

WORKSHOP TOWN BOARD

February 20, 2024

Present Mayor George Holleman
Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner
Councilman Jack Simms
Councilwoman Kim Brown
Councilwoman Tamara Odom

The workshop was opened for discussion by Mayor Holleman at 9:00 a.m.

Items of Discussion:

1. Downtown Revitalization

Several key questions are:

Where are we presently with revitalization?

Where do we want to go with revitalization?

How do we get there?

How do we fund it?

It was agreed that a vision statement is needed. When the Taylorsville Business Association met in March of 2019 the following vision statement was created. Nestled in the foothills of the Brushy Mountains, Taylorsville, NC is a vibrant center of entrepreneurial spirit and independent business. The heart of arts, culture, and recreation, our town is home to downtown living, dining, shopping, and entertainment for everyone.

Discussion was centered on the goals for revitalization of the downtown area and what area or areas to target first. Brian Burgess, Alexander County Planning Director, presented information of upcoming changes in zoning that Alexander County is planning to make and also information of their Land Development Plan. Within the Land Development Plan, an overlay of downtown is planned along with the inclusion of the designated Downtown Historic District. It was suggested to designate the area from Hiddenite Auto to the v point at First Baptist Church as downtown. Many ideas for goals were discussed such as:

- Beautification to Main Street
- Increase pedestrian traffic and activities with shops and restaurants on Main Street
- Develop a walkable downtown

Discussion then centered on how to achieve these goals and the first steps needed. It was agreed that a Downtown Revitalization Committee should be formed of at least 9 members with specific roles within our community from the following: Town and County Government Elected Board members, Town and County Government Management, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Downtown Business owner, Downtown Property owner and Town Resident.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Odom to establish the Downtown Revitalization Committee with terms of 2 years with 9 members from the Community. The motion was passed unanimously. Names will be considered and brought back to the March 5, 2024 Town Council meeting for discussion and possible nomination to the committee along with by-laws for the committee.

Many other topics that coincide with downtown revitalization were discussed. Sidewalks and pedestrian pathways, greenways and sports complex need's along with possible areas and grant opportunities that are available to help with the establishment were discussed. Ideas on empty storefronts and how to promote them to potential retailers. The need for a marketing campaign and enhanced website design along with other social media platforms to promote our town and county.

The first task of the Downtown Revitalization Committee will be to review and revise and or enhance needed ordinances for the downtown area and historic area and to establish projects and proposals in a prioritized order towards creating revitalization in the downtown area.

Other Topics:

1. Discussion has held regarding the old hospital property. It was suggested to do yearly permitted parking for the yard sale people to help offset the costs of the yearly lease and maintaining the property. More information will be given at the March 5, 2024 meeting.
2. Matheson Park was created in 2000. The playground equipment is over 25 years old and showing serious deterioration in certain places. Plans for replacement will need to be considered over the next budget cycles.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Bumgarner to adjourn the workshop at 11:50 am. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk