

The Smithfield Town Council held a work session on Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at 6:30 pm. at the Town's Water treatment Plant located at 515 North 2nd Street in the Conference Room. Mayor John H. Lampe, II presided.

Councilmen Present:

M. Andy Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem
Marlon Lee, District 1
Travis Scott, District 3
Charles A. Williams, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

J. Perry Harris, District 2
Roger A. Wood, District 4
Emery D. Ashley, At-Large

Administrative Staff Present

Paul Sabiston, Town Manager
Ken Griffin, Public Utilities Director
Shannan Williams, Town Clerk

The Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 pm.

Topics of Discussion

1. Economic Development Strategic Plan

Rocky Lane of Sanford Holshouser presented to the Council the Draft of the Strategic Economic Development Plan. General discussion included the following:

- Promoting home ownership by possibly offering incentives
- Joint efforts with Selma
- Marketing and promoting the Town

2. IT Assessment Update – This item was not discussed

3. Bingham House – available property

Town Manager Paul Sabiston informed the Council that he had been approached about the Town's interest in purchasing the Bingham House.

It was the general consensus of the Council that there was no interest in purchasing the Bingham house.

4. Dog Park

Town Manager Paul Sabiston informed the Council that there has been some interest in a dog park being located in Town. He stated that Sarah Edwards Executive Director with the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation (DSDC) contacted him regarding this project. Ms. Edwards stated that there may be interested parties that are willing to fund the project if the Town has available property.

Mayor Pro-Tem Moore stated that he was interesting in hearing the information.

Councilman Scott asked that available properties be identified for this project.

5. Sewer line/ flood plain and infiltration issue

Town Manager Paul Sabiston gave the Council an update on the water/ sewer's inflow and infiltration (I and I) issues. He stated that correction of the I and I is probably the largest utility need. Mr. Sabiston explained that staff has made numerous low cost repairs to the collection system in recent months. Staff has also identified two ditch crossings in West Smithfield that are contributing very high I and I. Staff is soliciting quotes from qualified contractors to complete both repairs/replacements using the \$50,000 budgeted this fiscal year. Mr. Sabiston suggested that in the future \$100,000 per year be budgeted to reduce other I and I problems.

Public Utilities Director Ken Griffin informed the Council that \$5 million in I and I projects have been identified. He stated that repairing these issues will immediately begin to pay for themselves. He explained that a sewer rate study could be conducted, but it was his opinion that correcting the problems would better utilize the available funds.

Mayor Lampe suggested that sewer rates be increased to pay for repairs to the infrastructure and that each utility should pay for itself.

Councilman Scott recommended that citizens be educated and informed in the event of a rate increase.

Mr. Sabiston stated that the next step would be to offer recommendations to the Council on how to proceed.

John H. Lampe, II , Mayor

ATTEST:

Shannan L. Williams, Town Clerk