



## MINUTES

Monday, October 25, 2021: 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 Carol Haney called the work session to order. All members of Council were present: Mayor Carol Haney; Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Murphy; Bill Pate; and Mike Saulnier.

### 2. TOWN MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Town Manager Reagan Parsons reviewed the pending agenda.

### 3. PRESENTATION

#### a. Water System Award

Town Engineer James Michel spoke regarding the news that the N.C. Division of Water Resources has honored the Town's Water Treatment Plant for surpassing federal and state drinking water standards in 2020. The Plant has received the prestigious N.C. Area Wide Optimization Award, given to only 64 plants throughout the state. Mr. David McQue, the longtime manager of the water plant, was introduced and congratulated as well.

### 4. ACTION ITEMS

#### a. Consider Written Decision for PD-09-21, Morganton Park South PDP

Council reviewed a draft of the written decision approving PD-09-21 on October 12, 2021 that was prepared by staff.

Councilmember Mike Saulnier moved to approve the Written Decision for PD-09-21: Morganton Park South PDP. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Murphy and carried 4-0.

### 5. COUNCIL UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

#### a. Police Technology

Chief Polidori demonstrated the recently launched [Citizen Connect](#) portal for submitting non-emergency incident reports, anonymous tips, and downloading various reports. This new portal will give the citizens an additional avenue to contact the department while allowing the department to better utilize and maximize the Town's resources.

**b. Code Amendment – Skateboards and Similar**

Council directed staff to review two community requests concerning the Town’s Code of Ordinances for skateboards, scooters, roller skates, in-line skates, and similar devices.

Assistant Town Manager Jessica Roth shared the staff’s findings and recommendations, all of which are detailed in the report submitted in the Work Session Meeting packet:

- Staff finds that the current approach prohibiting skateboards on sidewalks and streets in the downtown district is reasonable.
- The current code should be modified in an effort to curtail the documented incidents by skateboarders who are damaging property or creating danger in the downtown district.
- Creation of a new Pedestrian District, which will prioritize pedestrian in the downtown district.
- Allowing the basketball courts in the Downtown Park to be used by skateboarders.
- Modify the current code to allow skateboarders to ride in other areas of Southern Pines.

Suzanne Coleman of Welcome to Southern Pines asked that any modification of the code specifically prohibit skateboarding on the train platform or in the train station located in downtown Southern Pines and also stated that they support the creation of a skateboard park within Southern Pines.

Council thanked staff for the recommendations and agreed to review the issue again, possibly in December.

**c. NCDOT Water Main Relocation on US-1**

Staff recently updated Council on the NCDOT roadway project along U.S. 1 that requires relocation of the Town’s 18” water transmission main to Poplar Street. Per state statutes, the Town will be required to reimburse DOT for 25% of the actual project costs. Since the last update, DOT has prepared an Opinion of Probable Construction Cost to document the Town’s estimated contribution for relocation of the 18” main, as well as upgrading the main to 24” as part of the project.

Town Engineer Michel updated Council on the Town’s estimated contribution figures detailed in the NCDOT’s Opinion of Probable Construction Cost as well as cost estimates to the Town of upgrading the water line from 18” to 24” in anticipation of future needs. There was Council consensus that upgrading to 24” is the preferred approach if it is not cost prohibitive.

**d. Street Resurfacing Program**

Staff is developing a comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to serve as a budgetary planning tool for capital projects and funding. The CIP will be forwarded at a later date for consideration by Council. Staff will present recommendations on preventive street maintenance in order to receive some direction from Council on how to plan funding for these projects.

Assistant Town Manager Jessica Roth and Assistant Public Works Director Cory Albers gave an overview of the street system maintenance program. They discussed the future needs and the projected cost savings of resurfacing versus reconstruction to the Town.

Councilmember Saulnier commended the work of the Streets Department as he feels the roads in Southern Pines are well maintained.

There was discussion on the value of petitioning NCDOT to take on maintenance responsibility for Murray Hill Rd. and Pinehurst Ave due to volume of travel and that these are functioning primarily as regional roads.

**e. Current Development Projects**

Staff will provide a brief overview of the development review process, recent trends, and a summary of the approximately 52 development projects currently being managed by planning staff.

Planning Director BJ Grieve gave a brief summary of the process that development projects go through to help explain the different projects the Planning department is working on.

Feasibility Inquiry – year-to-date 2021: 239 (up from 72 in 2018)

Conversion rate on Feasibility Inquiries to Pre-Application Meeting in 2021: 6-1

55 Active Projects between Pre-Application and Certificate of Occupancy Stage:

- 1,208 Apartment Units
- 369 Town Home Units
- 220 Single Family Lots
- 706,000 sq. feet of Institutional/Retail/Office/Self Storage space

Council commended the Planning department on all i's hard work.

Councilmember Saulnier recommended that this overview become a routine occurrence for Council.

**6. COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION**

Council held a closed session as authorized in N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) for the Town Manager's annual review.

Councilmember Saulnier made a motion for Council to enter into closed session, seconded by Councilmember Pate and carried unanimously 4-0.

Councilmember Pate motioned to exit closed session, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Murphy. The vote was unanimous, 4-0, and Council exited closed session.

Councilmember Saulnier made a motion that in recognition of performance over the past year to increase the base salary of Town Manager Parsons by three percent, in addition to increasing the Town percent-of-salary contribution to his ICMA 457(b) account by three percent, retroactive to

the first pay period in July 2021. Mayor Pro Tem Murphy seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously 4-0.

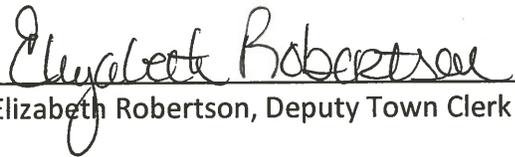
Town Manager Parsons thanked Council for their continued leadership, support, and collaborative spirit over the past year even during times of uncertainty or disagreement amongst themselves. He offered that while there are challenges ahead, we are in a relatively strong position to address them and things could certainly be worse. He appreciated their confidence in him and clear dedication to the community.

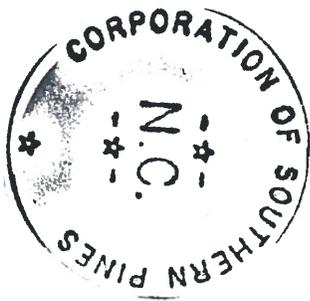
## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Councilmember Saulnier, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Murphy and carried unanimously 4-0, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

As so incorporated to these minutes of October 25, 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Elizabeth Robertson, Deputy Town Clerk



Meetings/work sessions of the Southern Pines Town Council are now available on the Town's [YouTube channel](#). Video of the Town Council meetings will be live streamed on the channel for viewing either during the meetings or after they have concluded. Please note, the video is provided only for the purposes of viewing the meetings; public comments or questions are not accepted via the live stream. To receive notifications when new content is published, please "subscribe" to the Town's channel at <https://bit.ly/3hXx2Qk>