

The Smithfield Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor M. Andy Moore presided.

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

Councilmen Absent

Administrative Staff Present
Michael Scott, Town Manager
Elaine Andrews, Town Clerk
Ted Credle, Public Utilities Director
Jeremey Daughtry, Fire Chief
Lawrence Davis, Public Works Director
Andrew Harris, Finance Director
Pete Hedrick, Chief of Police
Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director
Shannan Parrish, HR Director
Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Also Present
Robert Spence, Jr., Town Attorney

Administrative Staff Absent

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Andy Moore called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

INVOCATION

Mayor Andy Moore asked for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Town employee Ethan Bryant, a twelve-year veteran employee of the Town of Smithfield’s Public Works Department.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman John Dunn, to approve the agenda as amended as follows. Unanimously approved with the following amendments:

Remove from Business Items:
•*Business item 1, the consideration of an extension of vested rights to the developer of Whitley Townes project. This item will come before the Council on April 1st.*

Add to Business Items:
•*The consideration to adopt Resolution # 768 (07-2025) directing the Town Clerk to Investigate the sufficiency of Annexation Petition ANX-25-02, the West Smithfield Elementary School satellite sight*
•*The consideration and request for approval for the purchase of a Vactor truck by the Public Utilities Department*

•Add closed Session: *Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(5)*

Presentations:

1. Administering Oath of Office to newly promoted Police Sergeant Damon Kenny

Mayor Andy Moore Administered the Oath of Office to Damon Kenny.

2. Downtown Smithfield Transportation Study

Planning Director Stephen Wensman introduced Candace Andre, a Senior Planner with VHB Consultants, to address the Board regarding the study. Ms. Andre outlined the findings of the study. The study area was from the Neuse River to Bright Leaf Boulevard.

- Andre stated that the study contents used to create the plan were:
- Existing Conditions
 - Public Engagement
 - Traffic Analysis
 - Development of Alternatives
 - Implementation Plan

- There were also several appendices utilized for design and traffic operations analysis, which were:
- Review of Past Planning Efforts
 - Zoning Districts
 - Turning Movement Counts

- Intersection Capacity Analysis
- TEAAS Crash Analysis Report
- Conceptual Design Roll Plots

Andre detailed that the study focused on the transportation component of the Town's desire to create a healthy and vibrant downtown. Her team examined ways to effectively and safely meet that need. The key study principles focused on pedestrian safety, user experience, roadway safety, potential costs, traffic congestion and parking availability. Andre stated various public engagement opportunities were presented to garner public input; there were surveys taken at festivals as well as focus groups. Some feedback concerns were speeding, safety, aging sidewalk infrastructure, parking, large truck traffic and other concerns regarding the traffic from US 70-Business through the downtown area.

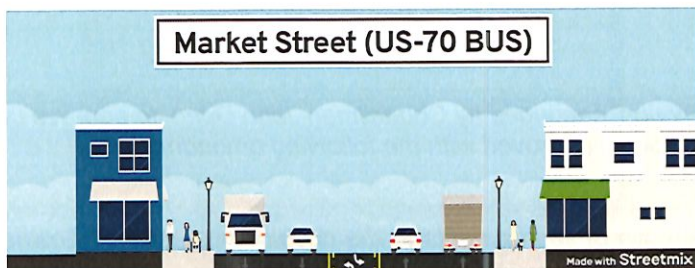
Senior Planner, Candace Andre went through existing 2024 turning, movement counts and levels of service. She also reviewed the crash analysis, noting that over 50% of incidents were sideswipes to parked vehicles. Andre reviewed how existing volumes have grown from 2024 to 2050 using statewide models and area forecasts for growth rates, noting that traffic delays are starting to creep up within the downtown area. Andre presented slides containing examples of suggested parking designs. She stated some areas in downtown had parking less than 50% occupied, however she noted the most desired parking areas were fully occupied most of the time. Overall, she stated there was currently plenty of parking in the downtown area.

Feedback from participants, as well as input from the Smithfield Downtown Development Corporation, allowed the group to come up with three alternative concept plans for downtown traffic operation builds. They were:

Design Section Alternatives:

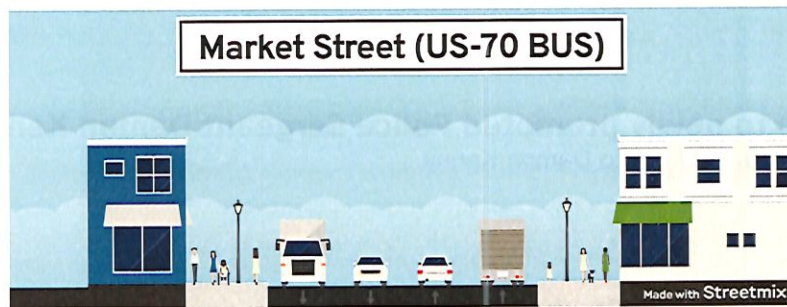
- **Alternative 1: 5-Lane Cross Section**

- Remove on-street parking along Market St.
- Add left turn lanes or raised median
- Remove existing curb extensions
- Requires removing existing curb extensions to accommodate thru-traffic
- Potential drainage modifications to ensure all drop inlets are designed to be traffic bearing



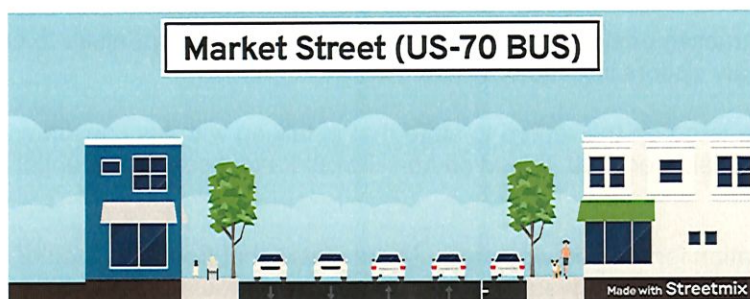
- **Alternative 2: Sidewalk Extensions**

- Widen existing sidewalks into roadway
- Retain 4-lane cross section
- Remove on-street parking
- Option to include narrow raised median in select locations
- Requires new drainage infrastructure along entire corridor.
- Low-budget treatments possible in short-term (striped buffers, parking curb stops) in lieu of permanent rebuild.



- **Alternative 3: Retain One-Side Parking**

- Widen one existing parking lane
- Retain 4-lane cross section
- Remove on-street parking on one side
- Potential impacts to existing curb extensions
- Potential drainage modifications to ensure all drop inlets are designed to be traffic bearing



Andre stated that upon review and suggestions, two build alternatives carried forward. The first was for Alternative 2--the Sidewalk Extension. The second was for Alternative 3--One-side Street Parking, keeping South-side parking, rather than North side parking of US 70 Business. She reviewed the benefits and deficiencies for each proposal, and gave an estimated construction cost for each alternative. She noted that additional costs, such as for repair to infrastructure underneath the sidewalks, would need to be examined with final design.

The Alternative 1 plan to retain Southside Parking had an estimated construction cost of \$3.4 million dollars. Alternative Plan 2, the sidewalk extensions plan had an estimated construction cost of \$5 million dollars.

Andre also suggested treatments that may help traffic, rather than choosing from the two large scale design alternatives, a One-Way Pair for 2nd and 3rd Street which would maximize on-street parking, angle parking where possible, install a raised median on US-70 Business, and provide an opportunity for downtown gateway for an estimated cost of \$400k dollars.

The second treatment suggestion was for US-70 Business and US-301 Intersection Improvements which would improve traffic congestion by installing left or right turn lanes where feasible at an estimated construction cost of \$2 million dollars. Andre stated these treatments can also be added in addition to the suggested design alternatives for added improvement.

Andre further suggested additional safety design elements:

- High visibility crosswalks
 - Apply to all signalized intersections (at 2nd now)
 - Improves crosswalk visibility, yield compliance
- Leading Pedestrian Interval
 - Apply to signalized intersections
- Curb Extensions
 - Shorten crossing distance and reduces pedestrian exposure
 - Create buffer between travel lane and walking space
 - May create space adjacent to businesses for other uses
- Use of wide edge lines to help narrow lane widths and slow vehicle speeds

Andre reiterated approximate construction costs for each roadway facility and the ability of funding opportunities. She also walked through possible implementation plans within her presentation for each alternative by presenting next steps.

The record of presentation information in its entirety as presented by Candace Andre was incorporated by Stephen Wensman and provided to the Town Council in written form in their March 4, 2025 agenda packets.

Andre asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board.

Councilman Travis Scott stated from his overview of the materials; it looked like US-301 Highway was the problem.

Andre stated while Highway 301 presents challenges, the study primarily focused on improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-vehicular users of Smithfield's Main Street downtown. The proposed solutions address multiple issues simultaneously. Options like removing some parking and adding sidewalk extensions would create a more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly downtown environment.

Councilman Travis Scott asked for an explanation regarding the proposed sidewalk extensions. Andre stated they would extend the sidewalks along the entire corridor. Instead of the current seven-to-nine-foot sidewalks, they would be widened to about ten feet by utilizing existing parking spaces. This expansion would create opportunities for landscaping and potential business uses along the sidewalk, making it a more inviting space.

Andre stated that the goal was to work within room given to allow space for pedestrians and nonvehicular travelers.

Councilman Travis Scott addressed the issue of parking, asking if it would be reasonable to add a dedicated turning lane to avoid some delays. Consultant Andrew Top, who led the traffic operation analysis for the team, explained that a five-lane configuration with a center two-way left turn lane was considered as an option. However, this design would push traffic closer to sidewalks and eliminate the buffer space for pedestrians. Analysis showed that most traffic in the corridor is through traffic rather than turning movements, with turning movements primarily concentrated at the US Highway 301 intersection.

Councilman Travis Scott asked for further explanation of the gateway. The Consultant noted that this space could be utilized for art installations or plantings to create a welcoming entrance to downtown. While addressing congestion and multi-modal transportation concerns, they also incorporated feedback from business owners who emphasized

the importance of making downtown an attractive destination. The alternatives include opportunities to create points of interest and activity nodes that would draw visitors into the downtown area.

Councilman Scott stated that he would like to go on the record to state that in talking with his constituents, the one-way traffic suggestion should be the least considered idea, based on how it would affect some residential areas North of downtown.

Councilman Sloan Stevens wanted clarification for the gateway area. Andre stated that from the block of Front Street to Second Street. Consultant Andrew Top added the advantages of one-way pair street configurations, noting only one left turn lane is needed, vs two-way streets requiring turns in both directions. He noted the space opposite a left turn lane creates natural opportunities for raised medians, gateway treatments, pedestrian refuges for crossings and possible landscaping applications.

Councilman John Dunn asked with regard to proposed lane sizes for traffic, what was the standard lane size. Traffic consultant, Top stated currently, everything is less than 11 feet downtown. They propose shortening the length to 10 feet to encourage the slowdown of traffic in the area.

Mayor Andy Moore stated that while good in theory, the narrow lanes do not slow traffic down in the Town's case.

There was further discussion regarding proposed lane sizes. The consultant added that with the extension of sidewalks as part of the design, it would give a two and a half foot of separation between a car and a pedestrian in areas where cars are now right up against the curb.

Councilman Sloan Stevens asked if polling was done on the alternatives presented. Candace Andre stated that community feedback revealed strong opposition to completely removing parking downtown, though people were open to reducing it. A key concern was the desire for quick implementation of improvements, even if temporary. In response, a consideration would be for using pavement markings as an immediate solution while planning for more comprehensive design changes and drainage improvements later. This approach would demonstrate to the community that progress can be made in the short term while longer-term solutions are being developed.

Councilman David Barbour asked about the one-way street proposals on Second and Third Streets with regard to possible delays because of eliminating turn lanes. He also stated that he had heard of no interest from citizens regarding adding one-way streets north of Market Street. Barbour also noted the narrowness of Johnson Street. He iterated traffic design suggestions that may alleviate some of the loss of parking on Market Street, improve flow and still allow access to Downtown businesses.

Consultant Andrew Top stated the purpose of the angled parking spaces and installation of one-way pairs were proposed to address these issues. He did note that where one intersection may improve, others may be a bit worse as traffic is shifted from one to the other. However, there would be overall improvement in operations and less conflict points, as reflected by their data by doing the one-way pair to the South.

Barbour asked about Johnston Street traffic flow, noticing he did not see it directly addressed as part of the study stating it should not be much of an added cost to address. Top stated associated costs are rolled into re-paving along the state routes and are absorbed with that re-paving cost. Once you start to get further out into the downtown area it could entail re-paving cost, asphalt costs, and cost for changing up signal heads on the side streets.

Councilman Sloan Stevens discussed traffic patterns in downtown Smithfield, specifically focusing on how South Third Street and Second Street function as cut-through routes. He noted that Second Street serves as a significant thoroughfare for people coming from the south side of town or from Highway 301, who typically turn onto Sanders or Wellons Street and then right onto Second Street. From there, drivers either continue to Church Street and exit via Front Street, or they take a left on Second Street to leave town. He also mentioned that traffic cuts have become more problematic due to the temporary closure of the bridge on Highway 210. While acknowledging this is a short-term issue that will be resolved when the bridge repairs are completed, he emphasized that the current situation has highlighted how many people who live south of town are unable to use their usual country routes and instead must navigate through town via the airport area.

Consultant Andrew Top highlighted significant safety concerns at the intersections of Second and Third Streets in Smithfield. He reported that these two intersections accounted for over 100 crashes each out of the 500 total crashes recorded in the study area. Notably, these intersections had more accidents than the Highway 301 intersection, despite the latter having more congestion. Top identified several contributing factors to these crashes, including parked cars positioned too close to the intersections. He suggested that implementing a one-way street system could potentially improve safety by reducing the number of turning movements at these intersections. However, he acknowledged a potential downside - that converting to one-way streets might encourage more cut-through traffic in the area, as drivers might view the simplified traffic flow as a more convenient route through town.

Mayor Andy Moore asked how many spaces would be eliminated on the north side for the one-way flow of traffic. Consultant Top answered 20 spaces.

Mayor Andy Moore asked, regarding the gateway, if a median could be installed with a painted crosswalk area. He stated the Town has the unique issue of having a major highway going through our downtown. He also commented on turning lane designs he has seen in other Towns, referenced as flip flop lanes. Top stated a high visibility crosswalk could be installed at the gateway area to give a refuge spot for crossings. He further stated traffic calming lanes such as described by the Mayor are not seen as much in downtown areas.

Councilman John Dunn asked what length was determined for how long the one-way streets lasted on the south side of the street, and if the consultants mainly looked at shedding traffic off highway 70. Top stated they just took it to Johnson Street for the cost estimates for now.

Mayor Andy Moore asked about the funding for implementation, being at roughly 13 million, were there possible ideas for funding avenues that the Town could utilize. Consultant Candace Andre explained that while grant applications aren't currently open, the town should monitor for future availability of these funding opportunities at the federal level, even if they might be renamed. The consultant emphasized that grant applications for downtown main street projects are highly competitive, especially when focused on creating more space for multi-modal transportation options. They further mentioned they've included several grant opportunities in their report that their project team has successfully secured in the past. They also noted they're currently leading several "Safe System for All" projects and offered to provide more detailed information about these funding options to help Smithfield move forward with implementing the transportation improvements.

Mayor Moore stated that he did not think the Town had twenty more years to implement a solution to downtown traffic, noting the 50% of accidents and crashes. He asked about the next steps.

