

**MINUTES OF MIDWAY TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 31, 2016
AT 6:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL, 125 GUMTREE ROAD, MIDWAY, NORTH CAROLINA**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John Byrum called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

Councilors present were: John Byrum, Keith Leonard, Mike McAlpine, Robin Moon, Jackie Edwards and Todd Nifong. Absent: None. Interim Town Manager Gary Looper, Town Clerk Linda Hunt, and Administrative Support Specialist Cindy Ramsey were present. Town Attorney Jim Lanik was absent.

No members of press were in attendance.

The purpose of this Special Meeting is to continue the discussion on the Council's vision for the Town and to review the status of the current year's budget ending June 30, 2016.

Mayor Byrum formally introduced the new Interim Town Manager Gary Looper.

ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine, seconded by Councilor Jackie Edwards, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

VISION FOR TOWN OF MIDWAY

Mayor Byrum started the discussion on the Council's vision for the Town, pointing out the list of major priorities identified by Council at their Special Meeting on February 18, 2016, which were:

- Park
- Grocery Store
- Town Hall
- Website/Communication
- Traffic
- YMCA

Mayor Byrum gave a quick overview of the list of the major priorities and asked the Council members to think about the individual priorities made they listed at the Special Meeting and if needed, make note of any changes in final list of priorities they may wish to make.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine stated he did not see any changes he would make in priorities. He added that he plans to set up an introductory meeting with the Park Committee sometime in April with the first item of consideration being the building of walking trails. Council agreed that the Town will build a park even if the YMCA does not materialize.

Councilor Todd Nifong said he supports the list of priorities as well but added he would also like to address the issue of weapons on Town property.

Councilor Jackie Edwards also expressed her support of the priorities and stated she agrees with Councilor Nifong on the weapons issue. Ms. Edwards stressed she still strongly supports training for the Planning Board.

Councilor Robin Moon said he supports the priorities as listed; however, he would still like to see matter of the Land Development Ordinance addressed and for the Town to continue to try recruiting businesses.

Councilor Keith Leonard said also supports the priorities and he would like to see the Land Development Ordinance addressed as well.

Mayor Byrum commented that the consideration for the YMCA is now in the hands of their board and the results of their feasibility study. Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine said that he felt Midway could make a community investment offer for services such as grading and possibly sewer. Mayor Byrum added that the Town could also consider offering the YMCA a long-term, low-rate lease of the property.

Mayor Byrum told Council he has some viable leads on a grocery store and pharmacy possibly interested in locating in Midway.

Councilor Todd Nifong offered an update on the new Town Hall. The live feed cameras are unavailable due to technical delays with the equipment and installs with Strategic Connections. Due to these delays, it is not feasible to hold the April Town Council meeting in the new Town Hall as had been planned. Council unanimously agreed to wait until May. The April 4th Town Council regular meeting will be held at the Fire Department and proper notices will be posted accordingly.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine mentioned there are some traffic issues and studies that are still up in the air, specifically Old Highway 52 at Midway School Road and the roundabouts on Hickory Tree Road at Exit 100 on Highway 52 North. The Town contracted with Kimley-Horn and Benchmark for a Transportation Study and although the study was completed and approved by Council in May of 2013, nothing has been done.

BUDGET REVIEW – FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

While going over the Profit/Loss Forecast vs. Actual Report, Mayor Byrum noted that there are some items that do not seem to be accurate as far as categories are concerned. Interim Town Manager Gary Looper advised Council the Town needs to make sure Council receives a monthly financial report summary in order to be able to track finances more accurately and he said will talk with accountant Sandra Mock with Cannon & Company about getting these items set up. It was also noted by Mr. Looper that some of the questionable items listed on the report could be due to misunderstandings with the coding when paid.

There was considerable discussion on how to work with the contracting of outside services, such as Benchmark Planning, in order to have the best arrangement for the benefit of the Town. Councilor Nifong asked about the Town's leverage in order to make sure the Town keeps the same planner, to which Interim Town Manager Looper replied it is often difficult to maintain that control because of the way the Town is using the service. When a town only uses a consulting service such as this for smaller services, it can tend to be a lesser priority for consulting companies.

There was discussion with Rick Cisneros of Rick Zebra Design to determine the number of computers or laptops that will be needed so he can work up quotes for the new equipment needed.

Councilor Jackie Edwards commented that she would like to have training for the Planning & Zoning Board added back into the budget. Ms. Edwards feels it would be beneficial for additional training and education for the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Town Mayor John Byrum called for a motion to adjourn, motion was made by Councilor Robin Moon, seconded by Councilor Todd Nifong, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

John Byrum, Mayor

Linda Hunt, Town Clerk