

**TOWN OF DUCK
TOWN COUNCIL
MID-MONTH MEETING
January 18, 2023**

The Town Council for the Town of Duck convened at the Paul F. Keller Meeting Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Don Kingston; Councilor Sandy Whitman; Councilor Rob Mooney; and Councilor Tony Schiano.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tempore Monica Thibodeau.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Drew Havens, Director of Community Development Joseph Heard; Police Chief Jeffrey Ackerman; Fire Chief Donna Black; Town Attorney Robert Hobbs; Public Information and Events Director Kristiana Nickens; Finance and Human Resources Administrator Jessica Barnes; Deputy Town Clerk Melissa Felthousen; and Town Clerk Lori Ackerman.

OTHERS ABSENT: None.

Mayor Kingston called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. He noted that Mayor Pro Tempore Monica Thibodeau was excused from the meeting.

GOALS PLANNING SESSION

Town Manager Drew Havens was recognized to speak. Town Manager Havens stated that, similar to what Council accomplished last year, he wanted to pick their brains. He explained that as Council was going into the official 2024 budget preparation process, he wanted to hear from Council what their goals were. He stated that they would be discussing goals, how they set them, what they do with them, and how what they do today will differ from what they did during the Vision retreat.

Town Manager Havens stated that Vision 2027 was changed to Vision 2032, adding that he thought it was important to talk through each of the six unifying principles in order to frame where Council currently was.

Town Manager Havens stated that the six unifying principles were as follows:

1. Duck and Our Village
2. Enhanced Movability
3. Environmental Stewardship
4. Active, Engaged Community
5. Vibrant, Thriving Business Community
6. Responsive and Responsible Leadership

Town Manager Havens stated that Council would be discussing some next level goals as well as thinking about where they would fall under the six unifying principles. He noted that each principle has goals assigned to it and hoped that Council was thinking about the goals they wanted to bring forward that would reflect the three-to-five-year goals. He noted that, ultimately, the path forward should be whatever Council decided to do that would tie into them. He added that if it didn't, then Council would need to discuss it.

Town Manager Havens asked Council if they had any questions about the three-to-five-year goals since it has been a while since they were established. He asked Council if they were still happy with them.

Councilor Mooney thought the most important issue was population growth. He thought Council needed to pay attention to that because it was happening and would continue to happen, adding that Council needed to be prepared to handle it. Town Manager Havens clarified that it was the shift in demographics from having more non-resident property owners to having more resident property owners. Councilor Mooney stated he was correct.

Town Manager Havens stated that Council needed to be thinking about how to serve the community year-round and if there were different types of programming that could be accomplished. Councilor Mooney thought the Town was pretty good with regard to serving the community year-round, regardless of the size and population. He pointed out that there were some adjustments that would need to be made as far as infrastructure because there will be more people.

Mayor Kingston pointed out that Goal #4 under Responsive and Responsible Leadership had "Explore and understand demographic changes occurring in Duck and use them to shape policy", which tied in with the same theme about the demographic change and goes along with population change and growth.

Town Manager Havens stated that Council created a vision along with unifying principles and then the three-to-five-year goals. He stated that at this meeting, Council would be creating actionable items that they wanted to accomplish in the next fiscal year so the department directors know what to ask for in their budget requests. He hoped that what they were asking for furthers Council's goals.

Town Manager Havens reminded Council of the SMART priorities – Specific, Measured, Achievable, Relevant, Timed. He went on to review the SMART priorities with Council and the audience and then had Council give their goal statements to be reviewed. Afterward, the Council members chose the goal statements that they found to be most important to them.

Town Manager Havens explained that he would tally everything by number of votes for each category and would send it to Council in order of votes after he receives Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau's input. He noted that Council had voted on the following goals:

- Four Council members were strongly for maintaining/growing the fund balance with minimal/no tax increase.
- Four Council members were in favor of aggressively pursuing construction/renovation of the Public Safety building.
- Three Council members were in favor of monitoring and understanding the changing demographic of the Town and the potential impacts and vulnerabilities.
- Three Council members were in favor of initiating studies for additional parking and restrooms in the Town park.
- Two Council members were in favor of continuing to evaluate the feasibility of the Duck Trail expansion to the west side of NC 12.
- Two Council members were in favor of and one was strongly for enforcing the Town's Special Use Permits and ordinances.
- Two Council members were in favor of aggressively maintaining Town facilities.
- Two Council members were in favor of a storm water management program.

Town Manager Havens asked Council if any of them were surprised by the outcome. Mayor Kingston stated that there were no surprises but Council could have used more dots for voting. Town Manager Havens stated that just because a goal did not receive a dot didn't mean it would not be considered. He stated that all would be considered as something that was important.

Town Manager Havens stated that during Council's budget discussions, they will be discussing what they feel is important and voting on the items again, adding that this exercise that Council just completed was absent all of the details on how things work and what it would cost.

Town Manager Havens asked Town staff for their reaction on the goals. Police Chief Jeffrey Ackerman was recognized to speak. Police Chief Ackerman stated that he was not surprised by the voting, adding that this was extremely helpful as staff moves into the budgeting phase.

Fire Chief Donna Black was recognized to speak. Fire Chief Black stated that it helped guide staff with what they needed to tell Council at the Retreat.

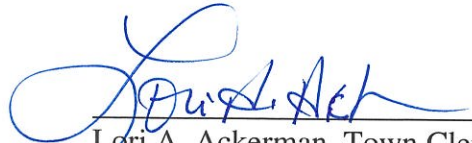
Mayor Kingston thanked Town Manager Havens for the exercise. He noted that the next meeting would be the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

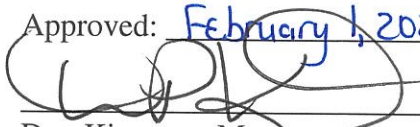
ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Whitman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 4-0.

The time was 2:48 p.m.


Lori A. Ackerman, Town Clerk

Approved: February 1, 2023

Don Kingston, Mayor

