



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

Jim Kinneman, Mayor
Mike Stone, Mayor Pro Tem
Ann Schneider
Michael Greeson
Jim Harton

Staff Present

Bill Bruce, Town Manager
Sandra Smith, Town Clerk/Asst. Town Mgr.
Michael Thomas, Town Attorney
Sam Anders, Finance Officer
Sean Taylor, Planning Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jim Kinneman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A. Invocation

Claudia Whitaker offered the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda and Councilman Michael Greeson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024, regular meeting and the November 7, 2024, closed session. Councilman Jim Harton seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jim Kinneman proclaimed December 5, 2024, as Arbor Day in the Town of Oak Ridge. Kinneman read the proclamation and recognized individuals instrumental to the reforestation efforts in the Town.

5. REPORT FROM GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No report.

6. REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

John Nunez reported on call statistics and training hours for the month of November. He offered safety tips for holiday decorations.

7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

Audit Director for Forvis Mazars Chad Cooke offered a clean audit opinion of the Town's finances during the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2024. He reported that cash was down significantly due to \$3 million in debt proceeds and \$1.6 million in ARPA funds from 2023 which were used to service the Heritage Farm Park capital project. This resulted in \$2.19 million in the General Fund account which was down by \$584,000 from 2023. He added that the General Fund Revenue of \$1.19 million was a 4.7 percent increase from 2023 owing partially to increases in property valuations. Cooke noted that General Fund expenditures had also increased due in part to servicing the year's capital projects.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Kinneman explained that twenty minutes to speak would be given to individuals in favor of the issue and another twenty minutes would be given to individuals against the issue, followed by a five-minute period of rebuttals for both sides. He added that discussion by members of council would occur following the period of public comment.

A. Text Amendment to Chapter 30, Article IV of the Oak Ridge Code of Ordinances

Planning Director Sean Taylor explained that the text amendment would give Council the ability to appoint members of the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board to be members of the Board of Adjustment (BOA). He pointed out that discussions to merge both agencies had been held between board and Council members for some time.

Proponents:

None.

Opponents:

None.

Mayor Kinneman closed the public hearing.

Council Discussion:

Kinneman explained that the amendment to the ordinance would effectively dissolve the BOA as a separate standing committee and make it a part of the P&Z Board. He pointed out that the BOA had met infrequently in the past.

Town Attorney Michael Thomas explained that the amendment would give Council three options for the continuation of the BOA. The first option would be to continue the BOA as a separate committee, the second option would be for Town Council to serve on the BOA, and the third option would be to fold the BOA into the P&Z Board subject to BOA membership criteria. He stated that as a statutory agency, BOA has very specific responsibilities distinct from those of P&Z which require specific training.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider acknowledged with gratitude the P&Z board members' willingness to embrace the additional role as BOA members and receive training in quasi-judicial procedures.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone stated that the duties of P&Z and BOA members would not overlap, preventing either from hearing the other's appeals. He offered assurance that P&Z and BOA cases would not be heard in the same meeting, and that the cases would be managed separately.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the Text Amendment to Chapter 30, Article IV of the Oak Ridge Code of Ordinances, and Councilman Michael Greeson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

B. Revision to Thoroughfare/Collector Street Plan

Taylor explained that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), consisting of Oak Ridge, Greensboro, Summerfield, Pleasant Garden and parts of Rockingham County, had made revisions to the Thoroughfare/Collector Street Plan which had been presented to staff and the P&Z Board for review. He noted that staff had thoroughly examined the plan and suggested further revisions back to the MPO, and that a public hearing of the plan was held by P&Z who recommended its approval.

Proponents:

None.

Opponents:

None.

Kinneman closed the public hearing.

Council Discussion:

Stone remarked that the current plan was a vast improvement over the previous plan which mostly, but not completely, addressed anticipated town growth.

Schneider noted that the updates made were important and an improvement.

Kinneman pointed out that the updated plan showed where a road might be situated if development occurred.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone made a motion to approve the revised Thoroughfare/Collector Street Plan, and Councilman Jim Harton seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Austin Goldman, 5403 Berrier Ridge Court, offered comments on the proposed forty-two-inch pipeline expansion by Transco/Williams Company. He pointed out that Oak Ridge First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge Methodist Church and St. James AME church were each located in the blast zone of the pipeline. He expressed concern for how and when potentially dangerous leaks or disruptions to the gas line would be communicated to the affected areas
- Adrian Eckenrod, 5679 Timber Trace Way, read comments made by Phyllis Anders, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member, who could not be present at the meeting. He read Anders' request to Council to approve the Farmhouse Community Center Policy and Fee schedule stating that usage of the Farmhouse was desired and would provide useful information for potential changes to the policy in the future. She urged Council to approve the policy and recognize the investment of tax dollars that senior citizens and veterans 65-years and older had made in the Town and yet have not benefitted from a substantial return on their investment.
- Ron Ray (no address stated), a lifelong resident of Oak Ridge, expressed concern for personal as well as global safety due to the expansion of fossil fuel transportation and usage. He requested the removal of the 60-year-old metal pipes currently underground.
- Teresa Spence, 5600 Tanyard Court, requested Council extend an invitation to Transco to appear for discussion regarding the proposed pipeline expansion.
- Rachel Chaney, 5804 Billet Road, stated that the pipeline would have no tangible benefit to the Town who will ultimately pay for the cost of the pipeline expansion through incremental rate increases planned by Transco. She pointed out the danger of stacking the enlarged pipeline over existing degrading metal pipeline. She urged Council to invoke a resolution opposing the pipeline expansion through the Town and requested an opportunity to present further information beyond these comments.
- Brenda Chaney, 5811 Billet Road, expressed surprise over how many residents remained uninformed of the proposed pipeline expansion. She presented research into multiple violations incurred by Williams Company and pointed out the risk

which would be involved in inserting a widened pipeline where three other aging pipelines already exist. She urged Council to pass a resolution opposing the pipeline expansion.

- Representing Clean Water for North Carolina Erica Hernandez, 216 Clay Davis Road, described the risks of leaking methane and other toxins from the pipeline which would compromise vital groundwater resources and negatively impact aquifers along the pipeline's route. She pointed out that agreeing to expand pipelines would lock in a long term reliance on fossil fuel usage and delay the transition to renewable energy sources. She revealed Transco's poor safety record. She urged Council to pass a resolution to oppose the pipeline and requested an opportunity to present further information beyond these comments.
- Organizer and Community Advocate for Property Rights and Pipeline Center Claire Spea, 2410 Timber Oak Drive, explained that the pipeline project was part of a larger methane build out in the southeastern region of the nation which would largely fuel data centers for artificial intelligence. She stated that large tech and utility companies would benefit directly from the estimated \$1.5 billion project which would be indirectly funded by citizens forced to pay taxes on unused property and increased utility rates while being exposed to health and safety issues resulting from the pipelines. She identified the areas of Oak Ridge which were situated in the potential impact radius of the pipeline and took note of the increased risks emanating from pipes running through Oak Ridge which are greater than 60 years old and subject to corrosion and disruption from long term land shifts. She urged Council to pass a resolution to oppose the pipeline and requested an opportunity to present further information beyond these comments.
- John Browning, 8024 Linville Road, reflected on the Town's historical stances on environmental issues and emphasized the imbalance of risk against reward for the Town in permitting the pipeline to expand through it. He noted his aversion to the project for its potential impact on global warming and advocated pursuit of renewable energy instead.
- Ben Walraven, 5931 Pepper Road, asked that the Farmhouse Community Center Policy and Fee Schedule not be made too restrictive and that consideration be given to use of the center by senior citizens. He added that thought should be given to the cost for building pickleball courts and referred to a statistic stating that the 65 and older population vote at a rate of 71 percent.
- Caroline Ruch, 1976 Beeson Road, emphasized her favor of the proposed rates for senior citizens at the Farmhouse Community Center which had been unanimously approved by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board twice. She implored Council to consider investing in facilities for use by senior citizens as evenly as they have done so for youth athletics in the Town. She pointed out that costs of fields at the park are much higher than the cost of the Farmhouse.
- Claudia Whitaker, 2338 Oak Ridge Road, encouraged Council to vote in favor of resident senior citizen use of the Farmhouse. She pointed out that \$2.5 million had been spent to add two more playing fields to the Town which was funded largely by

senior citizen tax payments. She advocated raising non-resident fees to help defray field costs.

- Barbara Engel, 8524 Rosedale Drive, pointed out that many senior citizens are volunteers on all the Town's committees and would benefit from use of the Farmhouse. She cautioned against losing volunteers.
- Frank Whitaker, 2338 Oak Ridge Road, shared that at a cost of \$0.50 per tree in the 1980's, the Town was reforested for approximately \$300.

10. OLD BUSINESS

Consideration/Approval of Facility Fee Schedule and Farmhouse Community Center Policy

Kinneman clarified that discussions of the Farmhouse policies have centered on how to implement use of the Farmhouse by resident seniors and not on removing use of the Farmhouse by resident seniors. He invited Adrian Eckenrod to provide a briefing on the Farmhouse Community Center Policy.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Co-Chair Adrian Eckenrod explained that the Board provided more clarity in the policy to those areas identified by Council at its last meeting as needing more detail. He mentioned the following areas which were updated by the Board:

- \$1 million liability insurance would only be required of events serving alcohol at the Farmhouse.
- The section of the policy headed as Inclement Weather was retitled for more accurate relevancy.
- Requesting and managing overflow parking was outlined.
- Comparisons were made to fees charged by neighboring event centers and the fee proposed for the Farmhouse was deemed to be in the middle of the comparisons.
- The section outlining resident senior use of the Farmhouse remained unchanged.
- Reservation buffers would be built into the policy to allow staff the ability to clean and inspect the facility between reservations.

Eckenrod added that the Board considered the Farmhouse policy to be a living and changeable document as more evidence of its rentability and use is evaluated.

Councilman Jim Harton emphasized his inclination for decisions to be made based on data rather than on opinions. He suggested structuring rental fees for the Farmhouse as introductory rates for a predetermined amount of time. He suggested that the introductory period would provide time to collect data on Farmhouse usage which should then be evaluated to help set fixed rental policies and rates. He proposed adjusting the period for senior resident use to Mondays through Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. based on availability, and any time requested beyond the two-hour maximum would be charged at regular rental rates.

Schneider reiterated her favor of the discounted rate for senior residents' reservations of the Farmhouse. She claimed that the proposed facility policy and rates were sufficiently reasonable to encourage strong community usage. She did not advocate rewriting the policy but instead suggested moving forward with the policy as prepared by the P&R Advisory Board as a starting point with the understanding that the policy and rates would be subject to change based on evaluations of usage data. She concurred with Harton that gathering and reviewing usage data would be key to updating the policy and rates if necessary, suggesting that the P&R Advisory Board report back to Council in six and twelve months hence to review usage trends in the data collected. Schneider suggested signaling the gathering of usage data with a simple statement that would read as follows: "Rental rates are subject to change based on usage data." She encouraged such a statement to be included in the Town's Facility Fee Schedule and website.

Kinneman expressed being equally open to moving forward with the proposed policy without changes as well as with adopting Harton's suggestion to gather usage data during a prescribed introductory period and to use the data to adjust the policy and rates if necessary. He disclosed his partiality to using Harton's suggestion, however, because it isolated the proposed senior program for useful analysis. He encouraged consideration of other organized events at the Farmhouse such as regular yoga classes or quilting club meetings. Kinneman suggested adjusting the start time of the program to an earlier hour to accommodate senior residents' habits for earlier starts and suggested adjusting the end time of the program to an earlier time to enable other groups such as school groups to have access to the facility.

