

The Smithfield Town Council met in special session on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor M. Andy Moore presided.

Councilmen Present:

Travis Scott, Mayor Pro-Tem
David Stevens, District 2
Dr. David Barbour, District 4
Emery Ashley, At-Large
John A. Dunn, At-Large
Stephen Rabil, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Marlon Lee, District 1
Emery Ashley, At-Large

Administrative Staff Present

Michael Scott, Town Manager

Present:

Administrative Staff Absent

Shannan Parrish, Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilman Rabil made a motion, seconded by Councilman Barbour, to approve the agenda as submitted. Unanimously approved

BUSINESS ITEM:

1. Consideration and request for approval to adopt Resolution #651 (18-2019) supporting the submittal of an application to the North Carolina Attorney General's Office for an Environmental Enhancement Grant for improvements along the Spring Branch.

Town Manager Michael Scott informed the Council staff was requesting approval to submit an Environmental Enhancement Grant for stormwater improvements along Spring Branch between South Fifth and South Sixth Streets. The proposed project will also include the first phase in building a greenway connecting the area with the Neuse River walk and eventually connecting to the Mountains to Sea Trail. Johnston County Visitor's Bureau has offered its support for the trail signage utilizing 2% tourism funds.

The Town Manager explained in order to apply for the grant, the Council must adopt a resolution of support. The grant is a \$150,000 grant with no matching fund requirement; however, if awarded, the Town would have to pay for the project and then seek reimbursement.

Mayor Pro-Tem Scott questioned if the primary purpose was to deal with the stormwater issues in the area and not the greenway extension. The Town Manager responded the hope is to mitigate the flooding in the area. The grant requires a recreation component and that would be the greenway around the area.

Councilman Dunn stated the Town did not have to provide any matching funds for the grant. The Town Manager stated the Town would have to pay for the project and then would be reimbursed with the grant funding. The Town would have to maintain any improvements.

Councilman Rabil questioned the Town's funding source. The Town Manager responded it would be dependent on when the grant was awarded. If it was awarded in this fiscal year, then contingency funds from the general fund could be used.

Mayor Pro-Tem Scott questioned if the letter of intent had been submitted. The Town Manager responded it had been submitted.

Councilman Barbour questioned if the Town would complete this project without grant funding. The Town

Manager responded some of the project needed to be completed, but staff would not move forward with it if the grant funding was not awarded. Councilman Barbour questioned the ongoing maintenance cost of the proposed project. The Town Manager responded that although he did not have an estimated maintenance cost, the Town would have to maintain it.

Councilman Rabil questioned the first phase of building a greenway connecting this area with the Smithfield Neuse River walk and eventually the Mountains to Sea Trail. The Town Manager responded it was always the plan to connect Johnston Community College to Highway 301. The Town Manager stated this was simply a grant proposal and if it is awarded, it would not have to be accepted. Staff was seeking the opportunity to submit an application for the grant.

Pam Lampe stated the new Comprehensive Growth Management Plan has not been adopted. She further stated there was opposition to extending the greenway to that part of Town. She questioned if the \$150,000 would be used mostly for stormwater and not the extension of the trail. Mayor Moore stated the trail would be a minimal expense compared to the stormwater improvements. Mayor Moore further stated the trail was included in the Town's long-range plan adopted nearly twenty years ago.

Councilman Barbour made a motion seconded Councilman Stevens to approve the resolution. Unanimously approved.

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
RESOLUTION #651 (18-2019)
SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
NORTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FOR
AN ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town of Smithfield has incurred repeated flooding in the areas near the Spring Branch during hurricane Matthew, hurricane Florence and other rain events; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Smithfield has become the owner of properties as the result of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation property buyouts along the Spring Branch as a result of past flooding; and

WHEREAS, the Johnston County Hurricane Matthew Resilient Redevelopment Plan calls for the implementation of a Spring Branch Stormwater Improvement Project to increase capacity and to properly handle stormwater; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is concerned with stormwater issues and has recently supported the preparation of the Stormwater Management Action Plan to help the Town address stormwater issues; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Spring Branch project will address known stormwater issues and will benefit the Town and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Attorney's General's Office has established an Environmental Enhancement Grant to preserve and enhance North Carolina's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to pursue a formal application for the North Carolina Attorney's General's Environmental Enhancement Grant for the Spring Branch project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of Smithfield's Town Council that the Town of Smithfield is authorized to submit a formal application to the North Carolina Attorney's General's Environmental Enhancement Grant for the Spring Branch project.

Adopted this the 19th day of September, 2019 in Smithfield, North Carolina.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Barbour, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:33 pm.

ATTEST:

M. Andy Moore, Mayor

Shannan L. Parrish, Town Clerk