

Town of Taylorsville



TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Town Council Chambers
Thursday, March 20th, 2025, 2:00 pm.

Prepared By: Nicole Mayes

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

The Town Council work session was called to order by Mayor Goerge Holleman on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 2:00 pm, followed by an invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Kim Brown.

Open Forum:

There was not a public comment forum held at the work session.

Discussion Items

1. Resolution: Unifour Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan **Town Manager, Nathan Hester**

The Town of Taylorsville performed a review and updated the previously approved Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by regulation. Fulfilling this obligation will allow the Town of Taylorsville to be eligible for federal and state assistance in the event of a disaster affecting the county.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kim Brown and seconded by Councilwomen Tamara Odom to approve adopting the Unifour Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

2. Mission, Vision, Goals **Town Manager, Nathan Hester**

• **Mission**

Town Manager Nathan Hester presented the council with five examples of possible mission statements for Town of Taylorsville. Town Council discussed the various aspect of the mission statements. Councilman Eric Bumgarner stated he like “while honoring our

heritage and embracing the future". Mayor George Holleman stated he liked mission statement number 4, "Preserving Tradition, Embracing Progress". Councilwomen Kim Brown stated she prefers a shorter mission statement. It was agreed, to combine example mission statement number 2 "Building a Stronger Taylorsville for Today and Tomorrow" and 4 "Preserving Tradition, Embracing Progress" to present at a later date.

- **Vision**

Town Manager Nathan Hester presented the council with five examples of possible vision statements for Town of Taylorsville. Councilwomen Kim Brown, Councilman Eric Bumgarner, and Councilman Jack Simms all agree with vision statement number 4 "Preserving Our Past, Building Our Future".

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kim Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Tamara Odom to approve the vision statement, "Preserving Our Past, Building Our Future - Taylorsville is committed to balancing history with progress by fostering business development, embracing community involvement, and enhancing public-private collaboration. With walkable streets, cultural vitality, and open dialogue with residents, we create opportunities that make our town both resourceful and desirable for all." The motion was passed unanimously.

- **Goals**

Town Manager Nather Hester presented the council with five possible goals for Town of Taylorsville, which are a collaboration of the ideas gathered at the February 2025 Budget Retreat. These goals included: Enhance Downtown Infrastructure & Aesthetics; Strengthen Economic Development & Business Recruitment; Improve Community Engagement & Government Transparency; Expand Events & Tourism Initiatives; and Establish Taylorsville as a Regional Destination.

A motion was made by Councilwomen Kim Brown and seconded by Councilman Eric Bumgarner to approve establishing these goals for Town of Taylorsville. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Charter Amendment for Election Cycle Discussion

Town Manager, Nathan Hester

Town Manager Nathan Hester proposed options for amending the election cycle to implement staggered four-year terms among councilmembers. Councilman Eric Bumgarner believes staggered terms would be good for continuity. Councilwoman Kim Brown agrees to stagger every two years; however, does not want to move the elections to the presidential years, but rather keep the elections on odd number years. Councilman Jack Simms, stated if town elections remain on the odd number years, it will not save the town money as it would if town elections were held on even number years. Town Manager Nathan agreed to speak with the town's attorney Monroe Pannell concerning charter amendments for both odd and even years for council to review and vote on at a later time.

4. Budget Presentation & Workshop

Town Manager, Nathan Hester

During the budget presentation, Town Manager Nathan Hester, spoke on the overall fund balance, the current appropriations versus expenditures, and future needs of each department.

The **Police Department** will need to acquire replacement vehicles in fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026. The state has transitioned their contracts to the Ford Explore as Dodge Chargers are no longer being manufactured. The estimated cost of a Ford Explore is \$54,000.00 (\$42,000.00 for the vehicle and \$10- 12,000 in upfitting). Tasers have been ordered at the current promotional rate; however, they are on back order until about June. Therefore, tasers are listed for the upcoming budget if the order happens to carry over into the new fiscal year. Also be mindful, tasers will need to be replaced after the five-year warranty expires. The police department is in need of soft body armor vests and continued replacement thereafter when the current vests expire. The state will be requiring radio upgrades which will need to be addressed. Speeding throughout town has been a concern; to increase safety, solar powered radar speed monitor signs have been suggested. Estimated at \$3,000.00+ each, solar power radar speed limit signs are currently not in the budget. A future need of a side-by-side utility vehicle would be utilized for a quicker response time at town festivals and for SROs at events held at Alexander Central High School.

Town Manager Nathan Hester presented information concerning the **Planning Board & Board of Adjustment**. There has been one application submitted thus far. The Planning Board needs a minimum of five individuals to obtain majority vote, consisting of four individuals from the town and one from the extraterritorial jurisdiction. The Board of Adjustment would have a maximum of five individuals. The council will need to agree on a salary for the board and a fee schedule. Both Councilman Eric Bumgarner and Councilwoman Tamara Odom agree, the example salary of \$14.00 per meeting is too low for the Planning Board / Adjustment Board, with Councilman Eric Bumgarner suggesting a salary of \$50.00 per meeting. The Town Manager also provided options for staffing a Planner and Main Street Coordinator and an estimated cost of zoning permit software. A sample fee schedule was provided.

