

TOWN OF WEDDINGTON SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.
WEDDINGTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

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Councilman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Quorum determined with Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Buzzard, and Councilmember Propst in attendance.

Mayor Deter arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Titherington arrived at 6:17 p.m.

Staff present: Town Planner/Administrator Lisa Thompson, Town Clerk Karen Dewey

TRANSPORTATION WORK SESSION

Ms. Thompson stated the purpose of the work session, which was to confirm if the Council needs to update the current Local Area Regional Transportation Plan (LARTP), to clarify the need to align it with the County's transportation plan and take advantage of CRTPO funding options. Mr. Bjorn Hansen, Union County Transportation Planner, explained his position within the county and background of the transportation plan in the county.

Mr. Hansen gave insight on road and intersection prioritization by the NCDOT. The key factors are: contribution of public money, using a plan (like LARTP), and getting support from the public. He briefly explained right of way purchasing and dedication of land for roads.

Mr. Hansen discussed how Union County municipalities, through LARTP are good at creating connections through neighborhoods to distribute traffic from main roads. He gave Providence Downs South as an example.

Mr. Hansen presented a map of the road network for Weddington area showing the change in traffic over the last 10 years. Some places have seen more increase in traffic than others. Union County, Wesley Chapel, Marvin, and Weddington, for example, have pledged funding for troubled traffic areas, helping prioritize projects. These projects include more intersections than road widening plans. Mr. Hansen expressed that if Weddington wants intersection projects to be considered by NCDOT and the CRTPO, the Town needs to push the TCC to submit them for consideration.

Mayor Pro Tem Titherington asked how the Town can support the push of intersection projects. Mr. Hansen stated the MPO long range plan process that has been adopted keeps the intersections from being considered and that is discriminatory. That being said, Union County intersection projects are not as competitive because of the traffic volume. Mr. Hansen suggested that the Town should communicate with the Mayor of Matthews, James Taylor, who is the Chairman of the CRTPO and ask for intersections to be considered as an agenda item. Mayor Deter asked where the determination of the type of project comes from. Mr. Hansen explained that it comes from the people. The Council is to provide input to the MPO on what the Town wants.

Discussion of road prioritizing continued with various routing possibilities for different areas of Weddington. Mr. Hansen suggested that focus on lowest level of operational improvements is very pragmatic. It's tough to predict from where the cars are coming. State routes competitive for multi-lane widening projects are carrying double what Weddington roads are carrying.

Mr. Hansen stated that there are no decisions being made today. He suggested the Council think about cross sections and neighborhood connector roads and remove those from consideration if not a legitimate corridor.

Mayor Deter asked if focus should be on intersections or roads? Mr. Hansen suggested both. Focusing on intersections includes transportation issues that the Council can actively weigh in on and fund to a degree that can actually make a difference in the decision process. They can be done in 2-3 yrs. When you focus on thoroughfare: the corridors involve intense visions, if the Town isn't consistent and unwavering, support for that vision will dissipate.

Mayor Pro Tem Titherington asked what the next step should be and if it makes sense to have a workshop with Mr. Hansen and Ms. Thompson to walk through scenarios. Mr. Hansen responded that yes, that type of practical screening will be useful. A lot of Weddington intersections will be taken care of with the Rea Road extension and subsequent widening of Weddington Road; however, there are other projects that Weddington can submit for consideration. It would be helpful to work that out in a formal workshop setting. The Council tasked Ms. Thompson with coordinating a formal workshop with Mr. Hansen.

ADJOURNMENT

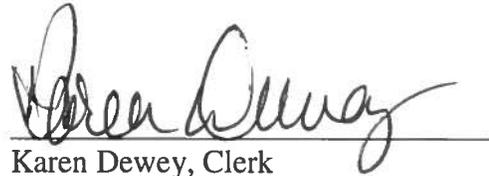
Motion: Councilman Buzzard moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Vote: Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Adopted: August 14, 2017



Bill Deter, Mayor



Karen Dewey, Clerk