

The Smithfield Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor M. Andy Moore presided.

Councilmen Present:

John Dunn, Mayor Pro-Tem
Marlon Lee, District 1
David Stevens, District 2
Travis Scott, District 3
Dr. David Barbour, District 4
Stephen Rabil, At-Large
Roger Wood, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Administrative Staff Present

Michael Scott, Town Manager
Ted Credle, Public Utilities Director
Jeremy Daughtry, Assistant Fire Chief
Lawrence Davis, Public Works Director
Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director
Shannan Parrish, Town Clerk
R. Keith Powell, Chief of Police
Greg Siler, Finance Director
Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Also Present

Bob Spence, Town Attorney

Administrative Staff Absent

Tim Kerigan, Human Resources/PIO

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilman Barbour followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilman Rabil made a motion, seconded by Councilman Scott, to add a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) to discuss a personnel matter. Unanimously approved.

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Scott, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Recognition of Retiring Fire Chief John Blanton's 30+ years of service to the Town of Smithfield

Mayor Moore presented retired Fire Chief John Blanton a proclamation and a watch honoring his service to the Town of Smithfield. Mayor Moore expressed his appreciation to Chief Blanton for his dedication to the citizens of Smithfield.

**PROCLAMATION
In Honor of Fire Chief John M. Blanton Jr.'s
30+ Years of Dedicated Service
to the Town of Smithfield**

WHEREAS, John M. Blanton, Jr. has been a dedicated employee of the Town of Smithfield for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, John M. Blanton, Jr. retired on June 1, 2021 with 30 years and 9 months of full-time service with the Smithfield Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, during his career, John M. Blanton, Jr. has risen through the ranks as a Fire Engineer, Lieutenant and Captain; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2016, John M. Blanton, Jr., was promoted to serve as the Fire Chief. A position he held until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, John M. Blanton, Jr.'s years of service have been marked with professionalism, dedication and service to the citizens of Smithfield; and

WHEREAS, John M. Blanton, Jr. has earned and deserves this public recognition for his many years of service and commitment to the Town of Smithfield.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. Andy Moore Mayor of the Town of Smithfield along with the members of the Town Council, express our sincere appreciation to John M. Blanton, Jr. for his distinguished service to the Town of Smithfield, and urge our citizens to join with us as we extend our sincere appreciation for his work, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

2. Recognition of Community Garden Volunteers

Mayor Moore recognized the following missionaries from the Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Church for volunteering at the Community Garden: Helena Anderson, Elder Kinlicheenie, Elder Tanner, Hermana Jensen and Hermana Ventura.

3. 2020 Police Department Officer of the Year

Captain James Grady informed the Council that Officer Michael Jernigan had been selected as the Smithfield Police Department's 2020 Officer of the Year. Members of the department nominate officers for this award. Once nominated, the Team Commanders vote based on the nominations on who will receive this award and it is presented to the Chief for final approval. Officer Jernigan has been with the Smithfield Police Department for 4 years. Prior to working for Smithfield, he worked as a Military Police officer for 10 years. He has worked in the Patrol Division, and now serves as a K-9 Handler. Officer Jernigan is always willing to go above and beyond in the performance of his duties. He is an asset to the Department and the Town.

4. Administering the Oath of Office to newly promoted Sergeant Sean Cook

Mayor Moore administered the Oath of Office to newly promoted Police Sergeant Sean Cook and congratulated him on his promotion.

5. Administering the Oath of Office to new Police Officer Jennifer LeCrone

Mayor Moore administered the Oath of Office to new Police Officer Jennifer LeCrone and welcomed her to the Town of Smithfield.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

- Alisa Bizzell of 510 South Vermont Street expressed her concerns to the Council about excessive speeding on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. She explained there were a lot of elderly people (including her mother) who reside in the area and she was fearful for their safety. She asked the Council to consider some type of speed reduction measures for the street.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Barbour to approve the following items as listed on the Consent Agenda:

- The following minutes were approved:
 - May 3, 2021 – Budget Session
 - May 6, 2021 – Budget Session
 - May 20, 2021 – Budget Session
 - May 25, 2021 – Budget Session
 - June 1, 2021 – Regular Meeting
 - June 24, 2021 – Recessed Meeting
- Special Event: River Rat Regatta – The Parks and Recreation Department gained approval to conduct the annual cardboard boat race at the Neuse River Boat Ramp on August 14, 2021 from 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm. The closure of Front Street and the use of amplified sound was also approved with this request. The event was also approved as an annual event.
- Special Event: Youth Jubilee Services – True Vine Apostolic Ministries gained approval to conduct a youth service on July 17, 2021 at 720 Second Avenue from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. The closure of Second Avenue and the use of amplified sound was approved with this request.
- Promotion: Approval was granted to promote a Public Works employee to the position of Sanitation Crew Leader
- Promotion: Approval was granted to promote the IT Specialist to the position of Technology (IT) Director
- Approval was granted adopt No. 681 (09-2021) authorizing the Police Department to apply for the second year of funding from the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program
{Attached hereto and made a part of these official minutes is Resolution 681 (09-2021) which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk}
- Approval was granted to adopt Resolution No. 682 (10-2021) accepting the American Rescue Plan Funds

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
RESOLUTION No. 682 (10-2021)
ACCEPTING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 FUNDS

WHEREAS, The American Rescue Plan Act (a/k/a American Rescue Plan) was signed into law on March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan is to assist with the speeding up the recovery from the economic and health effects from the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing recession; and

WHEREAS, part of the American Rescue Plan provides funding aid for local governments; and

WHEREAS, these funds for municipalities may be used to respond to public health emergencies with respect to COVID-19, provide premium pay to essential workers and investment in water

and sewer infrastructure; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL:

- That Town of Smithfield does hereby authorize the acceptance of funds through the American Rescue Plan Act and acknowledges funds will be issued via the State of North Carolina.
- That the Smithfield Town Council delegates to its Town Manager, the responsibility to execute any necessary agreements required on behalf of the Council.
- That The Town of Smithfield will substantially comply with all laws, rules, and regulations, a pertaining thereto.

8. New Hire Report

<u>Position</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
Firefighter I (2)	Fire	10-20-5300-5100-0200	\$16.76/hr. (\$36,603.84/yr.)
Police Officer II	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200	\$19.52/hr. (\$43,646.72/yr.)
P/T Camp Instructor	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0230	\$11.00/hr.
P/T Camp Instructor	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0230	\$11.00/hr.
P/T Pool Instructor	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0230	\$10.00/hr.
P/T General Staff (8)	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0210	\$9.00/hr.
P/T General Staff	PW - Sanitation	10-40-5800-5100-0200	\$9.00/hr.
P/T Pool Staff/Lifeguard (5)	P&R – Aquatics	10-60-6220-5100-0220	\$8.00/hr.
Public Works Superintendent	PW – Sanitation	10-40-5800-5100-0200	\$22.49/hr. (\$46,779.20/yr.)
Sanitation Equipment Operator	PW – Sanitation	10-40-5800-5100-0200	\$15.18/hr. (\$31,574.40/yr.)

Current Vacancies

<u>Position</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>
Assistant Finance Director	Finance	10-10-4200-5100-0200
Crew Leader – Sanitation	PW – Sanitation	10-40-5800-5100-0200
Customer Service Representative	Electric	31-72-7230-5100-0200
Electric Line Technician	Electric	31-72-7230-5100-0200
Fire Chief	Fire	10-20-5300-5100-0200
Fire Inspector (Part-time – 2 positions)	Fire	10-20-5300-5100-210
IT Support Specialist	General Government (3 funds)	10-10-4100-5100-0200
Water Plant Operator (2 positions)	PU – Water Plant	30-71-7200-5100-0200
Police Officer I (4 positions)	Police	10-20-5100-5100-0200
P/T Firefighter I (8 positions)	Fire	10-20-5300-5100-0200
Pump Station Mechanic	PU – Water/Sewer	30-71-7200-5100-0200
Sanitation Equipment Operator (3 positions)	Public Works	10-40-5800-5100-0200
Utility Line Mechanic	PU – Water/Sewer	30-71-7220-5100-0200

Business Items:

1. Consideration and request for approval to submit an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application

Public Utilities Director Ted Credle addressed the Council on a request to submit an Economic Development Administration grant application. Mr. Credle explained that the American Recovery Act passed by Congress appropriated \$3.3 billion to the Economic Development Administration. The EDA will be issuing a notice of funding opportunity and the Town can apply for the grant. This grant is used for utility infrastructure and applicants must have a 20% match of funding. The proposed project the Town would like to pursue is sanitary sewer improvements in West Smithfield. The project includes: \$400,000 for survey, model and design; \$200,000 wet well upsizing at pump station 3; \$600,000 for improvements along US-70 including boring under the highway; \$2.6 million for sewer line improvements along the outfall. The total cost of the project would be \$3.8 million with \$3,040,000 coming from grant funds and \$760,000 from Town match funds.

Councilman Scott questioned if the grant funds could be used for a sanitary sewer project on the north side of town since there are already capacity issues in that area. Mr. Credle explained that the Town does not own the line Councilman Scott was referring to. The Town Manager explained that this grant was tied to jobs and the Town can leverage this project with the jobs that Amazon will be creating.

Skip Green explained the grant was on a first come first serve basis and one of the things the EDA will look at is if the project can be linked to additional jobs and if the Town was committed to the matching funds.

Councilman Scott questioned if the Town could use Cares Act funding for the grant match. Mr. Green responded that Cares Act funding could not be used for the grant match.

Councilman Scott further questioned where staff thought the \$760,000 match could come from. The Town Manager explained that funds were budgeted for the Durwood Stephenson Water line project and since the Town received funding from the County for that project, those funds could be used for the grant match.

Councilman Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Rabil, to allow staff to submit and Economic Development Administration grant application. Unanimously approved.

2. Update on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Revitalization Grant

Grant Administrator Skip Green informed the Council that there have been delays in the project due to Covid. Currently, staff is having difficulties getting three qualified bids from licensed contractors to rehabilitate 5 homes. Originally, there were 22 applicants and of those, 12 have completed the application process and title searches have been completed. Once three bids have been received, construction can begin on the first five houses. Plans for the remaining seven houses will be developed once construction begins on the first group.

Councilman Lee questioned if Town staff was assisting with advertising the project. The Town Manager responded Town staff and Mr. Green were working together to advertise the project.

3. ANX-12-01: Annexation Request ASP Smithfield LLC/SST Properties (Samet Properties) and FNLI Agouti JNX LLC (Amazon) submitted a petition to voluntarily annex 193.027 acres into the Town of Smithfield. Also included, adoption of Resolution No. 683 (11-2021)

Town Clerk Shannan Parrish addressed the Council on a request to adopt Resolution No. 683 (11-2021) allowing her to investigate the sufficiency of the annexation petition. She explained that at the June meeting, the Council approved the Clerk to certify the annexation petition. During her investigation, it was determined that both properties owners, ASP Smithfield LLC/SST Properties (Samet Properties) and FNLI Agouti JNX LLC (Amazon) had not signed the original application. Thus, rendering the petition insufficient. The application had been amended and the Clerk is comfortable investigating the sufficiency of the annexation petition.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to adopt Resolution No. 683 (11-2021) directing the Town Clerk to investigate the petition submitted by ASP Smithfield LLC/SST Properties (Samet Properties) and FNLI Agouti JNX LLC (Amazon). Unanimously approved.

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
RESOLUTION NO. 683 (11-2021)
DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION
RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160A-31

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition was received on June 1, 2021 by the Smithfield Town Council; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-31 provides that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the Town Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD THAT:

The Town Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the attached petition and to certify as soon as possible to the Town Council the result of her investigation

Adopted this the 6th day of July 2021

4. Consideration and request for approval to adopt Resolution No. 684 (12-2021) accepting the NCDEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund Asset Inventory and Assessment grant

Public Utilities Director Ted Credle addressed the Council on a request to adopt Resolution No. 684 (12-2021) accepting the NCDEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund Asset Inventory and Assessment grant. Mr. Credle explained this grant would allow the Town to continue digitized mapping of the system and the larger I & I project, which also seeks to identify all Town infrastructure and use the data library to make repairs and improvements. To accept the funding the state requires the Town Council to accept the award by resolution and commit to providing a 15% match to the grant funds. The 15% match and grant fee will come from already budgeted capital improvement funds for digitized mapping and I & I.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens, to adopt (Resolution No. 684 (12-2021) to accept the grant and move the appropriate funds needed for the grant fee and match (not to exceed \$172,500) and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Unanimously approved.

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
RESOLUTION NO. 684 (12-2021)
BY THE TOWN COUNCIL TO ACCEPT THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ASSET INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 159G has created Asset Inventory and Assessment grants to assist eligible units of government with meeting their water infrastructure needs, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered a State Reserve Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 to perform asset inventory and assessment work, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Smithfield intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed scope of work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD:

That Town of Smithfield does hereby accept the State Reserve Grant offer of \$150,000.00.

