

**Town of Angier
Board of Commissioners
Work Session
Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 6:30 P.M.
Angier Municipal Building
28 North Raleigh Street
Minutes**

The Town of Angier convened during a regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners Work Session meeting Tuesday, March 15, 2022, in the Board Room inside the Municipal Building at 28 North Raleigh Street.

Members Present: Mayor Bob Smith
Mayor Pro-tem Loru Boyer Hawley
Commissioner Alan Coats
Commissioner Jim Kazakavage
Commissioner George Junior Price via *Zoom*

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Town Manager Gerry Vincent
Town Clerk Veronica Hardaway
Planning Director Sean Johnson
Public Works Director Jimmy Cook
Parks & Recreation Director Derek McLean
Chief of Police Lee Thompson
Library Director Katy Warren
Community Development Coordinator Heather Keefer
Human Resource Director Melissa Wilder
Town Attorney Dan Hartzog Jr.

Others Present:

Call to Order: Mayor Smith presided, calling the Board of Commissioners Work Session meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Smith led the pledge of allegiance.

Invocation: Mayor Smith offered the invocation.

Board Action: The Town Board unanimously approved to allow Commissioner Price to participate remotely via *Zoom*.

Motion: Mayor Pro-tem Hawley

Vote: 3-0, unanimous

Approval of the March 15, 2022 meeting agenda: The Town Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

Board Action: The Town Board unanimously approved the March 15, 2022 meeting agenda as presented.

Motion: Mayor Pro-tem Hawley

Vote: 4-0, unanimous

Presentation

1. Harnett County Library Consolidation Discussion

Assistant County Manager, Brian Haney, gave a short presentation regarding the Harnett County Library Consolidation and how it would affect Angier. Currently four of five municipalities operate their own libraries and in some ways are already on a consolidated system through resource sharing and shared access to materials through NC Cardinal. Full library consolidation has been a goal of the County's for some time so that every resident can have the same exemplary experience at any library location in Harnett County. Not all libraries within Harnett County have the same funding levels, hours, or level of programming offered in other branches. The intent would be for each branch's offerings fit the needs and desires of the community not to say the same programming would be at all locations or govern what each branch can provide. Some branches will benefit in a substantial increase in staffing and service levels while some will receive substantial cost savings.

The County is proposing to move forward with the consolidation effective July 1, 2022 for any municipality that wishes to consolidate recommending a three-year phase in for the County to assume total responsibility for operational funding. In year one, each municipality would contribute 2/3 of the County's recommended budget for their library unless their FY 2022 funding level is below that amount, in year two, that contribution would be reduced to 1/3 of the County's recommended budget for the library, and year 3, the County would absorb all operational costs. Outside of the phased-in approach to funding, the rest of the transition would be effective July 1, 2022 including the absorption of existing staff and management of day-to-day operations. At this point, a consolidation agreement will need to be drafted and be approved by all five municipalities boards. The agreement will be tailored to each individual library's needs.

The Board had some questions regarding benefits and salaries of employees. Mr. Haney responded that employees wouldn't be making any less than their current salary and benefits would be negotiated to be more comparable to what they are currently receiving.

It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with reviewing a draft agreement prior to approval.

New Business

1. National Library Week Proclamation

Board Action: The Town Board unanimously approved a Proclamation recognizing National Library Week as April 3rd to April 9th.

Motion: Commissioner Coats

Vote: 4-0, unanimous

Mayor Smith acknowledged that National Library Week will be recognized from April 3rd to April 9th this year by way of Proclamation. He presented the Proclamation to Library Director Katy Warren and thanked her department for doing such a great job.

2. Angier Community Garden

Library Director Katy Warren gave an update on the Angier Library Community Garden. To date, meetings have been had with the Harnett County Extension agent that looked over the garden's reserved space which is in front of the mural of the library. A meeting is scheduled with the Durham County Extension agent to provide her expertise on urban community gardening. This project will be community funded as well as maintenance of the garden, the library will be the facilitator. The garden will have a variety of items such as herbs, flowers, and vegetables. These items will be available to anyone who wishes to take and anything left over will be donated within the Town. Donations of gardening tools, raised bed materials, and other items can be discussed with her.

3. Community Development Advisory Board Update

Community Development Coordinator Heather Keefer reviewed the purpose of the Community Development Advisory Board. She stated that staff has worked with the advisory board to develop a framework for the Community Development Advisory Board after leaving the Main Street America's required program structure. As a result, three subgroups have been created to help the advisory board move forward and serve the community. The subgroups are: 1) Infrastructure & Assets; 2) History & Community Character; 3) Events & Marketing.

The Community Development Advisory Board Chairman, Addison Allgood, gave a brief update on current projects the board is currently working on.

4. Community Development Advisory Board Interviews

The Town Clerk explained there are currently three vacant positions on the Community Development Advisory Board and there are three candidates wishing to serve. It was also explained that candidate, Tyjah Johnson, could not make tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment, but will be available for interview at April's meeting.

Each candidate had a five-minute question and answer session during open session with the Town Board. Candidates were interviewed as follows:

Daisy Haywood
Alexa Whittington

Appointments will be made at April's Board of Commissioner's meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Town Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm.

Motion: Mayor Pro-tem Hawley

Vote: Unanimous, 4-0

Robert K. Smith

Robert K. Smith, Mayor

Attest:

Veronica Hardaway
Veronica Hardaway, Town Clerk

