

TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Siler City Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on **Monday, June 28, 2021**, at 6:30pm in the Multipurpose Room at the Wren Memorial Library with Mayor Pro Tem Bray presiding. Commissioner Siler gave the invocation with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance following.

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Cindy Bray, Norma Boone, Curtis Brown, Lewis Fadely, Bill Haiges, Thomas "Chip" Price, and Tony Siler

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Roy Lynch, Police Chief Mike Wagner, and Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson, Zoom: Attorney William Morgan

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Boone, and unanimously approved.

CONSENT

none

OLD BUSINESS

Hispanic Heritage Fiesta Event Road Closure Request

Lynch stated per the Board of Commissioners request, staff met with Ilana Dubester and worked out the concerns of the various departments.

Lynch shared the street closing request for Saturday, September 11, 2021, and September 25, 2021 (rain date) from The Hispanic Liaison for the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta 2021. The requested for North Chatham Avenue from Third Street to Raleigh Street and East Second Street from N Birch Avenue to N 2nd Avenue. The event will be held from 12pm to 6pm. The street closure requested is for the following times: Saturday, September 11, 2021: 6:00am to 10:00pm - 16 hours.

The Board of Commissioners asked the following questions of Ilana Dubester:

Commissioner Siler asked if everyone had spoken with the Chief about law enforcement. Dubester stated that she met with Wagner and Lynch on Tuesday and Wagner said that he would send two Police Officers to the event from 1pm to 5pm. Siler: What about the Sheriff's Office, are they going to send anyone. Dubester: The Sheriff's Office will participate in the event, so deputies will be there but not with a specific assignment unless the Town reaches out to the Sheriff and asked for support.

Commissioner Price: It looks like all the questions from the previous time have been taken care of and that is good. There is one thing, did you come up with an alternative date. Dubester: As I promised, we talked about it more than once with staff and Board Members and we looked at the calendar in September and availability of dates and could not come up with a better date. September 4th is Labor Day Weekend, September 18, I am not in the state, then if we move it to the end of September then we have the issue of other events, then we would have the two weeks later inclement weather date conflicts with other big events in Chatham County including Shakori Hills, so there was not an alternative date.

Price: I have a real problem; I do not have a problem with what we have done or having the festival. In years past, I have gone and participated, but I do have a concern about having this on September 11, which is the 20th year anniversary of the attack on the world trade center. And as we all know that was a time when our first responders, firemen and policemen perished. It is a time of remembrance for that event, and I have a real problem with scheduling something like this on that date. We are going to be taking our people, our first responders in the fire department and the police. But I have a real problem with the date. Dubester: Yes, I understand, I apologize that it falls on September 11, there are other events in Chatham County that day including at Chatham 250 event at Briar Chapel. I agree that its not the happiest day of the year and we plan on doing a moment of silences at our event.

Price: Why cannot you have it on the 25th. Dubester: For the reasons that I explained earlier, the inclement weather date is two weeks after. If we, do it on the 25th, it gets darker earlier, if we moved it two weeks it would conflict with other events.

Danielle McComas, 650 Southwind Road, Siler City, NC 27344

I am an emergency room nurse. I feel as an emergency room nurse and red cross disaster relief team member, I do not find it offensive that it is on September 11.

Commissioner Fadely: Chief are you thumbs up as far as your concerns. Wagner: Yes, as far as the operational plan of the day, we reevaluated the design and lay out and they have several opportunities for volunteers. We designated a first aid booth; we have an inclement weather plan. I feel like the event is planned out well. Fadely thanked staff. Has anyone volunteered to have a memorial booth for the victims of 911? Dubester: If anyone is interested in doing that, we have a lot of space for booths.

Delfino Benitez, 127 E Raleigh Street, Siler City, NC 27344

I am a veteran and I do understand the significance of 911. I remember sitting in first grade watching the news and it was a hard day for all of us. And since then, I have always wanted to join the military and do something for this nation. I know the powerful meaning of 911 and what it means to my brothers and sisters and those who have returned home and those who never made it home. Just like Memorial Day and Veteran's Day to remember and celebrate those lives. And many times, we make plans to go to the beach, to have a day out. More often we see people not remembering and celebrating. If no one else will do a memorial booth then I will do it.

Brooke Simmons, 3978 Deep River Church Road, Ramseur, NC

I am a business owner of the Chatham Rabbit. As a downtown business owner this event has always been a bright spot for downtown and the celebration of our Hispanic community. It brings lots of business to downtown and with such a large Hispanic population and to provide a festival for that population is wonderful.

A motion to approve the street closure of North Chatham Avenue from Third Street to Raleigh Street and East Second Street from N Birch Avenue to N 2nd Avenue on Saturday, September 11, 2021, from 6:00am to 10:00pm for the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Haiges.

Voting for the motion: Commissioner Norma Boone, Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray, Commissioner Lewis Fadely, Commissioner Bill Haiges, and Commissioner Tony Siler

Voting against the motion: Commissioner Curtis Brown and Commissioner Chip Price

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

The Board of Commissioners discussed the following items:

Event process, Boling Lane Park, overflow water in ditches at Hill and MLK Blvd, tree debris on 13th Street.


ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 7:15pm.



Cindy B. Bray, Mayor Pro Tempore

ATTEST:



Jenifer K. Johnson, Town Clerk