A future need of the **Utilities / Water Department** includes a four-door utility truck (FY 27) to replace three vehicles (a Ford F-350 diesel and two Chevy 3500s). Public Utilities Manager Aaron Wike stated, hopefully a diesel grant will be available to help purchase the utility truck. A compact tractor and a compact excavator would increase the staff's capacity in the maintenance and repairs of existing utility service lines without relying on Energy United. A trailer would be needed to haul the compact tractor and other equipment. Councilman Jack Simms mentioned in the past, a class at Alexander Central High School made and sold both single and double axel trailers; it would be a good way to support the school. The sewer department will need a compact pickup truck. A trench box is needed to maintain employee safety while performing routine maintenance and repairing utility service lines underground; a trench box is an OSHA requirement. A pipe bursting machine would make it possible to replace lines without digging up the entire roadway. Public Utilities Manager Aaron Wike submitted five projects to the state with an estimated total of 5.6 million. The projects include a public works facility; Bells River lift station; upgrading to a 12-inch waterline on Main Ave and Highway 16; and a water meter tie-in replacement from a 6 inch to a 12 inch.

Concerning the facility feasibility study, at this time the scope of work has not been received from the architecture firm.

A bush hog is needed for the **Street and Sanitation Department**. Town Manager Nathan Hester stated Republic Services will be increasing costs by 5.1% resulting in a \$7.00 deficit per household. After councilmembers and town staff discussed various options of how to eliminate the deficit, four possible solutions included: increasing environmental fees by \$7.00; increase city taxes by \$0.03; no longer offer recycle service and increase the environmental fee by \$2 /\$3.00; or no longer offer solid waste or recycle services with Republic Services. Councilwomen Kim Brown questioned how much it would cost if the town provided its own solid waste service. The engineer firm is reworking the contract for the Street Resurfacing Project (SRP-W-ARP-0083) with Country Boy Landscaping & subcontractor JT Russell. The Merger & Regionalization Study (MRF-D-ARP-008), Water Asset Inventory (AIA-D-ARP-0107), and Sewer Collection System Assessment (AIA-W-ARP-0167) are all underway and should be completed this summer.

Future projects for **Matheson Park** include repaving the parking lot, shelter rehabilitation, and bathroom construction. A Trail Feasibility Study needs to be completed by an outside firm to determine the potential costs of major improvements to Matheson Park. Future additions/ improvements could include but are not limited to: pickle ball courts; tennis courts; basketball courts; a dog park; new bathroom facilities; a paved walking path. Town of Taylorsville plans to apply for a Part-F Grant to construct the improvements determined from the study to enhance the recreational area. Councilman Eric Bumgarner agreed the bathroom facilities at Matheson Park need to be addressed, with Councilwomen Tarama Odom stating the sooner the better. Public Works Manager Aaron Wike stated this (construction of the bathroom facilities) could possibly be a project for the high school students. Councilman Eric Bumgarner expressed an idea of building a stage, bathroom facilities located on the back side of the stage, and placing lights with speakers throughout Matheson Park making it an area to host events. Comment was made about reviewing the property deed for clarification if adding stage was possible.

Town Manager Nathan Hester introduced a **Capital Improvement Plan** for FY 2025 – 2029. The Capital Improvement Plan will be used to forecast and align projected revenue with major capital needs over the next five-year period. Once the Capital Improvement Plan is adopted by the Town Council, it will serve as a policy statement regarding capital projects while remaining a flexible planning tool.

Town Manager Nathan Hester shared two sample contract agreements from Western Piedmont Council of Government. A two-year contract for a Technical Planning Assistant, providing assistance one half day per week for \$51,408.00 (\$25,704.00 per year). Both Councilman Eric Bumgarner and Councilwomen Tamara Odom are concerned about the price of the contract. Councilwomen Kim Brown questioned how many zoning / planning projects were done in previous years. Mr. Hester replied stating the total was in the mid-60s. The Town Manager also shared a two-year contract for Code Enforcement for \$27,720.00 (\$13,860.00 per year).

Staff Reports

- **Public Utilities Manager: Aaron Wike**

No further reports.

- **Finance Director: Zachary Greene**

No further reports.

- **Police Chief: Mike Millsaps**

Police Chief Mike Millsaps has researched options of solar powered radar speed limit signs. Chief Millsaps is appreciative of the recent pay study which made the Taylorsville Police Department competitive with other agencies and he hopes things continue to head in the right direction to retain employees. Chief Millsaps estimated new radios at \$1500.00 each will be needed due to a change in networks. Chief Millsaps stated new computers for the police department should be considered, the department was down two computers recently but since have been repaired. Per, Public Utilities Manager Aaron Wike, computers were last purchased for the Police Department in 2020 with Cares Act funding. Chief Millsaps also stated the police department is planning a free self-defense class at Pure Grit. The police department plans to begin weekly social media posts providing various safety tips for the citizens of the community.

City Manager Report

Town Manager, Nathan Hester

Town Manager Nathan Hester stated he would be in Raleigh, NC on Wednesday meeting with representatives.

Millersville would like to hold a 5k race.

Interviews are underway for the Accounts Payables position with more interviews being held next week.

The Western Piedmont Council of Government will have an event on April 10, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Hickory Metro Center.

Council General Discussion

Councilman Eric Bumgarner asked about the progress of the new town website. Town Manager Nather Hester, stated the police department and agenda/minutes pages have been added. Mr. Hester is predicting the new town website to be completed within the next couple of weeks.

Councilman Eric Bumgarner asked about the roundabout study. Public Utilities Manager Aaron Wike commented, he receives weekly updates on Friday and at this time the study is not completed. A new traffic count was needed and Mr. Wike estimated the study should be finalized in the next three to four weeks.

Adjournment

Mayor George Holleman asked for the motion to adjourn, a motion was made by Councilman Jack Simms to adjourn and seconded by Councilman Eric Bumgarner. The motion was passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Nicole Mayes, Town Clerk