



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
AUGUST 15, 2018 – 9:00 A.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  
Sean Taylor, Planning Director

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Spencer Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA**

*Councilwoman Ann Schneider 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 led the Council's conversation on putting a definition to the term "village feel." Council member's suggestions were:

- Smaller buildings/footprints
- "Cozy" – buildings close together and close to the street
- Walkable – pedestrian friendly
- Gathering places/community oriented
- Inviting/emotional connection to place
- Unique
- Mix of uses – commercial, residential, institutional
- Landscaping/green spaces mixed in with development/places to gather

**Infrastructure.**

Bruce asked Council to list trends associated with infrastructure. Those noted were:

- Older homes with water challenges
- Spots with difficulty finding water
- Possible future bus/transit need; Automobile traffic increasing
- Population growth – 2-2.5 percent/year
- Connections with neighboring communities
- Aging population
- Schools are a big draw
- Access to water for fire protection

- Dissatisfaction with private water providers

Council then discussed the Town's strengths and what has worked well, citing:

- Sidewalks
- Influence with NCDOT
- NC 68/NC 150 intersection improvements
- Interconnected neighborhoods
- Public input on issues/Citizen involvement
- Regional cooperation

Issues related to infrastructure that Council members thought the Town could improve upon were:

- Broadband/Fiber optics
- Speed limits
- Collector street plan details
- Mid-block street crossings
- Safety in park and town hall
- Improve website
- Community wells/poor service/contaminations
- Investigating creative ways to provide wastewater treatment in town core

Bruce then asked Council where it felt the Town should go from here:

- Investigate creative ways to provide water and wastewater treatment in town core
- Amend commercial zoning districts to implement "village feel"
- Work with NCDOT
- Investigate feasibility of burying utility lines
- Continue to implement Pedestrian Plan
- Continue to improve Thoroughfare/Collector Street Plan
- Access future website needs, plan for website improvements (increased functionality and capacity)
- Investigate town water system

### **Preservation.**

Trends cited by the Council were:

- Loss of farmland/open land
- Increased awareness of historic resources
- Farmland nearly gone
- Increased challenges to the secondary military school model
- Increased appreciation for historic property and open space/community support
- Increased potential for cultural tourism

Things the Council thought the Town was doing well were:

- Preservation Oak Ridge
- Effective Historic Preservation Commission
- Getting the word out about preservation
- Historic Heritage Grants
- Successful historic marker program
- Land Use Plan that strives to preserve open space

- Purchase of Whitaker property for open space
- New construction compatible with historic structures

The Council then cited areas in which the Town could improve, which included:

- More creativity in interpreting historic styles in the Historic District
- Preservation easements for historic properties
- More effective resources for Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applicants
- Incentives for agricultural preservation
- Working with Piedmont Land Conservancy on conservation easements

The Town Council then created a list of “Where do we go from here?” items:

- Revisit annexation policy
- Town will be on the lookout for additional strategic land acquisition opportunities
- Create a working group to investigate historic preservation easements and open space easements
- Work with Piedmont Land Conservancy to encourage conservation easements
- Incentives (grants, etc.) to facilitate easements

Council agreed by consensus to meet again on August 20, 2018 at 9 a.m. to go over the plan thus far and make any changes it felt were needed.

#### 4. **ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilman Doug Nodine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).*

Respectfully Submitted:

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Sandra B. Smith, NCCMC, CMC  
Town Clerk

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Spencer Sullivan  
Mayor