Andre stated that the group would need to do final plans for the Town to get exact cost estimates. She added that they needed to hear from the Board about which plan they had the most interest in and go in that direction. Mayor Moore stated he did not believe they were prepared to make any decisions at this meeting but suggested there be more sessions to garner more input from tax paying citizens who will be impacted. He thanked the consultants for their presentation.

Councilman David Barbour added that there was some urgency as our citizens would like to see something done soon, current issues with traffic in downtown impacts our citizens daily. Councilman Barbour stated that sometimes a band aid is better than an open wound.

Citizens' Comments:

Pam Lampe of 415 N 2nd St, Smithfield thanked the consultants for the traffic study. She was against the one-way pair of 2nd and 3rd Streets as part of the transportation plan due to the heavy traffic burden in the neighborhood, traffic accidents that have led to injuries, and potential damage to property. She also asked about minutes from the DSDC meeting for the stakeholder interviews, and whether all service area members were engaged in the study. She also expressed interest in the road diet and consideration for a parking deck on South Third and Johnston Streets.

Councilman David Barbour made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda Items:

Approval of Minutes

January 7, 2025 – Regular Session
January 7, 2025 – Closed Session

- 2. **Special Event – Mo Day:** Bulldog Harley Davidson is requesting to hold an event at 1043 Outlet Center Drive on March 8, 2025, from 5:00 pm and to 8:00 pm. This request includes the use of amplified sound and a food truck
- 3. **Special Event – Pre St. Patrick’s Day Party:** Bulldog Harley Davidson is requesting to hold an event at 1043 Outlet Center Drive on March 15, 2025 from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. This request includes the use of amplified sound and a food truck
- 4. **Special Event – Ride into Spring:** Bulldog Harley Davidson is requesting to hold an event at 1043 Outlet Center Drive on March 22, 2025 from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. This request includes the use of amplified sound and a food truck.
- 5. **Consideration and request for approval to promote a Lieutenant in the Fire Department to the rank of Captain**
- 6. **Consideration and request for approval to promote an Engineer in the Fire Department to the rank of Lieutenant**
- 7. **Consideration and request for approval to promote a Firefighter II to the rank of Engineer**
- 8. **Consideration and request for approval to promote a Firefighter I to the rank of Firefighter II**

Consideration and request for approval to allow employees to donate accumulated sick time to an employee in the Public Works – Streets Division

- 10. **Consideration and request for approval to adopt Resolution No. 766 (05-2025) setting the date for public hearing for contiguous annexation of municipal owned land in accordance with NCGS 160A-31 (g)**

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
RESOLUTION NO. 766 (05-2025)
RESOLUTION STATINF THE INTENT OF THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD TO ANNEX PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD WHICH IS CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD THAT:

Section 1: It is the intent of the Town Council, pursuant to NCGS 160A-31, to annex the property described in Section 2, which is owned by the Town of Smithfield

Section 2: The legal description of the property is as follows:

Being all of Lot 10 consisting of 11.58 acres according to a survey entitled "Map for KEB Associates" prepared by L. Dennis Lee, P.A. dated October 29, 1999 and recorded in Plat Book 55, Pages 230-235 of the Johnston County Registry, which is fully incorporated herein by reference.

Section 3: The property described in Section 2 is contiguous to the current municipal boundaries.

Section 4: A public hearing on the question of annexation of the property will be held in the Smithfield Town Hall Council Chambers at 7:00pm on March 18, 2025.

Section 5: Notice of the public hearing shall be published once in the Johnstonian News, a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Smithfield, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing.

Adopted this the 4th day of March 2025.

M. Andy Moore, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elaine S. Andrews, Town Clerk

11. Consideration and request for approval to adopt Grant Project Budget Ordinance No. CP-02-2025 for the Stormwater Utility ERU Study and System and Mapping Grant

Ordinance no. CP-02-2025

Grant Project Ordinance for the Town of Smithfield Stormwater Utility ERU Study and System and Mapping Grant Project (Project #SRP-SW-ARP-0056)

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

SECTION 1: This ordinance is to establish a budget for a project to be funded by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure. These funds may be used for the following categories of expenditures, to the extent authorized by state law.

