

The Smithfield Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor M. Andy Moore presided.

Councilmen Present:

John A. Dunn, Mayor Pro-Tem
Marlon Lee, District 1
Sloan Stevens, District 2
Travis Scott, District 3
Dr. David Barbour, District 4
Stephen Rabil, At-Large
Roger Wood, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Administrative Staff Present

Michael Scott, Town Manager
Michael Brown, Fire Chief
Ted Credle, Public Utilities Director
Lawrence Davis, Public Works Director
James Grady, Interim Police Chief
Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director
Tim Kerigan, Human Resources
Eric McDowell, IT Director
Shannan Parrish, Town Clerk
Greg Siler, Finance Director
Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Also Present

Robert Spences, Jr., Town Attorney

Administrative Staff Absent

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor M. Andy Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilman Barbour followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens, to approve the agenda with the following amendments:

Add to the Presentations:

Item 1: Proclamation: Honoring Municipal Clerks Week in the Town of Smithfield

Item 5: Proclamation: Declaring June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violent Awareness Day in the Town of Smithfield

Item 6: Presentation to Fire Chief Michael Brown from SkillsUSA

Add to the Consent Agenda:

Item 9: Special Event: Neuse River Amphitheater Grand Opening- The Smithfield Parks and Recreation Department is requesting to hold an event on Friday, May 5, 2023. The request includes amplified sound, fireworks and food trucks

Item 10: Consideration and request for approval to appoint John Bilott and Michell Verburgt to the DSDC Board of Directors with adoption of Resolution No. 725 (08-2023)

Remove from the Business Item:

Item 1: Consideration and request for approval to enter into an agreement with WithersRavenel in the amount of \$52,500 for identification and classification of all water service lines in the Town's service area
Presentation

Unanimously approved

PRESENTATION:

1. Proclamation: Honoring Municipal Clerk's Week in the Town of Smithfield

Mayor Moore presented Town Clerk Shannan Parrish with a proclamation honoring Municipal Clerk's Week and expressed his appreciation for her dedication and service

2. Proclamation: Honoring Fire Captain Bentley Powell's 20+ Years of Service to the Town of Smithfield

Mayor Moore presented retired Fire Captain Bentley Powell with a proclamation honoring his 20 years of service with the Town of Smithfield.

PROCLAMATION

In Honor of Fire Captain Arthur Bentley Powell's
20+ Years of Dedicated Service

to the Town of Smithfield

WHEREAS, Arthur Bentley Powell has been a dedicated employee of the Town of Smithfield for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Bentley Powell retired on May 1, 2023 and is being honored for his years of service as a member of the Smithfield Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, throughout his professional career, Arthur Bentley Powell helped advance the Smithfield Fire Department by serving in a variety of roles including Firefighter, Engineer and ultimately as a Captain; and

WHEREAS, through his dedication and service to the residents of the Town of Smithfield and Johnston County, Arthur Bentley Powell directly contributed to creating a safer and more resilient community; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Bentley Powell has earned and deserves this public recognition for his many years of service and commitment to the Town of Smithfield.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. Andy Moore Mayor of the Town of Smithfield along with the members of the Town Council, express our sincere appreciation to Arthur Bentley Powell for his distinguished service to the Town of Smithfield, and urge our citizens to join with us as we extend our sincere appreciation for his work, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

3. 2022 Police Department Officer of the Year Award

Interim Chief of Police James Grady informed the Council that Officer Jonathan Boyce had been selected as the Smithfield Police Department's 2022 Officer of the Year. Members of the department nominate officers for this award. Once nominated, the Team Commanders vote based on the nominations on who will receive this award, and it is presented to the Interim Chief for final approval. Officer Boyce has been with the Smithfield Police Department for 2 years. Officer Boyce was always willing to go above and beyond in the performance of his duties. He always has a positive attitude. He was an asset to the Department and the Town.

4. Administering Oath of Office to New Police Officer – James Davis

Mayor Moore administered the Oath of Office to new Police Officer James Davis and welcomed him to the Town of Smithfield

5. Proclamation: Declaring June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Smithfield

Mayor Moore read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION
DECLARING JUNE 2, 2023 TO BE
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY IN THE
TOWN OF SMITHFIELD

WHEREAS, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 17,000-gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, according to current statistics of EveryStat.org, North Carolina has 1,350-gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$19.5 billion each year. North Carolina has the 24th highest rate of gun deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, local governments spend a combined average of nearly 35 million dollars each day to deal with the aftermath of gun violence across America; and

WHEREAS, communities across the nation, including Smithfield, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a Town Council's highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State laws support the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens while keeping guns out of the hands of those convicted of violent felonies; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange, on June 2, 2023, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. Andy Moore, Mayor of the Town of Smithfield declares the first Friday in June, June 2, 2023, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

6. Presentation from SkillsUSA North Carolina

Councilman Barbour presented an award to Fire Chief Michael Brown for his assistance with the SkillsUSA firefighter competition.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Unified Development Ordinance Text Amendment – Town of Smithfield (ZA-23-03):** The applicant was requesting an amendment to Unified Development Ordinances, Article 10, Part 1, Section 10.95, Airport Height Hazard Overlay (AHH) to help insure safe movement of aircraft near the Johnston County Regional Airport.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to open the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Planning Director Stephen Wensman explained staff was requesting approval of an update to the Airport Height Hazard Overlay (AHH) regulations in Article 10, Section 10.95 and associated definitions in Appendix A. Mr. Wensman explained that he participated in a stakeholder group to assist and guide the update to the Johnston County Regional Airport Master Plan. As part of this update, the consultants for the airport identified needed updates to local regulations per the FAA model ordinance. The updates to Article 10, Section 10.95 and associated definitions in Appendix A reflect the recommended changes. The amendment provides clearer description and guidance on the various airport zones as it pertains to dimensional characteristics, height, and lighting requirements. The amendment also updates certain terms found within the AHH Overlay ordinance

Consistency Statement (Staff Opinion):

Staff finds the zoning text amendment as proposed consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and other adopted plans, and that the amendment is reasonable and in the public interest.

Recommendation:

Planning Staff and Planning Board recommend approval of the zoning text amendment, ZA-23-03, with a statement declaring the request consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and that the request is reasonable and in the public interest.

Planning Director Stephen Wensman has incorporated his entire record and provided it to the Council in written form in the May 2, 2023 agenda packet.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any questions from Council. There were none

Mayor Moore asked if there was anyone in attendance who wished to speak on the matter. There was no one in attendance that wished to speak on the matter.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Scott, to close the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to approve zoning text amendment, ZA-23-02, amending Section 7.3 of the UDO to allow 2 accessory structures per residential lot finding the amendment consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and other adopted plans, and that the amendment is reasonable and in the public interest. Unanimously approved.

2. **Unified Development Ordinance Text Amendment – Town of Smithfield (ZA-23-04):** The applicant is requesting an amendment to the Town of Smithfield Unified Development Ordinances, Article 6, Section 6.6, Tables of Permitted Uses and Activities that will remove government offices as a permitted use in the light industrial and heavy industrial zoning districts

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to open the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Planning Director Stephen Wensman explained staff was requesting the approval of an ordinance amendment to Article 6, Section 6.6 Table of Uses and Activities to strike "government offices" from the Light Industrial (LI) and Heavy Industrial (HI) Districts. Government offices were currently a permitted use in the Light and Heavy Industrial zoning districts. Given the importance of industrial land to the tax base, staff is recommending the government offices be stricken as a permitted use.

Consistency Statement (Staff Opinion):

Staff finds the zoning text amendment as proposed consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and other adopted plans, and that the amendment is reasonable and in the public interest.

Recommendation:

Planning Staff and the Planning Board recommend approval of the zoning text amendment ZA-23-04, with a statement declaring the request consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and that the request is reasonable and in the public interest.

Planning Director Stephen Wensman has incorporated his entire record and provided it to the Council in written form in the May 2, 2023 agenda packet.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any questions from Council.

Councilman Barbour requested that a definition of a government office be added to the ordinance.

Mayor Moore asked if there was anyone in attendance who wished to speak on the matter. There was no one in attendance that wished to speak on the matter.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to close the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens, to move to approve zoning text amendment, ZA-23-04, amending Article 6, Section 6.6 Table of Uses and Activities to strike "government offices" from the Light and Heavy Industrial Districts finding the amendment consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and other adopted plans, and that the amendment is reasonable and in the public interest and also to add a definition for "government offices". Unanimously approved.

3. Unified Development Ordinance Text Amendment – Town of Smithfield (ZA-23-05): The applicant is requesting an amendment to the Town of Smithfield Unified Development Ordinances, Article 10, Section 10.1 that will restrict the severe pruning of regulated landscaping.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to open the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Planning Director Stephen Wensman explained staff was requesting the Planning Board recommend approval of an ordinance amendment to Article 10, Section 10.11. Maintenance to prohibit severe pruning of required landscape trees. As part of the Planning Board's quarterly review of the UDO discussed and recommended that Staff update the landscape maintenance section of the UDO to address severe pruning of required trees.

Pollarding/ topping crepe myrtles has been a common form of pruning for this species, however, this past season, the practice has spread to other required landscape trees that has negatively impacted required street yards throughout the Town. Topping and Pollarding are similar, however, Pollarding is an acceptable form of pruning that does not damage the trees if done properly, most often by a skilled arborist. For the most part, the pruning occurring in the Town of Smithfield to required landscape trees can be best described as topping.

The Town's landscape ordinance has requirements for understory, canopy trees and shrubs. Canopy trees are intended to get large and provide shade in the landscape. The landscape ordinance requires 2" caliper, 12–14-foot high trees that will exceed 35 feet at maturity. Understory trees are typically for ornamental purposes to be planted at about 8-10 feet in height and to remain under 35 feet at maturity. The purpose of the ordinance is to have a mix of shade trees and ornamental trees on a development site. By topping or pollarding, landscapers are attempting to keep the trees small, defeating the purpose of the ordinance. In many cases the topped trees are kept at a 3-6' height, the same height as a mature shrub.

The proposed ordinance would prohibit severe pruning such as topping and pollarding such that the trees can grow with a natural form.

Consistency Statement (Staff Opinion):

Staff finds the zoning text amendment as proposed consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and other adopted plans, and that the amendment is reasonable and in the public interest.

Recommendation:

Planning Staff and the Planning Board recommend approval of the zoning text amendment ZA-23-05, with a statement declaring the request consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and that the request is reasonable and in the public interest.

Planning Director Stephen Wensman has incorporated his entire record and provided it to the Council in written form in the May 2, 2023 agenda packet.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any questions from Council.

Councilman Stevens asked if this ordinance affected residential and commercial properties. Mr. Wensman responded this only affected commercial properties.

Councilman Scott questioned how this would be enforced. Mr. Wensman responded that staff would

educate businesses on the ordinance change.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dunn stated that some of the older Bradford Pear Trees had become overgrown and there was no way to get them under control without excessive pruning. Mr. Wensman responded that Bradford Pear trees were now considered a nuisance tree. Those trees should be cut down and replaced.

Councilman Barbour stated the Bradford Pear Trees on Second Steet have been destroyed because of being planted under power lines. He further stated that those trees were unsightly. Mr. Wensman agreed.

Town Manager Michael Scott explained that there had been some discussion from the Appearance Commission about replacing the Bradford Pear Trees.

Mayor Moore asked if there was anyone in attendance who wished to speak on the matter.

Lanie Thomas of Swift Creek Nursery encouraged the Council to do whatever they could to keep the Crepe Myrtle trees from being topped.

Elizabeth Temple informed the Council that she would like the Bradford Pears of Second Street to remain.

Councilman Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Rabil, to close the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Scott, to approve of zoning text amendment, ZA-23-05, amending Article 10, Section 10.11., finding the amendment consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and other adopted plans, and that the amendment is reasonable and in the public interest. Unanimously approved.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Jud Patterson informed the Council that the Farmer's Market was a success. He expressed his appreciation to the Council for approving the Farmer's Market. He requested that the Farmer's Market be allowed to continue through the summer.
- Elizabeth Temple provided a brief history of prominent historians from the Town of Smithfield. She requested that a marker be erected in their honor.
- Allen Hall addressed the Council on some concerns about the Farmer's Market. He claimed there were discrimination and equity issues with the market.
- Erika Hall explained she was a representative of Downhome North Carolina. She invited everyone to attend an event at Smith-Collins Park on May 11th.
- John Bilott owner of Twisted Willow and co-sponsor of the Farmer's Market responded to the concerns expressed earlier by Mr. Hall.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dunn, to approve the following items as listed on the Consent Agenda:

1. The following minutes were approved:
 - March 23, 2023 – Budget Session
 - March 27, 2023 – Budget Session
 - April 3, 2023 – Budget Session
 - April 4, 2023 – Regular Meeting
2. Special Event – Spring Carnival: Approval was granted to Inners Shows, Inc. to hold a carnival at the Carolina Premium Outlet from May 12, 2023 until May 29, 2023.
3. Special Event – HealthQuest: Approval was granted to HealthQuest to hold a member appreciation event on May20, 2023 from 10:00 am until 2:00pm at 514 North Brightleaf Boulevard. Food Trucks and amplified sound were also approved.
4. Approval was granted to allow employees to donate sick time to an employee in the Recreation Aquatics Department
5. The following budget amendments were adopted:

ARPA FUND

1. Expenditures

20-76-0000-5970-9100 ARPA - Transfer to Other Capital Projects	\$ 2,064,847	\$ (739,511)	\$ 1,325,336
20-20-5100-5700-7401 Police Building Expansion	609,000	438,031	1,047,031
20-20-5300-5700-7400 Fire Truck	875,000	135,580	1,010,580
20-10-4100-5700-7400 Land Purchase/Heath Properties	-	165,900	165,900

\$ 3,548,847 \$ - \$ 3,548,847

To use ARPA funds to fund additional cost for fire truck purchase, police building expansion and the purchase of land (Heath Property condemnation)

General Fund

2. Expenditures

10-60-6200-5700-7400 Aquatic Center - Capital Outlay	\$ 91,500	\$ 75,152	\$ 166,652
10-00-9990-5300-0000 General Fund Contingency	<u>228,603</u>	<u>(75,152)</u>	<u>153,451</u>
	<u>\$ 320,103</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 320,103</u>

To fund additional cost of boilers at the Aquatics Center as approved at the March 7, 2023 Council meeting

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

3. Revenue

46-60-3300-3307-0011 Grant - ESHPF (Hastings House)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 178,674</u>	<u>\$ 178,674</u>
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Expenditure

46-60-6200-5700-7409 Hastings House Repairs	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 178,674</u>	<u>\$ 178,674</u>
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To establish and fund Hastings House Repairs of \$43,647 as approved at the March 7, 2023 Council meeting

WATER/SEWER CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

4. Revenue

45-75-3870-3870-0315 Transfer From W/S Fund (EDA Sewer Outfall Line)	<u>\$ 1,095,880</u>	<u>\$ 38,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,133,880</u>
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Expenditure

45-71-7220-5700-7427 EDA Sewer Outfall Pipe Construction	<u>\$ 3,757,880</u>	<u>\$ 38,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,795,880</u>
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To correct the funding for the EDA/Sewer Outfall Pipe grant administrative cost

Water Fund

5. Expenditures

30-71-7200-5300-3306 Water Fund Salary Adjustments	\$ 105,000	\$ (105,000)	\$ -
30-00-9990-5300-0000 Contingency	<u>250,001</u>	<u>105,000</u>	<u>355,001</u>
	<u>\$ 355,001</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 355,001</u>

To correct a posting error in the original FY22-23 budget.

- 6. Approval of a grant agreement with Johnston County for Water Plant Improvements
- 7. Board Appointment: Rick Childrey was reappointed to a third term on the Library Board of Trustees.
- 8. New Hire Report

<u>Recently Hired</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
Electric Line Technician	PU – Electric	31-72-7230-5100-0200	\$22.96/hr. (\$47,756.80/yr.)
Firefighter I	Fire	10-20-5300-5100-0200	\$16.87/hr. (\$35,089.60/yr.)
Police Officer II	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200	\$22.90/hr. (\$51,204.40/yr.)
P/T Athletic Staff	P&R – Recreation	10-60-6200-5300-0210	\$10.00/yr.
P/T SRAC Instructor	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0230	\$15.00/hr.
P/T SRAC Staff	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0230	\$10.00/hr.

<u>Current Vacancies</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>
Administrative Assistant	PW – Streets	10-30-5600-5100-0200
Animal Control Officer	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200
Electric Line Technician	PU – Electric	31-72-7230-5100-0200
Facilities Maintenance Specialist	PW – General Services	10-20-5300-5100-0200
Licensed Water Plant Operator	PU – Water Plant	30-71-7200-5100-0200
Police Chief	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200
Police Officer	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200
P/T Athletics Assistant	P&R – Recreation	10-60-6200-5100-0210
P/T Firefighter	Fire	10-20-5300-5100-0210
P/T Reception Desk Representative	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0210
P/T Zoning Compliance Assistant	Planning	10-10-4900-5100-0200
Records Clerk/Specialist	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200
Sanitation Equipment Operator	PW – Sanitation	10-40-5800-5100-0200
Utility Line Mechanic	PU – Water/Sewer	30-71-7220-5100-0200

9. Special Event: Amphitheater Grand Opening: Approval was granted to the Smithfield Parks and Recreation Department to hold an event on Friday, May 5, 2023. Amplified sound, fireworks and food trucks were approved for this event.
10. Resolution No.725 (08-2023) was adopted appointing John Bilott and Michell Verburgt to the DSDC Board of Directors

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
RESOLUTION NO. 725 (08-2023)
Supporting Appointments to the Downtown Smithfield
Development Corporation's Board of Directors

WHEREAS, The Smithfield Town Council has received a request from the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation's Board of Directors to appoint two members to its Board; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VII of the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation's By-Laws, the Town Council must approve any appointments/ reappointments to the Board of Directors by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation Board of Directors have recommended the new appointments of John Bilott and Michelle Verburgt; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is asked to consider these appointments and make a determination.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council does hereby approve the appointments of John Bilott and Michelle Verburgt to the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation's Board of Directors.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. FY 2023-2024 Budget Discussions

This item was moved to the end of the agenda following a ten-minute recess.

Councilmembers Comments:

- Councilman Barbour informed the Council that he had attended the Farmer's Market and he received a lot of positive feedback from the vendors. He congratulated the organizers for a successful event.
- Councilman Stevens commended the organizers of the Farmer's Market for their efforts. He would like to have more discussion about this event at the June meeting. Councilman Stevens reminded everyone of the Ham and Yam Festival that would be held this upcoming weekend.
- Councilman Lee expressed his appreciation to everyone that attended the ribbon cutting for the Eva Ennis Trail. Councilman Lee questioned the status of the RV Park that was to be constructed adjacent to Pine Acres. Town Manager Michael Scott responded there was not sewer allocation for that property. Councilman Lee stated the East Smithfield Improvement Organization would begin holding regular meetings. He invited members of the Police Department to attend those meetings. Councilman Lee also stated the Town of Smithfield should be celebrated at the Ham and Yam festival and it should not be a political event. Councilman Lee welcomed new resident Felicia Baxter to the Town of Smithfield.
- Councilman Wood stated he was glad to be back after several weeks of dealing with medical issues.
- Mayor Moore stated there were a lot of great things happening in the Town of Smithfield. He stated he was proud of all that staff and the Council had accomplished.

Town Manager's Report:

Town Manager Michael Scott gave a brief update to the Council on the following items:

- There will be an open house at the Water Plant on Thursday, May 4th from 1:00 to 3:00. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for 1:00.
- A ribbon cutting is planned for the evening of May 5th, at 7:00 at the Amphitheater, followed by live music.
- The splash pad addition at Eva Ennis Park is complete and will open as scheduled on May 26th for Memorial Day Weekend.

The Council recessed at 8:31pm

The Council reconvened at 8:40

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. FY 2023-2024 Budget Discussions

Town Manager Michael Scott informed the Council that he created a summary of departmental requests. He asked for the Council's feedback on what they felt were priorities.

Councilman Stevens stated he would like to know the cost of adding amenities and lighting to the dog park. Mayor Moore stated the houses in the area needed to be considered when thinking about adding lighting to the dog park.

Councilman Lee stated he would like to add speed humps to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to slow down the traffic especially since the trail and splash pad expansion has been completed.

Councilman Scott stated there was a large amount of overall non-departmental requests this fiscal year. He stated the Council should be fair with all of the school requests. He also asked the Council to remember the employees and employee benefits.

Councilman Scott further stated the Town needed to adequately fund the DSDC, but there needed to be some oversight and prioritizing of projects.

Councilman Rabil agreed with Councilman Stevens that more amenities were needed at the dog park. Benches, shade structures and lighting should be considered. Councilman Rabil stated that all schools should receive the same level of funding. He also would like for Partnership for Children, Recovery Alive and the Smithfield Firefighter's Association to receive some level of funding.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dunn stated that staffing for the fire department will be critical in the future. He also stated that all schools should receive the same level of funding. He felt it was important to provide funding for Partnership for Children and Smithfield Firefighter's Association.

Councilman Wood questioned where the artificial turf would be installed. Parks and Recreation Director Gary Johnson responded it would be installed in front of the soccer goal boxes. Councilman Wood asked for an explanation of the NEO Gov software being requested by the Human Resources Director. Tim Kerigan provided a brief overview of the software.

Councilman Scott asked if Johnston County was going to raise its sewer rates. The Town Manager responded that the Johnston County Public Utilities Director was requesting a rate increase. UFS has also been updating the Town's water rate structure. UFS will present those finding to the Council at the May 4th budget meeting.

Councilman Stevens questioned if some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds should be used for large ticket items like a fire engine or a garbage truck. The Town Manager responded that ARPA funds could be used for those types of expenditures.

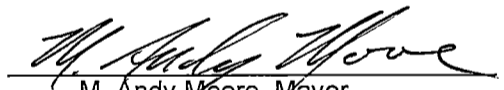
Recess

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Wood, to recess the meeting until May 4, 2023, at 7:00 pm to be held in the Fire Station Training Room. The meeting recessed at approximately 9:37 pm.

ATTEST:

Shannan L. Parrish, Town Clerk




M. Andy Moore, Mayor