



C O U N C I L M I N U T E S      O C T O B E R 1 1 , 2 0 2 2 , 6 : 3 0 P M , S F D C O M M U N I T Y C E N T E R

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Mayor Sessoms. Mayor Pro-tem DeVaney provided the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Robinson.

The following were present:

Council

Tim Sessoms, Mayor  
 Lynne Williams DeVaney, Mayor Pro-tem  
 Jeff Davis  
 John Doggett  
 Janelle Robinson  
 Reece Walker

Staff

Scott Whitaker, Manager  
 Brad Rentz, Planning Manager  
 Dee Hall, Finance Officer  
 Sarah Tibbetts, Clerk  
 Bob Hornik, Attorney

CONSENT AGENDA

DeVaney moved to approve the consent agenda. Robinson motioned to amend the agenda by moving items 12A and 12B to between items 9 and 10 and to approve closed session minutes for 8/9, open and closed for 9/13, and open for 9/26. The motion was seconded by DeVaney and carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Whitaker announced that the town's first post-Covid "Touch-a-Truck" event was a great success. He thanked the event's sponsor Vulcan Materials and staff for their hard work, as well as the citizens who attended the event. He mentioned that the last movie-in-the-park event would be Friday, 10/14, and that the annual tree lighting event would be 11/19. He reminded everyone that the November council meeting was moved to 11/10 due to the election and community center being a polling location. He also requested that citizens interested in serving on a town committee or board apply by calling the Clerk or completing an application available on the town site.

Sessoms thanked the Clerk for the new black tablecloths for the meeting tables and commended her initiative in her new role. He also thanked Robinson for providing soup for staff and Council before the meeting and announced it would be done again next month and the public would be welcome to join. He also reminded those planning to attend the 10/14 movie to dress warmly. Walker announced he would be going to Washington, D.C., on 10/12 with Summerfield resident and veteran John Dye for the Triad Flight of Honor.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORTS

**A. Summerfield Fire District:** In September, the Summerfield Fire District ran 35 fire-related calls, 58 EMS-related calls, and 30 other calls for a total of 123 incidents. They reminded that the cooler months bring dry vegetation and a higher risk for outdoor fires and to never leave a fire unattended, even a small campfire. This month's fire prevention theme is "Fire won't wait, plan your escape" and families are encouraged to have an escape plan and practice it twice a year, along with testing smoke alarms monthly.



**B. Guil. Co. Sheriff's Dept.:** Doggett read the report from Sgt. Seals. For September, the district responded to a total of 255 calls in town limits that resulted in 16 formal case reports. There was a commercial breaking and entering at 4446 US-220 North on 9/27. Multiple subjects broke into the business and were driving a white Hyundai SUV. There have been multiple reports of motor vehicle break-ins at the trailheads and the A&Y greenway parking lot. Citizens are encouraged to lock car doors and hide valuables, especially purses.

#### ATTACHMENTS FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATION

Council received the following information with no action taken: committee/board minutes and the September financial report.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gail Dunham, 5805 Snow Hill Drive, complained about alleged late minutes and the wording of minutes regarding her giving Mayor Sessoms the Land Use Plan (LUP). Regarding citizen volunteers, she claimed that Sessoms berates and insults citizens and that boards aren't inclusive. She complained that the LUP public hearing was not yet scheduled.

Jane Doggett, 7986 Highfill Road, stated the Touch-a-Truck event was fabulous and she enjoyed watching the children honking horns and enjoying themselves. She commended staff for their hard work and feels its one of the best town events.

No further public comments.

#### COUNCIL, MANAGER, AND/OR ATTORNEY RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Whitaker stated the minutes were in the agenda packet and listed on the website appropriately.

Sessoms adamantly denied being rude or berating to any citizen, including Mrs. Dunham. Dunham and Sessoms exchanged words briefly.

No further comments.

#### CLOSED SESSION:

DeVaney made a motion at 6:43pm to go into closed session to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the price and other material terms concerning real property as provided under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5). This motion was seconded by Davis and carried unanimously.

Upon motion by DeVaney, seconded by Walker and carried unanimously, Council returned to open session at approximately 7:30pm. Sessoms announced that no decisions were made in closed session.

#### BUSINESS FROM TOWN MANAGER

**A. "Vision 2040 Land Use Plan":** Whitaker mentioned that PTRC has made minor revisions to the plan since the last meeting, which can be found with revisions marked in red on PTRC's website and the town's website. He reminded Council that its plan was for 1-2 Council members and 1-2



Planning Board members to meet and work together with the existing LUP Steering Committee to discuss larger changes. He suggested that Council decide who will represent Council on the committee. Sessoms felt Davis should do so due to his Planning Board experience. DeVaney asked to be the second member, no members opposed, and there was consensus. Davis said he felt the Planning Board should decide among themselves as to its representation. Council agreed by consensus that the Planning Board pick one member. Whitaker stated the Planning Board would preferably select a member at its 10/24 meeting.

- B. Codifying ordinances:** Whitaker explained the process of consolidating town ordinances. North Carolina requires towns over 5K in population to codify ordinances. Hornik stated his opinion that the current book-and-index process likely satisfies the law; however, it's not best practice. Whitaker offered some advantages of an outside vendor fully codifying the ordinances to improve how they're accessed and searched and added that the Planning Board and citizens would likely benefit from a better electronic approach. Council was agreeable to exploring codification in next year's budget.
- C. Scheduling of Council strategic planning retreat:** Whitaker asked Council to look at their calendars for possible dates. Sessoms preferred Saturday over a Friday evening and Saturday. Whitaker asked for location preferences and Council agreed to use the Community Center and an outside facilitator. The preferred date was 2/11/23, pending confirmation from Davis.
- D. Reports, updates, or comments:** Whitaker mentioned that the Planning Board had several matters coming up in the next several months, including the text amendment to fully incorporate its by-laws into the UDO. Whitaker announced that if anyone missed the last meeting, Brad Rentz was the new Planning Manager following a recent promotion. Davis added that Rentz's promotion was well deserved and said he is doing a great job. Whitaker mentioned the dog park was progressing with land clearing almost complete. Fencing quotes would be a next step.

#### **BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL**

- A. Unsealing of closed session minutes:** Hornik had reviewed 10 sets of sealed closed session minutes and recommended that those from 2/8/22 be unsealed. Motioned by Walker, seconded by DeVaney and carried unanimously, the 2/8 closed session minutes were approved to be unsealed and available in the Clerk's office and on the town's website.
- B. Reports, updates, or comments:** DeVaney thanked staff for the 9/17 Summer-Cycle event. She also thanked citizens for coming together during Hurricane Ian and helping the community. She said several citizens helped remove downed trees from elderly residents' yards and driveways. She also offered to answer community questions about voluntary annexation and announced that her and Doggett will begin setting up interviews for Planning Board and Trails and Open Space Committee applicants.

Doggett commended the town for a job well done with the Touch-a-Truck event. Whitaker noted that Vulcan served 750 hotdogs at the event.



Town Hall: POB 970, 4117 Oak Ridge Road, Summerfield, NC 27358  
ph: 336-643-8655 / fax: 336-643-8654 / www.summerfieldnc.gov

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No further comments.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

Upon motion by DeVaney, seconded by Doggett and carried by a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

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*Tim Sessoms, Mayor*

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*Sarah Tibbetts, Clerk*