting signs at garage and on Lancaster Street to let people know about parking there.

Attorney Reed reminded those in attendance the city has not control over private parking.

Mayor Carter asked for other comments about parking issue at Bluebird.

Mrs. Nancy Hill commented she thinks this is a terrific price to pay to have five parking spaces taken away since we are so limited with parking. Mrs. Hill added I get medicine at drug store and if I can't find a place to park I have to go home. I have to call someone to go get my medicine. Ms. Hill said every downtown parking space is extremely important. Mrs. Hill said there are two views, one is it's a historic town and the other is a group of people who want to make it a Little Gatlinburg. There is a place for restaurant behind the building. Mrs. Hill said she thought this will cheapen our historic district by putting sidewalk café on the Wilderness Road. She asked why this wasn't brought before ARB. She asked we stop and think, do more people in Stanford want a Gatlinburg or our historic community.

Tim Estes questioned if the transportation department approves this will it come back to the council since council voted at April meeting to accept. Council member Hester said we actually gave them approval to go to the state. We haven't approved the plans at this point.

Tom Moser asked was there open discussion on the approval or did they approve on their own.

David Faulkner said the state doesn't get involved as to whether community wants this. They look at the street and traffic flow. If council approved the plans sent to state the final approval will come back to the council. Mayor Carter said we will look at minutes to see how motion was made.

Tim Estes read from April 6, 2017 regular council meeting. It reads as follows.

There being no further discussion Mayor Carter asked Attorney Reed to read resolution to move forward with outside sitting area and closing parking spots.

Council member Deatherage made motion to accept resolution to move forward, Council member Ernst 2nd the motion.

Mayor Carter called for roll call vote.

Council members Deatherage, Hester, Ernst, Sallee and Dr. James voted yes

Council member Givens was absent.

David Hacker, property owner in city, said decision should be weighed over.

Jackie Pence asked if the vote made the council support

Attorney Reed responded approval was to fill out application, nothing more. Jackie asked if transportation has this are they asking for approval. Attorney Reed responded application is to apply not to proceed. Mayor Carter added he did not remember actual wording the night it passed. Tom Moser asked if council may have signed off before they got approval from the citizens. Mayor responded this has not been acted upon. Council member Hester said with future projects we need to make sure the public is informed.

Rosemary Hazlett said I am disappointed Mr. Correll did not come to meeting. Rosemary said she has total respect for him for all the help he has given and grateful for what he has done for the county and city. Rosemary said she approved of everything he has done until now.

Rosemary asked Mayor Carter how he let people know about meetings. Mayor responded council meets 1st Thursday every month which is in the paper. Special meeting notices are given to the newspaper and radio station within 24 hours. Rosemary asked how public was notified about Monday's meeting. Mayor responded a copy was faxed to newspaper and radio and it was in the Interior Journal. Attorney Reed added it was also posted at city hall. Mayor said copy was posted on door where meeting was held. Mayor Carter explained the newspaper is notified but this doesn't have to be in the paper. Rosemary said the public was left out because they didn't know about this.

Mayor Carter said there was a resolution with motion made to move on to the state.

Council member Ernst said the resolution we passed was to correct problems under the buildings and create positive step toward improving downtown for economic growth and development.

Rosemary said she hoped council will approach Jess about putting café behind the building.

David Hacker asked Rosemary if appointment had been made to talk to Mr. Correll or Chef at Bluebird. Rosemary responded no he is out of the country.

Trey Owens spoke about living here all his life. He said if we don't have the building we don't have a Main Street. Without downtown buildings we are a bypass and leaving things the way they are doesn't always work. Trey said he thinks what Jess is doing will save these buildings, what has been done in the past has been a temporary fix.

Charlotte Abel asked if there is an option to put in more handicap parking downtown.

Jamie Mingo asked that employees be encouraged not to park on the street.

Council member Hester said she thinks council has to address parking. She said we aren't taking these concerns lightly. She promised we will do our best to see what can be done.

Mr. Vanhook explained if plan is rejected we must go with an alternative to solve water problems.

Joe Gilliland suggested due to traffic hazard Depot Street be made one way going up and Mill Street one way coming down with parking on both sides. Joe said this will help make town safer.

Council member Deatherage asked if there was a way to get main issues on agenda in the paper so people will know what will be discussed at council meetings. Mayor Carter asked Abigail Whitehouse if this could be put in community announcements. Abigail responded she thought it could.

Council member Deatherage reminded everyone the regular council meeting is the 1st Thursday of each month. Council member Deatherage encouraged and invited everyone to come and address any issues to council.

David Faulkner offered a tremendous amount of thanks to Jess for what he has done. David said he has the upmost respect. He has done more than anyone for Lincoln County and Stanford. David added Ms.

