

The Smithfield Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 6th, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Mr. T. Carter Williams, Mayor; Mr. Andrew Gregory, Vice Mayor; Mr. Michael Smith, Mrs. Denise Tynes, Dr. Milton Cook, and Mr. Steve Bowman. Mr. Randy Pack was absent. Staff members present were Mr. Peter Stephenson, Town Manager; Mrs. Lesley King, Town Clerk; Ms. Ellen Minga, Town Treasurer; Mr. William H. Riddick, III, Town Attorney; Mr. Alonzo Howell, Smithfield Police Chief, Ms. Judy Winslow, Director of Tourism, Mr. William G. Saunders IV, Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works, Mrs. Amy Novak; Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Bill Davidson; Planning Commission member, Mr. Charles Bryan; Planning Commission Vice Chairman, and Mrs. Ashley Rogers, Human Resource Director. There were approximately (17) citizens present. The media was represented by Mr. Ryan Kushner of the Smithfield Times.

Mayor Williams – Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Smithfield Town Council meeting of February 6th, 2018. It is now 7:30 p.m. Thank you all for coming out tonight. Please stand for the Pledge.

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Williams – Thank you. We will start off tonight with the Informational Section with the Manager's Report.

Town Manager – Thank you, Your Honor. Welcome everyone. The January Activity Report was posted on Friday with the agenda. The Annual Report is almost ready. Our Town Clerk has been hard at work, along with all departments, putting together our 2017 Annual Report. As far as the meeting schedule this month, we have a Planning Commission meeting next Tuesday, February 13th. We have the Board of Historic and Architectural Review meeting on February 20th, 2018. There will not be a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting this month. The town offices will be closed on Monday, February 19th, in observance of Presidents Day. The Council Committee meetings will be on February 26th and 27th at 4:00 p.m. each afternoon at the Smithfield Center. I would like to thank, from the bottom of our hearts on behalf of town staff Vice Mayor Andrew Gregory for all of his hard work, service, and thoughtfulness on the multitude of issues we have faced during his tenure on Town Council. We really enjoyed our time with you. Thank you. I will yield my remaining time to Brian Camden who is the

Project Manager on the sports complex. He will give a very brief update as things are wrapping up.

Mr. Brian Camden – Good evening Mr. Mayor and Council members. I have a quick update on the Joseph W. Luter, Jr. Sports Complex mainly to address some issues that have been reported in last week's Smithfield Times. There is a picture that was published in the paper showing the area by the concession building holding water. That area is, in fact, graded correctly. The storm drain in that area was covered with a filter fabric and had sediment on top of it. When they removed the sediment the area drained properly. It was a very easy fix. There was nothing very major to it. Yesterday, a site inspection was conducted by the engineers, contractors, sub-contractors, and town staff. While the punch list did identify several areas of deficiencies within the site, it should be noted that the items on the punch list are fairly typical for a thirty acre project site. There were no severe contract non-compliance issues noted on this punch list. All in all, this is a fairly typical punch list for a project of this nature and size. The site contractor, RAD Construction, will be on site to replace the old, existing eighteen inch storm drain pipe that runs along Route 258 with a new storm pipe. The remainder of the corrective work noted on the punch list will probably have to wait until the weather improves. It is just too wet to get out there and grade and fine grade, clean up around BMP pond, and fix the swales. RAD is committed to finishing it. We are just waiting for the weather to warm up. On the concession building, the mechanical, plumbing, and electrical inspections were also performed yesterday. There are only a small amount of corrections noted. Consequently, Kimley Horn has issued a certificate of substantial completion to A. R. Chesson dated yesterday for the concession building. It is the date that the concession building is officially turned over to the town. All the issues previously identified in the underground sewer pipes have been corrected. However, there are still three areas of underground storm piping that need to be repaired. Once completed, the contractor has committed to get the video camera back down in there and verify that all this has been corrected. Finally, we are working on contract closeout documents. We are in negotiations for several credit and change order issues that are still unresolved. I will be happy to try and answer any questions that you may have.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Are you saying that the picture on the front page of the Smithfield Times was a sensationalized picture that did not exactly represent the

flooding issues that we have? You said it was graded properly and just happened to be clogged up. Once the grass grows it will catch the sediment.

Mr. Camden – Yes. It was graded right. I looked at it. There was a filter fabric around the drain doing what it was supposed to do.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Thank you, sir.

Councilman Bowman – Mr. Camden, I just want to thank you for your diligent follow up on it. I was concerned at the last several meetings pertaining to those issues and I appreciate you following up on them.

Mr. Camden – The issues you had were concerns about the inspections and the credits. The engineers have stepped up to the plate and responded. Everything looks like it is closing out fairly well.

Councilman Bowman – Thank you.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I want to say thank you also to Mr. Camden. The Mayor and I thought we would be doing your job when we first took this on. So, we are very glad that you are here.

Mr. Camden – It has been a pleasure to be here.

Mayor Williams – We thank you for everything you have done for the town. We have been blessed to have you covering our back. We will now move to Public Comments. The public is invited to speak to Council on any matter except scheduled public hearings. We have one public hearing tonight. Comments are limited to five minutes per person. Any required response from the town will be given to you upon request if you so desire. Please state your name and address for the record.

Town Manager – Our first signup is Mr. Herb DeGroft.

Mr. Degroft – Mr. Mayor and members of Council, thank you for this opportunity. I live at 15411 Mill Swamp Road in Smithfield. I have to hand it to you all with the issues you are facing that will cost taxpayers a lot of money. I think it will probably challenge Mr. Stephenson and his staff to do all of these things on limited resources. I read about the need to improve water lines and sewer lines, pump station upgrades/replacements, and water tower maintenance. The big one is the Grace Street underground water and sewer line replacements. Since I use that street frequently, I have occasion to call Mr. Snead and/or VDOT to alert them to the need to do something because of the significant chuckholes that appear there. I never realized the significance of what is

underneath the road and that it is going to cost over a million dollars. You also have the Reverse Osmosis Plant debt payments and replacing that water main in the 300 block of Main Street. There are any number of unknowns that can add to the millions that you are going to have to spend. I think it is notable that Mr. Luter has given money to the town for Windsor Castle Park and the sports complex; but he certainly has not given money to another project that you have been wrestling with for a number of years that was initially thought to cost a little better than seven million dollars in total and now is close to nine million without even talking about the town's part. I am talking about the bike and walking path that will go from the Cypress Creek Bridge to South Church Street and Battery Park Road with an estimated cost from anywhere between \$2.4 million to \$3.5 million for the town. I see a number of business people on Town Council. I am sure you will approach your decision making as business people who have a concern for your bottom line. In this case, you are talking about the taxpayer's bottom line. You will have to make a decision on a 'nice to have' or 'a need to have.' The things I initially talked about, I think, are 'have to haves.' The bike and walking path is a 'nice to have.' You might want to consider doing a survey of the folks on South Church Street, Lumar Road, John Rolfe, and Church Square to find out how they think about this project and the spending of over two to three million dollars for this for the town part; whether it is direct tax money or federal or state grants it still comes from taxpayers. I wish you well in making that final decision and challenge you to prioritize things that are needed versus 'nice to haves.' Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Mayor Williams – Thank you, Mr. DeGroft. We have no other signups for public comments; but is there anyone else who would like to speak?

Mrs. Martha Ford Evans Jackson – Good evening, Mayor, Council members and Town Manager Stephenson. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you so much to the Council members and Smithfield Police Chief Howell for your kind expressions and your presence and sympathy at the passing of my brother, Charles T. Ford on December 8th, 2017 and my sister, Edna F. Powell nineteen days later on December 27th, 2017. I have always felt a big part of the town and you showed me your love and appreciation. On behalf of my family, we thank you so much.

Mayor Williams – We thank you for coming here and saying that. Is there anybody else who would like to speak for public comments? Hearing none, we will now move to

a Presentation of Gift to Mayor Williams by Jeff Warner (with student Caroline Mayorga) of the Governors School of the Arts.

Miss Caroline Mayorga - Mr. Mayor and members of Council, good evening. I am a student at Smithfield High School and at the Governors School for the Arts. This past November I had the honor to be one of the fifty-seven Governors School students to travel to Japan for a twelve day performance and goodwill tour. You were kind enough to send letters of greetings from the Town of Smithfield to the Mayors of the cities that we visited. Tonight, I would like to present to you letters from the Mayors of Miyazaki and Toyonaka and a small gift from the Mayor of Kitakyushu. Thank you for your continued support of the Governors School for the Arts.

Mayor Williams – Thank you so much. Our next item is Pinewood Heights Relocation Project – Phase IV Presentation by Michael Dodson of Community Planning Partners.

Mr. Dodson – Thank you, Mr. Mayor. This is the first informational public hearing. The state calls it a hearing; but it is not a hearing which is kind of unusual. We will have a second one at the March Town Council meeting as well. This one is designed to kind of go over what the town has done in the past and what Community Development Block grants can be used for. It is also to seek anyone's comments over the next thirty days of what the town has done in the past and what it should be looking toward in the future. We are in Phase III right now in Pinewood Heights. There will be, when Phase III is completed, about sixty-six properties acquired and sixty-six relocations. Eventually, there will be sixty-six units demolished. We are at sixty right now. We have had about fifteen new homeowners; renters that are now homeowners as opposed to market rate renters. Some Section 8 people have also moved to homeownership. The Community Development Block Grant Fund is a federal program setup where each state gets an allotment. Places like Norfolk and Portsmouth get a direct allotment from the federal government every year. There are non-entitlement communities such as most counties in Virginia as well as towns that come through the state. It is a competitive process. This year there is a little under seventeen million in the CDBG funds for the state. Eight and a half million will be available for the competitive funds. The rest of it goes to some innovative projects and urgent need projects. The types of competitive CDBG projects include Comprehensive Community Development which is where you do a complete

neighborhood revitalization. It can include housing rehab, new housing, new sidewalks, water and sewer. Housing rehab or creations simply means you build new houses or rehab houses. They call them economic development which can include businesses expanding; but, generally, is the downtown revitalization program. Smithfield did that several decades ago on Main Street. The community facility which is wastewater, water treatment plants, and water lines are usually done in rural areas where they need new or upgraded systems. Community service facilities are hospitals, rec homes, and senior homes. Those are the types of programs. Smithfield, since 2006, has had three million in construction grants and community investment grants. There has been fifty thousand in planning grants. Those are broken down starting with the first planning grant back in 2006 for fifty thousand. It was for fiscal year 2005 on the state's calendar for twenty-five thousand. The first allotment was in fiscal year 2006 and then fiscal year 2009. Phase III started in fiscal year 2013. There was a planning grant that was put in because we had done the initial work back in 2005 and it took approximately eight years to get to Phase III and IV. The point is that we asked the state and received another twenty-five thousand dollars to do a planning grant to kind of make sure we had all of the information updated before we moved into Phase III and Phase IV. Phase III was awarded in August of 2015. The contract came in February 2016. It has been almost two years which is hard to believe. We started in March of 2016. All of the residents in Phase III have submitted applications. We have finished thirteen and are looking to acquire two more. We have two more relocations. We have sent applications out for landlords and we have the six units done. That is where we are. The anticipation is that the town will move forward with Phase IV and ask for an additional one million dollars. This is based off of the planning grant from 2015. Tonight is the first public hearing, per se, to go over what was done in the past and what the town wants to do in the future. There will be a second public hearing that will be the actual resolution where the town votes to submit the application as well as commit the local funds to the project. Just to remind everyone, the local funds come out of a portion of your meal's tax to cover your portion. The one million is the maximum that the state allows for this type of grant. There are three activity grants. The town did a comprehensive one that included housing, rehab, new construction, and replace all the water and sewer lines where you could get \$1.4 million; but this type of activity is considered an acquisition one item and

relocation the second item; so the state only gives one million. We will be taking applications from the homeowners until the end. We only have one property that has not submitted their application for Phase IV. The applications to the state will be due by March 31st. They conveniently moved it to Good Friday. They always do this around Easter. I do not know why; but they like to make us work before Easter. This is open for anyone from the public who would like to talk or submit comments either tonight or to the Town Manager about the program funding and the way they would like to see future funds handled. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – Do any Council members have any questions? Does anyone in the audience have any questions? You must have done an outstanding job since no one has any questions. Thank you for the update. We will move on to a Briefing by Dick Grice, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, Smithfield District.

Supervisor Grice – Good evening Town Council, staff, and attendees. The last month has been a busy one for the county. Our last regular meeting was on January 18th. The Board held five public hearings. After hearing public discourse, we took action to allow a new duplex to replace an old duplex. We approved an auto sales business but eliminated a business-impairing restriction limiting the business to twenty-five vehicles. We stopped a request for a Newport News logging company from using our county as a place to dump their residue. We approved the use of space in the retail complex for religious assembly and approved an expansion of additional residential roof tops at the Bennis Grant community. Additionally, the Board voted 3–2 to hold a special election for Sheriff along with the May 2018 Smithfield Town Council election. This action would be set aside in short order. I will talk more on that later. There are currently two appointed positions that need to be filled by Smithfield district representatives. The first is a position on the Regional Blackwater Library Board. As the Council was aware, the Library Board reduced operating hours in the Smithfield and Carrollton libraries over budget issues. While ours were subsequently restored, the ongoing financial management of library services needs ongoing attention. The second position is the town's representative on the county's newly formed Stormwater Advisory Committee. As Smithfield continues to grow having a stormwater management agency or shared management method will become a state mandated requirement for the town. The town's participation on the Advisory Committee should assist in the development of

either that partnership arrangement or an independently operated program funded by the town. Your suggestions and recommendations for the library Board representative would be appreciated. I can be reached at the number on the website. We will need to fill these two key positions quickly with a good Smithfield representative. The last action taken at the January 18th meeting was the re-structuring of an existing \$10+ million dollar existing bond. The financing generated a net present value savings of \$473,205.00 or about 4.7% of the refunded principal. Put another way, we were able to save the equivalent of a one cent residential tax increase. Prior to the Board's work session on February 1st, we held a special meeting to resolve the date of the Sheriff's special election. Having a special election for a constitutional officer is not something that the Board dreamed up; but a state mandated requirement with somewhat restrictive, if not confusing, guidelines. For instance, the special election cannot be held within fifty-five days preceding a general or primary election. The Republicans have now announced they are going to have a primary in June thus voiding the opportunity to have the one in May. Additionally, the Registrar's office must hold election results from voting machines for a period of thirty days. The net impact of these and other rules meant that the special election cannot be held in May and would need to be held in either late July to the end of August or could be held as a sidebar election for Sheriff during the November general election. The Board voted 3-2 to have the special election for Sheriff on July 24th, 2018. Folks who will be travelling or are on vacation at that time should request an absentee ballot. The first item on the actual work session addressed public safety, fire, and EMS. As the Council may remember from two years ago, the facility agreement and other political ego issues were having a negative impact on the working arrangements of these entities. Unlike cities, the county is not in the position to have a full time paid fire and EMS staff. We are most fortunate to have mixed full time and volunteer program that only saves county residents millions in tax dollars that provides them with the professional services needed to save lives and property. The tone of the joint presentation on February 1st by all agencies Chiefs showed a much improved working relationship. There was not the previous discord but a commitment to professional cooperation underlining the need and the desire to continue improvements in fundamentals, training, and equipment. While the group must continue to work through past issues, there has been a need for turnaround that should ensure our

combined service organizations are both willing and capable to provide the needed professional services for county residents. All of our volunteers, full time EMS, firefighters, deputies and sheriff deserve a thumbs up in appreciation. The last item discussed at the work session was the county Capital Improvements Plan. While the plan has been given a great deal of detail and effort by our staff, this county Supervisor believes we still have a long way to go. Budget time is once again upon the elected officials; but look on the bright side, we can at least work on it while remaining in our community. We do not have to stay in Richmond for several months; or worse, Washington D.C. for most of the year. We are lucky. Are there any questions or suggestions?

Mayor Williams – Hearing none, thank you Mr. Grice. We appreciate you coming forward with the information. We will now move to Council Comments. I would like to start off with those. I want to say ‘hats off’ to a job well done at the Smithfield Police Department again this year for the National Night Out. They had Mr. Kurt Beach who runs it and does a fantastic job. People were involved from the Smithfield Center right on down to the last one. It was outstanding. In our category with the size of the town, the Smithfield Police Department was #3 in the state and #12 in the country. I think that speaks highly of our police department. Thank you. On another side bar, it gives me great displeasure to have to say goodbye to Vice Mayor Gregory. He has been a very wonderful member of the Council. He has done an outstanding job. He and I do a lot of talking in the background. He lives right up the road. We get some things straight. One thing I can say about he and Dr. Cook is that I make a lot of mistakes up here when I am talking and they certainly do not mind correcting me. I do appreciate that Andrew. Dr. Cook will have to double up now. We will miss you. I hope somebody that comes in and sits in that chair realizes they have some mighty big shoes to fill. Thank you.

Councilwoman Tynes – Andrew, we go a long ways back. I think, when we started, that we were the two younger ones on the Council. Andrew is probably still the youngest one; but now I am one of the older ones. When I spoke his name recently he said I sounded motherly. Over the years, I started thinking of you as a maybe being a son because you always presented yourself in a positive way. Andrew, I wish you much joy and happiness as you begin another chapter in your life. May you forever chase your dreams and continue to soar like an eagle with success. Thank you.

Councilman Smith – Andrew has always been a voice of reason. I have been reminded of that by you myself. You have always maintained a calmness that I have appreciated. When I felt like my blood was going to boil, you managed to bring it down. It is a great attribute of yours in challenging each one of us to take on that kindness, warmth, and reason about decisions we have to make on a daily basis. I appreciate everything and your inspiration. Thank you so much.

Councilman Dr. Cook – It has been a great pleasure sitting next to you. We have had fun and been serious. We keep the Mayor straight and, as Mike said, you are great person to talk somebody off the cliff. The cliff comes up a lot sometimes. It has been a pleasure having you here. It is not like you are moving away. I will just see you in a different context.

Councilman Bowman – You have done a great job. I sat over there and watched you for the six years or so. As Peter mentioned, from the town's prospective and the employees perspective, we have really appreciated your support and wish you Godspeed. We thank you for all you have done; not just here but with the outside communities as far as the athletic associations, volunteering with the kids, and things like that. You have been a true asset to the Town of Smithfield. You never said that you were not coming back but we will hold you to that in the future. We will congratulate Suffolk for their gain while we suffer just a little loss until you come back. Thank you.

Councilwoman Tynes – Never come back; always go forward.

