



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL RECESSED MEETING OF THE LAKE LURE MARINE COMMISSION HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019, 4:00 P.M. AT THE LAKE LURE MUNICIPAL CENTER (recessed from Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lake Lure Municipal Center)

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem John W. Moore
Commissioner Bob Cameron
Commissioner John Kilby
Commissioner Stephen M. Webber

William Morgan, Jr., Town Attorney
Shannon Baldwin, Town Manager

ABSENT: N/A

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem John Moore reconvened the recessed meeting from Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 4:01 p.m.

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem John Moore gave the invocation and Marine Commission members led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Bob Cameron made a motion to approve the Special Recessed Meeting Agenda as presented. Commissioner Stephen Webber seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Pro Tem John Moore explained that the purpose of this meeting is to receive public input on when the lake should be lowered and how much it should be lowered.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Nancy McNary, Sunset Cove, commented that in the past the lake was lowered every year and during that time, whenever a storm hit, it would cause erosion to the base

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of seawalls. She stated that the lake policy then changed to the lake being lowered every three years but mentioned that there is still that fear that damage will occur to seawalls. Ms. McNary then suggested a policy that property owners be required to email daily progress reports of the work being done on their property anytime an extension is granted.

Wally Gilbert, Yacht Island Drive, stated that in the winter when the wind starts whistling down the Gorge, everything facing west is at risk because of the 3-4 foot waves that the wind generates. Mr. Gilbert conveyed that he is against letting the lake down. He explained that the last time the lake was lowered, it caused substantial damage to his boathouse, which took him two months to stabilize. He mentioned that he lost 3-4 feet of sand beneath his boathouse noting that he had pictures.

Mike Fitzgerald, on the Board of Directors with Rumbling Bald Resort and speaking on behalf of the Resort, stated that the Resort finds the every three year lake lowering schedule very disruptive to their operations. He explained that they have floating docks and members are required to remove their boats each time the lake is lowered. However, he mentioned that there are a few members that cannot get their boats out of the dock in time and their boat ends up sitting in the mud. He also mentioned that the visitors during that time do not get what they paid for and what they were expecting when visiting to Lake Lure. Lastly, he mentioned that the Resort hosts rowing teams each year and the rowers are walking through mud trying to get to the water. He noted that they understand the lake must be lowered at times but felt that less is better. He also pointed out that they are also dredging this year and the lake being lowered would create a problem for them as well.

Mayor Pro Tem John Moore provided everyone with a list, compiled by Mr. Givens, of the pros and cons of lowering the lake.

David Klett, 410 Cut Away Road, stated that his boathouse is over 50 years old and requires a lot of maintenance. He commented that the three year lake lowering schedule works well for him explaining that one year's worth of repairs would typically only last about three years. He mentioned that the only time he can repair the pilings under his boathouse is when the lake is down and felt that lowering the lake any longer than four years could cause problems with his boathouse. He noted that if he were to hire someone to make the repairs he needs underwater, it would be a burden on him because of the costly expense.

Steve Norrie, on the Board of Directors with Lake Lure Village Resort and speaking on behalf of the Resort, reported that the Resort has floating docks and each time the lake is lowered it causes major and expensive damage to their docks. He pointed out that the last time the lake was lowered the Resort incurred a \$13,000 bill to dredge and repair the docks that had been damaged as a result of the lake being lowered.

Al Joiner, 428 Cut Away Road, recommended a happy medium between letting the lake down every three years and never letting it down. He stated that he does not

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always have repairs that would require a contractor and explained that if his only option is to use divers and contractors for those repairs, it would be a lot more expensive and he felt it would lead to less preventative repairs to boathouses on the lake long-term. He felt that there would be more work and more barges on the lake during peak season because there would be more work during the off-season than contractors could keep up with. He also suggested that if the lake is lowered for emergencies, making that the lake drawdown year instead of lowering the lake again the next year.

