

TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
WORK SESSION MEETING
June 23, 2025

PRESENT: Mayor Fleta Byrd, Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, Councilmembers David McGowan, Carolyn Dobbin, and Randy Jernigan.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Leighanna Worley, Town Clerk Emily Matthews, Public Works Director Patrick Moore, Planning Director Wendy Oldham, and Police Chief AZ Williams.

CONVOCATION: Mayor Byrd declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.

Departmental Reports Councilmember David McGowan asked if the musical acts for town events are charging to be there and Town Administrator Worley said some acts are charging but some are just working off tips at the event. Mayor Byrd said she likes how the town's social media looks.

Arrival of Councilmember Councilmember Tim Brown arrived at 5:09pm.

Councilmember David McGowan asked about revenue being at 87% and Finance Officer Sherry Hudson said it isn't as high as usual because we are not transferring any revenue replacement funds. Councilmember McGowan asked if there would be any issue in increasing the food donation line item in the budget and Ms. Worley said that could possibly be adjusted if needed.

Planning Director Wendy Oldham said there are no new updates in the Planning Department. She said the subdivisions are on schedule and moving forward and she is waiting on paperwork from Mill Creek and The Cottages. She said both subdivisions have been handed over to the HOA.

Mayor Byrd asked how close we are to the Dog Park being completed. Public Works Director Patrick Moore said the waterline needs to be put in. Ms. Worley said we are waiting on the sign to be put up before we open the Dog Park to the public and the sign should be ready in about a month.

Councilmember McGowan asked if there is a reason for the decrease in traffic stops and Chief said the Traffic Control Officer recently went from full-time to part-time and until that position is filled the traffic stops will be low. Chief said we currently have 4 people in the BLET program, and they are interested in coming to Wilson's Mills after completing the program. He said we are paying for 2 of the people in the program. Councilmember McGowan asked if there are any chances for the cadets to come in and bond with the department. Chief said the BLET program is Monday through Friday, so it makes it hard for the cadets to come in unless on their days off. He said he plans to post about the cadets on the town website in order to show they are connected to the department.

Presentation by NC Dept of Commerce:

Bruce Naegelen with North Carolina Department of Commerce spoke with Council about a strategic plan proposal. He said he met with Town Administrator Worley a couple months ago and discussed it with her. He proposed to start the planning process around the third quarter of this year. He said he would focus on the next 5 years as far as grants and funding opportunities. He said he would hold an assessment meeting to begin the

process, and it would consist of interviews and surveys with various groups of people. He said he would be able to present Council with an asset map, retail market analysis, positioning statement, and results of the surveys after they take place. Mayor Byrd asked who Mr. Naegelen planned to place in the work group and he said at least one elected official but he would also want a variety of different people. Councilmember Brown asked what other towns Mr. Naegelen has worked with, and he said he has worked with the Town of Princeton, Town of Four Oaks, and a variety of municipalities in Granville County. Councilmember Tim Brown asked what assets would come into play. Mr. Naegelen said things that already exist such as community resources, economic assets, and financial assets. He said this can all help determine what things could go into developments such as Midtown.

It was the consensus of Council to take time and review the materials from Mr. Naegelen before making a final decision.

Town Administrator Updates

Ms. Worley said a date for the Council retreat has not been set yet, she is still trying to find a date that will work for everyone. She asked if Council wanted to wait until September to see how they want to move forward with the economic development plan. She said one of the main things to talk about at the retreat other than the strategic plan would be to nail down the Town Hall Campus plan because the designer who bid on the design work for the Police Department has been waiting to hear back from us. She said if we need to plan to discuss this as the July Work Session we can, and Mayor Byrd said that would be a good idea so Council can discuss how they want to move forward with this.

Ms. Worley said she sent an email earlier this week to staff and Council further explaining the recent adjustments to the salary grades and asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Tim Brown asked if the minimum went up a certain percentage did the target and max salary for each grade go up the same percentage. Ms. Worley said yes and explained that other factors come into play when determining an employee's salary such as years of experience and their most recent employee evaluation. She said that all employees may not get the same percentage increase, but they are all within the new pay range for their salary when the calculations are done. Councilmember Brown said he wanted to remind Council that they can adjust the pay scale at any time, and they do not have to stick to the scale that was set years ago as part of a salary study. Ms. Worley explained that the issue is that many people believe the salary increase is based on a percentage rather than being based on experience as well as the adjusted salary grade. She said once the Human Resource Director is hired, they will be doing a salary study, and this will all be straightened out and we can move forward. Councilmember Brown asked if we have had any applicants for the positions and Ms. Worley said yes, we have had a lot of applicants and many seem well qualified. She said she plans to conduct interviews next week and make a hiring decision within a week.

**MOTION TO GO INTO
CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to go into Closed Session at 6:01pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) "consult with attorney..." Councilmember Randy Jernigan amended the motion to invite Planning Director Wendy Oldham into the Closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION TO COME OUT
OF CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to come out of Closed Session at 6:41pm.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.




FLETA A. BYRD, Mayor


EMILY MATTHEWS, CMC
Town Clerk