Hill she wants nothing but the best for us. David said this has been a great meeting and he appreciated being able to speak. David offered assistance from the county if needed.

2. Water Project

Mayor Carter outlined what is involved in the 4.1 million water project for Stanford

1. A new 12 inch line from water treatment center to town will be installed
2. Twenty five streets in town will get water lines.
3. 8 inch line to Rowland will be installed.

Mayor Carter informed those in attendance he had copy of all streets included in the project. Mayor said city is getting 2 million dollars free to do the project and thinks 2.1 million dollars is at .75% interest. Mayor said we moving forward to get the money we are in the process of raising water and sewer rates. Mayor informed those in attendance increase in water rates on 2000 gallons is less than a dollar, sewer rate increase is less than three dollars. Mayor explained to get the money we had to show we can pay it back. Mayor added this is major project for the city and if it goes through next year we will apply for a 2 ISO rating.

Mayor Carter asked for questions about the project.

Tom Moser said he thought meeting was for comments from citizens and not discussion about this.

Mayor Carter responded this is a major project for the city. I want peoples' comments on raising rates.

Merle Tappan questioned chemicals put into the water. Mayor Carter responded test now are alright.

Mayor Carter was asked when project would start and how long until it is finished. Mayor responded it will possibly start this fall and take from nine months to a year to complete.

Tim Estes asked if the council addressed where the project would go through the streets. He asked if it will go through peoples' yards.

Council member Ernst responded he understood where lines are going are on city property right of way..

Mayor Carter said the issue of dust will be addressed and shouldn't be a problem.

Tom Moser asked about rates for the project. Mayor Carter responded the rates we have are the lowest around.

3. Fort Project

Mayor Carter gave update

Mayor said the re-enactment was very successful with many more re-enactors this year than last. Mayor informed attendees money was spent on the Ice House.

Mayor said we are in the process to start building a cabin in the next few weeks. Mayor said all money was raised with none coming out of the general fund. Mayor said events are planned for summer and fall.

Randy Denham said visitors Oklahoma and surrounding states attended the Seize. Randy said this brought a lot of money into town. Randy added there were a lot of positive comments about how re-enactors were treated.

Mayor Carter asked for questions about the fort.

Tom Moser commented about no American Flags being displayed on Main Street. Tom said Danville Avenue had ten flags. Mayor Carter explained the reason there were no flags on Main Street is because the new light poles don't have holders.

Tom Moser asked about problem with turn from Herndon Avenue onto Lancaster Street. Mayor Carter responded the state has been contacted. Council member Deatherage said we have asked about this several times. Council member Deatherage explained the state plan is to go up Herndon and level out and put drainage in. Council member Ernst commented this has been a problem since he has been on the council.

Tom Moser addressed council about letter he received about grass on sidewalk. Tom said he was given seven days to remove grass or get a \$500 fine per day.. Tom said he took it serious and got it done. Tom said rules are being made by this council that aren't being followed by people on the council. Tom said if rules and regulations are made everyone needs to follow them. Tom said he did not like \$500 fine on a \$7,000 lot. Council member Hester responded this has been reduced to \$250. Council member Hester added we are working on HB422.

Jaime Mingo asked if the city can fix Herndon Avenue and Lancaster Street problem. Mayor Carter responded road is state, we can partner with them to do our part to fix it. Mayor Carter added he hasn't been able to communicate to the state how important it is to our community to take care of this. Mayor said if county gets sidewalk grant it would include fixing that

Tom Moser reported two sewer manhole cover on Herndon Avenue being bad to drive over. Mayor Carter responded he would turn this in. Council member Ernst asked if there are potholes we need to fill in.

Jaime Mingo reported trash on drains needs to be cleaned up. Jaime said sidewalk on Whitley Avenue is needed. Mayor Carter responded if budget passes we are putting in new sidewalk from Shea Villa to Minute Mart on Miller Street. Jamie suggested budgeting some each year to fix damaged sidewalks.

Norman Lawrence spoke about speeding on Somerset Street. Mayor Carter responded this summer we are going to try signs that tell you how fast you're going if City of Lancaster will loan us theirs.

Stanford Police Officer John Williams said there are complaints about speeding on every street in Stanford. Officer Williams informed those in attendance we patrol and when they see us they slow down. John said using unmarked units is making a dent in speeding but speeding will never be eliminated.

Officer Williams explained the \$4,000 grant is for overtime to enforce seat belts, speeding and driving under the influence.

Mayor Carter said things about city government have been addressed and with there being no further questions or discussion. Mayor called for meeting to be adjourned.

Time: 8:50 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk