

Minutes
Work Session
Aberdeen Town Board

May 13, 2019
Monday, 6:00 p.m.

Robert N. Page Municipal Building
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Town Board met on Monday, May 13, 2019 for the Work Session. Members present were Mayor Robert A. Farrell, Mayor Pro-tem Jim Thomas, and Commissioners Ken Byrd, Wilma Laney, Joe Dannelley, and Elease Goodwin. Staff members in attendance were Planning Director Justin Westbrook, Interim Public Works Director Joe Wood, Police Chief Carl Colasacco, Fire Chief Phillip Richardson, Planner Jen Gallimore, Planner Kathy Blake, Finance Officer Beth Wentland, Town Manager Paul Sabiston, and Town Clerk Regina Rosy. Others in attendance included Reporter for The Pilot Laura Douglass, Bryan Bowles, Debra Ensminger, Ernestine Chapman, Tim Marcham, Keith Carlyon, Jim Powell, Tom Beddow, and Allyson Schoen, and approximately 5 other interested citizens.

Mayor Farrell called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. Presentation regarding the 211 and 15/501 Highway Corridor (Debra Ensminger, Moore County Planning Director)

Debra Ensminger, Moore County Planning Director, provided a follow up to a meeting that was held on 2/22/19. Ms. Ensminger discussed major corridors in the County and vision for those corridors. Ms. Ensminger stated following the presentation tonight she would like to get feedback from the Board members. Ms. Ensminger displayed a map of the County and discussed the zoning within the County and reviewed the shared corridors. Ms. Ensminger stated elected officials should discuss a plan for the future to include vision, goals, and objectives for those corridors that are shared between jurisdictions. Ms. Ensminger stated she would like to receive all feedback by the end of June, and a follow-up meeting will be held by the corridor group in July.

2. Presentation regarding Police Department design and cost estimates. (Keith Carlyon with ADW Architects)

Manager Sabiston introduced Keith Carlyon and Jim Powell with ADW Architects. Mr. Carlyon stated a detailed space needs study was completed, a

questionnaire was completed, and the new construction will consist of about 12,000 square feet in addition to the renovation of the current space. Mr. Carlyon stated three options are available with cost estimates due to the increased cost projection for the project.

Option 1 – renovate existing police station (support space, i.e. break room, workout room, storage space, lockers, etc.). Community/training room in the front and close to visitor parking, along with administrative offices

Option 2 – same floor plan, scaled down lobby design and eliminates some of the ornamentation and design on the building

Option 3 – more drastic changes – eliminate parking area up front, eliminates 1,000 square feet off one side of the addition; instead of brick matching the old building it would be colored concrete in order to save money.

Commissioner Dannelley asked what is needed from the Board members to move this project forward and what the impact will be to the budget to move this project forward. Manager Sabiston stated the financing of this project will create a tax increase and dollars can be put aside this upcoming budget year to prepare for the financing of this project.

Commissioner Byrd suggested Option 2 and create a green space in front of the building and eliminate the parking area in front of the building for additional cost savings, with a minimum of two flag poles out front. Commissioner Goodwin stated it is a **must** to have the new building match the old building. Mr. Carlyon suggested adding the brick in for Option 2, but eliminate the parking area.

Commissioner Dannelley recapped what the Board members would like – Option 2 but eliminate the front parking area and have an aesthetic garden area instead, add back in another flag pole for a total of 2 flag poles, match the brick color between the current building and the new building. Mr. Carlyon stated eliminating the front parking area could also eliminate a stormwater issue with the highway widening project. A motion was made by Commissioner Dannelley, seconded by Commissioner Byrd, to approve Option 2 as amended this evening, so the Town Manager can release ADW to proceed with the next step, and would bring pricing to around \$5,000,000. Commissioner Goodwin asked if the shingles on the roof will

match both buildings – Mr. Carlyon stated that yes they will. Motion unanimously carried 5-0.

3. Request from Academy of Moore to share the cost of a School Resource Officer.
(Town Manager Paul Sabiston)

Manager Sabiston stated he met with representatives from the Academy of Moore on April 30th to discuss this request further. Manager Sabiston stated his research reveals that there are no 50/50 funding situations for school resource officers. Manager Sabiston stated the standard model is for the educational facility to fully fund the position. Manager Sabiston stated the other local charter school fully funds an SRO position, along with the O’Neal School. Manager Sabiston stated there is not a dedicated SRO position for Aberdeen Elementary and Aberdeen Primary Schools, but there is a dedicated SRO position at Southern Middle School. Manager Sabiston stated approximately 35%-40% of the students at the Academy of Moore are Aberdeen residents. Manager Sabiston stated he can not justify funding half of an SRO position for the Academy of Moore, when other schools in Aberdeen do not have that same level of protection. Mayor Farrell asked what the cost would be for the SRO position. Manager Sabiston stated it would be somewhere between \$50,000 - \$60,000 plus the cost of a vehicle. Mayor Farrell stated he would think for that amount of money the Academy could hire their own security for cheaper.

Commissioner Byrd stated the part of the research that was not covered is the threatened vulnerability assessment that was conducted at the Academy of Moore due to the location of the school in the far outskirts of the town. Commissioner Byrd stated the vulnerability will not be deterred by a metal detector. Commissioner Byrd stated each school is unique and has different needs. Commissioner Byrd stated he has been doing these threatened vulnerability studies for over 40 years for both the military and the civilian world – and if one child is endangered then that is one too many. Commissioner Byrd stated we need to protect the children.

Mayor Pro-tem Thomas asked on an average day how often an officer would be in close proximity to the Legacy Lakes / Academy of Moore area. Chief Colasacco stated the Moore County Sheriff’s department directs traffic in the morning, and Aberdeen PD directs traffic in the afternoon as a collaborative effort.

