

SPECIAL JOINT TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND
PLANNING BOARD MEETING
July 1, 2009

Present: Mayor Don Mullen, Vice Mayor Amy Patterson, Commissioner John Dotson, Commissioner Hank Ross, Commissioner Larry Rogers and Commissioner Dennis DeWolf.

Staff Present: Town Manager Jim Fatland, Police Chief Bill Harrell, Town Engineer/ Public Services Administrator Lamar Nix, Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley and Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Mullen called the Special Joint Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Parking Study Presentation

Mayor Mullen advised that the Parking Study Presentation had been presented to the public earlier in the day for review and comments.

Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley explained that the presentation to the Town Board and Planning Board was to look at alternatives that have been prepared by the Parking Study Committee.

Terry M. Snow, P.E. of Wilbur Smith Associates of Raleigh, NC thanked everyone involved for their guidance and made the presentation of the Parking and Traffic Circulation Study. Mr. Snow advised that although conceptional, the purpose of the project is to increase the parking supply, enhance vehicular circulation, enhance pedestrian safety and mobility and provide more desirable directional signage. The goal is no loss of parking and to keep safety in mind. Numerous maps, graphs and charts were readily available to all in attendance for review and consideration.

Mr. Snow advised that traffic was counted during July, 2008 at key locations and all were within acceptable levels of service. The locations of where traffic was counted is as follows:

1st Street/Main Street

2nd Street/Main Street

3rd Street/Main Street

4th Street/Main Street

5th Street/Main Street

3rd Street/Oak Street

4th Street/Maple Street
 Spring Street/Dillard Road
 3rd Street/Church Street
 4th Street/ Church Street
 4th Street/Spring Street
 5th Street/Pine Street
 3rd Street/Spring Street

The traffic capacity analysis results showed that all were within acceptable levels of service by today’s standards. Although congestion does occur during the peak periods it should be noted that during special events, traffic is different. The study also showed that there is a need to minimize truck traffic along Main Street specifically between 3rd Street and 5th Street. There is also a need to minimize vehicular and pedestrian conflict, as this is a safety issue.

Terry Snow further advised that regarding the parking accumulation study, numerous locations were studied and showed that presently there are 962 public parking spaces available and that the spaces that are off Main Street are not used to full capacity. The need to signage to the off Main Street spaces is needed. The results of the Parking Accumulation Study shows that there is adequate parking for “normal” conditions but there is a need for more parking along Main Street and the need to direct motorists to side street parking, thus the need for signage.

Mr. Snow explained the existing wayfinding/signage presently located within the Town and has suggested that the DOT signs be moved to the mast arms of the traffic lights for better visibility.

Mr. Snow further advised that many of the following alternatives were discussed:

Alternative A	Enhance sight distance/ streetscapes
Alternative B	Main Street/3 rd Street signalized
Alternative C	3 rd Street right in/right out/streetscapes/bulb-outs
Alternative D	Median with wide sidewalks/ Streetscapes

Another alternative discussed with the “Do Nothing” alternative.

Each of the above alternatives were discussed in great length amongst the Board members and others interested that were in attendance.

Mr. Snow advised that a Preferred Alternative would include the following:

- Wayfinding System (using customized signs)
- Extending Main Street to 1st Street
- Landscape the median along Main Street
- Gateways/Traffic calming (at strategic locations)
- Traffic Circle at the 4th Street/South Street intersection
- Sidewalk connections to Main Street (there are some areas that do not have sidewalks)
- Convert Spring Street to One-Way
- Enhance Pedestrian Crossings (use countdown pedestrian signals for more efficient and safer mobility and midblock crossings)
- Potential installation of a traffic signal at the 3rd Street and Main Street intersection
- Increased parking supply

The Wayfinding System was discussed to include destination driven signs, which would be customized and would better direct motorists and pedestrians.

With the proposed Preferred Alternative Plan, the parking supply would increase by 55 spaces.

Regarding the possibility of extending Main Street to 1st Street, much discussion was had regarding a retaining wall and it was necessary to remind everyone that it was all presently conceptual and surveys would be needed before any work would be performed.

Joe Cooley advised that he would compile the comments from the public and have them available at the Chamber of Commerce and Town Hall for review.

When Mayor Mullen was asked if there was a timeline for the matter at hand, he advised that there was no timeline and again stated it was conceptual.

Mayor Mullen advised those in attendance to look at the maps and give their thoughts.

3. Adjourn

As no action was taken, the special meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

James R. Fatland
Town Manager

Jane J. Capman
Recording Secretary

Don Mullen Mayor