1. Gather GIS Source Data,
2. Develop impervious compilation guidelines,
3. Pilot area Impervious layer compilation,
4. Final impervious layer compilation,
5. And develop an equivalent residential unit for a new stormwater fee

SECTION 2: The following amounts are appropriated for the project and authorized for expenditures:

Stormwater Utility ERU Study and System and Mapping Project	\$ 500,000
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SECTION 3: The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the project:

NC Department of Environmental Quality	
Division of Water Infrastructure	\$ 500,000

SECTION 4: The Town intends to complete the project in accordance with the Application approved for financial assistance by Division of Water Infrastructure.

SECTION 5: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency and the grant agreements, including payroll documentation and effort certifications, in accordance with the Town's Uniform Guidance Allowable Costs and Cost Principles Policy. The Town's accounting and fiscal records shall be maintained during the completion of the project, and these records shall be retained and made available for a period of at least three (3) years following completion of the project.

SECTION 6: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report the financial status of the project to the governing board on a quarterly basis.

SECTION 7: Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Budget Officer, the Finance Officer and to the Clerk to Town Council.

SECTION 7: This grant project ordinance is effective as of September 6, 2023, and expires on December 31, 2026, or when all the NC Department of Environmental Quality funds have been obligated and expended by the Town, whichever occurs sooner.

ATTEST:

M. Andy Moore, Mayor

Elaine S. Andrews, Town Clerk

12. Consideration and request for approval to adopt Resolution No. 767 (06-2025) appointing Joelina Landa and Natasha Armstong to the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation Board of Directors

**TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
RESOLUTION NO. 767 (06-2025)
Supporting an Appointment to the Downtown Smithfield
Development Corporation’s Board of Directors**

WHEREAS, The Smithfield Town Council has received a request from the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation’s Board of Directors to appoint two members to its Board; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VII of the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation’s By-Laws, the Town Council must approve any appointments/ reappointments to the Board of Directors by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation Board of Directors has recommended the new appointments of Joelina Landa and Natasha Armstrong; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is asked to consider these appointments and make a determination.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council does hereby approve the appointments of Joelina Landa and Natasha Armstrong to the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation’s Board of Directors.

Adopted this the 4th day of March, 2025

M. Andy Moore, Mayor

Attest:

Elaine S. Andrews, Town Clerk

13. Board Reappointment

- Carmen Zepp has submitted an application for consideration to be reappointed to a second term on the Appearance Commission

Business Items:

1. **ANX-25-02 – Consideration and request for approval to adopt Resolution No. 768 (07-2025) for voluntary annexation of 27.78 acres to the Town of Smithfield. Johnston County Education Department has submitted a petition for voluntary non-contiguous annexation of the West Smithfield Elementary School site. The annexation will require the town to provide town services, i.e., law enforcement services.**

Planning Director Stephen Wensman addressed the Council, stating the town received a petition to annex the West Smithfield Elementary School site. This would be a satellite annexation next to the existing Elk Creek subdivision. If approved, the town may need to provide a school resource officer. The current step is to have the town clerk verify the annexation petition's validity, followed by scheduling and holding a public hearing at a future meeting.

Councilman David Barbour asked since the town already has a satellite annexation in that area, with existing police and fire coverage, and since the town currently shares the cost of a School Resource Officer (SRO) with the county--would adding this school site would not significantly change current service provisions.

Town Manager Mike Scott stated if the property is annexed, the town would then gain jurisdiction and be able to place a school resource officer there. Currently, a sheriff's deputy covers the area. The SRO contract would remain like the existing arrangements, with the county paying 80% of expenses and the town paying 20%, with officers working for the town during summers.

Councilman Sloan Stevens asked if this was a year-to-year contract. Town Manager Mike Scott stated the County is open to a longer contract, but the town prefers annual agreements to ensure flexibility in adjusting for changing salaries and benefits, rather than being locked into a fixed contract for several years.

Councilman David Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Steve Rabil to approve Resolution No. 768 (07-2025) to direct the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of Annexation Petition ANX-25-02. Unanimously approved.

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD RESOLUTION NO. 768 (07-2025)
DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE AN ANNEXATION PETITION RECEIVED
UNDER G.S. 160A-58.1-2

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition was received on February 27, 2025 by the Smithfield Town Council; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-58.2 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 above-described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the Town Council the result of investigation.

Adopted this the 4th day of March 2025 in Smithfield, North Carolina.

M. Andy Moore, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elaine S. Andrews, Town Clerk

2. Consideration and request for approval for the purchase of a Vactor truck after July 1, 2025. Public Utilities staff is requesting to issue a letter of commitment to the supplier in accordance with the submitted quote, which is a lower price. The Town will be replacing the current Vactor truck with a new Vactor truck to continue to serve the needs for cleaning the Town's sanitary sewer collection system.

Public Works Director Ted Credle addressed the Council to discuss the vector truck purchase, noting that during preliminary budget meetings, they checked the truck's availability and found an opportunity to acquire it earlier than planned. The current supplier has a chassis available for delivery by October 2025 with significant savings of approximately \$150,000 compared to future pricing. The town would need to sign a non-binding letter of intent, with the actual purchase contingent on budget approval after July 1st. The early acquisition would align with the town's original equipment replacement strategy and potentially save on future costs. He asked the Board if there were any questions.

Mayor Andy Moore asked if the current bid at the reduced price included everything on the truck that was specified initially. Credle answered the only thing the Town had to do was add the stickers to the side of the truck.

Councilman Steve Rabil asked how old the current Vactor truck is, and would the Town keep it or surplus it. Credle answered 2008, and he thought that the Public Works Department had interest in the truck. The truck is working but the vacuum portion of the truck is usually in disrepair. They have replaced 300 feet of hose on the truck twice this year and had the hydraulics re-done.

Mayor Pro-Tem Roger Wood asked if the new vehicle came with a warranty. Credle stated yes.

Councilman Travis Scott commented that he supported the purchase wholeheartedly. He reminded the Council that money was set aside at the last budget session for equipment and money for a trailer to assist with cleaning out the drains. He asked Manager Mike Scott whether the trailer was ever purchased.

Manager Scott stated after thorough investigation with Lawrence, the town decided not to purchase the trailer initially budgeted for \$80,000. Lawrence determined that the trailer's capabilities would not meet the department's needs. Consequently, the allocated funds were redirected to the Smithfield West Smithfield drainage project.

Councilman Scott emphasized the importance of having multiple trucks to serve different departmental needs, noting that while the water and sewer team needs the equipment, it can also help clean drains. He expressed surprise that the previously discussed trailer was not purchased. He confirmed the vector truck would be paid entirely from the water and sewer budget, though it would potentially serve multiple purposes across departments. He stressed that the ditch drains need to be cleaned.

Manager Scott clarified the truck that is being purchased would be primarily for the water and sewer department, and that the old truck would possibly work for the storm water department.

Councilman Travis Scott pressed on the capability of the Town to use vehicles across departments. Manager Scott stated that when available, we have and continue to do so.

Mayor Andy Moore agreed, and added that the Town could seek other avenues, as the County has through contracted services.

Councilman Travis Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Steve Rabil to allow the Town to submit a letter of intent for the purchase of the Vector truck. Unanimously approved.

3. FY 2025-2026 Budget Discussions

Town Manager Mike Scott addressed the Board stating the intent of this business item was for the Board to consider a date and time to recess this meeting for budget discussions with staff if so desired. Upon general conversation, it was the consensus of the Board to set a tentative date for the budget meeting for Thursday, March 13th at 6:30 pm.

Public Hearings: None

Councilmember's Comments:

Councilman David Barbour thanked the Town's police department for service given to him and constituents, going above and beyond to assist members of the community.

