

**Town of Angier  
Board of Commissioners  
Work Session  
Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 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, May 16, 2023, 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

**Members Absent:** Commissioner George "Jr." Price

**Staff Present:** Interim Town Manager Richard Hicks  
Human Resource Director Melissa Wilder  
Chief of Police Lee Thompson  
Planning Director Jeff Jones  
Finance Director Hans Kalwitz  
Parks & Recreation Director Derek McLean

**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.

**Approval of the May 16, 2023 meeting agenda:** The Town Board unanimously approved the agenda with the following amendments: add 1) Introduction of new Planning Director Jeff Jones; 2) discussion regarding School House at Jack Marley Park; and 3) discussion regarding Depot repairs.

**Board Action:** The Town Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda as amended.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro-tem Hawley

**Vote:** 3-0; unanimous

**Board Action:** The Town Board unanimously voted to excuse George “Jr.” Price from the meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Coats

**Vote:** 3-0; unanimous

Interim Town Manager Richard Hicks introduced new Planning Director Jeff Jones. Mr. Jones has over 20 years’ experience and worked in neighboring towns such as Fuquay-Varina and Holly Springs. He shared that he has seen the growth those communities have had that Angier is now experiencing. He is from a small town named Fairmont so Angier feels like home to him. Mr. Jones stated he has been enjoying his time with Angier and looks forward to working with everyone. Everyone has been very welcoming.

## **Presentation**

### **1. Presentation on Fiber Project - Ting**

Patrick Mulhearn is the Director of Public Policy & Engagement for *Ting* and shared a preview of a project that is currently in the design phase. The foundation of *Ting* internet is their relationships with the communities they build. *Ting* only has one product which is fiber internet that’s approximately \$89 per month. This project will be coming to Angier with a gigabit symmetrical connection which means that there will be two gigabits of data in both directions; two gigabits download and two gigabit uploads. *Ting* also offers those who qualify for the affordable connectivity program which is a special federal subsidy to get free internet. This program is an income-based program from the federal government.

Some locations *Ting* is offered is North Carolina, metro Denver, Arizona, and Southern California, and is currently live in four active markets within the Raleigh area; Holly Springs, Fuquay-Varina, Wake Forest, and Rolesville. *Ting* brings fiber deployment throughout the city starting with the urban core and then into the satellite annexation areas. They offer free internet access to community-based organizations that teach digital literacy. Fiber internet in particular is more stable and provides a lot more data than any of the legacy technologies such as cable or DSL. Subscribers will also have access to *Ting* Mobile which is \$10 per month per line for unlimited data mobile service on the *Verizon* network.

*Ting* is looking for opportunities to work with municipalities where they can build infrastructure to support the coordination of traffic signals, traffic cameras, or parking kiosks. They can offer a more robust publicly accessible WiFi. Currently they are working on agreements with the Town of Angier as they are working on initial designs. Angier is planning and getting ready for a lot of growth and now would be a good time to start working putting infrastructure in the ground. Preconstruction engagements in neighborhoods includes mailers that go to every address and door hangers in work zone areas. Phone numbers will be included on mailers and door hangers for citizens needing to call for any concerns or complaints and will be able to speak to a live person.

Fiber will be run through the right-of-way; however, dirt and sod will be saved so that when finished they can fill it back in with no remarkable damage. Their goal is for minimal disturbance and 100% restoration.

Handholes are typically located at road crossings or areas where the network branches multiple directions. A “flowerpot”, type of covering, is placed for every two residents serviced. Concrete or composite versions of each box are available where necessary. *Ting* utilizes conduits of varying sizes each containing smaller ducts internally. The only above ground infrastructure is called a fiber distribution hub which will be about 10-15 spread throughout Angier where up to 576 residents can be serviced. If any area is negatively impacted by this, shrubs and vegetation can be planted as screening. To upgrade systems, fiber and network will not have to be touched; boxes are all that has to be changed out. *Ting* has the ability to create mobile internet connections that would connect to the network to allow first responders to have access to data during emergencies such as hurricanes. With the level of signal that is offered, the Town would have the availability to install cameras throughout Town.

Angier has the opportunity to receive incentives from *Ting* such as connectivity or the possibility of free WiFi in exchange for in-kind contributions. This project will probably start in early 2024 and could be up to a two year build out.

**Board Action:** The Town Board unanimously voted to welcome and encourage *Ting* to come to our community and look forward to entering into a formal agreement.

**Motion:** Commissioner Kazakavage

**Vote:** 3-0; unanimous

## **2. Proclamation Celebrating National Police Week 5/14 – 5/20**

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to Chief Thompson in observance of National Police Week 5/14-5/20.

