

## Minutes

### Regular Business Meeting of the Southern Pines Town Council March 9, 2021, 6:00 PM, Virtual Meeting

- 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/2094621740756510220>
- Attend using your telephone to listen to the proceedings and to provide comment when prompted. At the meeting time, dial (213) 929-4212 then use Audio Access Code 571-480-300.
- Attend using the GoToWebinar app on your tablet or smartphone by entering Webinar ID 125-380-363.

#### Call to Order

Mayor Haney welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

##### 1. Manager's Comments

Town Manager Parsons provided updated information regarding upcoming sign-in information for public and Town Council meetings.

##### 2. Consent Agenda

*Consent agenda items are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and without discussion.*

- A. Adopt Worksession Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021, Agenda Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2021 and Regular Business Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2021
- B. Approve Appointment of Cynthia Dowdy to Appearance Commission.  
*The Appearance Commission recommends Ms. Dowdy's appointment. This will be her initial term and will be effective March 9, 2021 – March 8, 2024.*
- C. Approve Amendments to Chapter 32 of the Town Code of Ordinances  
*Staff recommends approving two administrative amendments to §32.031 Fees (Library) and §32.032 Digital Data; Maps.*

Town Manager Parsons provided an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Haney personally thanked Cynthia Dowdy on her willingness to serve on the Appearance Commission and stated Council is very proud of their Southern Pines public library staff and stated we are blessed to have such a great institution to offer such educational programs to our citizens and neighbors.

Councilmember Saulnier motioned to accept the Consent Agenda 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

##### 3. Action Item: Consider Refinancing the Installment Contract for the Fire Station

*A public hearing was held on this item at the Council's March 3, 2021 Meeting. In accordance with G.S. §166A 19.24(e), written comments were also accepted after the public hearing.*

Councilmember Saulnier motioned to approved the refinancing of the installment contract for the fire department as written in the staff memo. 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

4. **Public Hearing: PD-01-21: A Four Phased Planned Development District Conceptual Development Plan to accommodate the development of mixed land uses; 175 Yadkin Road; Applicant: Rickhouse Properties, LLC; Brad and Jessica Halling**  
*In accordance with G.S. §166A-19.24(e), written comments will be accepted for at least 24 hours after the public hearing. This item will be included on the March 22, 2021 agenda for Council consideration.*

Councilmember Saulnier motioned to open the public hearing for PD-01-21. 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

Planner Russell provided an overview of the item while referring to the staff memo.

The applicants, Brad and Jessica Halling as well as engineer Neal Smith and other team members were present and discussed their planned development district project with a slide show presentation. The applicants stated they plan to use local farmers and providers as suppliers for their business as well as serve to honor the military platform.

Discussion ensued regarding parking, future design changes that may take place, intended uses, etc.

Mayor Haney thanked the Hallings and their team members for the great background information and presentation of the proposed facility.

Councilmember Saulnier motioned to close the public hearing. 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

No public comments were voiced.

#### 5. Public Comments

The following written public comments were submitted by email by Sarah Jane Harmon on March 9, 2021 and were forwarded to staff and Council prior to the 6:00 pm Regular Business Meeting. Ms. Harmon's documents were received by Town Clerk and have been admitted into the record as documented in these minutes below.

3-9-21 Town Council Regular Meeting public comment:

My name is Sarah Jane Harmon.  
I live at 31 Village in the Woods in Southern Pines.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak this evening.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Town Council the Town of Southern Pines' Public Works Department plan

to remove numerous large healthy mature trees within Village in the Woods in order to replace sewer lines.

This unfortunately destructive plan will adversely affect our property values and quality of life in Village in the Woods - which depend upon the uniquely attractive wooded setting of Village in the Woods.

There appear to be practical win-win options to this Town of Southern Pines tree removal plan - options which deserve consideration. Homeowners are consulting with a water infrastructure engineer in Raleigh and also with legal counsel to protect our property values and our quality of life.

Practical less destructive options to maintain sewer lines will be submitted to the Town for your consideration along with signed petitions. The text of the petition is attached.

To protect our property rights as Southern Pines homeowners and taxpayers, we are respectfully petitioning the Southern Pines Town Council to consider practical, less destructive options to maintain the sewer lines in our neighborhood and to preserve the beautiful wooded setting of Village in the Woods.

We are extremely grateful for the Southern Pines Town Council's past efforts to protect and preserve Southern Pines' beautiful trees which draw people here, define the character of the Town, and enhance our lives. We appreciate your responsiveness to citizen concerns and requests.

Thank you very much for considering our concerns and our petition.

#### PROPERTY OWNER PETITION TO THE SOUTHERN PINES TOWN COUNCIL

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED HOMEOWNERS IN VILLAGE IN THE WOODS, Southern Pines, NC, hereby oppose the Town of Southern Pines' Public Works Department plan to remove numerous large healthy mature trees within Village in the Woods in order to replace sewer lines.

This unfortunately destructive plan will adversely affect our property values and quality of life in Village in the Woods - which depend upon the uniquely attractive wooded setting of Village in the Woods.

There appear to be practical win-win options to this Town of Southern Pines tree removal plan - options which deserve consideration. We are consulting with a water infrastructure engineer in Raleigh and also with legal counsel to protect our property values and our quality of life.

Practical less destructive options to maintain sewer lines will be submitted to the Town for consideration.

THEREFORE, to protect our property rights as Southern Pines homeowners and taxpayers, WE RESPECTFULLY PETITION the Southern Pines Town Council to consider practical, less destructive options to maintain the sewer lines in our neighborhood and to preserve the beautiful wooded setting of Village in the Woods.

We are extremely grateful for the Southern Pines Town Council's past efforts to protect and preserve Southern Pines' beautiful trees which draw people here, define the character of the Town, and enhance our lives. We appreciate your responsiveness to citizen concerns and requests.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR CONSIDERING OUR PETITION.

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

"There is alchemy in beautiful trees. They speak to us in a quiet language of their own. They watch over the days of our lives and will long outlive us. No wonder the historic belief, from Plato to the Druids of Celtic lore, that divinity resides in groves of trees. They are living memory-keepers. We are charged with their stewardship."

- Mirabel Osler, Author and famous English gardener"

This concludes Ms. Harmon's submitted documents.

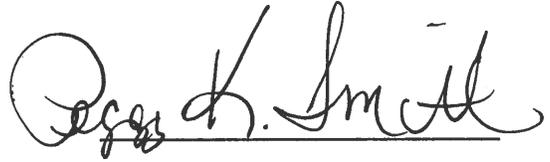
Councilmember Lancaster spoke regarding personal actions during the COVID-19 pandemic, related to masks, vaccines, the ability to attend school and other functions, etc. Mr. Lancaster shared his personal opinion on moving back to routine activities and referenced a research document from medical and health sciences professionals. Mr. Lancaster read highlights from various documents.

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  
Councilman Lancaster – Aye  
Councilman Pate – Aye  
Councilman Saulnier – Aye

As so incorporated to these minutes of March 9, 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.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peggy K. Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Peggy K. Smith  
Town Clerk