Stone admitted that having requested the P&R Advisory Board to repeat their review of the Farmhouse policy proved prescient as he deemed the updated policies to be more comprehensive. He agreed to shorten the timeframe for seniors to reserve the farmhouse at no cost to two p.m. on Mondays through Wednesdays to allow other groups the opportunity to rent the facility. He asked for more clarification on how to prevent senior groups from stacking their reservations consecutively without gaps in between reserved uses to clean and inspect the facility. He expressed concern that stacked reservations would prevent other groups from being able to make reservations. He noted that usage data would be helpful in determining how best to adjust the reservation policy for senior residents moving forward.

Schneider explained that gaps in between reservations would be built into the online reservation system to prevent consecutive reservations from stacking up against each other. She asked Harton if his suggestion to collect rental usage data pertained only to the reserved uses by senior residents. Harton replied that usage data would be evaluated for all uses and advocated allowing rates to fluctuate as reservation trends are evaluated.

Kinneman asked Harton to confirm his support of the Farmhouse policies and the adjustment of the senior residents' discounted rates to be valid Mondays through Wednesdays, from eight in the morning until two in the afternoon, with a formal request for feedback on the program in six months. Harton noted his support with the understanding that the rates in the senior resident program would be introduced on a trial basis with a six-, nine- and twelve-month status reports.

Kinneman asked if the policies would be formally inducted at the termination of the evaluation period. Harton responded that formalization of the policies would occur with the P&R Advisory Board's recommendation.

Town Attorney Michael Thomas added that all policies are subject to review and revision, and that using an introductory period for rates indicated a terminus to that period at which time the policy would be made formal. He pointed to Section 168A-497 which defined statutory authorization for senior citizen programs. He noted that the statute defined seniors as being sixty-years of age and older. He further noted that the statute outlined appropriation of revenue to seniors while the policy as written proposed the opposite action of remitting fees to seniors. He suggested adjusting the language in the policy to reflect instead an omission of fees for accounting purposes. He suggested that the policy bear specific language to outline the program for senior citizen use exclusively. Thomas recommended that staff incorporate the consensus views arrived at by Council into the policy and that the policy be recirculated to the P&R Advisory Board and Town Council for further consideration and approval in January 2025.

Kinneman emphasized that the policy could be revised at any time. He noted that the suggested six-month feedback loop from the P&R Advisory Board would be treated as a separate action from the policy. Harton stressed the importance of not committing to a long-term policy without benefit of evaluative data. Thomas added that describing the rates as introductory would be a public relations strategy, and that the rates would become a part of the Town's overall facility fee schedule. Greeson voiced his support of limiting the senior discount rate time to Mondays through Wednesdays from eight a.m. until two p.m. He asserted that the policy should be revised and returned to the P&R Advisory Board for further review and that Council should then vote on the revised policy in January.

Schneider posed the possibility of adopting the policy with the suggested changes discussed so that efforts could begin to advertise the Farmhouse. Stone expressed his preference for further review by the P&R Advisory Board and a delaying the consideration to January, noting that the Farmhouse would not be open in January. Schneider offered the possibility that the revised policy could be disseminated through email without having to return to the P&R Advisory Board for further discussion. Kinneman pointed out that minor adjustments were being suggested to the policy and that he would not be opposed to adopting the policy forthwith with the suggested changes.

Eckenrod intervened with his suggestion to extend the senior rental timeframe to four p.m. to allow the possibility of an additional two-hour rental time slot for seniors. In response, Stone stated his deference to allow different rental groups such as from the elementary school the opportunity to place a reservation after two p.m. Schneider pointed out that the MyRec reservation system would program buffer time zones to allow for cleaning in between reservations and that it would not be necessary to incorporate the details of the reservation system into the policy. Greeson reiterated his opinion to delay a vote on the policy based off the Town Attorney's recommendation. Schneider suggested adding language to the policy which explained the changeability of the rates. She reinforced her belief that the policy could be voted on with the three simple changes agreed upon by Council so