Town Attorney – It has been a privilege, a pleasure, and an honor to work with you. Good luck to you.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Thank you all. I just wanted to say a couple of things real quick. I was told that it was common practice that for every year that you serve on Council you get five minutes. I will not use all of my time. You guys have used up some of it which is fine. Any time you go through a transition in your life whether it is business, professional, or home it is definitely a time for reflection and a time to see where you are. I turned forty in October. I avoided, I guess, a mid-life crisis. I have been so blessed throughout my life not just with my family but with whom I have been able to surround myself with. This Council has been a big part of that for the last decade including the staff and the citizen's that show up every month. From the bottom of my heart, I want to say a general thanks to all of you. Ten years ago, I sat in the audience and I watched

Wendy Dean who I knew I was being appointed to replace at that time for the same reason as it goes. It is like the circle of life. They built a home just outside of the town limits and had to move away. I remember taking notice of Wendy and how deliberate she was and how thoughtful she was. She did her homework and you knew it. The whole room knew it. She did not talk a lot but when she spoke people listened. She commanded a lot of respect. She was the kind of the person I wanted to emulate. I was filling her shoes so I guess I have to try to be as much as I can. While I know I fell way short of that standard, I was honored to take her place. I was fortunate to be re-elected by the citizens twice. I do not know if that meant I was doing a good job or maybe I just did less harm than anybody else who wanted to take it from me; so, thank you. I wanted to take a couple of minutes to say some brief thank yous. To Lesley, I have had two Town Clerks that I have been able to serve next to. Obviously, you had the much longer tenure. Having somebody that provides us with accurate information on a regular basis to make decisions and getting it to us in a timely manner, it goes unsung and unmentioned too much. I thank you for all you do. We cannot do our job without you doing yours. I appreciate that. To Peter, I do not know what life in Smithfield without Peter Stephenson as Town Manager was like. My entire time here, he has manned the helm and has guided the ship. The town is a better place for it. We appreciate your leadership and I really enjoyed working alongside you. To Bill, my sentiments are the same. Your guidance throughout all of our decisions means you are our security blanket. You make sure that we do not screw it up too bad. Again, a lot of that is behind the scenes so it goes unnoticed and unmentioned. Please know that every one of us on Council is appreciative of the work that you do and the protection you provide; not only for us but for the citizens of the town. To town staff, I could take forever to name the town staff but I will highlight Ellen. Ellen and Amy both have been so integral for me with Amy with the ballpark and Ellen with the money. Every problem I had with water and sewer requires money. If Ellen could not find it then we cannot fix it. Amy and I have kind of grown together at the town a little bit. We are the young ones. Watching this dream of the sports complex come to life and how it will be a dream for so many kids for so many decades going forward. Whether that is a legacy, I do not know but for me it is money well spent and an investment in our kids and our future. I am excited to hear that Amy will be in charge of it. To Denise, I could always count on you to get me some

awesome invites to whatever was going on around town but seriously, much of our time is overlapped and am thankful to have served with you. You have always been a voice for the citizens of the town; but more importantly, a champion for people who are less fortunate in our town. You always kept them in the forefront and I respect you for it. It has been a joy working with you. Thank you. To Mike, I watched your brother when I was a young man following local politics. Danny was an everyday man with an authenticity that I did not think could be duplicated. When he spoke, people listened. I am sure you and your family miss him every day; but I want to tell you that in my eyes, you have been every bit his equal and it has been a pleasure to serve alongside you. Thank you. Randy is not here today. I was going to say that we young guys help to keep these old guys straight. Randy and I are the youngest on Town Council. He has been an awesome addition to Council when he was elected. I really thought that and nothing has changed. I still feel that today. He will be the youngest one left. I think the future is bright because of it. To Steve, our time on Council together has been short. Your leadership and your reputation in this community is why we chose you over several very qualified candidates. Your roots run deep in the town. This town is so lucky to have you. They have been lucky to have you for so long. Hopefully, they will have you until the end. To Milton, I have a whole page for you. Putting us next to each other was a big mistake. Somehow two people who disagree on a lot were able to find consensus and agree on so much. I know you are excited to get some time back with your family as you step away in May. I know this Council will have big shoes to fill with your departure. It has been an honor to serve next you. I do not just count you as a cohort but also as a friend. Mr. Mayor, I am giving up. I thought I could outlast you. It is clearly not going to happen so I quit. What fountain of youth are you drinking from that makes it so unfair for the rest of us. In all seriousness, you embody what Smithfield is. If Smithfield had DNA, which it does not because it is not a human being, you would be it. You would be sitting right there and be the genetic code of the town. Nobody works harder. Nobody puts more time, effort, and energy into making sure that things are buttoned up and where they are supposed to be. You are everybody's mentor, everybody's hero, and I would not be here if it was not for you. You were one of the couple of people who were very instrumental in at least recommending me to be on this Council. I am forever indebted to you for that. Thank you so much. The town is very fortunate. I will finish by saying

that I will be back. My business has transformed. I have been so blessed. I used to be a P.E. teacher in the Newport News public school system about fifteen years ago. It was the start of my career and being an adult. I built a financial advisory practice essentially from the ground up over the better part of a decade. I made a transition as most of you are aware over the last year. I have formed a partnership with some of my best friends. I am now one of three partners that oversee over a half a billion dollars. I wake up every morning and wonder how that happened and how I am blessed beyond measure. My family is excited about our new adventures and where we are heading and where we are going. You guys will always be a part of my family. Thank you very much for the time to be able to say that. Thank you to all of you. We will be back and I will see you soon.

Mayor Williams – Thank you Andrew for a job well done. As you can all see, we are going to miss this guy.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Could we continue with Council comments now that we have said goodbye to Andrew?

Mayor Williams – Yes we can.

Councilman Dr. Cook – As Andrew just outed me, I will take this opportunity to say that I will not be running for Town Council in the upcoming election. I am going to serve out my term though. I am actually going to sprint to the finish line because there are still a lot of things that need to get done. Hopefully, we can get the majority of that done by the end of my term which will be the end of June. I think eight years and two terms is plenty to stay on Council. It allows new thoughts, new ideas, and new blood to step forward. The next thing I have is that we had a retreat a couple of weeks ago. It would have been very beneficial for everybody who is running for Council to have attended that. It would have opened your eyes to what we have coming down the pike; things that are on our horizon. Basically, we heard them for the first time. We heard some good things from the police department as Mayor Williams already said with their accolades and how well we are doing with that. We have heard some disturbing things. Things that are going to be big projects coming up that are needs versus wants. I think the Council is going to really evaluate what is a need and what is a want. There are a lot of pressing projects coming down the pike. There are several people in the room tonight that are running for Town Council. You should really find the minutes from that meeting

or find people who attended that meeting and find out what the truth is. Do not get your information from the paper. It is not always 100% correct. Find out what the truth is and what we need to do. It is unfortunate that it was presented in a way to insinuate that the Council had already been aware of some of these items and that we chose more glamorous items ahead of these items. It was not exactly the case. Pretty much everything that was presented to us from Public Works, we had heard for the first time including the Grace Street problems and the sewer problems as far as pump pressures. A lot of these things are brand new information to us. I want to get it out there that Council is just as concerned about these problems as everyone in this town should be. I cannot exactly blame our Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works for insinuating that we knew about it. That position has been vacant for many years. He is new to this position. These are items that we probably should have been aware of earlier but we were not. The fault actually probably comes back to Council for not forcing that position to be filled. In summary, especially to the four people I see here that are going to be running, pay attention to that and what needs to be done. There are needs that are coming down the pike. There are plenty of wants. There are a lot of wants. We will have to find some of these wants and we might need to scale them back from what we are doing now. Money is going to be tight. We have run a tight ship for the past eight years that I have been here. We have not raised taxes in those eight years. We have spent with what we had. It would be nice if that continued. It might not be able to be continued with some of the things we heard. It was an eye opener if nothing else. Thank you.

Councilman Bowman – I would like to advise everyone that circumstances have arisen that will preclude me from serving my full term on the Council which was due to end on June 30th, 2018. These same circumstances will also preclude me from running for Town Council in the May election. Therefore, my final meeting will be the regularly scheduled March Council meeting. These circumstances have nothing to do with the health of myself or my family. They certainly have nothing to do with the love of my fellow Town Council members nor the love and devotion to my community and the staff of the Town of Smithfield. In addition, at the time that I accepted my interim appointment, I had no way of knowing that this circumstance was in my future. I am not at liberty to discuss this decision any further and I will be making no further comment

pertaining to this decision. I have truly enjoyed working with my colleagues and truly appreciate the faith that each of you has placed in me during my tenure. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – Thank you. We have a lot of decisions to make. We have some good people running for Town Council. There have been nine packets picked up; one of which was Mr. Bowman's. There will now be eight people running for Council to fill four seats. Good luck to all of you. The only thing I can tell you is that it is just like Dr. Cook said; you have to know what goes on in this town and know how to be able to answer the questions from the citizens. The only way you can find that out is to come to the work sessions which are committee meetings at the end of each month. We have two of them that last about an hour and a half or so. Also, come to the Town Council meetings. So far as I know right now, out of the eight people that are running, nobody has an agenda. It makes it bad when someone runs for nothing but one agenda. I hope they are all running for the good of the town to make this town a better place to live. It is a wonderful place to live already. I hear it all the time. People come in here from everywhere saying what a wonderful place this is. I would like to suggest that you ask everybody you pass how they are doing. Pass that on to everyone. Everybody I talk to says what a friendly town it is. It speaks volumes about what this town is. I hear it a lot when I am in the park walking the trails. You would be surprised how many people are here from Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg and other places. People love it here. For the eight that are running, run hard. Get to know what is going on because if you are elected you will be challenged. There are three good people that are leaving. There will be big shoes to fill. They have been an asset to this town; a big asset. Do not fear, there are four other people up here that are supposed to know what is going on. We will hang in here. Are there any other Council comments? Hearing none, we will move to the consent agenda items. Would any Council member like to pull any item? There are eight items. We will start with Councilwoman Denise Tynes.

Councilwoman Tynes – Police Committee Summary. The first item is a resolution to approve the street closure for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 17th, 2018 from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This is a new parade event. This event will replace the Christmas parade that was cancelled due to weather. A lot of the business owners downtown and participants wanted to do the St. Patrick's Day parade. It will pretty much be the same route I think.

Mayor Williams – Actually, they cannot come down Main Street. It will start at the library.

Councilwoman Tynes – That is right because of the construction on Main Street. Just come downtown and it will be there. The next item is a resolution to approve the street closure/traffic assistance for the annual Smithfield Sprint Triathlon on Saturday, April 7th, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. It is an annual event in the town. It is not sponsored by the YMCA but it comes through the YMCA program. The next item is a resolution for partial street closure for the Wine and Brew Festival on Saturday, April 14th, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. It is one of our major annual events in the town. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – We will now move to item C4. Councilman Dr. Cook will present for Councilman Pack who is not here tonight.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Finance Committee Summary. I am going to let Vice Mayor Gregory take this since it is his last meeting.

Vice Mayor Gregory – We have invoices over \$10,000.00 requiring Council's authorization. The first is to the YMCA for \$50,000.00 which is our annual contribution. I believe it is a ten year commitment for their most recent expansion a few years ago. Item B is to Sydnor Hydro, Inc. for \$23,400.00. It was an approved expense from August of last year for water and sewer. The next invoice is to Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates for \$24,500.00 for our annual audit expense. The last invoice is a \$200,000.00 contribution towards Historic Windsor Castle Restoration, LLC for the awesome upgrades that are coming to fruition over at Windsor Castle. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – We will now move to Item C5 and C6 with Councilman Bowman.

Councilman Bowman – Parks and Recreation Committee Summary. Item C5 is a resolution to approve the partial park closure of the fishing pier on Tuesday, April 10th thru Saturday, April 14th and the trails for Saturday, April 14th from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for the 7th Annual Wine and Brew Fest. This is an annual event and there should not be any changes from previous years. Item C6 is a motion to amend the adopted Windsor Castle Dog Park policies to open one side to the general public. As you know, both sides right now are closed and controlled. What this will do, as we learned in the work session, is allow the transient individuals coming through town that wish to find a place for their dog to play that is open to the public. That is what this will do and what this is all about. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – We will now move to Item C7 and C8 with Councilman Dr. Cook.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Public Buildings and Welfare Committee Summary. We have a resolution in opposition to House Bill 1258 and Senate Bill 405 for wireless infrastructure. The cell towers we have around the county now cannot hold the 5G signals so they plan on building smaller 5G towers interspersed between the bigger towers. The Bill that is in front of the House and Senate right now would basically eliminate localities position to oppose the placement of towers in a specific location. In other words, the companies that would build the towers would have the right to place them wherever they want without the locality's input. The localities obviously view this as an infringement upon their authority and would like for these two bills to be shot down. We are making a resolution to oppose them. Item C8 is a motion to renew and extend the lease with Bank of Southside Virginia for the Smithfield Farmer's Market. The market is actually doing very well if anybody has been down there on a Saturday in the summer. We would like to extend that lease. Thank you.

Councilman Bowman – It is a little late but, if we could, could we just please vote on Item C7 separately from the other items?

Mayor Williams – Yes. We can pull that. Everyone has heard these consent agenda items. Do I have a motion?

Councilman Dr. Cook – I make a motion to approve the consent items with the exception of C7.