Michael Harris, 179 Dogwood Drive, commented that he was in favor of the lake being lowered every 1-3 years stating that it would be a lot easier and cheaper to access and make repairs while the lake is down. He also agreed with Mr. Joiner's comment about changing the lake lowering schedule to when the lake is lowered for an emergency situation.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore read over the lake lowering schedule handout prepared by Mr. Givens. He asked for a show of hands of anyone in the audience who would prefer to not see the lake lowered at all (2). He asked how many would prefer the lake to be lowered every three years (13). He asked how many would prefer the lake to be lowered every five years (25). Mr. Fitzgerald noted the rowers come in at the end of February. Commissioner John Kilby commented that the Lake Advisory Board discusses this subject at almost every meeting. He pointed out that the LAB holds a public meeting the first Monday of every month at 3:30 and encouraged the public to attend. Mr. Kilby pointed out that there are a number of contractors that are expanding their ability to do things while the water is up and they are aware of the need of what needs to be done. He explained that from an ecological standpoint, we are much better off by not lowering the lake and explained that the decision will not be an easy one to make. He also pointed out that the repairs the Town will be facing in the future with the Dam and the sewer system could potentially cause the lake to be lowered for an extensive period of time.

Public Works Director David Arrowood requested the lake to be lowered starting January 1st through the end of the month to install a valve to put into the Town's main sewer trunk line which the State is requiring be installed. He stated the lake must be lowered in order to get the flow at the treatment plant low enough to tie into that line. He noted that Don Byers stated that the lake should be lowered somewhere between 5-6 feet to allow a drastic drop to the flow. However, he stated that the lake would only be lowered up to a point in which the flow is reduced enough to move forward. Mr. Arrowood mentioned that the manholes would be inspected during that time in order to make needed repairs while the lake is lowered. He explained that they would lower the lake using the generator to avoid potential problems that could arise if the lake were brought down too quickly. Discussed ensued on when to lower the lake and for how long. Commissioner Bob Cameron suggested lowering the lake on January 1st and bringing the lake back up on February 14th which would allow for six weeks of maintenance. Mayor Pro Tem Moore suggested bringing the lake down in December and finding a different location for the Polar Plunge.

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Patrick Bryant with the Lake Lure Inn reported that the Polar Plunge brought in almost \$4,000 in their best year, which goes directly towards Hickory Nut Gorge EMS and Lake Lure Fire and Rescue. He mentioned that the event has been held at the Lake Lure Inn pool the years when the lake was lowered. He pointed out that the event brought in no money for two years when it was held at the pool. Commissioner John Kilby asked if the date of the Polar Plunge could be changed from January 1st and Mr. Bryant stated possibly and that he would look into it.

Nancy McNary stated that the views are not going to be nice during Christmas time if the lake is lowered and suggested it not be lowered until the first of January. Yvonne Anderson, town citizen, commented that it would not hurt to lower the lake in December noting that the lake is more important than the views. Gary Johnson, Lake Advisory Board and town citizen, commented that he was a contractor and work can be done within a specific timeframe if a date is set in stone. He explained that contractors will get their work done.

Debra, town citizen, commented that since this may be the last time the lake is lowered for several years, she suggested allowing property owners additional time to make needed repairs.

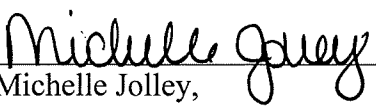
Commissioner John Kilby made a motion to begin to lower the lake on December 1st and begin returning to full pond on February 15th. Mayor Pro Tem John Moore seconded the motion.

Commissioner Webber noted that starting the lake back up on February 10th would accommodate the rowing teams.

Commissioner John Kilby amended his previous motion to begin to lower the lake on December 1st and begin returning to full pond on February 10th. Mayor Pro Tem John Moore seconded the motion. Commissioner John Kilby, Commissioner Stephen Webber, and Mayor Pro Tem John Moore voted yes. Commissioner Bob Cameron voted no. The amended motion passed 3-1.

ADJOURN THE MEETING

Commissioner Bob Cameron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Commissioner John Kilby seconded and the motion carried 4-0.


Michelle Jolley,
Town Clerk

