

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF KERNERSVILLE, N.C.
BRIEFING SESSION JANUARY 26, 2011**

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Kernersville met in a briefing session at 6:30 P.M. on the above date in the Town Hall Executive Conference Room at the Municipal Building at 134 East Mountain Street.

Present: Mayor Dawn Morgan, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Bugg, Alderman Bob Prescott, Alderman Tracey Shifflette, Aldermen Dana Caudill Jones and Alderman Keith Mason.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Curtis L. Swisher, Town Manager; John G. Wolfe III, Town Attorney; Dale F. Martin, Town Clerk; Jeff Hatling, Community Development Director; Doran Maltba, Public Services Director; Ken Gamble, Police Chief; Walt Summerville, Fire Chief; Russell Radford, Engineering Director; Brian Ulrich, Transportation Engineer; Ernie Pages, Parks & Recreation Director; Ray Smith, Human Resources Director and Franz Ader, Finance Director.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Dawn Morgan called the meeting to order and Alderman Dana Caudill Jones delivered the invocation.

1. Presentation by PART on Sustainable Communities Plan and Piedmont Triad Regional Transit Development Plan

Sustainable Communities Plan

Mark Kirstner, Senior Transportation Planner, PART - presented a power point presentation on Sustainable Communities. He reported on an extremely competitive grant award from HUD in the amount of \$1.6 million to be used over a 12 county region. During this project, we will define "sustainability" and what that means for our community. He presented examples of previous sustainable communities, such as mill villages. He stated that during this process we had to set ourselves apart from other communities by identifying issues that needed attention but also by showing that we have a great deal of potential. This area was noted for being the second largest area for sprawl in the country.

Mr. Kirstner stated that studies show that transit rich communities spend an average of 9% of income on transportation cost. Those that live in automobile dependent communities spend 25-29% of their income on transportation. What if we had a transportation system that allowed us to spend less on transportation cost and more on food or housing?

Mr. Kirstner spoke of deficiencies: lack of housing choices in our urban areas; air quality issues due to automobile use, obesity due to the lack of mobility.

Mr. Kirstner spoke of our opportunities such as the potential for reconstruction and redevelopment of areas and our choices among a number of great universities. He stated that if we address our issues from an environmental and economical standpoint we will cut across most barriers and be successful.

Mr. Kirstner spoke of the tremendous support and in-kind services for this project over the 12 county area. He explained that once “sustainable community” is defined we will develop goals and benchmarks to work towards a sustainable community. He stated that everything will be on the table for discussion during this process. It will be a tremendous challenge to engage the public and different groups and to get them to buy into this project.

Mr. Kirstner stated that the grant talks about developing a consortium and key partners to implement any recommendations. HUD has identified 28 key partners and agencies that should be involved in this three year project.

Mr. Kirstner stated that at the end of the project, we hope that all the cities and counties will incorporate these principals into their communities, and if so then we can consider this project a success.

Mr. Kirstner stated that there will be a project website developed. He gave his contact information:

Mark K. Kirstner, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner
Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation
7800 Airport Center Drive, Suite 103
Greensboro, NC 27409
markk@partnc.org
336-235-6651

Mayor Morgan asked when this would be made available to the public. Mr. Kirstner anticipated April or May time frame; however those interested can contact him. He encouraged those interested to wait until this is rolled out to the public since it will take public involvement to drive this project.

Piedmont Triad Regional Transit Development Plan

Mr. Kirstner reported that approximately a year ago, PART took the lead in the effort to establish a Regional Transit Development Plan for the Triad. This plan encompasses 10 counties. He presented a map of the areas included in the plan. It also showed the current transit system operated by PART which services most of the major corridors in the 10 county area.

Mr. Kirstner stated that there are studies that show we have the population here to support a bus or light rail system; however we don't have a way to get people to the system. Legislature has approved two funding sources, a sales tax or a vehicle registration tax. We are an aging population and know that if we have more mobility options we will be much better off.

Mr. Kirstner stated that public outreach has been done during this project and a survey was sent out. Approximately 692 responded and out of those, 3% said that nothing could encourage them to use a public transit system. This means that 97% of those responders would try a public transit system for one week. This indicates that this is on people's mind. He asked what we can do to make it more convenient for people. Make it more accessible to a greater geographic area with more frequent trips.

Mr. Kirstner pointed out the need for everyone to work together. He noted that outlying areas could opt out with little impact on the system however if Forsyth County or Guilford County decides not to participate, the system could not work.

Mr. Kirstner presented a chart listing all the counties and their ability to pay for a transit system. With the exception of Yadkin County, the other seven smaller counties have the ability to support a system through fees approved by the General Assembly. We will be looking in Forsyth and Guilford County for cross town connections, new connections and routes. He spoke of improvements that would be made to corridors that depend heavily on transit systems and things put in place to help them branch out to other communities.

Mr. Kirstner said that included in this project would be amenities such as bus stops, sidewalks and other things to move people along. Greensboro and Winston-Salem are working on streetcar systems with Winston-Salem being a little farther along.

Mr. Kirstner highlighted the benefits for Kernersville: noting the proposed route, new park and ride lots, and more local service providing better connectivity.

Mr. Kirstner presented some funding projects and operating costs projects under a ½ sales tax. Lumping Forsyth and Guilford County together is a financially constrained plan with a little bit left over. If you look at them individually, Forsyth will need more improvements than Guilford. It is manageable.

In summary, Mr. Kirstner reported that this investment will create jobs and infrastructure in the Triad. If a new company were to approach this area and offer to bring jobs and infrastructure to the area, a good incentive package would be considered. PART believes that this transit system also deserves consideration for investment purposes as well.

Mr. Kirstner presented a slide which illustrated that ozone levels dropped when gas prices peaked and the ridership of the PART transit system was highest.

Mr. Kirstner presented more financial information and concluded by saying that this will take partnerships to make this project happen. He made himself available for questions.

2. Briefing on the February 1, Regular Meeting Agenda.

Mayor Morgan noted that a presentation will be made to Debbie Brooks, Principal of Kernersville Middle School who is retiring on January 31st.

Mayor Morgan stated that Kelly Chadwick of the Oakmont Homeowner Association will bring concerns regarding a race track to the Board during speakers from the floor.

Item # 2 Presentation by the Forsyth County Aging Services Planning Committee on a Recent Study of the Future Needs of the Aging Population both in Kernersville and Forsyth County.

Mayor Morgan briefed the board on this item.

Item # 3 Quarterly report by the Kernersville Downtown Preservation & Development Council as required in the Funding Agreement.

Mr. Curtis Swisher, Town Manager stated that Duane Long will make a presentation on behalf of the KDPDC.

Item # 4 Update on the Thoroughfare and Street Plan Study.

Mr. Jeff Hatling, Community Development Director briefed the Board on his presentation on the Thoroughfare and Street Plan Study.

Item # 5 Presentation by Public Services on Updates to the Code of Ordinance Traffic Schedules.

Mr. Doran Maltba, Public Services Director briefed the Board on this presentation regarding the Code of Ordinance Traffic Schedules.

Item # 6 Presentation by Engineering Department on Kernersville Middle School School Zone Issues.

Mr. Brian Ulrich, Transportation Engineer briefed the Board on this presentation regarding speed and signage in school zones.

Item # 7 Consideration of a NCDOT Funding Request for West Mountain Street Drainage Improvements between Cherry Street and Main Street.

Mr. Swisher briefed the Board on a request by a citizen to address water issues on West Mountain Street. He added that NCDOT is willing to repair the storm drain and presented the cost projections for this project.

Item # 8 Consideration of an Extension to the Current Contract with Alley, Williams, Carmen and King for the Redesign of the Proposed Public Services Building.

Mr. Swisher reminded the Board of their discussion at the retreat regarding the redesign of the public works building and the potential savings. Staff is requesting the approval of \$120,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to extend the contract with the architect. No funds should be required from the fund balance.

Item # 9 Consideration of Renewal of Contract for Financial Auditing Services with Dixon Hughes.

Mr. Swisher briefed the Board on the renewal of the contract with Dixon Hughes for auditing services.

Item # 10 Consideration of Request from our Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Planning Funds.

Mr. Ulrich briefed the Board on this request for a study by our areas MPO.

Item # 11 Consent Agenda:

- C-1 Approval of Minutes for December 7, Regular Session
Approval of Minutes for December 7, Closed Session
Approval of Minutes for December 29, Briefing Session
Approval of Minutes for January 4, Regular Session**
- C-2 Forsyth County Tax Refunds**
- C-3 Consideration of Appointments to various Boards/Commissions.**

Mayor Morgan briefed the Board on each Consent Agenda item.

3. Matters to be presented by the Town Manager and Town Attorney.

None presented.

4. Closed Session for purpose of a discussion regarding Personnel Matters.

Alderman Keith Mason made a **Motion** to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel and Economic Development Matters which is permitted by NCGS 143-318.11. Alderman Bob Prescott seconded the motion and the vote was all for and motion carried.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 7:52 P.M.

5. Adjournment.

Being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM immediately following the closed session.


Dawn H. Morgan, Mayor

Attest:


Dale F. Martin, MMC, Town Clerk

I, Dale F. Martin, MMC, Town Clerk of the Town of Kernersville, North Carolina, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting duly held on January 26, 2011.

This the 14 day of February, 2011.


Dale F. Martin, MMC, Town Clerk