That the Town Council does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions or Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to.

That Michael L. Scott, Town Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Adopted this the 6th day of July, 2021 at the Town Hall Council Chambers in Smithfield, North Carolina.

5. Bid Award in the amount of \$1,573,340.00 to Sandy's Hauling and Backhoe for the construction of the Phase 2 Durwood Stephenson Water Line

Public Utilities Director Ted Credle addressed the Council on a request to award a bid to Sandy's Hauling and Backhoe for the construction of the Phase 2 Durwood Stephenson Water Line. He explained the project was bid in March and then rebid in May because during first bid process only two bids were received. Seeing the benefit of growth in West Smithfield, the Johnston County Board of Commissioners voted to approve total construction funding for this project. Mr. Credle stated staff was requesting that the Council approve the low bidder, Sandy's Hauling and Backhoe Service, and authorize the Town Manager to execute all related construction projects to build phase two of the project not to exceed \$1,750,000.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Rabil, to award the bid to Sandy's Hauling and Backhoe and authorize the Manager to execute any contracts to perform the intended work not to exceed the project budget limit of \$1,750,000. Unanimously approved.

6. Discussion concerning the 2021 Election

Town Manager Michael Scott explained that recent Senate Bill 722 will move the Town of Smithfield's district elections to March 8, 2022. This was due to the US Census being late because of COVID. Staff is not anticipating receiving that census data in time to review and determine if any redistricting was necessary. The Town Manager explained the issue at hand was the mayor's election. The mayor's election could be held normally in November, or it could be held in March with the Council's district seats. He further explained that since other primaries would be held in March, the cost to the Town would be minimal.

Councilman Stevens made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to hold the Mayor's election on March 8, 2022 with the Smithfield Council District elections. Unanimously approved

Councilmembers Comments:

- Councilman Lee expressed his appreciation to everyone who attended and participated in the Juneteenth Celebration.
Councilman Lee made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens, to make the Juneteenth Celebration and annual event to be held the Saturday closest to June 19th. Unanimously approved.
- Councilman Scott expressed his appreciation to all that participated in the July 4th Celebration. He also asked for the Town Manager to provide Council with an update on the Fire Chief hiring process.
- Councilman Barbour informed the public that the FAA just passed a new recreational flier response requirement for all drone operators.

- Councilman Stevens expressed his appreciation to the Town Manager and the Public Utilities Director. He explained that they went before the Johnston County Board of Commissioners to request funding for Phase 2 of the Durwood Stephenson water line and because of their efforts, the Town received that funding.
- Mayor Moore encouraged the Council to personally contact the County Commissioners to express the Town’s gratitude for funding the water line project. He encouraged everyone to attend the Third StrEATery event on Friday night.

Town Manager’s Report:

Town Manager Michael Scott gave a brief update to the Council on the following items:

- The 4th of July Fireworks were well received and well attended. Staff has only heard positive comments.
- District 5 Baseball Tournament begins tonight and is scheduled to run through Friday, depending on the weather. The winners head to the State Tournament.
- The Month of July is scheduled as “Parks and Recreation Month” Each year since 1985, Americans have celebrated National Park and Recreation Month during the month of July to recognize the importance of parks and recreation in establishing and maintaining the quality of life for, and contributing to the physical, economic and environmental well-being of communities. Through efforts by the National Recreation and Park Association, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an official resolution for Park and Recreation Month in 2009.
- The Town Manager informed the Council that he had a zoom meeting with Triangle J Council of Governments and will have a follow-up phone conversation. Staff is reviewing the final candidates and once two are selected, staff will schedule a community meeting with the final candidates.
- The Town Manager informed the Council that staff was having difficulty attracting the right candidate for the Assistant Finance Director’s position. Staff is investigating possible ways to make the position more attractive to potential candidates which may include increasing the starting salary.

Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)

Councilman Stevens made a motion, seconded by Councilman Barbour, to enter into Closed Session pursuant to the aforementioned statute. Unanimously approved at approximately 9:34 pm

Reconvene in Open Session

Councilman Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to reconvene in Open Session. Unanimously approved at approximately 8:56 pm.

No action was taken by the Council following the Closed Session

Adjourn

Being no further business, Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:57 pm.

ATTEST:

Shannan L. Parrish
Shannan L. Parrish, Town Clerk



M. Andy Moore
M. Andy Moore, Mayor