



Work Session - Minutes
Monday, January 22, 2024

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Mulhollem
Mayor Pro Tem Castleberry
Council Member Bruton
Council Member Jackson
Council Member Purvis
Council Member Wilson

STAFF PRESENT:

Bryan Chadwick, Town Administrator
Marcus Burrell, Town Attorney
Kim P. Batten, Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Officer
Jenny Martin, Human Resources Office/Town Clerk
Chris Allen, Parks & Recreation Director

COUNCIL ABSENT:

MEDIA PRESENT:

1 DINNER

a) Dinner was provided at 5:23 p.m.

2 WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER:

a) Invocation

Mayor Mulhollem called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Jeffrey D. Barnes Council Chambers located at 14094 Buffalo Road, Archer Lodge and declared a quorum present. Council Member Jackson offered the invocation.

b) Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Mulhollem led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

3 TOWN BUSINESS:

a) Parks & Recreation Full-Time Position

Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Allen discussed with the Council the need for another full-time Parks & Recreation Maintenance Specialist. They defined the year-round duties for equipment maintenance, special projects, and prep for sport activities for the Park, schools, and the Archer Lodge Community Center. They informed Council that it's more than one employee in this position can maintain. Mr. Chadwick relayed that this information was in response to a question raised by Council Member Purvis. Discussion followed. Mr. Allen shared that the information presented at the Budget Retreat will be on a 5-to-10 year scope regarding the future growth of Parks & Recreation in comparison to other cities. Mr. Chadwick informed the Board that there should be more information provided at the February meeting.

b) Grand Opening for the Town Park

Staff and Council discussed possible dates to hold the Town Park Grand Opening and specifics to be included for the event. Mayor Mulhollem expressed the need for a schedule of events to include a ribbon cutting,

recognition of supporters that helped during the process, the Smith family (of which the park land had been purchased), and the need to incorporate local Scouts and groups in the community. Attorney Burrell explained the need for town policies and procedures to be in place for the events and food trucks at the park. Discussion followed.

The final consensus of Council was to hold the Park Grand Opening on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., weather permitting, pending availability of honored guests. Mayor Mulhollem informed that he would contact Mr. & Ms. George Smith and NC Representative Donna White to confirm their availability.

c) Smith Family Dedication

Mayor Mulhollem informed the Council that after having a discussion of the dedication of the Town Park with Mr. George Smith, it was decided to name the walking trail at the Park after his parents, Mr. J.T. and Ms. Gladys Smith, who originally owned the property prior to Mr. George Smith. Discussion followed.

Mayor Mulhollem asked for the consensus of the Board, and they concurred with the naming of the walking trail in honor of Mr. J.T. and Ms. Gladys Smith. Mayor Mulhollem shared some the history of the Smith family and the purchase of their land for the Park.

d) Mike Gordon Retirement Celebration

Mr. Chadwick shared that Mr. Gordon had officially retired from the Town and commended him for his intuitional knowledge, hard work, and dedication. Mayor Mulhollem shared that, as Mayor, Mr. Gordon was recognized for his dedication and support of the Town and the Archer Lodge Community Center by receiving the first "Key to the Town". The Mayor and Council Members expressed their thoughts on how Mr. Gordon was a big part in getting the land prepared for the Park and how he supported Staff in getting the necessary equipment to maintain the Park.

Mayor Mulhollem suggested naming a building in the Park in honor of Mr. Gordon. Council Member Purvis recommended naming the picnic shelter after Mr. Gordon. Discussion followed. Mr. Chadwick shared that Mr. Gordon always had a love for getting people together and cooking on the grill. He concurred with Mr. Purvis to name the pavilion after Mr. Gordon due to it being a gathering place for everyone. It was the consensus of the Board to name the picnic shelter "The Mike Gordon Pavilion", in honor of Mr. Gordon.

The Council discussed the best options for the presentation to honor Mr. Gordon and discussed the specifics for the retirement celebration.

e) Alternate for the Board of Adjustments (BOA)

Mr. Chadwick informed the Council that a new alternate will need to be chosen for the Board of Adjustment. Council Member Bruton is now on the CAMPO Board and the meetings are also held on Wednesday's, causing her to be unable to attend the Board of Adjustment meetings. Discussion followed.

Council Member Jackson informed the Council of his willingness to be an alternate.

f) Homeowners Insurance Rate Increase

Mr. Chadwick informed the Council that a proposal had been made by the Insurance Industry to NC Insurance Commissioner, Mike Causey, requesting an increase in homeowners' insurance. The proposal for Johnston County is a 40.8% increase. He recommended composing a letter, signed by

Mayor Mulhollem, opposing the increase and to submit it before the Public Comment deadline on Friday, February 2, 2024. Mr. Chadwick reminded everyone that the next Town Council meeting will be held after the Public Comment period closes. Discussion followed.

It was the consensus of the Council for Mr. Chadwick to compose a letter to oppose the homeowner's insurance increase, signed by the Mayor, and submitted before the deadline. Ms. Batten shared the Public Comment email address with the Council to allow them to individually submit opposing comments, as a citizen or Council Member.

g) Town Council Paperwork

Ms. Martin handed out packets for the Council Members to complete for Human Resources purposes. She instructed the Council on filling out the forms and asked that they return the completed paperwork at the Planning Retreat on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. She advised them to contact her with questions and that she will follow up with them after their forms have been returned.

4 ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Mayor Mulhollem adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm



Matthew B. Mulhollem, Mayor



Jenny Martin, Town Clerk