that advertisement of the Farmhouse could begin. Harton noted his favor of allowing staff and the P&R Advisory Board additional time to revisit the policy and review the suggested changes. Kinneman noted the consensus reached by three of five members of Council to return the policy for additional consideration and to vote on the policy in January. Greeson expressed his reluctance to repeat the premature opening of Heritage Farm Park with the Farmhouse. Kinneman noted the consensus to delay the vote on the policy in favor of further review by staff, the P&R Advisory Board and Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone made a motion to return the Farmhouse Community Center Policy and Fee Schedule to staff and the P&R Advisory Board based on feedback from the Town Attorney and Council for reconsideration of the suggested changes. Councilman Michael Greeson seconded, and the motion was passed (4-1) with Councilwoman Ann Schneider voting against the motion.

Thomas stated that the proposed changes made by Council could be incorporated into the policy by staff and reviewed by the P&R Advisory Board quickly. He noted that the policy would then return to Council for consideration in January.

10. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Consideration/Approval of

- **Appointment of BOA members and alternates**
 - i. **Regular members: Jason Streck, Nancy Stoudemire, Ron Simpson, Patti Paslaru, Clay Flynt (ETJ rep)**
 - ii. **Aternates: Patrick Fiorentino, Craig Rosenfeld, Tara Tillman**

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone made a motion to approve the aforementioned BOA appointments, and Councilwoman Ann Schneider seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Appointment of Paul Carney as a regular member of Historic Preservation Commission**

Councilman Jim Harton made a motion to approve Paul Carney as a regular member of the Historic Preservation Commission, and Councilwoman Ann Schneider seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Reappointment of Nancy Stoudemire to Planning & Zoning Board and Tree Committee, Roy Nydorf to Tree Committee, and Chelsea Young as an alternate to Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the reappointments of the aforementioned, and Councilman Michael Greeson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

B. Consideration/Approval of 2025 Meeting Schedule

Bruce explained that two adjustments had been made to the regular schedule of Town Council meetings due to conflicts with the holiday schedule, moving the January 3 meeting to January 9, and July 3 meeting to July 10. He added that the newly merged Planning & Zoning Board and Board of Adjustment would meet on the same dates out of convenience for their appointed members.

Councilman Jim Harton made a motion to approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule and Councilwoman Ann Schneider seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

C. Consideration/Approval of 2025 Holiday Schedule

Bruce explained that the Town has traditionally adopted the same holiday schedule as the state.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule and Councilman Michael Greeson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

D. Consideration/Approval of R-2024-14 Prohibiting the Viewing of Pornography on Town Networks and Devices

Bruce explained that the North Carolina General Assembly had adopted N.C.G.S. §143-805 which explicitly prohibits employees, officials or appointees of public agencies from viewing pornography on networks or devices owned, rented or leased by that public agency. He pointed out that the Town's personnel policy already outlined such prohibited activity and that it had not experienced any violations of it to date. He added that both the Town Attorney and Information Technology Consultant had been engaged to ensure full compliance with the statute by the Town.

Kinneman asked if there was any concern regarding the Town's liability in cases violating the statute or in public access to WiFi in the parks to view pornography. Bruce explained that the statute involved Town networks and devices and public access to WiFi would not fall under the statute's purview.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone made a motion to approve R-2024-14 and Councilman Jim Harton seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

E. Any other business

None.

12. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Officer Sam Anders reported normal financial transactions for November.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone made a motion to approve the financial report as presented by the Finance Officer, and Councilman Michale Greeson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

Anders explained that R-2023-04 was a capital project fund resolution which required amending because it spanned over two fiscal years.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the amended R-2023-04, and Councilman Michael Greeson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

Anders explained that the current capitalization limit was conservatively set at \$500 to maintain careful oversight of the Town's assets.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to authorize the Town's accounting policy to increase the capitalization limit from \$500 to \$1000. Councilman Jim Harton seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Water Advisory Committee

Kinneman noted that a detailed briefing had been given by the Water Advisory Committee earlier.