C1. Resolution to Approve Street Closure for St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 17th, 2018 from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

C2. Resolution to Approve Street Closure/Traffic Assistance for Annual Smithfield Sprint Triathlon on Saturday, April 7th, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

C3. Resolution for Partial Street Closure for the Wine and Brew Festival on Saturday, April 14th, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

C4. Invoices Over \$10,000.00 Requiring Council Authorization:

a. YMCA	\$ 50,000.00
b. Sydnor Hydro, Inc.	\$ 23,400.00
c. Robinson Farmer Cox	\$ 24,500.00
d. Historic Windsor Castle Restoration	\$200,000.00

C5. Resolution to Approve Partial Park Closure of the Fishing Pier on Tuesday, April 10th thru Saturday, April 14th and the Trails on Saturday, April 14th from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for the 7th Annual Wine and Brew Festival.

C6. Motion to Amend Adopted Windsor Castle Dog Park Policies to Open One Side to the General Public.

C7. Pulled from Consent Agenda.

C8. Motion to Renew/Extend Lease with BSV for Smithfield Farmer's Market.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

. Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded to approve Items C1-C6 and Item C8. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – We will now move to Item C7 which is a Resolution in Opposition of House Bill 1258 and Senate Bill 405 for Wireless Infrastructure.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I would like to make a motion to approve Item C7.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Second.

Mayor Williams – Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, a motion has been made and properly seconded. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted abstained, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There was one abstention. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – We will now move to the Action Section of the agenda. The first item is a Public Hearing: Special Use Permit - 308 Main Street. We will have a staff presentation by our Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works, Mr. William Saunders.

Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works – Good evening Mr. Mayor and members of Council. We have a special use permit application before us this evening. The applicants are Daniel and Ann Garland of Smithfield. The property location is 308 Main Street known to many of you as the 'bumble bee' house. The application is

a special use permit. There are two elements to the application. The first is for commercial recreation establishments limited to indoor uses for event center activities describe in the business plan that is attached to your packet. Also, it is for hotels and motels for two rooms to rent upstairs for transient lodging or lodging associated with the events to be held downstairs. This proposal is to provide a venue for fundraising activities, gatherings, showers, parties, and celebrations of other events within the structure with two rooms to let upstairs. The number of employees will be based on the type of event; but there will be at least one staff member on site during events. Hours of operation were altered based on feedback from the public during the Planning Commission process. The proposed hours have been revised from 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. for Sunday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. for Friday and Saturday. The maximum number of guests that would be allowed by Isle of Wight Building Codes for any individual event would be forty-nine. At the November 14th, 2017 meeting, the Planning Commission tabled this item to get more information. At their January 9th, 2018 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended approval contingent upon the applicants meeting the requirements of the Isle of Wight County Building official as it relates to these uses in this type of structure. Also, please note that there are no parking requirements in the downtown district for any project that has less than a ten thousand square foot lot. This has typically not been a huge impact when we have retail outlets and antique shops in the 300 block of Main Street. Cars are coming and going and there are not a lot of cars there at once. However, for an event center such as this where up to forty-nine people go to an individual event, it is still exempt from the parking requirements. There is currently no requirement in the ordinance that would make them get any type of reciprocal agreement with adjacent parking spaces. They have identified other business parking spaces that they can use as part of their business plan; but town staff would like for you to consider, if you do approve this special use permit, that you condition it to just this applicant rather than it running with the property. This is based on feedback that we have gotten from other people who attended the Planning Commission meeting. We may need, at some point in the future, to deal with intensive uses like this in the downtown district so that this would not just run with the land if this applicant ends this use at some point. Town staff has deemed the application to be complete and the proposal seems to be within the parameters of

the Town of Smithfield's Zoning Ordinance. Since this is a special use permit application, reasonable conditions may be recommended by Town Council as deemed necessary to protect the public interest and welfare. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I bring this up for every special use permit you bring to me. Since you mentioned it, the special use permit as presented to us is tied to the land not the applicant. Is that correct?

Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works – It can go either way.

Councilman Dr. Cook – How is it currently presented to us?

Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works – You can condition it to go to the applicant. Currently, if you approve it as is, it goes with the land unless you put the condition on it that it only be for this applicant.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Thank you.

Mayor Williams – Are there any other questions for Mr. Saunders? Hearing none, we will have a presentation by the applicant.

Ms. Emily Norton - Good evening Mr. Mayor and Council members. I own The Main Event by Emily. I do not own the property but have been honored to be asked to possibly manage it because of my other business. I just wanted to piggy back on what Mr. Saunders said. He covered all the bases. I am here for any questions that you all may have. Ann and Dan Garland are very community minded people. They love to do things for charitable organizations and anything that helps the community. With our business plan, we want to offer the community a place for small gatherings such as weddings, showers, rehearsal dinners, parties for family members, and some fundraising events and art shows. They are very charitable people and Ann is a great artist. If anybody has any questions, I am here to answer.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Would you or the owners have an opinion on tying the special use permit to the application and not to the property?

Ms. Norton – I do not think it would affect anything at all. I think it is a smart move. As times change and things change and properties are sold, they need to be re-evaluated as time goes on. I would like to say one thing too about how this all came about. Since I am an event decorator and wedding planner, I am asked a lot for a place like this. I have brides who might have a big wedding but they need a place for thirty

people to have a family rehearsal dinner. They are always asking where they can have a place for their family to gather. It is something that has been asked for. The town did a great job several years ago with their encore weddings and they won awards and invited all these people to Smithfield to have weddings. It was very successful and I thank you for that because I get to benefit from that. It does bring people in who want these types of services to add to their experience.

Mayor Williams – Thank you Ms. Norton. We may call you back up after the public hearing. I will now open the public hearing. Is there anyone who would like to speak about the special use permit at 308 Main Street? Are there any signups?

Town Manager – Yes, sir. The first signup is Ms. Robbie Younger.

Ms. Younger – I live at 19001 Farm Road. I also own the building at 324 Main Street; the Painted Garden Gallery since 1999. I am in strong support of the Nelms house being open. The 300 block over the years has had challenges with businesses. I am just thrilled they are coming. I have known the Garland's for over fifteen years. They are very good and kind people. They are very civic minded. They are involved in their church. I think it would be a win/win situation. Also, as an artist myself, I know Ann is very much for the arts. They are presently offering local artist to place their work which is sometimes limited. I think that is going to really be an asset as our town is an art district. I have talked to other businesses and residents and they are excited too. The more we get in the 300 block; the more it helps all of us. It is small but it is needed. I know sometimes that people just need a small little thing. It is so beautiful in there and I think it will really add to our town. I am hoping that it will be approved. I thank you all.