Mayor Andy Moore welcomed the new Town Planner, Micah Woodard, to the Town.

He also asked the Town Manager for discussions possibly during the budget work sessions for sizeable paving projects that are necessary throughout the town, citing the great need for such. He stated the Town should be ready to hit these projects hard with approvals in place by spring.

Councilman Lee raised two main concerns: First, he highlighted an issue with the left turn signal at the intersection near the railroad track on Brogden Road, questioning the current configuration. Second, he expressed concern about potential traffic management during flooding, particularly regarding truck routes near the underpass. He suggested diverting Amazon trucks and 18-wheelers via JCC Road to avoid congestion on View Trail. Lastly, he announced he would be having rotator cuff surgery on Friday and would be out of commission for a while but would try to respond to emails and messages.

Town Manager Mike Scott stated he was not sure what changes were made to the state road (Brogden Road) when the new building there was erected, or what re-striping was done to the pavement, but that he would look into these concerns, and get answers to Councilman Lee.

Councilman Sloan Stevens shared insights from the state and local dinner hosted by the League of Municipalities in Raleigh. He emphasized the importance of constant communication between local municipalities and state delegations. He noted the value of hearing from both Republican and Democratic leaders and stressed that local input is crucial for representatives to understand community needs. He encouraged sending representatives from the council and staff to such events, highlighting that personal interactions can be beneficial in securing state funds. His key message was that if Smithfield isn't asking for resources, another municipality will, and he wants to ensure Smithfield gets every possible dollar from state sources.

Mayor Andy Moore praised the local leadership in Raleigh, specifically highlighting Representatives Strickland and Senator Sawyer as the most responsive elected officials he has worked with. He noted they regularly attend local meetings, are very helpful, and have been instrumental in securing funds for Johnston County. He emphasized that these funds could have been allocated to other areas of the state but were brought specifically to Johnston County through their efforts. He stressed the importance of maintaining communication not just with state representatives, but also with federal and county leadership. He also recognized Chris Johnson, who was in attendance, and thanked him for his service and leadership on the County level.

Councilman Travis Scott asked Manager Mike Scott for an update on the progress of Loomis Fiber Company.

Manager Scott reported that he spoke with a Loomis representative about street repairs. With improving weather, Loomis plans to remove the old coal patch and replace it with hot asphalt over the next two weeks, targeting completion by mid-next week. Currently, there are no water line issues, and all water line cuts have been billed back to Loomis. So far, Loomis has paid all invoices submitted by the town.

Councilman Travis Scott asked the Manager to inquire about the corral gate put up by Neuse Charter School staff which may be an obstruction to traffic, causing cars to back up into the intersection. He asked whether it would be reasonable to ask staff to open that gate to allow parking on campus until school let out. The Town Manager stated he would look into it and have a conversation. Manager Scott added that the resource officer at the school was a Sheriff deputy, so the Town is not so much as in touch as it is with other Town schools.

There was general discussion among the Board regarding setting dates for community meetings.

Town Manager's Report:

Manager Mike Scott stated the Town has hired two new Fire Fighter staff, which has brought the Fire Department to full staff. He also stated that a new hire was in the works for the Town's Police Department, which would also bring it to full staff for the first time in over five years.

Manager Scott also mentioned the current annual chlorine burn out of the Town's water lines, for which the odor may be of concern to some citizens through about April 10th. He stated Town staff would be able to answer any phone calls as needed. This is done to prevent bacteria as we come into warmer weather.

Closed Session: Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(5) and (a)(6)

Councilman David Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Steve Rabil to go into closed session, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(5) and (a)(6) at approximately 8:40pm. Unanimously approved.

Reconvene in Open Session

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Steve Rabil to reconvene in open session at approximately 9:50 pm

Adjourn/Recess

Councilman David Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman John Dunn to recess the meeting at 9:25 pm until Thursday, March 13th at 6:30pm for budget discussions. Unanimously approved.

ATTEST:


Elaine Andrews, Town Clerk




M. Andy Moore, Mayor