

The Smithfield Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor M. Andy Moore presided.

Councilmen Present:

Roger Wood, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Marlon Lee, District 1  
Sloan Stevens, District 2  
Travis Scott, District 3  
Dr. David Barbour, District 4  
John Dunn, At-Large (Departed 8:59 pm)  
Stephen Rabil, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Administrative Staff Present

Michael Scott, Town Manager  
Ted Credle, Public Utilities Director  
Jeremey Daughtry, Fire Chief  
Lawrence Davis, Public Works Director  
Andrew Harris, Finance Director  
Pete Hedrick, Chief of Police  
Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director  
Shannan Parrish, Town Clerk  
Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Also Present

Robert Spence, Jr., Town Attorney

Administrative Staff Absent

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor 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:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Barbour, to approve the agenda amended as follows:

Move Consent Agenda Item 9: *Bid Award to Starling & Hines Heating and Air in the amount of \$65,430.00 for the replacement of six HVAC units* to Business Item 6.

Add Business Item 7: Update on the Employee Pay and Classification Study  
Unanimously approved.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**1. Administering the Oath of Office to newly promoted Police Lieutenants Christopher Blinson & David Tyndall**

Mayor Moore administered the Oath of Office to Lt. Christopher Blinson and Lt. David Tyndall

**2. Johnston County Water Sewer Regional Authority Update**

Lee Worsley of Central Pines Regional Council of Government presented the Council with an update on the Water and Sewer Regionalization Study. He explained the focus of tonight's presentation was the ongoing collaboration on water and sewer services, a vital topic given the rapid growth in the area. Local governments were already collaborating, but were exploring the possibility of more formal agreements, or even the formation of a regional authority to manage water and sewer across Johnston County.

He stressed that no final decisions had been made and conversations about the future and options were ongoing. The options could range from continued cooperation through interlocal agreements to the creation of a fully self-contained water and sewer authority. The goal over the next three years was to explore what it would take to form a county-wide authority, if that's the direction the local governments decide to pursue. However, Smithfield and other municipalities will have the final say in these decisions. Immediate next steps include reaffirming commitments from local governments to explore these options, forming technical advisory committees, and developing stakeholder engagement plans to ensure transparency and input from the community.

Councilman Scott thanked Mr. Worsley for the presentation and highlighted Smithfield's strong position regarding water services, as shown by recent data and reviews. He emphasized the importance of ensuring Smithfield gets a fair deal in any regionalization efforts and keeping costs reasonable for residents, particularly during growth and new development. He stressed that new infrastructure should be funded fairly, without burdening current customers. Councilman Scott also mentioned that while Smithfield has control over its clean water, it has less influence over wastewater but remains engaged in ongoing discussions.

Councilman Stevens stressed the importance of Smithfield's involvement in regional water and sewer discussions but expressed concerns about whether it would save the town money in the short and long term, especially for citizens' rates. He urged for public involvement and sharing meeting information online, noting that key decisions will be made in the coming years. Councilman Stevens also highlighted Smithfield's strong water position but emphasized the need to carefully consider long-term impacts.

Councilman Dunn informed the Council he needed to be excused at approximately 8:30pm.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, to excuse Councilman Dunn from meeting at approximately 8:30 pm. Unanimously approved.

## PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **Unified Development Ordinance Amendment – Multifamily in the B-3 Amendment (ZA-24-02):** Planning Staff are requesting an amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance, Article 6, Section 6.6 Table of Uses and Activities to remove the multi-family land use from the B-3 Zoning District entirely

Mayor Pro-Tem Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dunn, to open the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Town Manager Michael Scott provided background on the request for the Council to consider amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to remove multi-family developments from the B3 zoning district. He clarified that the request was made under his direction to ensure the discussion happens publicly and transparently.

He further explained that this issue had been under consideration since April, following discussions on Smithfield's economic development strategic plan, which emphasized the need for land for business expansion and residential growth. He addressed concerns about how the public hearing was advertised, stating that the notice was properly handled according to statutory requirements and followed the same procedure as previous UDO amendments. He emphasized that the intent was not to exclude multi-family housing in Smithfield but to give the Town Council more control over developments in the B-3 district.

Planning Director Stephen Wensman explained that multi-family developments were currently allowed in the B-3 zoning district under a special use permit. However, the proposed ordinance amendment would remove multi-family as a permitted use in B-3. Developers would need to rezone to a different district if they wish to pursue multi-family housing.

Mr. Wensman noted that B3 was the largest and most expansive zoning district, often including intensive uses like car dealerships and warehouses, which may not be suitable next to residential areas. He emphasized that the amendment would give the Town Council more control over future developments and align zoning with the town's comprehensive plan. While existing multi-family properties in B-3 would become legal non-conforming, the amendment would help the town better manage growth and maintain appropriate land use.

He pointed out that other towns handle multi-family zoning differently, and Smithfield was facing an influx of multi-family development proposals. Staff supported the ordinance as consistent with the town's growth plan and in the public interest. He noted that the planning board recommended that the Council delay final action until it could present its recommendations.

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

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

Michael McLamb questioned if the text amendment was adopted, would multi-family be allowed in the B-3 zoning district by Special Use Permit. Mr. Wensman explained that a special use permit allowed multi-family developments under certain conditions, with the developer required to follow all UDO regulations and supplementary standards. Approval of such permits was based on seven findings of fact, and the process was treated like a quasi-judicial hearing, meaning there can be no discussions between the developer, council, or staff outside the formal hearing.

He noted that if a project with a special use permit was not started within six months, the approval expired. In contrast, conditional zoning offered more flexibility, allowing negotiation between the developer and the town to adjust regulations in exchange for additional features like landscaping or lighting. Conditional zoning approvals were valid for two years, and if no action was taken, the town can rezone the property. However, any subsequent developer must follow the originally approved site plan unless they pursue a rezoning.

Mark Lane resident of the ETJ area and chairman of the planning board, addressed the council, apologizing for a misunderstanding regarding a question about mailings. He clarified that the question was based on the assumption it was a zoning change, not a text amendment. He mentioned that during two planning board meetings, the focus had been solely on removing multi-family housing from B3, and they were unaware of the possibility that it could remain in B-3. He expressed frustration, noting that clearer communication from the start would have saved time and confusion.

Stephen Wensman clarified that multi-family housing was being removed from the B-3 zoning district, but properties currently zoned B-3 have the option to rezone to a different district to allow for multi-family developments. He reiterated that the intention was to remove multi-family from the B3 zone.

Olita Boone, president of the Johnston County Association of Realtors, opposed the amendment to remove multi-family housing from the B-3 zoning district. She stressed that this change would worsen the housing crisis for middle-income families and essential workers by limiting affordable housing options. Bowman urged the council to reconsider the amendment to promote inclusive and affordable housing for all community members.

Debbie Johnson-Howard, a planning board member and Smithfield resident, requested that the council delay final action on the B3 zoning change until the planning board can present its recommendations. She cited concerns from citizens, a desire for input from the Johnston County Board of Realtors' housing needs study, and the lack of formal notification to B3 property owners about the potential change. Howard emphasized that those affected should be informed in advance and asked the Town Manager if statute 160D-602, which he referenced, applies to text amendments.

The Town Manager clarified that, according to David Owens from the School of Government, map amendments require individual mailings, but text amendments do not. Therefore, the mailing requirement did not apply to the B-3 text amendment.

Catherine Wynn informed the Council about a housing study being conducted by a nationally recognized agency, Bowen National Research, to assess Johnston County's housing needs. She mentioned that the data would be available by the end of the month and requested that the council delay the B-3 amendment until the study's results can be reviewed to better understand the community's housing needs.

Paul Emblar shared a historical overview of Smithfield's challenges with attracting residential development, despite past incentive programs. Rising land costs in nearby areas have led developers to shift focus to Smithfield. He emphasized the need for affordable housing, including multi-family units, for essential workers like teachers, police, and firefighters. Emblar also highlighted changing housing preferences, with younger generations seeking low-maintenance options. He urged the Council to consider the growing demand for affordable housing in Smithfield, driven by economic challenges and increasing population.

Teresa Daughtry expressed concern about the Council's direction, stating that Smithfield needs to embrace change and that developers do not feel welcomed. Mayor Moore responded by affirming that the Council's duty was to act in the best interest of the entire town, not just one segment or industry.

Greg Evans shared his appreciation for the Council's work, noting his experience in cities with poor planning. He clarified that he misunderstood the meeting's purpose, thinking multi-family housing was being restricted, but realized the Town was aiming for more control over it. He encouraged the Council to review buffering requirements as part of the zoning process to avoid future issues with neighbors.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any additional comments or questions by the Council.

Councilman Scott expressed his concerns and confusion about the B-3 zoning amendment, agreeing with citizens that communication on the matter could have been clearer. He noted that while he initially thought the amendment would remove multi-family housing from B-3, it appeared to add a layer of complexity by requiring rezoning. He emphasized the need for proactive planning rather than reactive decisions, suggesting the town focus on economic development and possibly hold a retreat to set clear goals and priorities. He also requested further discussion before making a final decision on the amendment, highlighting the importance of understanding the broader impacts on zoning.

Mayor Moore pointed out that the agenda clearly stated that conditional rezoning was an alternative to special use permits, addressing confusion about the process.

Councilman Stevens noted that 70% of the 3,914 housing units approved since 2019 were multi-family. He emphasized the importance of collaboration. He further stated the B-3 zoning district should be preserved for businesses.

Councilman Barbour highlighted the decline of West Smithfield's commercial area and stressed the need to prioritize business development over residential use in B-3 zones. He expressed his opposition to rezoning B-3 areas for multi-family housing, citing his constituents' desire for more businesses.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wood shared that, like Councilman Barbour, he hears from residents in West Smithfield who remember when it was a thriving area. He expressed concern about the 72% multi-family development rate, stating it felt unbalanced. He emphasized that residents primarily ask for more businesses, not multi-family housing, and urged the need to control B-3 zoning to preserve retail and commercial space.

Councilman Scott sought clarification on the conditional zoning process and how it applied to B-3 properties. He raised concerns about how future developments would proceed if the zoning changes, suggesting a need for further discussions with the planning board to address these broader UDO issues.

Mr. Wensman explained that B-3 properties seeking multi-family development would need to be rezoned to an R-8 district, which could be considered depending on the comprehensive plan's guidance. He emphasized that the process would vary based on the property's location and specifics.

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

Councilman Scott made a motion to table a decision on this matter. Before a second could be made, Mayor Moore addressed those in attendance.

Mayor Andy Moore thanked the attendees and planning board members for their contributions. He emphasized Smithfield's rapid residential growth, with approximately 4,000 new homes, and the need to protect land zoned for business along major highways to attract businesses. He clarified that removing multi-family housing from B-3 zoning wouldn't eliminate it but would give the Council more control through conditional rezoning, allowing collaboration with developers. He stressed that multi-family housing was already permitted in other districts and that this amendment would not drive-up housing costs. He further

addressed misconceptions, stating that this proposal wasn't rushed and was necessary to prevent business-zoned land from being consumed by residential developments. He also dispelled rumors about his personal motives, affirming that townhomes already exist near his home and that his support for the amendment was in the best interest of Smithfield's citizens. Moore concluded by reaffirming his commitment to doing what is right for the Town.

Councilman Scott noted that reviewing the comprehensive growth map with Councilman Stevens provided helpful insights. He emphasized the importance of considering infill areas for multi-family housing and highlighted the value of workshops for discussing such issues. He acknowledged that the conditional zoning (CZ) process offered flexibility for the Council and staff to evaluate projects case by case. He expressed that he hadn't fully understood how the amendment would play out before the meeting but found the discussion helpful.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens, to approve zoning text amendment, ZA-24-02, amending Article 10, Section 6.6, finding the amendment consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and other adopted plans, and that the amendment was reasonable and in the public interest. Councilman Barbour, Councilman Stevens, Mayor Pro-Tem Wood and Councilman Dunn voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Lee, Councilman Scott and Councilman Rabil voted against the motion. Motion carried four to three.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

- Emma Gemmell provided the Council with a timeline and questions about the social district, emphasizing the need for transparency and public input. She expressed pride in the town's volunteers but raised concerns about citizens feeling unheard and discouraged from speaking out due to potential repercussions. She highlighted unanswered questions regarding the social district's costs, responsibilities, and legal liabilities. She urged the Council to reconsider the social district's approval and called for greater transparency and communication with the public.
- Pam Lampe raised concerns about a lack of transparency during the July 16, 2024, Council meeting when the social district was passed. She referenced an editorial criticizing the decision to proceed without full council attendance, suggesting the outcome could have been different if all members were present. She urged the council to either reconsider the social district issue through a motion or halt approval of agenda item five regarding the social district's operation plan until all citizen questions were addressed. She emphasized the need for transparency and proper representation.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

1. Minutes
  - a. May 20, 2024 – Budget Session
  - b. July 16, 2024 – Regular Meeting
2. Special Event: Bulldog Backyard Kickback – Approval was granted to allow Bulldog Harley-Davidson to hold an event at 1043 Outlet Center Drive on August 24, 2024 from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm. Approval was also granted to allow amplified sound, a food truck and merchandise for sale.
3. Approval was granted to adopt a Grant Project Ordinance
4. Approval was granted to close out a Grant Project Ordinance and a Capital Project Ordinance
5. Approval was granted to adopt various budget amendments
6. Approval was granted to amend the FY 2024-2025 Fee Schedule
7. Approval was granted to enter into an agreement with WhithersRavenel in the amount of \$262,500 for the Spring Branch Drainage Repairs Project
8. Bid was awarded to Daniels Inc. of Garner in the amount of \$246,305.15 for the FY 2024-2025 Street Resurfacing Project. Bids received were as follows:

- Garris Grading & Paving. \$238,950.45
- Legion Asphalt, Inc. \$260,632.66
- Turner Asphalt LLC. \$395,583.54
- Barnhill Contracting. \$460,516.57
- Daniels Inc Garner. \$246,305.15
- ST Wooten Corp. \$340,606.54

9. New Hire Report

Recently Hired	Department	Budget Line	Rate of Pay
Police Officer (3)	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200	\$26.84/hr. (\$60,014.24/yr.)
Master Police Officer (2)	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200	\$29.59/hr. (\$66,163.24/yr.)
Part-Time SRAC Pool Staff	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0210	\$10.00/hr.

Current Vacancies	Department	Budget Line
Asst. Aquatics Supervisor	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0200
Equipment Operator	PU – Streets	10-30-5600-5100-0200

Facility Maintenance Specialist	PW – Appearance	10-60-5500-5100-0200
Human Resources Director	General Government	10-10-4000-5100-0200
		30-71-7220-5100-0200
		31-72-7230-5100-0200
Police Officers	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200
Sanitation Equipment Operator	PW – Sanitation	10-40-5800-5100-0200

## BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. **Rezoning Request- 400 Brightleaf (RZ-24-06)** : David Dupree of Market Street Investments is requesting the rezoning of 3 parcels: a .89-acre parcel (Johnston County Tax ID 15015033) in the O/I-Office Institutional Zoning District, a .15-acre (Johnston County Tax ID 15016033) and .14-acre parcel (Johnston County Tax ID 15016032) in the R-6-High Density Single, Two and Multi-family Zoning District to the B-3-Highway Entranceway Business Zoning District.

Stephen Wensman presented information on a B3-zoned property near Walgreens, which sits at the intersection of various zoning districts and land uses. The comprehensive plan had designated this area for medium-density residential, aiming to provide multi-family housing near essential services like hospitals. He noted that the site had challenges, including a 50-foot setback, a 30-foot utility easement, and likely DOT restrictions on access to Brightleaf Boulevard, with access potentially through Walgreens or Hancock Street. He explained that the B-3 zoning allowed for a variety of commercial and office uses, although multi-family housing was removed as an option that evening. He recommended approval of the applicant's request, stating it aligned with the comprehensive growth plan and is compatible with surrounding land uses.

Councilman Stevens questioned if the intent for the property was to remain commercial. The applicant, David Dupree, stated that they intended for the property to remain commercial and currently had a medical user interested in building a facility. He confirmed that their original intent for the property had always been commercial since they acquired it.

Councilman Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Rabil, to approve zoning map amendment, RZ-24-06, finding it consistent with the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Growth Management Plan as hereby amended and other adopted plans, and that the amendment is reasonable and in the public interest. Unanimously approved.

2. **Consideration and request for approval to adopt Ordinance No.521-2024 amending the Town Code Section 5, Division 3 Commercial “Vacant” Building Maintenance and Appearance Regulations to reestablish the vacant property registry**

Planning Director Stephen Wensman explained that the Town adopted a vacant building registration ordinance in 2020 to address vacant properties. In 2022, revisions to ordinances 512 and 513 were made, but these updates unintentionally removed the vacant property registration portion. As a result, staff is requesting the council approve a new Section Five, Division Three, to reintroduce regulations for vacant property maintenance and appearance. The proposed ordinance also establishes an appeals process through the board of adjustments. Staff requested the council's approval of the amendment.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any question from the Council.

Councilman Barbour asked if, once approved, the ordinance would take effect immediately and if properties would start being added to the list right away. Mr. Wensman confirmed they would begin working on it, noting that some properties have been out of compliance for a long time, despite claims of pending deals. Councilman Barbour emphasized that once the policy was in place, property owners would need to act, and the process would begin regardless of pending deals. Mr. Wensman also mentioned that a new full-time code enforcement officer will prioritize these issues.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, to adopt Ordinance No. 521-2024 amending the Town Code Section 5, Division 3 Commercial “Vacant” Building Maintenance and Appearance Regulations to reestablish the vacant property registry. Unanimously approved.

3. **Consideration and request for approval to adopt Resolution No. 752 (13-2024) accepting a funding package from NCDEQ for the establishment of a lead service line replacement program for the Town’s water distribution system**

Public Utilities Director Ted Credle requested that the council accept a \$500,000 funding package from the NC Department of Environmental Quality and adopt Resolution 752. This funding would help the town comply with the EPA’s revised lead and copper rule, which mandates the identification and eventual replacement of lead service lines. The funding includes a 60% grant, with the remaining \$200,000 as a 0% interest loan, repayable over five years at \$40,000 per year. Credle explained that while the EPA has set a 10-year goal to eliminate lead service lines, the responsibility for replacing private service lines is still unresolved. The funding will cover field investigations, public outreach, and database updates.

Councilman Scott asked questions about older pipes, the extent of the Town’s responsibility, and potential costs to homeowners. Mr. Credle clarified that identifying lead lines was the first step, but further guidance from the EPA was needed on homeowner responsibilities.

Councilman Barbour questioned if only the grant was needed. Mr. Credle explained that the 60/40 split

between grant and loan had to remain.

Councilman Stevens made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, to adopt Resolution No. 752 accepting the funding package from NCDEQ and to approve the contract amendment with WithersRavenel to develop an in-depth plan to replace all lead service lines in the Town service area. Unanimously approved.

**4. Consideration and request for approval of a contract amendment with WithersRavenel to develop an in-depth plan to replace all lead service lines in the Town service area**

This item was approved with business item 3 by a vote of the Town Council.

**5. Consideration and request for approval to approve a Maintenance and Operations Plan for the Social District**

Town Manager Michael Scott presented the Downtown Smithfield Social District Management and Maintenance Plan, a requirement for obtaining a permit for the district. The plan, based on templates from other communities, outlined responsibilities for security, sanitation, and signage. The Police Department would handle security, and the Town would provide sanitation, including adding trash cans where needed. The Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation (DSDC) would purchase and install signs indicating whether businesses allow alcohol. The Town Manager requested the Council approve the plan and signage to proceed with filing for the state permit.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any question from the Council.

Councilman Barbour raised questions about the wording of the management plan, specifically how the Town of Smithfield's role in managing the social district was defined. He wanted clarity that the Town's involvement was limited to security and sanitation. Town Manager Michael Scott agreed that the language could be adjusted to reflect this. Councilman Barbour also sought clarification on alcohol regulations for establishments in the social district. He further asked about trash receptacles at exit points, signage requirements, and disposal of unused alcohol, which the Town Manager confirmed would be addressed with signage and trash cans at all district exits.

Councilman Scott echoed concerns about the language in the management plan and raised issues regarding signage, particularly for businesses or entities like churches that don't participate in the social district. He preferred signs indicating participation rather than non-participation. Mayor Moore and Town Manager Scott explained that while the signs were designed by DSDC, changes could be considered if necessary.

Councilman Scott expressed concerns about the Town's liability in managing the social district, noting that if the town is labeled as the manager, it could be at risk in lawsuits. He clarified that he remains opposed to the social district.

Councilman Barbour raised a question about the Town's role in the social district, noting that while the Downtown Development Corporation (DSDC) may manage it, the town is ultimately responsible since it applied for the district and passed the ordinance. He emphasized that the liability rests with the Town of Smithfield.

Town Manager Michael Scott confirmed that the Town had to apply to the ABC board and pass the ordinance, while DSDC manages the district on behalf of the Town.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens, to approve the Maintenance and Operations plan for the Social District. Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, Councilman Stevens and Councilman Rabil voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Lee, Councilman Scott and Councilman Barbour voted against the motion. With the vote at a tie, Mayor Moore cast the deciding vote in favor of the motion. The motion passed four to three.

**6. Bid Award to Starling & Hines Heating and Air in the amount of \$65,430.00 for the replacement of six HVAC**

Mayor Andy Moore disclosed a connection with Mike Hines, part-owner of Starling and Hines Heating and Air, in an unrelated LLC but clarified that this wouldn't affect the decision.

Councilman Scott asked for clarification on the proposal, noting that while the staff recommended awarding the contract at \$65,430, a lower price of \$59,500 was offered if all six units were replaced at once. He also asked about a competing bid from Heat Transfer Solutions, which was \$57,730 for all six units.

Public Works Director Lawrence Davis explained that the higher initial price was due to uncertainty about replacing all units at once. He also stated that Heat Transfer Solutions, though lower in cost, had poor performance in the past. Town Manager Michael Scott supported this, noting that Heat Transfer Solutions' work had been substandard and emphasized the need for a more experienced and reliable company like Starling and Hines.

Councilman Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Barbour, to award the bid to Starling & Hines Heating and Air at the reduced cost for replacing six HVAC units to be installed simultaneously. Unanimously approved.

**7. Update on the Pay and Classification Study**

Councilman Scott raised the issue of the staff pay increase and asked for an update on the ongoing pay study.

Town Manager Michael Scott expressed frustration with the delay, noting that he has been meeting with the company handling the study multiple times a week. He set a deadline for the end of the month to receive the necessary data and was expecting more. The process currently involves placing maximum salaries into a market-based spreadsheet.

Councilman Scott also suggested considering a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for staff if the pay study continues to be delayed, emphasizing that employees deserve this.

### Councilmembers Comments:

- Councilman Stevens reminded everyone about National Night Out happening the next evening at the Community College from 5 to 8 PM, featuring free food and activities for kids and families. He encouraged council members to join him. He also raised concerns about the impact of fiber optic work downtown, noting that a business's operations were significantly affected due to road closures for the installation. He suggested the possibility of requiring contractors to work at night in business areas or adjusting their setup to minimize disruptions. Town Manager Michael Scott acknowledged the concern and said they would investigate it.
- Councilman Barbour Councilman Barbour addressed the council, referencing an email he had previously sent regarding the social districting process. He clarified that while nothing improper occurred, the controversy surrounding the issue highlighted the need for full transparency and participation in future non-urgent matters. He submitted the email for the official record to ensure clarity. He also reminded the Council of the Drone Fly In Event on October 12, 2024 at Gertrude B. Johnson park.

Councilman Barbour also praised the town staff, including public works, fire, and police departments, for their outstanding work and noted that the community consistently offers positive feedback about town employees.

- Mayor Pro-Tem Wood shared that a resident had called after her trash was missed during pickup. After contacting Town Hall, Sanitation staff promptly addressed the issue and returned the same day to collect the trash. The resident was very appreciative of the quick response and asked Mayor Pro-Tem Wood to publicly thank staff for their efficient service.
- Mayor Moore Mayor Andy Moore expressed gratitude to the Town staff for their exceptional customer service, particularly noting how sanitation crews proactively collected trash before the storm, impressing residents. He also thanked the Police, Fire, Parks and Rec, and utilities departments for their preparedness and efforts during the storm, emphasizing the professionalism of the staff.

Mayor Moore provided an update on the goals he set when running for mayor. His first goal was to increase police department staffing, which he stated was progressing well. The second goal was to improve street paving efforts, and funding has been increased to address this. His third goal was to attract new business and industry to Smithfield, allowing residents to work where they live. He highlighted the recent passing of the B-3 district amendment as a step in the right direction.

Mayor Moore addressed comments from the meeting that disturbed him, especially concerning developers' opinions. He emphasized that he receives positive feedback from developers, including a voicemail from the Franklin Towns developer praising the town staff. He acknowledged the challenges of public criticism during the B3 discussions but remained committed to open communication. Finally, he thanked the council and staff for their ongoing efforts in supporting the Town's progress.

### Town Manager's Report:

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

- Town Manager Michael Scott commended the police department for their hard work in ensuring that all Smithfield schools now have school resource officers, a significant achievement supported by the Council during the budget process.
- He reminded everyone about the National Night Out event the next day, inviting all to attend and enjoy the activities.
- Additionally, he mentioned that the River Regatta, canceled due to the storm, is rescheduled for Saturday, August 24, contingent on river conditions.

### Closed Session: Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5)

Councilman Rabil made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, to go into Closed Session pursuant to the aforementioned statute. Unanimously approved at approximately 10:19 pm.

### Reconvene in Open Session

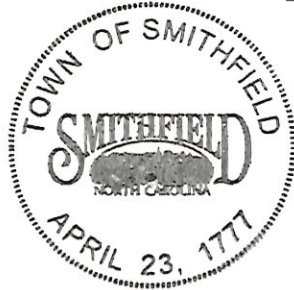
Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, to reconvene the meeting in Open Session. Unanimously approved at approximately 10:50 pm

No action was taken by the Council after the Closed Session.

**Adjourn**

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Rabil, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:51 pm.

ATTEST:  
  
Shannan L. Parrish, Town Clerk



  
M. Andy Moore, Mayor