Mayor Farrell stated when the new K-5 school opens in Aberdeen in one year, it will not have a dedicated School Resource Officer. Mayor Farrell stated he feels like it is missing something when there is a School Resource Officer at the Academy of Moore but not at the Aberdeen K-5 school.

Commissioner Dannelley asked Commissioner Byrd if he had presented his threat assessment to the Moore County officials. Commissioner Byrd stated no, he has not. Commissioner Dannelley asked if there are any grants to help with funding of things like this. Tom Beddow with the Academy of Moore stated there is one grant opportunity he has come across that might would cover around \$35,000. Commissioner Dannelley stated he would recommend the Academy pursue that grant. Commissioner Dannelley stated he would like to work with Commissioner Byrd on advocacy for the safety concerns at the Academy of Moore. A motion was made by Commissioner Byrd to partner with the Academy of Moore County to pursue an arrangement of financing a shared cost for a School Resource Officer and be part of something cutting edge. Motion failed for lack of a second. Mr. Beddow thanked the Board members for all they do.

4. Presentation of Capstone Report – Special Events as a Strategy for Downtown Redevelopment. (Planner Jen Gallimore)

Planner Gallimore presented her Capstone Report which consisted of research conducted on special events as a strategy for downtown redevelopment.

5. Consider action on an Ordinance Declaring a Road Closure for the Downtown Aberdeen Fourth of July Block Party. (Planner Jen Gallimore)

A motion was made by Commissioner Byrd, seconded by Commissioner Goodwin, to approve an Ordinance Declaring a Road Closure for the Downtown Aberdeen Fourth of July Block Party. Motion unanimously carried 5-0.

6. Discussion of options and funding for construction of pedestrian amenities as part of the proposed NC-211 widening. (Planning Director Justin Westbrook)

Director Westbrook stated Town staff has received the request by NCDOT for Town preferences regarding pedestrian amenities to be installed during the NC-211 widening from US 15-501 to Hoke County. These options include possible sidewalks, dedicated bicycle lanes, multi-use paths, or any combination. The cost sharing agreement with NCDOT would cost the Town the following amount for each of those

options: 5' sidewalks – 20%, 5' bicycle lane – 100% of 3' of bicycle line and NCDOT to pay for remaining 2' of bicycle lane, 10' multi-use path – 20% of 5' of multi-use path and Town of Aberdeen to pay 100% of remaining 5' of multi-use path. Commissioner Byrd suggested considering something similar to what is being done on US Highway 1 with the Walter Wright sidewalk project. Commissioner Byrd stated most avid bicyclists are going to ride on the road anyway. Mayor Farrell thought a multi-use path might be a good option too.

After some further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Byrd, seconded by Commissioner Dannelley, to approve recommending sidewalks on both sides of the road. Mayor Farrell recommended that the sidewalks match what is already installed in Aberdeen. Motion unanimously carried 5-0.

7. Update regarding status of Blake Village PUD, after a recommended denial by the Planning Board on 4/18/2019. (Planning Director Justin Westbrook)

Director Westbrook stated at the request of the applicant, the applicant would like an additional month to pursue concerns that were addressed at the Planning Board Meeting on 4/18/2019. Commissioner Dannelley asked where the cut line is for changes? Director Westbrook stated the Planning Board first heard this item last year and recommended approval at that time. Commissioner Byrd thought the buffer between the development and CCNC was also an issue. Director Westbrook stated the density and location of the townhomes was the major concern during the public hearing.

8. Review Draft Budget Document for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. (Town Manager Paul Sabiston)

Manager Sabiston stated final draft of the budget has been distributed to the Board members. Manager Sabiston stated he is recommending an increase of \$0.03 per \$100 of valuation over the current tax rate. Manager Sabiston stated that increase will cover standard vehicles and equipment purchases, financing for the new police department construction, and Phase II of the AMR system. Manager Sabiston stated with the revaluation from Moore County, the tax neutral rate would be about \$0.415. Manager Sabiston stated each penny tax increase creates approximately \$95,000 of revenue. Manager Sabiston stated the garbage collection rate would increase from \$21/bimonthly to \$26/bimonthly. The usage for water & sewer would also increase 3% (would create \$65,000 of additional revenue).

Manager Sabiston stated he is trying to plan ahead for things we know are coming especially with the construction of the police department. Manager Sabiston stated acquisition of property on 15/501 has been included in the draft budget. Commissioner Dannelley asked if the proposed budget includes a cost of living increase for employees. Manager Sabiston stated the proposed budget includes a 2.5% cost of living increase for employees.

Mayor Farrell asked about the status of financing projects that are still being paid for. Finance Officer Wentland distributed a spreadsheet of current long-term debt. Manager Sabiston stated Aberdeen is well under the threshold of debt service and is in really good shape.

9. Schedule Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget for May 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (Town Manager Paul Sabiston)

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Laney, to schedule the public hearing for FY 2019-2020 Budget for May 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Motion unanimously carried 5-0.

10. Other Business.

Director Westbrook stated a request was received from Commissioner Dannelley to update the zoning map and also create a spreadsheet of ongoing development projects. Director Westbrook stated out of approved projects, there are still about 1,000 homes to be built. Director Westbrook stated the updated map is on public display at the Town Hall and can be reviewed at any time by the public.

Director Westbrook stated the UDO rewrite project is moving along. The first stage of drafts was taken to the Planning Board for review already, and the second stage is already in process.

11. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Goodwin, to adjourn the Work Session. Motion unanimously carried 5-0.

Regina M. Rosy
Regina M. Rosy, Town Clerk

Minutes were completed in
Draft form on May 13, 2019

Robert A. Farrell
Robert A. Farrell, Mayor

Minutes were approved
on May 28, 2019