

MINUTES

The Grover Tourism Development Authority
June 25, 2019 meeting | 6:11 p.m.

We provide published notice of our regular meetings held four times per year via our regular website, paid advertising campaigns, Facebook site and public body notice posting in plain view of public passerby on the town hall bulletin board to be at 6 pm held the last Tuesday of every quarter (March, June, September, December) at the Grover Town Hall with a backup default of Carolina Crossing Restaurant. Notice is provided to the public that all budgets are submitted at the March meeting, posted on the town bulletin board, our Facebook site, and the TDA website for full public review 90 days before the June Public Hearing meeting where budget voting occurs. Entities desirous of requesting tourism-related funds for their use can apply all year long.

- 1. Called to order at 6:11 pm** with members Mr. Mongiello and Ms. Brackett in attendance while Town Finance Manager Willis also presented his bank updates. Ms. Hoyle was unable to make the meeting, but a legal quorum was held.
- 2. Mr. Mongiello, made a motion for approval and acceptance of the regular minutes held on March 26th, 2019, and 2nd by Ms. Brackett. Vote passed unanimously. A NOTE ABOUT CRIMINAL CONDUCT:** At this time for any public meeting under NC law, a board member or Commissioner has the legal right to add an item to an agenda, accordingly, per Roberts Rules of Order. Additionally, it is noted under law that no single person is legally allowed to control any agenda of a public meeting, including any Mayor or Chairperson. Meetings do not have to have an agenda printed up under law and distributed before, and **members** of any public body are allowed under General Statute to add or request a vote be held on items to add to any agenda. NC General Statute provides for a criminal offense to be had of class two (2) misdemeanor for anyone in charge of meetings stating otherwise, lying to board members or falsely reporting control of any agenda and, “not allowing a new item to be added to tonight’s agenda.” This call to order is mainly directed towards those leading public boards who think they control the agenda or make illegal statements in North Carolina, such as, “well, if I feel like putting your item onto my agenda – otherwise we might never talk about your ideas.”
- 3. Financial Report** – The 10% restricted held in store by the state is required at all times by law. The increased fee of \$175.00+ for the bonding by Travelers Insurance going up each year by a few dollars was not discussed during the report and scratched from the

public budget hearing as previous it was voted on to authorize \$225.00 or less pending the state suggesting we "couch the TDA" until a major means of income occurs again like the proposed large hotel. **The balance as of May 29, 2019, was \$2129.64 reported by Mr. Willis.** Please see the full report, line by line on the public bulletin boards and websites or such can be emailed in Excel or .pdf to any citizen who would like to review it. Additionally, media and citizens interested in hiring forensic accountants, attorneys, and private investigators are welcomed to printed copies and the TDA bank statements for third-party investigations triggered. We have an open book system. Bank statements were passed around, examined, and reviewed by all members in meetings as requested. The annual audit continued to be on time and paid for to Darrell Keller CPA PA.

4. Review and discussion of the proposed budget to be publicly posted for 2019/2020 of bringing in more funds or closing down the TDA due to diminished receipts from AirB&B or another lodging. Additionally, residents were illegally operating B&B's and not turning in the tax, or collecting it for themselves and then keeping it. Both of these are criminal violations of law.

The LGC reported they accepted the audit contract previously offered written guidance to put the TDA on ice for a while and then reconstitute it in years to come if desired.

5. The regular meeting was temporarily postponed, and a vote held to enter into the public hearing portion of the budget meeting being held in the open, ordinary meeting hall. During this public and open hearing it was voted on to follow the state of NC written guidance to cease collecting occupancy tax, wind down the TDA bank account of final \$5.00 payments per month (for online bank access the Town Finance Manager, Mr. Willis has), transfer approximately \$1300.00 to \$1400.00 leftover to the town for tourism-related events, especially any summer event, hosted by the town or on town grounds. The \$750.00 audit was approved to be also paid for, as is required by law. The final, exact amount to the penny would be reported on by the Town Finance Manager, Mr. Willis, (which he openly stated he would be happy to do) to the CPA's at Darrell Keller, CPA, PA, and the state of NC LGC. If the proposed casino with Grover hotels does open on the state line, or significant AirB&B's with sizeable and worthwhile taxation - then the TDA would reopen under current authorizing legislation and begin collecting occupancy tax again. The public hearing finalized with budget proposition, 2nd, and passage. Then the regular meeting continued under a proposal, 2nd, and adoption from Mr. Mongiello and Ms. Brackett. Mongiello posted all items on the public bulletin board.
6. **Adjourned at 7:00 with a motion by Mongiello, 2nd from Bracket, and unanimously voted for.**

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