

The Smithfield Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 3, 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
Sloan Stevens, District 2
Dr. David Barbour, District 4
John Dunn, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Marlon Lee, District 1
Travis Scott, District 3
Stephen Rabil, At-Large

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:

Councilman Dunn made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, to approve the agenda with the following amendment:

Add Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) & (6)

Unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation: Declaring September 17-23, 2024 as Constitution Week in the Town of Smithfield

Mayor Moore read the following proclamation into the record:

**Proclamation
Constitution Week
September 17 – 23, 2024
In the Town of Smithfield, North Carolina**

Whereas, September 17, 2024 marks the two hundred and thirty-seventh anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

Whereas, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a Proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17th through 23rd as Constitution Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. Andy Moore, Mayor of the Town of Smithfield do hereby proclaim September 17th through the 23rd, 2024 to be **CONSTITUTION WEEK** in the Town of Smithfield and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Special Events: Fall Fridays on Front – Approval was granted to allow Parks and Recreation Department to hold concerts on the following Friday nights: September 13th, October 11th and November 8th from 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm at the Neuse River Amphitheater. Approval to close South Front Street was also granted.
2. Special Event: Demo Ride Days – Approval was granted to Bulldog Harley-Davidson to hold events on September 6-7, 2024 from 11:00am until 3:00pm at 1043 Outlet Center Drive. A food truck was approved for this event.
3. Special Event: Bike Night – Approval was granted to Bulldog Harley-Davidson to hold an event on September 12, 2024 from 12:00pm until 5:00pm at 1043 Outlet Center Drive. Amplified sound and a food truck were also approved for this event.
4. Special Event: Bikini Competition & Sister Store Gathering – Approval was granted to Bulldog Harley-Davidson to hold an event on September 21, 2024 from 5:00pm until 8:00 pm at 1043 Outlet Center Drive. Amplified sound and a food truck were also approved for this event.
5. Special Event: Smithfield Selma High School Homecoming Parade – Approval was granted to Smithfield Selma High School to hold a parade on October 14, 2024 from 5:00pm until 6:00pm on a portion of M. Durwood Stephenson Parkway. The closure of M. Durwood Stephenson Parkway was also approved for this event
6. Approval was granted to establish a Utility Account Write Off Policy
7. Approval was granted to establish a Utility Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Policy
8. Approval to adopt Resolution No. 753 (14-2024) appointing Andrew Wagner to the Downtown Smithfield Development Board of Directors

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
 RESOLUTION NO. 753 (14-2024)
 Supporting an Appointment 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 a member 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 has recommended the new appointment of Andrew Wagner; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is asked to consider this appointment and make a determination.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council does hereby approve the appointment of Andrew Wagner to the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation’s Board of Directors.

9. New Hire Report			
<u>Recently Hired</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
Police Officer I (4)	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200	\$26.84/hr. (\$60,014.24/yr.)
Police Officer II	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200	\$28.18/hr. (\$63,010.48/yr.)
Part-Time SRAC Pool Staff (2)	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0220	\$10.00/hr.
Part -Time SRAC Staff	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0210	\$12.00/hr.
<u>Current Vacancies</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>	
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	
Sanitation Equipment Operator	PW – Sanitation	10-40-5800-5100-0200	
Human Resources Director	General Government	10-10-4000-5100-0200	
		30-71-7220-5100-0200	
		31-72-7230-5100-0200	
Police Officers (9)	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200	

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Discussion concerning the establishment of a Stormwater Utility

Town Manager Michael Scott provided a detailed explanation of the stormwater utility fee options, starting with a resolution passed two years ago to establish the utility as part of a half-million-dollar state grant. He explained that the Town now needs to decide how to collect the fees: either as part of the utility bill or as an

annual fee on the property tax roll. Staff recommended collecting the fee through the property tax, arguing that it would simplify the process and avoid adding to already high utility bills. Additionally, this approach ensured that property owners, not renters, would bear the responsibility for the fee. Property owners could pass the cost to tenants if they chose.

The Town Manager also explained that collecting the fee as part of the tax bill would be easier to manage in the context of a property tax revaluation, allowing for the possibility of offsetting the fee by adjusting the tax rate if needed. This approach would help maintain control over the fee collection process, whereas managing it through utility billing could become more complicated, especially when dividing the costs among multiple tenants or properties.

Councilman Stevens asked about the possibility of offsetting the fee through the tax revaluation, which the Town Manager confirmed was feasible. He explained that, with the upcoming revaluation, the Council could adjust tax rates to ensure that residents wouldn't experience a significant net increase in their total payments. This option wouldn't be available if the fee were added to utility bills.

Mayor Moore and Councilman Barbour also raised questions, including concerns about how the fee would be managed for customers outside Town limits, and whether the Town could simply keep the tax rate the same without charging a stormwater fee. The Town Manager clarified that the utility fee would only apply to Town residents and emphasized the complexities of managing fees outside the property tax system.

The Town Manager clarified that the Town was required to establish an Enterprise Fund to collect stormwater utility fees as part of the agreement made when accepting the half-million-dollar state grant. This commitment was made when the Council approved the resolution for the stormwater utility study. He emphasized that doing nothing is not an option due to the Town's obligations under the grant.

Stephen Wensman provided additional details on the study, explaining that the grant allowed for the mapping of the Town's stormwater infrastructure, which was required for the stormwater program. Councilman Stevens asked when the results of the study would be available, to which Mr. Wensman replied that most of the mapping was completed, and they were in the final stages of reviewing data with the consultants. The study has identified the stormwater infrastructure, but not necessarily specific flood-prone areas.

Councilman Barbour inquired about whether the infrastructure mapping would consider height levels of pipes and other details, to which Mr. Wensman responded that the study measured the depth of pipes and that further assessment could follow. Councilman Barbour also questioned the per capita stormwater fees from other cities, and it was clarified that the fee would be applied per household in Smithfield, not per capita.

The Town Manager confirmed that the recommended stormwater fee for Smithfield would be \$6 per household per month, amounting to \$72 annually. He also noted that this fee would only apply to properties within the city limits, not to utility customers outside the limits. The council would decide whether to collect the fee through the property tax bill or utility billing, with staff recommending the property tax option.

Councilman Stevens confirmed that the \$72 fee would be added to property taxes, and the county would collect it along with property taxes, likely charging a small administrative fee for the service. The Council discussed the logistics of this collection method, noting that it would be simpler for residents, especially those with taxes paid through escrow.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, to approve the stormwater utility fee to be added to the annual property tax billing. Unanimously approved.

Councilmembers Comments

- **Mayor Andy Moore:** Welcomed Jeff Sullivan, a candidate for the Johnston County School Board, and invited him to speak.

Jeff Sullivan, a candidate for the Johnston County School Board in District 7, introduced himself as a 32-year educator passionate about improving the county's school system. He stressed the importance of strong schools in attracting residents and supporting local businesses. Sullivan shared his personal values, emphasizing the lasting impact of education, and expressed his commitment to ensuring quality education for students.

- **Councilman Lee:** Mentioned that he invited Jeff Sullivan to the meeting, noting that the meeting had moved quickly. He thanked the Council for giving Mr. Sullivan the opportunity to speak.
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- **Councilman Barbour:** Announced the upcoming Drone Flying Day on October 12th, featuring a drone race and town-purchased drones for demonstrations. He shared plans for the event and mentioned that attendees could also enjoy Oktoberfest in downtown Smithfield afterward.
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- **Councilman Stevens:** Reported on attending an economic development seminar organized by Chris Johnson. He highlighted the need for the council to focus more on economic development and expressed an interest in sharing resources from the seminar with other council members for future discussions.

Town Manager's Report:

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

- Movie in the Park at the Amphitheater is scheduled for September 6th, Friday. E.T will be showing

- The Fall Concert series will kick off on Friday, beginning September 13th. Other dates include October 11th, and November 8th.
- Saturday, October 5th at the Eva Ennis Park Pond, the Parks and Recreation Department will hold a “Kids Learn to Fish Day.”
- We have received notification that 9-11 memorial service held at SSS Highschool will be held again this year.
- Manager Approved Budget Amendments

**Town of Smithfield
 Manager Approved Budget Amendments
 For the year ended June 30, 2025**

Account #	Account Description	Department	Increase	Decrease
10-10-3400-3400-0003	Special Use Fee	Revenue - General	200	
10-10-3800-3800-0003	Fixed Asset Disposal	Revenue - General	34,375	
10-20-3800-3800-0012	Parking Fees	Revenue - General	250	
10-10-3900-3900-0770	Insurance Recovery	Revenue - General	17,425	
10-00-3900-3900-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	Revenue - General		52,250
31-72-3900-3900-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	Revenue - Electric		6,875
31-72-3900-3900-0770	Insurance Recovery	Revenue - Electric	6,875	
10-30-5650-5300-3300	Supplies / Operations	Garage		1,725
10-30-5650-5700-7400	Capital Outlay	Garage	1,725	
10-40-5900-5100-0250	Overtime	Stormwater	125	
10-40-5900-5300-4501	Contract Services	Stormwater		125
10-60-5500-5125-0600	Group Insurance	General Services		6,240
10-60-5500-5125-0610	Retiree Supplemental	General Services	6,240	
10-10-4300-5300-3402	IT Supplies - Planning	IT	600	
10-10-4900-5300-3300	Supplies / Operations	Planning		600
10-10-4110-5300-0770	Insurance and Bonds	Non-Departmental	600	
10-10-4110-5300-0771	Unemployment Compensation	Non-Departmental		3,725
10-10-4110-5300-5701	League of Municipalities Dues	Non-Departmental	625	
10-10-4110-5300-5702	Central Pines COG (Triangle J)	Non-Departmental	2,500	
31-72-7230-5300-1700	Equip Maint and Repair	Electric	6,875	
31-00-9990-5300-0000	Contingency	Electric		6,875
31-72-7230-5300-4800	NCEMPA - Non Demand Electric	Electric		8,984,340

31-72-7230-5300-4801	NCEMPA - Demand	Electric	7,828,164	
31-72-7230-5300-4802	NCEMPA - Debt	Electric	1,156,176	
Check:				
Revenues			59,125	59,125
Expenditures			9,003,630	9,003,630
Totals			9,062,755	9,062,755

Closed Session: Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) & (6)

Mayor Pro-Tem Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dunn, to go into Closed Session pursuant to the aforementioned statutes. Unanimously approved at approximately 7:37 pm.

Reconvene in Open Session

Councilman Dunn made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, to reconvene the meeting in Open Session. Unanimously approved at approximately 7:53 pm

Adjourn

Councilman Dunn made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wood, to adjourn the meeting until. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55.


 M. Andy Moore, Mayor

ATTEST:

 Shannan L. Parrish, Town Clerk

