

# MINUTES

## Virtual Worksession Town of Southern Pines Monday February 22, 2021, 3:00 pm

- Attend using your computer or smartphone to watch and listen to the proceedings and to provide comment when prompted. Register for the meeting in advance by going to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2449934420230177805>
- Attend using your telephone to listen to the proceedings and to provide comment when prompted. At the meeting time, dial (631) 992-3221 then use Audio Access Code 823-718-001.
- Attend using the GoToWebinar app on your tablet or smartphone by entering Webinar ID 570-537-859.

### Worksession Agenda

#### Call to Order

Absent: None

Mayor Haney welcomed new Assistant Town Manager Jessica Roth and everyone to the meeting.

#### Action Items for 2-22-21 Meeting

1. Consider AX-01-21: Decision regarding a Request for Voluntary Annexation of Property Contiguous to the Corporate Limits of the Town of Southern Pines; ±157.51 Acres; Petitioner: Town of Southern Pines

Town Manager Parsons explained the prior hearing actions regarding this item.

Councilman Saulnier moved to approve the ordinance to adopt the voluntary annexation request for AX-01-21 for the property as defined in the submitted metes and bounds with the ordinance in effect immediately. This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Murphy and carried unanimously 5-0 as follows:

Mayor Haney – Aye  
Mayor Pro Tem Murphy – Aye  
Councilmember Lancaster – Aye  
Councilmember Pate – Aye  
Councilmember Saulnier – Aye

2. Consider Motion to Set March 3, 2021 Public Hearing Related to Refinancing the Installment Contract for the Fire Station

Town Manager Parsons provided a brief overview of the item with details of the original loan and refinancing to lock in lower interest rates.

Councilmember Saulnier moved to set a public hearing on March 3, 2021. This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Murphy and carried unanimously 5-0 as follows:

Mayor Haney – Aye  
Mayor Pro Tem Murphy – Aye  
Councilmember Lancaster – Aye  
Councilmember Pate – Aye  
Councilmember Saulnier – Aye

3. Consider Budget Amendments

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>
Planning	Contract Services	10-540-4500	\$12,000.00	
Planning	Professional Services	10-540-4600	\$ 2,000.00	
General Fund	Fund Balance Appropriations	10-397-1000	\$14,000.00	
Police - Patrol	Capital – Motor Vehicle	10-511-7402	\$28,000.00	
Police - Investigations	Capital – Motor Vehicle	10-515-7402		\$28,000.00

Town Manager Parsons reviewed the submitted budget amendments.

Councilmember Saulnier motioned to accept the budget amendments as presented. This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Murphy and carried unanimously 5-0 as follows:

Mayor Haney – Aye  
Mayor Pro Tem Murphy – Aye  
Councilmember Lancaster – Aye  
Councilmember Pate – Aye  
Councilmember Saulnier - Aye

**Council Updates and Discussion**

4. Council Update on “Southern Pines Mural Project”

Planning Director Grieve provided an overview of the item and stated Chris Dunn of the Arts Council is present for discussion.

Mr. Dunn thanked all supporters who are participating in this project. Mr. Dunn discussed the details of similar mural projects, property owners’ responsibilities with contracts, easements, commitments, liability, etc.

Mayor Haney thanked everyone involved and stated she thinks the end product would be a great addition to the town.

Councilmember Pate thanked everyone for the work that has been done to get the town to this point. Mr. Pate asked if the current request for five murals would be one mural at a time or all five at once.

Mr. Dunn stated they have no plans at this time to go beyond five murals and none have been approved at this point.

Mayor Haney inquired about the building owner’s financial responsibility.

Mr. Dunn stated the owners would be expected to contribute at least one-third to one-half of the project cost. Discussion ensued regarding neighboring projects and cost estimates of previous projects.

Mayor Haney expressed concern with the amount of seed money that is being requested.

Town Manager Parsons discussed the perception of a possible community wide artist discount that may be available.

Mr. Dunn stated the current range is \$7 to \$30 a square foot which varies in size and details with the individual artists, time spans of rendering the murals, locations and specific mural details, etc. which would go through the committee process.

Mayor Haney asked how it was determined that \$2,500 would be the appropriate amount of seed money amount for each mural.

Planning Director Grieve discussed the research on the estimated price.

Mr. Dunn added that the seed money does not cover the entire cost of the mural and stated they could reduce the scope to a smaller quantity of murals at this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Murphy asked if there would be a consistent theme for the murals and how the process would work.

Mr. Dunn explained the process and that the owner would choose the theme, with the possibility of review and approval by the committee and Council.

Councilmember Saulnier stated he appreciates this idea, and stated he does have a problem financially supporting a private property owner with tax dollars from the state fund instead of town money. Mr. Saulnier expressed a preference for a consistent theme if the Town is involved in sponsoring the project. He expressed concern about the ability to legislate art, and he thinks Council needs more information before approving this.

Councilmember Lancaster stated he supports the \$2500 seed money and looks at this as providing vibrancy to the town.

Planning Director Grieve discussed the procedures for reviewing and approving what an owner proposed design.

Mayor Pro Tem Murphy expressed concern regarding potential conflicts between trees and the visibility of the murals.

Town Manager Parsons stated these things will need to be addressed prior to moving forward.

General discussion ensued.

Town Manager Parsons stated if this is pursued further, legal advisement would be necessary to address some of the stated concerns.

Councilmember Saulnier and Mayor Pro Tem Murphy stated they are not in favor at this time of the Town contributing seed money. Councilmember Lancaster and Councilmember Pate stated they support the requested \$2500 seed money for each of the five murals.

After further discussion, Mayor Haney clarified that the Council is interested in the overall project, but she, Mayor Pro Tem Murphy and Councilmember Saulnier do not support providing seed money at this time.

Councilmember Saulnier stated he may be interested if the Town does not have to contribute financially. He suggested the Town should prioritize funding for the recently purchased Whitehall tract.

Town Manager Parsons further discussed other nonprofits and other entities that are available to the government, but can't guarantee that funds are available for this particular project.

Director Grieve stated Council could table this item for several months and see what happens in the future budget or if the project can advance without the requested seed money.

Assistant Town Manager Roth asked Mr. Dunn if there are other avenues for the town to support the project such as loaning equipment, etc. without providing seed money.

It was unanimously decided to postpone this project until further discussion after the annual budget retreat meeting in April.

Suzanne Coleman stated the committee did a great job on this project. She stated this hasn't fully shared with the community and there may be other building owners interested in participating. Ms. Coleman supports Mr. Harbour completing his mural with his own funding.

Councilmember Lancaster asked if Mr. Harbour could move forward with his project if he's willing to totally fund it.

Planning Director Grieve explained the advantages of treating this as a larger public art project rather than one owner installing a single mural.

Town Manager Parsons stated Mr. Harbour could proceed with his mural if it is approved by Council without town funds at this time and all funding would be the responsibility of Mr. Harbour.

Mayor Haney clarified that Council is overall interested in the project, but asked Mr. Dunn to explore alternatives that do not require seed money from the Town. It was agreed Mr. Dunn would investigate options and report back to Council at a future meeting.

Katherine Shermer shared some concerns about this project.

5. Council Update on UDO Revisions per NCGS §160D

Director Grieve provided a brief overview of the item and stated he plans to submit the updates to the UDO to Council for adoption by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Town Manager Parsons thanked Planning Director Grieve and Mr. Dunn for all of the tedious work involved in this project. Mr. Parsons stated while it will look like a complete revision to the UDO, staff's intent is to only address the revisions required by state law.

Council and Director Grieve discussed some of the potential changes. It was agreed that staff would color code the various revisions so Council could more easily evaluate the impact of the changes.

6. Request for Letter of Support from Partners in Progress

Town Manager Parsons referred to a template letter that was sent over last week from Melody Thompson and explained the Partners in Progress study with grant funds project they are working on. He stated the study resulted in Carthage qualifying for an experimental hub for the right entrepreneur business. He stated Carthage has the right things available with the old buggy factory that could be a great site for a new business owner to get up and started. He explained this would not be an expense to the town, and at some point, and time, if the business grows, they could grow into a larger space in Southern Pines or Moore County for a potential longer term and a larger business.

Mayor Haney spoke of a similar program with our sister city that has been very successful.

Upon motion by Councilmember Saulnier, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Murphy and carried unanimously 5-0, this letter of support was approved as follows:

Mayor Haney – Aye  
Mayor Pro Tem Murphy – Aye  
Councilmember Lancaster – Aye  
Councilmember Pate – Aye  
Councilmember Saulnier - Aye

Councilmember Pate asked about the time frame for installing the new trees on Pennsylvania Avenue. Town Manager Parsons stated they were delayed to this week due to the rain

Councilmember Lancaster spoke in support of the Senate Bill 37 admitting all K-12 students K-12 back to school five days a week. Mr. Lancaster asked if Councilmembers would adopt a resolution to support this bill. Discussion ensued and Council decided not to proceed with a resolution of support; Mayor Haney encouraged individuals to write Governor Cooper if they would like to personally support the bill.

No public comments were voiced.

Upon motion by Councilmember Saulnier, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Murphy and carried unanimously 5-0, the meeting was adjourned as follows:

Mayor Haney – Aye  
Mayor Pro Tem Murphy – Aye  
Councilmember Lancaster – Aye  
Councilmember Pate – Aye  
Councilmember Saulnier - Aye

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.

As so incorporated to these minutes of February 22, 2021 are exact copies as so recorded in the ordinance and resolution books of the Town of Southern Pines as fully set out in the minutes.

  
Peggy K. Smith, Town Clerk