



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JULY 17, 2018 – 1:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

Spencer Sullivan, Mayor
Jim Kinneman, Mayor Pro Tem
George McClellan
Doug Nodine
Ann Schneider

Staff Present

Bill Bruce, Town Manager
Sandra Smith, Town Clerk
Terry Lannon, Parks & Recreation Director
Sean Taylor, Planning Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Spencer Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Councilman George McClellan made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Town Manager Bill Bruce again presented the vision statement and focus areas, which are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes, that had been adopted by consensus of the Council at the previous meeting, in case changes were deemed necessary. Council again agreed on the vision statement and focus areas by consensus.

Bruce then recapped the conversation from the last meeting on recreation. Noting that there was currently only a very basic park map, Council members directed staff to create a detailed map or brochure on the park to include information on the various facilities available for rent. The map/brochure would be made available both at the park and online.

Council then discussed whether the existing mission statement for the park should be revised whether to reflect the vision statement drafted for the Strategic Plan. Councilwoman Schneider said the park was historically a farm, and the Town had preserved the open vistas and committed to doing the same with the Whitaker property. She asked whether the park mission statement should be revised to reflect that. Kinneman said that the Council was going to develop goals that it would communicate to its Boards and Commissions; he said perhaps the Council should ask the Boards and Commissions to incorporate those goals into their vision statements or to create vision statements.

Council then discussed the annual Oak Ridge Horse Show, and whether there might be a way of bringing it back or whether the demand for the charity event was still there. Schneider said she understood there was a challenge regarding fencing needed for the Horse Show. Kinneman asked whether the Town could structure space to accommodate the event that included both a horse show and bull riding, and whether there were enough community volunteers now to hold the event. Planning Director Sean Taylor noted that there are horse parks in North Carolina that have dedicated facilities and ongoing equestrian events, and said that might be necessary if the Town plans to install infrastructure for the annual event. Kinneman said the Horse Show was also a festival with vendors, food and games. He said many of those same things are now provided at RidgeFest. Council members agreed that the policy item related investigating the feasibility of incorporating equestrian uses was sufficient for the time being.

Discussion then turned to growth and development, and Bruce asked Council to note trends seen in Oak Ridge. Those noted were:

- Farmland turning into residential
- Diversity in housing products
- Popularity of walkability
- Increasing awareness of importance of historic resources
- Strong demand for low-density residential
- Local businesses supported by local residents
- Increased stability of local business
- Lack of architectural creativity
- Increasing interest in varied streetscape
- Slow commercial growth/demand
- Steady population growth
- Not much farmland left

Council then discussed what the Town has done well, and noted:

- Sidewalks are functional and connected
- Street connectivity
- Focused on long-term impact
- Strong influence of Land Use Plan
- Consistent enforcement of Historic District Guidelines and ordinances
- Remains a desirable place to be
- Maintain good balance of growth

Bruce then asked Council what growth and development issues can be improved in Oak Ridge:

- NC 68 is a barrier to walkability
 - Traffic concerns
 - Difficult to develop on NC 68
- Provide more opportunities for a diversity of housing
- Focus our allowable business uses to encourage a village feel
- Encourage more diverse design
- Provide incentives for agricultural preservation
- Define “village feel”
- Improve citizen input
- Conservation and preservation easements for historic properties

The Town Council then wrapped up its discussion by creating a list of “Where do we go from here?” items:

- Encourage conservation and preservation easements to preserve open space
- Investigate open space opportunities
- Better define allowable commercial uses
- Define “village feel”
- NC 68 – increased connectivity, landscaping, speed limits, streetscape
- More diverse design

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF PAVING CONTRACT

Bruce provided a summary of the bids for repaving and restriping the town hall parking lot and the parking lot off Lisa Drive at Oak Ridge Town Park.

Councilman McClellan made a motion to instruct the Town Manager to enter into a contract with P&S Grading for paving and restriping and to have a consultant to inspect the work. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

5. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandra B. Smith, NCCMC, CMC
Town Clerk

Spencer Sullivan
Mayor