



MINUTES

Tuesday, May 28, 2024: 3:00 PM

Town Council Work Session

C. Michael Haney Community Room: Southern Pines Police Department
450 W. Pennsylvania Ave

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clement called the meeting to order. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Taylor Clement; Bill Pate; Ann Petersen; Debra Gray; and Brandon Goodman.

2. TOWN MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Town Manager Reagan Parsons reviewed the agenda.

a. Adopt Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Pate moved to adopt the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Councilmember Gray; the vote Motion passed.

3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Consider Agreements for the Installation of the Dream Court at Pool Park

As discussed at the April work session, the Council was in favor of partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills and Nancy Lieberman Charities to install a Dream Court, ideally at Pool Park. These agreements allow for the installation and clarify expectations for long-term maintenance and similar.

Asst. Town Manager Roth presented details to the Council regarding the project.

Steve Kasner representing the Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills gave additional details to the Council and answered questions.

Councilmember Goodman confirmed that the \$150, 000 would just install the court but would not cover anything surrounding work

Mayor Pro Tem Pate asked how this project would benefit the Boys & Girls Club and was told that while this type of project would normally be done on a Boys & Girls Club property, the Club feels doing the project on an available Town-owned property would greatly benefit the Town.

Mayor Clement questioned who would be handling the programming for the court and was assured that the Boys & Girls Club would assist.

Councilmember Petersen asked Town Manager Parsons for the amount of the commitment the Town had previously made for the skate park and was told the Town had pledged \$50,000, the property for the park to be built on, and the long-term maintenance. Councilmember Petersen then questioned if there was a reason why the Town would contribute to the skate park and not the Dream Court. Town Manager Parsons noted that the skate park has been discussed for multiple years and while the Town already has a number of other basketball courts the ultimate decision was and would be made by the Council.

Councilmember Goodman asked for details on the recent Pickleball Court and was informed that a private group contributed to the cost but the Town was already in the process of making the improvements and the contribution just accelerated the project.

Councilmember Gray stated that she used to work for the Boys & Girls Club and feels that working with the police department and recreation leagues to encourage local use and support will benefit

the local community and lessen the chance of vandalism.

Councilmember Petersen moved to offer \$20,000 from the Town with the other \$6,000 to be fundraised at a later date by the Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills to complete the Dream Court project.

Councilmember Goodman asked if there were maintenance monies still available in the FY 2024-25 budget left unspent and was informed by Town Manager Parsons that there was not and that the 'bottom line monies' might have to be used, so a discussion will need to be had.

Mayor Clement voiced her concern about the Town maintaining consistency when using town funds to contribute to outside groups/projects and Councilmember Petersen agreed.

Town Attorney McCarley advised that no second had been made to Councilmember Petersen's motion and if there were a second to be voiced, then the contract would need to be revised.

Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Petersen moved that the Town cover the estimated cost of grading and pad installation up to a figure of \$19,500 balance of the project to be paid for by the Boys & Girls Club, seconded by Councilmember Gray; the vote was unanimous.

Motion passed.

i. Authorize Mayor to Execute Agreement with Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills

Councilmember Goodman moved to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Boys & Girls Club for the Dream Court project, modified as discussed by Council, seconded by Councilmember Petersen; the vote was unanimous.

Motion passed.

ii. Authorize Mayor to Execute Donation Agreement with Nancy Lieberman Charities

Councilmember Goodman moved to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Nancy Lieberman Charities for the Dream Court project, seconded by Councilmember Petersen; the vote was unanimous.

Motion passed.

b. Resolution Authorizing Staff to Submit for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program Grant

Resolution authorizing staff to submit for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program Grant for the Water Treatment Plant Modernization Phase 2 project.

Town Engineer/Asst. Town Manager James Michel presented the request to the Council.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Clement questioned if the Water Plant would continue to function properly should there be an extended power outage and was informed that there were generators to power the plant in the event of an emergency.

Mayor Pro Tem Pate moved to approve any resolution necessary to authorize staff to submit the Defense Community Infrastructure Program Grant, seconded by Councilmember Petersen; the vote was unanimous.

Motion passed.

4. COUNCIL UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

a. Noise Ordinance

Matt Nugent of the Bell Tree Tavern would like to discuss potential amendments to the Town's noise ordinance.

Town Manager Parsons presented the request for an amendment to the Noise Ordinance to the Council and asked if the council wished to pursue the request further?

Matt Nugent representing the Bell Tree Tavern discussed the request with the Council, gave background behind the request and answered questions from the Council.

Discussion ensued.

Jeffrey Shear of Pennsylvania Avenue spoke to the Council and questioned how they would enforce a noise ordinance that differentiates between residential and business districts when the area under contention is the downtown area where the two are mixed together.

Discussion ensued.

The Council agrees that the ordinance needs to be updated and asks staff to start researching the ordinance with a public hearing to be scheduled at a later date.

b. Credit Card Fees

Discussion regarding the handling of Credit Card Fees relative to customer payments in advance of FY25 Budget adoption.

Finance Director Tess Brubaker-Speis addressed the Council.

Town Attorney McCarley recommends charging a set fee for anyone using a card or that the Town set a fee and offer a discount for cash payment.

Finance Director Brubaker-Speis shared that the Town would lose efficiency should all citizens pay in cash and so advised against offering an incentive for cash payment.

Discussion ensued.

The Council agreed that a 4% credit card use fee should be included on the FY 2024-25 Fee Schedule.

Discussion regarding cut-off fees to be discussed at a future round table discussion.

c. Planning Department Update

Staff will update Council on applications advancing from the Planning Board to Council and implementation efforts related to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Director BJ Grieve introduced James Broadwell as a new town planner. Mr. Broadwell previously completed an internship with the Town and applied for employment after completing his service with the armed forces.

Town Planner Grieve informed the Council that the Planning Department is now fully staffed and now reviewing and reorganizing its internal procedures to optimize efficiency.

Town Planner Grieved proceeded to advise the Council of upcoming items they would be seeing on the June agenda.

5. COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Councilmember Goodman

- welcomed Town Attorney McCarley back
- asked that staff and Council consider options to expand the space that the Thursday Moore County Farmers Market at the Armory could utilize since they are currently squeezed into the current space and unable to expand.

Councilmember Petersen shared that she feels a farmers market should be considered for Pool Park.

Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Petersen

- would like to explore charging reimbursement fees for reissuing checks multiple times.
- the Finance Department is now sending accounts under \$10 to the State for reimbursement and will research sending repeat reimbursement checks to the State as well.
- Town Attorney McCarley advised that the Town can impose a fee should we want to.
- The Southern Pines Connectors Group would like to elevate their status to a formal committee.
- Town Manager Parsons advised that the Group is currently a liaison group and not a formal committee by intention and that turning the Group into a formal committee would then trigger

- requirements such as formal appointments and minutes.
- Councilmember Gray agrees that the formality of a committee may be too much for the Group's intention.
 - Communication Specialist Gerald Ostlund advised the Council that the Group has indicated to him that they would like to know their status to the council, such as does the town council want to hear from them.
 - Councilmember Gray feels the Council should start meeting with them and Councilmember Goodman suggested that they be scheduled to attend a work session quarterly.
 - Mayor Clement would like to spend some time in discussion and redefine the Group to clarify their purpose.
 - Councilmember Petersen shared that she likes the current room set-up
 - Councilmember Petersen 'begged' the Council to reconsider the zoning of golf courses which are now FRR

Mayor Pro Tem Pate

- shared an update from the Tri-Cities meeting which was a legislative update mostly centering on Senate Bill 166

Councilmember Gray

- attended a training in Greensboro that was informative in regards to the changes affecting historic districts.

Mayor Clement

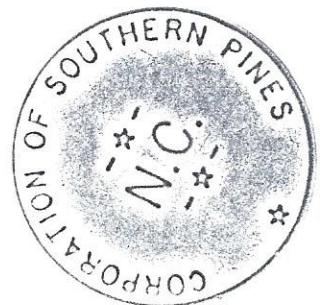
- enjoyed her time in Greensboro and is encouraged by the work being done there and looks forward to the opportunities the Town faces in the future.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Councilmember Petersen, seconded by Councilmember Goodman and carried unanimously, Council adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Elizabeth Robertson, Town Clerk





RESOLUTION #1087

AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

WHEREAS, The Town of Southern Pines has need for and intends to construct a drinking water treatment works rehabilitation and improvements project, further described as the Southern Pines Water Treatment Plant Modernization - Phase 2 Project, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Southern Pines intends to submit an application for grant funding from the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (Grantor), OLDCC-24-F-0001,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Southern Pines, North Carolina that Mayor Taylor G. Clement, Town Manager Reagan Parsons, and Town Engineer James Michel, the Authorized Officials, and successors so titled, are hereby authorized and directed to prepare and submit an application for the grant opportunity, and to furnish such information as the Grantor may request in connection with this project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Grantor.

Adopted this the 28th day of May, 2024.


Elizabeth Robertson, Town Clerk

