

MINUTES OF MIDWAY TOWN COUNCIL VISION SESSION HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT MIDWAY TOWN HALL, 426 GUMTREE ROAD, MIDWAY, NORTH CAROLINA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John Byrum called the meeting to order.

Councilors present were: John Byrum, Jackie Edwards, Keith Leonard, Mike McAlpine, Berkley Alcorn., and Robin Moon. Absent: None. Town Manager Tammy Michael, Town Clerk Linda Hunt, and Deputy Clerk Tammy Robertson were present.

Each Councilor had been furnished an agenda prior to the meeting.

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 SESSION

PRESENTATION – DAVIDSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SCOTT HULIN

Davidson County Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Scott Hulin addressed Council about forming a partnership between Davidson County and Town of Midway to enhance and expand the recreational opportunities in northern Davidson County. Mr. Hulin stated that Davidson County Commissioners Karen Watford, Chris Elliott, and James Shores requested that he reach out to Town Council for an informal meeting.

Mr. Hulin stated that based on results of a survey conducted by Davidson County a year ago for the citizens of Davidson County, the leading request from the citizens was to have more parks/recreation in the northern part of the county. The top requests from the survey included:

1. Toddler preschool nature-based program
2. Dog Park (private funding available)
3. Greenway
4. Splash Pad (Davidson County would maintain, as certifications are required)
5. Additional playgrounds
6. Swimming pool
7. Indoor/outdoor pickleball
8. Disc golf course
9. YMCA

Mr. Hulin stated that there are obstacles to overcome in order to expand recreational services and activities to northern Davidson County, with the largest being the lack of suitable and available land. Mr. Hulin expressed his willingness to collaborate with the Town of Midway to expand beyond the current offerings of the shelter, gazebo, and playgrounds.

Council discussion questions regarding potential recreational activities for the park included the following:

- **Greenway**
 - The development of a greenway would be determined by the landowner approving a right-of-way easement onto their property if a North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) right-of-way is not applicable

- **Disc Golf Course**
 - Typical courses are nine or eighteen holes. An eighteen-hole course by the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) standards requires fifteen acres of land

 - Minimal land disturbance

 - Minimal cost to construct and maintain. T-boxes can operate on wooden platforms with rock dust, or on concrete. Disc golf baskets can be purchased from Innova Disc Golf at an approximate cost of \$500 per basket. Regular mowing to maintain course

 - Course can be designed in house or by professional course engineers for an approximate cost of \$10,000

 - Most courses do not charge a fee to play

- **Splash Pad**
 - County currently operates splash pads in Southmont and Denton

 - Required to have sewer to operate

 - Operator certifications required to maintain splash pads

 - Building needed to store chemicals and equipment to maintain splash pad

- **Outdoor Pickleball Court**
 - Best to have fencing around the court but not required. Four-to five-foot fencing is acceptable

 - Pickleball can be played on a combined court with tennis, or a court solely for pickleball

 - Lighting is preferred

Mayor Byrum stated that his vision for the park is for it to remain as natural as possible with no fencing. He would like to see a natural berm serve as a barrier for the fencing with plants and trees planted around steps going down to the court. The natural rise of the earth can be designed to replace a fence.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine stated that construction on the shelters need to be completed before beginning another project, but it would be a good time to get the Park Committee together to begin discussing additional attractions for the park.

Mayor Pro Tem asked Mr. Hulin if Davidson County would be willing to assist the Town with grant writing to attain additional money for the construction of the park. Mr. Hulin stated it would be up to the county manager and commissioners. At times, federal grants are given to counties and municipalities for projects without any match from the recipients. However, most federal grants require between 20-50% match.

It was the consensus of Council to have the Town's Park Committee meet to discuss future recreational activities for the park and to continue discussions with Davidson County Parks and Recreation about working together to enhance and expand the activities at the park.

REVISIT COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES FROM FEBRUARY 17, 2022, VISION SESSION

Mayor John Byrum revisited Council's Vision Workshop from February 17, 2022, when each Councilor brought to that meeting their priorities for the Town for that year and future years. From that meeting, the major priorities established for the Town included the following: **(Bold indicates action or progress)**

VISION PRIORITIES UPDATES

• **Town Park**

- Shelter/Gazebo/Town Park Sign
 - Picnic Shelter and Gazebo-
 - Shelter – **approximately 50% to 60% construction completed**
 - Additional lighting and security cameras for playground and shelter areas ***In progress with Duke Energy and KNC Technologies, additional cameras added to Town Hall to cover areas in playground and parking lot***
 - **Town received \$250,000 State Capital Infrastructure Fund Grant (SCIF) to aid in funding the construction project**
 - Gazebo – **approximately 75% construction completed**
 - Park Sign – **begin working on park signage entering the park**

VISION PRIORITIES UPDATES

Town Park – Continued.....

- Aerial view of the park – **continue as priority when construction completed**
 - Phase II Toddler Playground- **Completed**
 - **Town received and used the \$100,000 State Capital Infrastructure Fund Grant (SCIF) to offset costs of additional equipment**
 - Additional General Recreation areas-
 - **Retain as a Vision Priority for another phase to the Park**
 - Family movie night-
 - **Retain as a Vision Priority once construction is completed**
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Other Updates -

- Beautification Signs -
 - **On-going – Remove current beautification sign at the end of Hickory Tree Road and Old US Highway 52 and replace with a larger sign at the water tower on Hickory Tree Road coming into Town. Upgrade other beautification signs in the Town to enhance/brand the image of the Town.**

VISION PRIORITIES - UPDATES

- Personnel Policy Update
 - **Comprehensive review completed by Personnel Committee**
 - Recommended changes/updates and submitted to Town Attorney for review and updates to the areas governed by Federal and State laws
 - Attorney and legal staff reviewed, updated the legal compliance areas and organized the policy to read fluently and resubmitted to Personnel Committee for review and comments
 - Personnel Committee reviewed and accepted the Attorney's recommendations
 - Personnel Committee to meet and make any necessary changes by the end of September
- Subdivision Ordinance Update
 - Met with Jesse Day, Senior Planner, Piedmont Triad Regional Council, August 25 to discuss the process of updating the current ordinance
 - Plan to have changes made for staff review within the next month
 - Planning Board review and make recommendation to Council at the November 29th Planning Board Meeting
 - Add to Town Council December 5th agenda for discussion/adoption
- Sewer Rate Study Update
 - Sewer Committee has met to discuss sewer tap fees and will bring fees recommendation to Council once quotes are received from plumbers
 - Add to Town Council December 5th agenda for discussion/adoption

DISCUSS AND IDENTIFY VISION PRIORITIES

- Town Park
 - Town Park Rules and Regulations
 - Consider reducing the number of rules and regulations currently in place. Create QR Code that allows you to take a picture with a cell phone that will direct you to the Town's website for a complete list of rules and regulations.
 - Town Shelter and Gazebo Use Rules and Guidelines
 - Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine will reach out to Chris Weavil from Winston Salem Parks and Recreation for suggestions of rules and regulations. Staff will research rules and regulations from other parks for consideration
 - Schedule meeting with Town's Park Committee do discuss the establishment of rules and guidelines for the shelter and gazebo
 - Town Shelter and Gazebo Reservations Policy
 - Staff to request input from the Town's website designer regarding various types of online reservation programs available
 - Staff to contact Town of Wallburg clerk for guidance on how Wallburg implemented an online reservations policy for their shelters
 - Town Park Staffing Needs
 - Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine suggested hiring one more employee to oversee the maintenance of the bathrooms, garbage cans, and dog stations
 - Staff to meet with Winston Salem Parks and Recreation representative Chris Weavil to discuss staffing needs for the park

- Town Park Equipment and Storage Needs
 - To continue discussion at a later time once needs for storage are determined

TOWN MANAGERS REPORTS

On March 11, 2021, the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) became law, thereby, granting substantial aid to state and local governments. With respect to local governments, some monies would be distributed directly to them. Other monies would be allotted to the State for distribution to qualifying local governments. The Town of Midway qualified for monies and received the first round of funds totaling \$782,720.92 on July 23, 2021. The second and final deposit was received in July 2022. Town Council amended the ARP Budget accepting the funds on August 1, 2022.

- Staff has consolidated all ARP Funds held at Home Trust Bank into one ARP account
- Staff continues to work with the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) and UNC School of Government to explore all available options to apply the funds
- Staff is registered to attend a local workshop in Greensboro for ARP funding options and general overview on September 21, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilor Robin Moon, seconded by Councilor Berkley Alcorn, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

John E. Byrum, Mayor

Linda A. Hunt, Town Clerk