

TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
WORK SESSION MEETING
August 25, 2025

PRESENT: Mayor Fleta Byrd, Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, Councilmembers David McGowan, Randy Jernigan, Tim Brown, and Carolyn Dobbin.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Leighanna Worley, Town Clerk Emily Matthews, Public Works Director Patrick Moore, Planning Director Wendy Oldham, Human Resources Director Jennifer Martin, and Police Lieutenant Billy Hilliard.

CONVOCATION: Mayor Byrd declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

Departmental Reports Mayor Byrd said the Community Day event this past Saturday was a success and it was good to have all departments represented at the event throughout the day. Town Administrator Worley said based on the tickets that were given out at the entrance gate we had about 650 people in attendance.

ARRIVAL OF COUNCILMEMBER: Councilmember David McGowan arrived at 5:12pm

Departmental Reports Continued: Ms. Worley reminded Council of the Dog Park dedication ceremony on September 14th. She said invitations were sent out last week but there have been no RSVPs yet.

Mayor Byrd asked if all revenue from Saturday's event has come through yet and Finance Officer Hudson said it has come through but it is not reflected in the report in Council's packet and it will be in next month's report.

Planning Director Oldham said there are no updates in the Planning Department since last month's work session. Councilmember Brown asked about the clearing of land between Swift Creek Road and Strickland Road. Mrs. Oldham said that is where Midtown will go in the future. She said there was too much dirt in the Southerland Mills subdivision so some of it is being moved to Midtown. Mayor Byrd asked when the road will be put in that area and Mrs. Oldham said hopefully by next spring. Councilmember Brown asked if we are still reaching out to grocery stores to see if they are interested in coming to the Midtown area and Mrs. Oldham said yes. Councilmember McGowan expressed concerns tall grass in some areas of town and concerns about repeat offenders. Mrs. Oldham said she has spoken with the Code Enforcement Officer and in order to label someone as a chronic offender we have to notify them of their 3 previous violations in the last 12 months. Ms. Worley said she can get Town Attorney Du Sablon to talk more about this at the September meeting to ensure we are abiding by the law and our ordinances accordingly. Councilmember Brown asked if it is renters or homeowners who are repeat offenders and Mrs. Oldham said it is both.

Human Resources Director Jenny Martin told Council she was thankful to be here and updated on projects she is working on. She said she is reviewing the hiring processes, making sure they are structured and in compliance. She said she is working to update the HR section on website. She said we are taking the openings in the Police Department off the website until the

processes can be updated and finalized. She also said she has been working to meet with all employees to get to know them better and at this point she has 4 part time officers left to speak with. She is also updating the Town's personnel policy. She said soon she will begin working on the salary study. She said she is working on making the salary grades more structured and in compliance with job descriptions as well as in comparison to other municipalities.

Councilmember McGowan said the park looks great and thanked the Public Works Department for maintaining it. He also asked if we will begin using any of the fields at the park and Ms. Worley said the fields are used as practice fields for the rugby team. Mayor Byrd asked if the construction of the new Council Chambers is on schedule and Ms. Worley said yes.

Lieutenant Bily Hillard said he is stepping in for the Chief at tonight's meeting due to the Chief being out of the country. Councilmember Brown asked how many vacancies we currently have in the Police Department and Lieutenant Hillard said there are currently 5 vacancies that are full time and 6 part-time as well. He said we had 2 cadets in BLET but one recently withdrew for personal reasons. Councilmember McGowan asked if we have ordered any cars this year. Ms. Worley said the cars were ordered last fiscal year but were paid for this fiscal year due to the cars being on back order. Lieutenant Hillard said the 2 we ordered previously have arrived and are in the process of being upfitted. Lieutenant Hillard passed out the annual vehicle report on behalf of Chief Williams. Councilmember Brown asked if we have coverage on all shifts. Lieutenant Hillard said we have a full-time officer on all rotations and 3 part time officers that are willing to work so we have more coverage. He said on weekends we try to have more officers for more coverage.

**Town Administrator's
Report:**

Various Project Updates:

Ms. Worley gave updates on the lighting at Swift Creek Road and I-42, she said Duke Energy contactors have started on the design and will get back to her when it is completed. She reminded Council of the Dog Park dedication on September 14th and asked them to RSVP if they have not already. Ms. Worley along with Chief Williams and Town Attorney Du Sablon met with the representative from Moseley Architects about the design of the Police Department. She said she expressed the concerns about the size of the building and Mosely sent designs for buildings with less square footage. They will design whatever size we would like. Representatives from Moseley will be at Council's September meeting for them to ask any questions.

Ms. Worley updated Council on the progress of the Council Chambers' upfit. She said she and other employees are meeting with the construction company every other Tuesday and everything is on track at this time. We are getting ready to order appliances and look at the final AV bids which have come in about \$20,000 more than budgeted but there have been other things we have saved money on.

Ms. Worley said at Council's last Work Session they talked about the Master Plan for the Town Hall Campus and focused mainly on the Police Department. She asked if Council wants to hold a special meeting in order to talk about how to move forward. Councilmember Brown said he thinks we should have a special meeting and it should be sooner rather than later, hopefully before the September Council meeting. After further discussion it was the consensus of Council to hold a special meeting on September 5th

from 9:00 to 11:00am.

Councilmember McGowan asked if we plan to hold a Memorial Day event next year. Ms. Worley said we planned an event this year but there was not enough time to execute it. She said there are plans to have an event next year and she will speak with our Events Coordinator.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to call a special meeting for Friday September 5th at 9:00am at Wilson's Mills Advent Christian Church. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Brown asked how much longer work will be happening on I-42. Ms. Worley said the construction is completed for the most part but the signage still needs to be completed.

Councilmember Brown asked if there were any updates on putting a traffic calming device at the intersection of Wilson's Mills Road and Fire Department Road. Ms. Worley said the owner of JD's Store located at the intersection has not returned her calls or the calls of the DOT representative. She has contacted the manager of the store recently and left a message.

Ms. Worley said there is a closed session listed on the agenda but there are currently no updates so there is no need for a Closed Session.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:19pm.




EMILY MATTHEWS, CMC
Town Clerk


FLETA A. BYRD, Mayor