## **3. Proclamation Celebrating National Public Works Week 5/21 – 5/27**

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation in observance of National Public Works Week 5/21-5/27.

### **Business Items**

#### **1. Award of Bids on Parking Lot Project**

Interim Town Manager Richard Hicks stated the Town requested bids for the Lillington Street parking lot from Highland Paving, Johnson Brothers Paving, RLT, Montague Developers, and Southern Cross Utilities. Out of those requested bids, the Town received responses from RLT & Associates for \$266,399.05 that can start in approximately two weeks and Montague Developers

for \$231,693.00 that can start in approximately 30 days. Staff's recommendation is to award the bid to Montague Developers as the lowest responsible bidder. There is approximately \$250,000 budgeted for this project in the Planning & Inspections Capital Outlay line item.

**Board Action:** The Town Board unanimously voted to award the bid to Montague Developers in the amount of \$231,693.00 for the Lillington Street parking lot behind the stores.

**Motion:** Commissioner Kazakavage

**Vote:** 3-0; unanimous

## **2. Review of Health Insurance Proposals**

Mr. Hicks explained health coverage costs for employees for the upcoming budget year. Current insurance cost and HRA appropriations through Cigna totals \$452,192. If Cigna is renewed for FY 23/24 total cost and HRA appropriations totals \$504,355. Right now, the Town is under a level funded program which means whatever has occurred during the year has a direct impact on rates. The Town currently sets aside \$2,000 for each employee for Health Reimbursement Accounts; however, not many employees utilize these funds.

Quotes were also received by Blue Cross and Blue Shield for two different plans. Staff proposed under Blue Cross and Blue Shield to move to a fully insured plan which is a safer option. The two recommended plans that staff proposed for FY 23/24 are:

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield Gold 3000 fully insured plan
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield Silver 3500 HSA fully insured plan

The Town will contribute \$2,000 to a Health Savings Account for those employees that choose the silver plan. Those funds will be put on a Visa card to be spent towards doctor visits and medication. Employees also have the opportunity to contribute their own money to the HSA pre-taxed. Once employees opt into a Health Savings Account that money is theirs to keep whether they stay with the Town or not. Those employees that have a lot of doctor's bills and prescriptions, the HSA option is not the right plan for them because they would be paying a lot of cash up front. In that case, the Gold 3000 basic plan would be the best option for them. To offer these plans, the total cost to the Town would be approximately \$403,370. Along with that cost, staff proposed using the North Carolina League of Municipalities for Vision and Dental coverage and NY Life for accidental death and dismemberment.

During this process, Mr. Hicks involved all Department Heads in the selection of an insurance broker as well as reviewing insurance options. The Board showed their appreciation in doing this as did staff.

**Board Action:** The Town Board unanimously voted to approve the recommendations made by the Interim Town Manager regarding employee Health Insurance.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro-tem Hawley

**Vote:** 3-0; unanimous

### 3. Establish Dates for Budget Workshops

Mr. Hicks recommended holding a Budget Public Hearing during the Board's workshop June 20<sup>th</sup> as well as holding two budget workshop dates prior to June 20<sup>th</sup>. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to schedule meetings to meet in pairs with the Manager and Finance Director. Staff agreed to set dates and times with the Board.

Mr. Hicks also proposed a short planning session with the new manager Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a planning session with the new Town Manager Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and hold a meet and greet from 5:00-6:30pm at the Depot prior to the meeting.

### Board Concerns

Commissioner Coats checked on the status of the old schoolhouse located at Jack Marley Park. Parks & Recreation Director Derek McLean stated that about a year ago Faye Price requested the Town to do some repairs and check to make sure everything was good. The repairs were completed by Adam Raynor and the school itself is in pretty good condition. Staff goes in about every two months to check on it. The old desks are still inside as well. Commissioner Coats would like to see this get listed on the National Historical Site and get the library involved to host events there in the future.

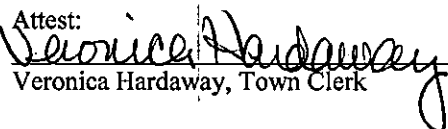
Commissioner Coats has requested several times to get some things addressed at the Depot. Those items being: repairing the sliding doors that are off the tracks, some lighting fixtures are broken or not working. He would like staff to work on these items and report back to the Board.

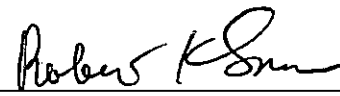
Mr. McLean announced that a 7-year-old that plays in Angier's programs was killed in a car accident yesterday and asked everyone to keep their thoughts and prayers with the family. The Board shared their condolences.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the Town Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro-tem Hawley

**Vote:** Unanimous, 3-0

Attest:  
  
Veronica Hardaway, Town Clerk

  
Robert K. Smith, Mayor