Mayor Williams – Are there any other public comments? Hearing none, I will now close the public hearing. We will have consideration by Public Buildings and Welfare Committee Chairman, Dr. Milton Cook.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We have heard the staff presentation twice. Being a member of the 300 block of Main Street, I can attest that it is in need of some good businesses and good storefronts. We need locations like this. One thing that concerns me, and I deal with it every single day, is lack of parking. I know that it was also a Planning Commission concern. It is more of a general concern for me; not necessarily from this specific application. Parking on Main Street is difficult to put it nicely. Those of us that have businesses there have parking for our staff and

our clientele. It is always a difficult time to find a spot. Regardless of this application, I think we need to think hard about some parking solutions with something a bit more permanent and bigger than what we have. There are options out there. We have seen some options. I think it really, truly needs to be addressed. My biggest concern with this application is parking. What kind of alleviates that a little bit is that I envision this as being more of an evening thing. I know they have hours during the day; but I would see the majority of the use of this property as being after 5:00 p.m. As we know, most of the stores on Main Street close at 5:00 p.m. I do not really think it would affect the businesses as much as we might think it is going to.

Mayor Williams – Does anybody else have any comments. I would like to bring up the parking issue. We own Joyner Field. There was talk at one time about putting a parking garage there with a private/public partnership but that fell through the cracks. It would be a very good thing to do. We do not have the money to do it but maybe we could get some grants or something. I will say that Smithfield 2020 is going to be having a meeting tomorrow I believe. They will be talking about the parking issue around town. Everything will be considered including fifteen minute parking to three hour parking and everything in between. They will include talking about residents parking with slips for their windshield. There is a lot to talk about with the parking. I have been in this town quite a few years and it has been like that ever since. When the twins were here, God love them I went to school with them, they would get to work in front of their restaurant by 6:00 a.m. and park right in front of that building. They would not move. We gave them permission to park around in the Fire Department parking lot which is fifty feet away but they would not do it. What I am saying is that it has been an issue here for a long time. It is a really good issue. Good luck to Smithfield 2020 while they are getting some data together on this issue. Maybe they can address Council on it and let us know what the norm is in the state. We know that somebody is taking a look at it.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Before we get too far ahead of this, I do want to amend this special use permit to tie it to the current applicant and not to the land itself. I do not know if I need to make a motion to amend the special use permit.

Town Attorney – Your motion would be to recommend approving this with the condition that it is specific to the current applicant and with the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Mr. Mayor, I would like to make a motion to approve the special use permit with the amendment to tie the special use permit to the applicant and the other recommendations of the Planning Commission.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Congratulations to the applicant. Our next item is a Motion to Approve the Town council Meeting Minutes of January 3rd, 2018.

Town Attorney – Mr. Mayor and members of Council, I recommend the minutes be approved as presented.

Vice Mayor Gregory – So moved.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. All in favor say aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – The next item is New Business. Is there any new business to discuss?

Town Manager – Your Honor, as you are aware, we have received a grant for the Clontz Park Boat Ramp from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. We have an opportunity to apply for another grant which is due March 1st. It is a local government grant from the Virginia Port Authority. I would ask that you authorize me as the Town Manager to apply for this grant for the Clontz Park Boat Ramp applicable to the Virginia Port Authority due by March 1st, 2018 so that we can get that in.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I will make the Motion to Authorize the Town Manager to Apply for the Virginia Port Authority Grant for the Clontz Park Boat Ramp.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion?

Councilman Dr. Cook – I would just like to say that I think this is important so that we can get more money to actually build a boat ramp.

Mayor Williams – Yes. When it came in the first time, it was way over the budget that we had. We had to back up and punt. They have moved the boat ramp over to a little bit shallower water of distribution so that the coffer dam would not be such an expensive thing. We have moved that over which might mean we will lose the gazebo. We are losing it anyway because it is in bad shape. It has been there for about twenty-five years. I am looking forward to putting my boat in there one of these years. Is there any further discussion? We have a motion to authorize the Town Manager to apply for a grant for the boat ramp. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Is there any other new business? Hearing none, we will move to Old Business. Is there any old business?

Councilman Dr. Cook – I have an Update on the Windsor Castle Restoration Project. The caretaker's house, interior and exterior rehabilitation is 100% done. The lease is also signed and people have moved in. It is done. For the maintenance and storage buildings, the foundation work is complete. The framing is progressing and the walls are going up. It will be our primary focus for the next ninety days. We hope to have it completed by late spring. It would be nice if it happens in time for the Wine and Brew Festival. For the manor house, we will finalize an update to the floor plan for the new wing. We will be evaluating the engineering design for the HVAC to try to condition the interior space. We need to plan the rehabilitation of the exterior which will include roof replacement, dormer repairs, window and porch repairs, and work on the stucco removal and how to remove the outer most layer of stucco on the outside. Next, I will talk about the current status of key project phases. Phase I is complete for the manor house which is the asbestos abatement. The basement and moisture has been

mitigated and the wings have been demolished on each side. The caretaker's house is completely done and the lease has been signed and it is occupied. Eight of the nine outbuildings are 95% done. We just basically have some painting to be completed. The Manager's office is yet to begin. It is the last outbuilding to be worked on. The maintenance and storage buildings have the foundations complete with walls going up. The swale to mitigate the stormwater behind the outbuildings is complete. As you know, rain was washing out underneath the outbuildings on the vineyard side. It was washing out the foundation. We had to prevent that and stabilize what we had done. We have spent \$800,000.00 of the town's \$2,000,000.00 commitment. \$350,000.00 or 100% of the funds for the accelerated projects has been drawn down. The lease payments for the caretaker's house have begun. We have just over \$2,500,000.00 of total funding still available. We need to raise \$1,500,000.00 to finance the full \$5,000,000.00 project. To date, we have spent \$890,000.00. We are tax eligible for \$807,000.00 which is 91%. We are still currently just under \$180,000.00 below base line forecast. We had an exciting thing happen today. DHR came out for a site visit. They were not there necessarily to see Windsor Castle but they got a tour none the less. The reviews were very, very positive. They liked what they have seen. They liked the outbuildings. They understand that this project is paced based on financing. In other words, we do it as funds become available. So far, they seem very pleased. They have not told us that we have to do anything else as yet. Thank you. Are there any questions?

Councilwoman Tynes – I have one. You said that the caretaker's house was 100% complete with the occupants having already taken over. I just want to know if it would be possible for the Council to visit. Would the occupants allow us to come to see it before they completely move in?

Councilman Dr. Cook – I am sure they would.

Councilwoman Tynes – I do not know if we got an invite or not; but if we did, I missed that invite.

Mayor Williams – You let me know when you want to go and you can go.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Give a date to the Mayor and he will arrange it for you.

Councilwoman Tynes – Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Williams – I will be glad to take you in anytime you want to go. Thank you, Dr. Cook. We appreciate your report. Our next item under old business is a Motion to Authorize the Demolition of the Wombwell House.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Mr. Mayor, this was Councilman Pack's suggestion at committee level. He is not here tonight. However, I also mirror his opinion. We have tried multiple times to give this house away. We have gone through several attempts to figure out what to do with the house. We have been told it is not fit for any kind of use. It was brought up at committee level that it is an unsafe structure. Essentially, once the park becomes occupied and the kids are starting to play baseball and kids will be running around, it is going to be a hazard. Since we have tried for a year now to give it away for someone to do something with it and no one has stepped forward with a reasonable offer of what they are going to do, I think we need to go ahead and move on so we can clear the site.

Councilwoman Tynes – I just wanted to say that I can remember about ten years ago that we said the same thing about it being unfit and not worth anything about the caretaker's house at the park. At the time, we did not have a lot of activity in the park. The caretaker's house has been renovated and I understand that it is beautiful; but we have to look out for the youth so I will agree with you. We need to take care of the youth before they start the activities in the ballpark in the sports complex.

Councilman Dr. Cook – So is that a second?

Councilwoman Tynes – Yes, it is a second.

Mayor Williams – Did you make a motion?

Councilman Dr. Cook – Yes.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any discussion? I have some things I need to say. There is going to be a lot of rebuttal about this house being removed from there and destroyed; but my favorite saying is the reason they make so many different colored paints is because everybody has different opinions. There are a lot of opinions that we ought to save it and there a lot of opinions that we need to get rid of it. There are a whole lot more opinions that say we need to get rid of it than we need to save it. I did an evaluation on it. The wing was built somewhere around the turn of this century. It is tied into the backside of the house right up underneath the dormers and then they re-roofed all of it. It is one continued roof system.

In order to tear that wing off which is insignificant and button that house up, it would cost anywhere from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00. It will then just sit there and be a hazard for whatever comes along. One of these days we will be building an indoor event center there and that is sitting right where that will go. It will have to be moved or destroyed then anyway. The house was built somewhere around 1840 to 1860. Nobody is really sure about that time frame. At that time, the people in this county did not have a whole lot of money. They built things pretty inexpensively with the least material as they could. Mike and I looked at it. It is in very poor shape; very poor shape. As Denise said, anything can be fixed up. If you throw enough money at it, you can certainly fix it up. It is really not cost effective to do it. The Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department went in there weekend before last and burnt down the old barn that was in the back. It was falling down. It saved us a lot of money. We had five pieces of apparatus there from the Smithfield Fire Department and one from Carrollton. We took the temperature of the fire at its hottest and it was 1750 degrees. It was walking. It burnt down real quick. The reason I am saying that is that it was a very, very good training opportunity for the fire departments. They had the fire screens up to prevent the fire from spreading into the woods and the pole barn that we are keeping. There were about forty-five firemen there working this. It was a good training exercise for them. They have shown an interest in using this building. The police department has also shown an interest in doing some training on the building. If we do vote to get rid of the building, I would like to have four to six months for them to train on it before the fire department burns it down which would be a good cost savings to us. All we have to do then is clean up the scraps just like we did the old barn that was just burned. In saying that, I am certainly for getting rid of that building. It is a hazard. It is in really bad shape. The only good thing about that building is the two chimneys. The bricks used in that were of the best material that they could find and use. I do not know why they used such good brick to build those two chimneys when the rest of it is so shoddy. There is no way you could save the chimneys anyway. Do any other Council members have any further comments? We have a motion on the floor to get rid of the Wombwell house. I would like to add to the motion to give it to the fire department and the police department for training purposes for up to six months.

Councilman Bowman – Mr. Mayor, along that same line, I would like to have a date certain in the motion.

Councilwoman Tynes - I agree with Councilman Bowman. I want to make sure that it is done before the youth go out to start using the sports complex.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I will amend my motion to add the date of June 30th, 2018.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – The motion is to burn/demolish the Wombwell house by June 30th, 2018. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – The motion passes unanimously. Thank you very much. We will now move to a Closed Session for the disposition of real property.

Town Attorney – We need a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the disposition of publicly held real property.

Vice Mayor Gregory – So moved.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. All in favor say aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Town Council went into closed session at 9:08 p.m.

Town Council went back into open session at 9:56 p.m.

Town Attorney – We need a motion that during the closed session there was only a discussion of the disposition of publicly held real property.

Vice Mayor Gregory – So moved.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. All in favor say aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Councilman Bowman – I make a motion that we go back into closed session to discuss personnel matters.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. All in favor say aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Town Council went back into closed session at 9:57 p.m.

Town Council went back into open session at 10:09 p.m.

Town Attorney – Mr. Mayor, we need a motion that during the closed session there was only a discussion of personnel matters.

Councilman Bowman – So moved.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. All in favor say aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Is there anything else to come before Council tonight?

Vice Mayor Gregory – I have one item please. I would like to propose and make a motion that the Town Council salaries be increased by 10%.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Councilman Dr. Cook – You really want to go out in style.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded to increase Council salaries by 10% effective July 1st, 2018. Is there any further discussion?

Councilman Bowman – Does that require a public hearing?

Town Attorney – I do not believe so but we have time for that. I do not know when the last time they were raised so I do not know. I really do not think it requires a public hearing.

Councilwoman Tynes – Mayor Chapman did the last one. I really do not think so because it is coming out of the budget that we have set aside which was part of a public hearing already.

Town Attorney – It is really a budget item.

Councilwoman Tynes - It is not anything we are adding to the budget.

Town Treasurer – I had a call last week asking for the salaries of the Council members.

Councilwoman Tynes – We are one of the lower rates in the area. I think Windsor gets more than us.

Mayor Williams – Okay. We have a motion on the floor to increase the Town Council's salary by 10% effective July 1st, 2018. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted nay, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There was one vote against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – The motion passes 5 -1.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I am the only dissenting vote.

Mayor Williams – Is there anything else to come before Council tonight?

Councilman Bowman – Motion to adjourn.

Mayor Williams – We are adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.



Mr. T. Carter Williams
Mayor



Mr. Peter Stephenson, AICP, ICMA-CM
Town Manager