

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GASTON
TOWN OF CRAMERTON**

Goals and Objectives Meeting

January 26, 2019

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met in special session for goals and objectives work session on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., in the G.M. Michael Room at the Cramerton Town Hall.

Board Members present: Mayor Will Cauthen, Mayor Pro Tempore Demetrios Koutsoupas, Commissioners Dixie Abernathy, Houston Helms, Donald Rice, and Susan Neeley.

Staff Present: David Pugh, Town Manager; Karen Wolter, Town Attorney; and Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk.

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum: Mayor Cauthen called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present. He thanked everyone for being in attendance for this meeting.

Adoption of Agenda for this meeting: Commissioner Neeley made a motion to approve the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abernathy and approved by all.

Introduction of Facilitator: Darren Rhodes, Program Manager Rural Economic Development for NC Department of Commerce. The Town Manager introduced Mr. Darren Rhodes to the Board. Mr. Rhodes went over his role as the facilitator and the ground rules for today's meeting.

The Board commented on the site visits and stated how helpful this was. It was agreed that the water treatment plant needs have increased security. Mr. Godley needs to be contacted regarding the lease and follow up needs to occur regarding the Brownfields Grant with the EPA. Attorney Wolter advised she has not received any information about the Baltimore School from the chairperson for the county historical society. Commissioner Helms stated he would call County Commissioner Jack Brown. The Board discussed creation of a pocket park for the True Homes project; scheduling of a meeting with stakeholders about VCM; locating other Brownfield Grant sites; ideas for Central Park; and code enforcement issues applicable to a structure located off of Woodlawn Avenue that needs repair.

Discussion of Retreat Goals: The Board discussed reviewing last year's goals and what goals may be accomplished with the next fiscal year budget. The Board members commented on the importance of making sure staff is informed of the proposed 2019 goals. Due to the limited amount of available property in Cramerton the Board agreed that smart growth needs to be encouraged.

Review of Goals and Objectives:

- **Cramerton Mission Statement:** Mr. Pugh read the Town’s mission statement “Working on the premise of ‘Pride in our Past and Faith in our Future’ the Town of Cramerton’s mission is to earn the respect of all of our citizens by providing a responsible governing team devoted to promoting a prosperous and vision-oriented future and a safe, fiscally secure and healthy quality of life through the integration of support services, fiscal responsibility, and “customer’s first” attitude. Commissioner Abernathy stated a graphic could possibly be designed. She volunteered to assist with this project.
- **Review prior year (2018) goals and objectives.** Discussion was held concerning items that occur during the fiscal year that are not budgeted but are needed for safety and health issues. The Town Manager advised the bid for repairs to the Town Hall building and Parks and Recreation structure will go out in March. The Board discussed items that were not part of this year’s budget such as the fire boat, mural, and Goat Island fencing. Mayor Pro Tem Koutsoupas recommended that the Board get a list of all items that were taken out of fund balance that were not budgeted. Commissioner Helms recommended that any item that is part of a grant should be marked with an asterisk in order for the Board to review to see if some items could have been considered during the budget process.
- **Prioritization:** The Board discussed current projects. Commissioner Helms stated he was interested in seeing the Town become more regionally focused. Commissioner Abernathy advised that she would be leaving at 11:15 a.m. and asked to be connected via telephone. (Commissioner Abernathy was connected via her cellphone.)

The Board agreed that they are agreeable with the current fund balance restriction. Discussion included that recommendations to encourage connectivity with the Town of McAdenville, discuss the possibility of a joint masonic lodge facility with the City of Belmont, and to continue lobbying with surrounding municipalities concerning the Catawba Crossings Bridge as a regional goal. Discussion was held regarding projects including Build A Better Boulevard, Market Street improvements, the replacement of the South Fork River Bridge, bike/pedestrian improvements, continued work with the EDC regarding the Gaston County school property, and the Wilkinson Boulevard/Market Street Small Area Plan. The Board encouraged possible joint meetings with the Town of McAdenville and the City of Belmont. Mayor Cauthen stated that there is a joint meeting with local mayors and managers that occurs on a quarterly basis. The Board asked for an update from the Town Manager about what projects other municipalities are discussing. Attorney Wolter advised that a formal alliance could be formed to offer opportunities for elected officials and other government staff from various municipalities to meet.

The Town Manager stated there has been no activity regarding the Gaston County School Property per the EDC.

The Board discussed the importance of working with other local municipalities to form an alliance for regional collaboration. Discussion was held about promotion of connectivity between Cramerton and McAdenville to include sidewalks. Commissioner Abernathy left the meeting via telephone at 12:00 noon.

Commissioner Helms stated that “live, work and play” are words that the Town uses but he feels that “work” is one item that the Town struggles with. The Board stated there are several areas downtown that could be utilized for this type of communication hub. This type of service would allow people to work from Cramerton and is marketable to young professionals.

The Board discussed changes to the appointment process to boards and committees and the use of social media such as Facebook as an informational tool. Commissioner Neeley stated that the citizens academy could be offered to students. Mayor Cauthen asked that the department heads be contacted to see what can be offered. Mayor Pro Tem Koutsoupas suggested focusing on one department and have them create a baseball card and to offer a tour.

Commissioner Helms spoke regarding retention and retaining of staff. The Town Manager stated salaries were reviewed last year.

Mayor Cauthen stated the downtown mural should be installed soon depending on the weather.

Items being considered for future placement on the Big Board were a pocket park for the True Homes project off of Peach Orchard Road; increased hours per week for code enforcement; updated road paving schedule; tax revaluation; stormwater fees; and Villages at Cramerton Mills project. Other items to be considered included a workshop session about Central Park; adjust the lighting on the Veterans Memorial; installation of plaques on the bike repair station and water fountain; discussion regarding trash containers and dumpsters; repair elevation of manhole on Treeline Drive; replace door at Town Hall entrance; and increased social media presence to engage the community. Commissioner Rice stated he wants the Town to consider becoming a “Tobacco Free” community.

Discussion included a focus on the Town’s perimeter and increased use of the “goat” icon; building repairs to Town Hall and Parks and Recreation scheduled for this year; additional separate auditor service; focus on acquiring more small businesses; working with schools for a greater art presence; wayfinding; placement of Helix R artwork; and possible lighting of railroad trestle.

The Board discussed the historical plaza in the Centennial Center area; changes to the parking lot at the masonic lodge; possible relocation of the gazebo; and placement of various items that have been donated to the Town by the Cramer family.

Managing/Prioritizing Cramerton Hosting 3rd Party Events at Town Facilities: This item was not discussed. The Town Manager recommended this topic be scheduled to be discussed later as a workshop item.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Commissioner Rice to adjourn at 1:19 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neeley and approved by all.

Will Cauthen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk