

TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
WORK SESSION MEETING
September 22, 2025

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

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 5:02pm.

Departmental Reports Mayor Byrd said the Community Yard Sale this past Saturday was a success. Councilmember McGowan said he was impressed with the Events report. Councilmember McGowan asked about changing the Community Day event to Founders Day instead and Ms. Worley said that decision will be made hopefully by next year's event.

Finance Officer Sherry Hudson referenced the finance report and said all finances are on target for this time of year. Mayor Byrd asked if all the Dog Park funds have been spent and Ms. Worley said there are plans for the funds but they have not been pulled from the budget yet.

Planning Director Wendy Oldham referenced the Planning Department report and asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin asked where Middle Branch Road is located and Mrs. Oldham said it is near Greater Vision Worship Center and Highway 70. Councilmember McGowan asked when we will be able to discuss the change to the Unified Development Ordinance. Ms. Worley said the next conversation about the UDO needs to be with Town Attorney Du Sablon but he was unable to be at the regular meeting last Monday so we will plan to discuss it at the October regular meeting.

Arrival of Councilmember Councilmember Tim Brown arrived at 5:06pm.

Councilmember Brown asked if we were able to find out about burning ordinances in town. Mrs. Oldham said we are still in the process of getting the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) re-typed. She said the current UDO we have is an encrypted file so we are having to retype it and then we can go in and make necessary changes. Ms. Worley mentioned that the UDO was completed by N-Focus and they are the ones that encrypted the file. She also noted that N-Focus copied and pasted our UDO together from another town.

Mayor Byrd asked for updates on Willis Crossing and Mrs. Oldham said she hasn't heard from the developer in a while. She said the developer has reached out to Public Works Director Patrick Moore recently about the street signs in Willis Crossing. She said they have recently gotten the power supply back in the area where it needs to be and she is hoping that is the reason there has been a delay in updates.

Human Resource Director Jenny Martin referenced her report in Council's packets. Councilmember McGowan asked if there is anything new in the Human Resources department and Ms. Martin said she recently signed up

for Catapult which includes her Human Resources membership as well as other services that will benefit the town. She also said we currently use FastMed for Worker's Compensation but we recently setup drug testing and physicals with them as well. She said we are also now setup with FMRT Group and they are known for their police background checks. Councilmember Brown asked if there is anything we are looking into to have psychological checks periodically done for officers. Ms. Martin said she is looking into an employee Assistance Program (EAP) which would be for all employees. The program would offer crisis management as well if needed for particular situations with officers. She is also working with Town Attorney Du Sablon and Events Coordinator Peter Vantine to start background checks for volunteers. She said background checks will be done for employees as well.

Councilmember McGowan asked about tree removal and when that was approved. Public Works Director Patrick Moore said it was approved in this year's budget. Mayor Byrd asked if the roots have been removed yet and Mr. Moore said no but they should be removed in the next few weeks.

Councilmember McGowan asked Chief Williams if the Police Department will be going back to Dodge Chargers as their vehicles of choice and Chief said no. Mayor Byrd asked about the 3 vehicles that are listed as being out of commission and Chief Williams said they are out due to mechanical issues. He said equipment and communications have been removed from 2 of the 3 vehicles. Once it is removed from the third vehicle and they are all de-striped, we can surplus them. Ms. Worley mentioned that due to all of this we will need to make an unplanned vehicle purchase midyear.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR –

**Discussion of
Equipment Donation to
Rugby Club:**

Town Administrator Worley explained that our old John Deere mower no longer serves our needs, and we wouldn't profit very much by selling it so we would like to donate it to the Rugby Club for use on their fields at the park. Public Works Director Patrick Moore confirmed that we no longer use the mower. It was the consensus of Council to donate the John Deere mower to the Clayton Rugby Club.

Ms. Worley said the Rugby Club recently asked if they can include the Town's logo on the sleeve of their new uniforms. She showed Council an example of the rugby uniforms with the Town logo on the sleeve. Councilmember Brown asked if Ms. Worley can ask about members of Council purchasing Rugby Club jersey to show their support.

**Merger and Feasibility
Grant Information:**

Town Administrator Worley said the Mayors in Johnston County have been meeting about a possible water and sewer authority within the county. She said the Town of Selma Mayor and Manager found out about a grant called North Carolina Merger and Regionalization Feasibility (MRF) which offers up to \$50,000 in funding per participating community. She said she called last week about all the details such as who would handle the grant and administer it. Our participation would allow us to remain at the table during discussion regarding water and sewer authority. She said the Town of Princeton would more than likely handle the administration of the grant because their systems are the most distressed at this time. Bolten and Mink would assist with the application and the total application cost would be \$5,000 and it would be split between participating communities. There would be additional fees if an engineering firm is chosen to administer the grant. The timeline as of right

now allows for the grant to be awarded in spring of 2026. What is needed from us is an acknowledgement letter saying we want to be included in this application process. She said if there is a fee for administering the grant, it will be discussed at a meeting to decide whether or not we want to hire someone to handle it. Councilmember McGowan asked what the downside of our participation is. Ms. Worley said the downside would be us putting money into the process and then not benefiting from it but she thinks it would benefit us because we would still be included in any conversation moving forward. Mayor Byrd agreed and said we want to make sure we are still involved in these conversations. Ms. Worley said this would be different from what the County did a couple years ago and would pick up where the Mayors Association left off with their study with Central Pines concerning a water and sewer authority. She further explained the operations of an authority. She said there would be one application for the grant and Town of Princeton would be the one awarded the grant but there would be stipulations saying all the applicants are to be included in receiving the grant funds. It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the application.

**Review of Campus
Master Plan 9/5
Discussions:**

Ms. Worley said regarding the sign design for the front of Town Hall, she is meeting tomorrow with the company that is doing the new construction and she plans to talk to them about designing the town hall sign for the front.

She said Moseley Architects, who is doing the design for the Police Department, have done comprehensive plans. She asked if Council wants to amend their contract with them and let them do a comprehensive plan for us while they are working on the Police Department design. Mayor Byrd asked how much it would cost and Ms. Worley said she is unsure but hopefully less than \$10,000.

After further discussion it was the consensus of Council for Ms. Worley to talk to Moseley architects about amending our contract with them and have the final cost brought back to Council for a vote to approve or deny.

**Initial Strategic Plan
Items for October
Workshop:**

Ms. Worley said after the Strategic Planning Workshop on October 8th and 9th she would like for Council to meet with the Department Heads to discuss the draft plan they will receive at the end of the workshop. She said the department heads are looking at the current Strategic Plan and will have suggestions to give to Council before their workshop.

After discussing several dates it was the consensus of Council that they meet with the Department Heads to discuss the Strategic plan on October 23rd at 3pm at Wilson's Mills Advent Christian Church.

**MOTION TO GO INTO
CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to go into Closed Session at 5:52pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) "economic development..." and pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) "personnel..." and invite Planning Director Oldham into the 1st portion of the Closed Session. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to come out of Closed Session at 6:45pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.



Fleta A. Byrd
FLETA A. BYRD, Mayor

Emily Matthews
EMILY MATTHEWS, CMC
Town Clerk