

The Smithfield Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 5th, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present:

T. Carter Williams – Mayor
Michael Smith – Vice Mayor
Randy Pack
Valerie Butler
Wayne Hall
Renee Rountree

Members absent:

Beth Haywood

Staff present:

Lesley King – Town Clerk
Ellen Minga – Town Treasurer
William H. Riddick, III – Town Attorney
Alonzo Howell – Chief of Police
Tammie Clary – Community Development & Planning Director
Ashley Rogers – Human Resource Director
Jack Reed – Director of Public Works & Utilities
Judy Winslow – Director of Tourism
Jennifer Williams – Museum Director

Press: Stephen Faleski of the Smithfield Times

Citizens: 3

Mayor Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting and all stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager's Report:

The Town Manager was not in attendance since he was attending the ICMA Conference.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities:

October 5th - 6:30 p.m. – Town Council Meeting
October 11th - Town Administrative Offices Closed in Observance of Columbus Day
October 12th - 6:30 p.m. – Planning Commission
October 19th - 6:30 p.m. – Board of Historic and Architectural Review
October 19th - 7:30 p.m. – Board of Zoning Appeals
October 25th - 3:00 p.m. - Town Council Committee Meetings (Consecutive)

Public Safety Committee

Water and Sewer Committee

Finance Committee

Parks and Recreation Committee

Public Works Committee

Public Buildings and Welfare Committee

Public Comments:

Mayor Williams explained that the public was invited to speak to Council on any matter, except scheduled public hearings. There will be a separate sign-up sheet for public hearings. For public comments, please use the appropriate sign-up sheet and include your preferred method of contact. Comments are limited to five (5) minutes per person. Any required response from the Town will be provided in writing following the meeting.

Betty Clark of 120 N. Church Street in Smithfield stated that she felt the Town Council members were pleased with themselves for allowing Mr. Luter to demolish the Pierceville plantation. She could not believe that the home was not saved and the history salvaged. She explained that public input was against destroying the home and against more development. She felt that it appears that the Town Council only does what they want and not what the people want. She asked who the Town Council was representing other than themselves. She stated that it was her understanding that the Wombwell house will be burned by the fire department. She asked if anyone remembered the letters from Mark Warner from the Department of Historic Resources stating that the Wombwell house was important. It is a Tidewater cottage and a nice example with very few remaining. She felt the home was in great shape and could have been saved. She stated that the Town Council members had become thieves and liars; thieves because the Town Council was stealing Smithfield's history and liars because the Town Council said they want to preserve history and yet choose to destroy history. Smithfield has important historic markers. If the Wombwell house is allowed to be destroyed, she explained that she will do all that she can to have the historic markers removed from the Town because it will no longer be historic. She felt that the Town Council members should be tarred and feathered.

There were no other public comments.

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rountree reported that she had received a phone call from a Cypress Creek resident who said that new residents were told it would take 3 weeks until they received a trash can from Bay Disposal. She thought the agreement states 1 week and they have quoted 3 weeks due to staffing shortages. The HOA president called the Public Works department and it is being handled. Councilwoman Rountree wanted Town Council to know that Bay Disposal was not meeting their agreement with the Town. Additionally, there will be a Zoom public hearing broadcasted at the Smithfield Center on October 13th at 11:00 a.m. for the Riverside Hospital proposal. She asked all Town Council to attend and express support for a medical facility near the Town limits. She plans to speak and support the hospital. She also spoke with Chief Edwards of the fire department about the hospital proposal. She felt that a closer medical facility would help with response times and he agreed.

Mayor Williams stated that he has had several phone calls regarding trash not being picked up on the appropriate day. He explained that all businesses are short staffed during this time.

Councilman Pack stated that he had seen a person enter the front door of the Wombwell house as he left the sports complex or National Night Out. He did not know who it was but felt it should be better secured to keep people out. He asked Chief Howell to send an officer to check the site.

Mayor Williams stated that National Night Out was a success and thanked everyone involved.

Councilman Hall thanked everyone who helped Chris McGough with National Night Out. Councilwoman Haywood, Councilwoman Butler, and Councilwoman Rountree put in a lot of effort also. Officer McGough, in addition to normal duties, took on the planning and did a fantastic job.

Briefing by Dick Grice, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, Smithfield District:

Supervisor Grice reported that the county is updating the old Clerk's office which has been under-utilized since the new courthouse complex was built. An agreement with the Isle of Wight Historical Society will provide part of the space for their historical records. The rest of the space will be a common shared space for training, education, and presentations. Updates were given to the Board of Supervisors for costs for the new Hardy Elementary School and resulted in a need for a special meeting. He explained that another presentation was made to explain the federal CARES Act, revenue, rescue funds, and their planned use. The Board continues to be transparent with use of county monies. There will be cost overruns for Hardy Elementary School and the Board will likely need to defer a 33+ million dollar bond which included monies for the Westside replacement school. Instead, there would be a bond of approximately 13 million dollars to cover the cost overruns for Hardy. It will necessitate a .02 real estate tax increase versus the .04 increase that was originally planned. He felt that state representatives need to be petitioned to allow Isle of Wight to become a county authorized to initiate a 1% sales tax for school facilities instead of funding coming exclusively from real estate taxes. Supervisor Grice explained that there were 4 public hearings which were approved. A detailed report was given to the Board on how the School Board plans to spend the 3.7 million dollar balance received from the rescue funds from the state for schools specifically. He applauded the School Board and the administration for providing transparency with the intended use of the funds. The county refuse and recycling center on Old Stage Highway will be renovated and completed in early 2022. The Hardy Elementary project will move forward with a completion date of August 2023 and a maximum price of \$36,868,000.00. The same prototype was built in Suffolk 5 years ago for \$25,000,000.00. Funding is a national problem and will need all local governments working together to successfully manage it.

Mayor Williams asked if the county had reviewed the recycling issue.

Supervisor Grice explained that it continues to cost more to take recyclables to the dump or to burn it than regular trash. The county will look at it again at the first of the year. Alternatives are being reviewed.

Vice Mayor Smith asked about the 1% increase in sales tax and what amount it would generate.

Supervisor Grice stated that it would be around \$2.4 million in additional revenue. The money would have to be spent on school buildings. He did not feel it would be fair to homeowners to carry the burden through their real estate taxes. He stated that he went on a trip to Europe and spent 20 days there. Travelling in Europe is a difficult process getting out of and back into the country. Europeans are very welcoming to their tourists. The country is hurting. He explained that our area has not experienced lockdowns like other major cities have. Several

people there told him that their families have not had a job since 2019 with the cruise lines. They do not have the support mechanisms that the U.S. has.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Williams asked if any Council member would like to pull any item for further discussion. No items were pulled.

C1. Motion to Authorize Leadership and Retention Training by Mr. Randy Means.

C2. Motion to Authorize Sign-On Bonus for the Smithfield Police Department.

C3. Motion to Authorize Price Increase of Material for Approved ARPA Funded Project.

Vice Mayor Smith explained that the motion is to head off some of the price increases that are expected in the future as well as availability for materials in case of emergency.

C4. Invoices Over \$10,000 Requiring Council Authorization:

a. Blair Brothers, Inc.	\$ 34,136.97
a. Isle of Wight County Tourism True-Up	\$133,772.00
b. Western Tidewater Free Clinic	\$ 23,000.00

Invoice Received since Finance Committee Requiring Council Authorization:

e. SHI International Corp	\$ 19,962.30
f. ALLFIRST LLC (Flood Damage Lakeside Pump Station)	\$ 26,509.20

Councilman Pack recommended the invoices for approval.

C5. Motion to Approve the Proposed Joint Fee Schedule for the Departments of Community Development & Planning and Engineering & Public Works.

C6. Motion to Approve the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Public Wayfinding Signs.

C7. Motion to Approve the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the Replacement of Benches along Main Street.

C8. Motion to Approve Moving Forward with Compensation Study by Evergreen LLC.

C9. Resolution to Appropriate Funds and Authorize the Reprint of "A Pictorial History of Smithfield" in the amount of \$22,600.00 for the Isle of Wight County Museum Gift Shop.

C10. Motion to Approve Proposed Smithfield Center Rate Adjustment.

C11. Motion to Approve Proposal for Drainage Improvements at Cedar Street and Battery Park Road by Draper Aden Associates.

C12. Motion to Approve Proposal for Drainage Improvements at Battery Park Road by Draper Aden Associates.

C13. Motion to Authorize Advertisement of the Waterworks Dam RFQ.

C14. Motion to Accept Deed for Lot 19 of the Pinewood Heights Relocation Project.

Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Councilwoman Butler seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Mayor Williams called for the vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilwoman Rountree voted aye, Councilman Hall voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Vice

Mayor Smith voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Motion to Approve the Town Council Summary September 7th, 2021:

The Town Attorney stated that he had reviewed the minutes and made minor changes. He recommended the minutes be approved as revised.

Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the minutes and Councilman Hall seconded. Mayor Williams called for the vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Hall voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Rountree voted aye, Vice Mayor Smith voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

Motion to Approve Subdivision Agreement for Phase VI, Section 3 of Cypress Creek:

The Town Attorney explained that Phase VI of Cypress Creek was divided into phases. The agreement is the standard subdivision agreement. He explained that he has reviewed the information with the Community Development & Planning Director. They recommended approval as presented.

Mrs. Clary explained that a recorded subdivision agreement for Section 1 was done including the bond amount. The Section 3 subdivision agreement includes an updated bond amount for the infrastructure.

Mayor Williams asked how many homes were in Section 3.

Mrs. Clary stated that there were 46 homes.

Councilwoman Butler asked if it was the age restricted area.

Mrs. Clary stated that was correct.

Councilwoman Pack explained that it is a cluster development which means the side yard and front yard setbacks are smaller in exchange for greater areas of green area. The overall project is not denser but the homes are closer together to provide more green area. He explained that the Mallory/Scott Farm area is a similar cluster development. There will be parks, green areas, and natural areas throughout the development.

Councilwoman Rountree stated that she had heard that the homeowner's dues would be \$220 per month which includes grass mowing and yard maintenance. There will be no outdoor maintenance at all for the homeowner. The rest of Cypress Creek pays \$800 per year which excludes residential yard maintenance.

Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the subdivision agreement and Councilman Hall seconded. Mayor Williams called for the vote.


On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Vice Mayor Smith voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilman Hall voted aye, Councilwoman Rountree voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

Mayor Williams stated that there was no closed session but there would be a lengthy closed session at the committee meeting and asked everyone to plan accordingly.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



T. Carter Williams - Mayor



Lesley King – Town Clerk