B. Historic Preservation Commission

Debbie Shoenfeld reported that a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of the historically contributing structure located at 2204 Oak Ridge Road had been approved. She added that the property owner had consented to consider incorporating the structure into his development plans or to financially assist in relocating the house. She added that the Historical Oak Ridge book was undergoing its last edit and would return to the graphic designer for final review. She assessed a mid-spring to early summer release of the book to the public.

C. Planning & Zoning Board

Planning Director Sean Taylor reported that Council had just voted on the two items recommended by the Board.

D. Mountains-to-Sea-Trail Committee

Schneider stated that a report from the committee had been delivered via e-mail.

E. Conservation Easement Committee

No report.

F. Special Events Committee

Barbara Engel reported on the success of the Veterans Honor Green grand opening. She stated that \$20,000 had been raised for Phase II of the project which would be

added to \$50,000 budgeted by the Town. Engel reported that Light Up the Night would occur on December 7, 2024, and encouraged attendance.

G. Tree Committee

Co-Chair Roy Nydorf reported that three dedication trees had been planted in the park. He noted that efforts to measure trees for the Treasure Tree project were ongoing.

H. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Co-Chair Adrian Eckenrod reported that ORYA had requested a six-month extension of the current Usage Agreement to align with the Town's fiscal year. He commented that the park security and WiFi extension project was complete and operational. He added that discussion would continue regarding the Farmhouse Community Center Policy and Fee Schedule along with the proposed changes to the policy. Kinneman emphasized that the footage obtained from the park security cameras were accessible only to the sheriff's office for crime investigation purposes and that the cameras were not intended for public consumption for live streaming activity.

I. Finance

Kinneman reported that an alternate position was open in the Finance Committee and encouraged individuals to consider applying to it.

14. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. Oak Ridge Youth Association

No report.

B. Oak Ridge Military Academy

No report

C. Oak Ridge Elementary School

No report

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Caroline Ruch, 1976 Beeson Road, expressed frustration with the amount of scrutiny being paid to the Farmhouse Community Center Policy. She explained that the suggested time for senior resident discounted use of the Farmhouse was not to the exclusion of other rentals, nor would reservation requests by senior residents be given preferential consideration over other requests. She pointed out that the hours designated for senior resident use defined a limited time for use. Ruch expressed disfavor of policing the Farmhouse against renters sneaking

in a bottle of wine or renters not meeting the age requirement for the senior resident discount rate. She pointed out that starting the senior resident reservation start time at eight a.m. as opposed to earlier was to enable park staff sufficient time to prepare the facility from previous rentals. Ruch concluded by encouraging members of Council to attend the upcoming Light Up the Night event.

- Frank Carroll, 1389 Forsyth Road, commented that the Town should adopt a policy to protect against criminal activity emanating from use of the Town Parks' WiFi network.
- Adrian Eckenrod, 5679 Timber Trace Way, commented that implementing restrictions on the Town's WiFi network could be administered at no additional cost.

16. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone stated that Council had no authority over the Transco pipeline project, and he suggested inviting Transco to use Town Hall facilities to conduct a citizen information session. He commented on how the delays experienced in the municipal water system project postponed discussion of a sports complex at Heritage Farm Park, but he looked forward to beginning this discussion in January.

Councilman Jim Harton reflected on his first year as a councilman and looked ahead to progress being made in his remaining term.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider stressed the need to depart from endless discussion of issues and to move forward and improve community engagement in Town business. She pointed to developing the Town Core and the Town's municipal water system as priorities. She encouraged members of Council to attend the NC League of Municipalities Commit to Civility training sessions to earn recognition from the League.

Mayor Jim Kinneman noted that the Sierra Club would be holding information sessions at Town Hall and that Transco could do so as well. He looked forward to starting discussions of Phase II of Heritage Farm Park and commented that a fresh look would be taken at youth athletics programming for the Town.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m., and Councilman Michael Greeson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandra B. Smith, CMC, NCCMC
Asst. Town Manager/ Town Clerk

Jim A. Kinneman
Mayor