

TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN
2015 Budget Retreat
March 26, 2015

The Elizabethtown Town Council met for their annual Budget Retreat meeting which was scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 9 am at Vineyard Golf Course Clubhouse in White Lake, NC.

Present: Mayor Sylvia Campbell, Mayor Pro Tem Rufus Lloyd, Council Members Herman Lewis, Dicky Glenn, Darrell Page, Paula Greene and Ricky Leinwand. Also present were Department Heads that included: Finance Director Jay Leatherman, Public Services Director Pat DeVane, Fire Chief Nick West, Police Chief Bobby Kinlaw and Planning Technician Billie Sue Hall. Town Manager Eddie Madden and Human Resources Director/Deputy Clerk Sarah Baysden were also in attendance.

Item #1: Welcome

Mayor Campbell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 2015 Annual Budget Retreat. Mayor Pro Tem Rufus Lloyd gave the invocation. Mayor Campbell presented the agenda for approval. A motion was made by Council Member Dicky Glenn, and seconded by Council Member Herman Lewis to approve the agenda as presented (Unanimous).

Item #2: Panel Discussion and County Partners

Mayor Campbell recognized Town Manager Eddie Madden for remarks. Mr. Madden thanked everyone for taking the time to arrange their schedule and attend the annual budget retreat. Mr. Madden recognized Mr. Robert Hester of Bladen Online to facilitate the panel discussion session with County Partners that included County Manager Greg Martin, Chuck Heustess, Director of Bladen's Bloomin; Ms. Valerie Newton and Dr. Tanya Head of the Bladen County Board of Education and Dr. William Findt, President of Bladen Community College. Each one presented programs that were taking place and gave numerous updates on upcoming projects.

Item #3: Legislative Update

Town Manager Eddie Madden presented several updates regarding the NC Legislature and how it affects Local Government. Mr. Madden recently attended Town Hall Day in Raleigh and conveyed to everyone changes that would be taking place and how the Town could prepare for these changes.

Item #4: Departmental Updates

Mayor Campbell recognized each Department Head to present matters of importance within their departments. Each department gave a brief presentation on projects that they have completed since last year and the hopes of having additional projects completed the upcoming year. Chief West presented the completion of renovations to the Elizabethtown Fire Department, Public Services stated that Well #3 has been replaced, the Waste Water Treatment Plant now has two employees that are a Certified 4 Operator, King Street will be paved in the

next 30 days, the Town is closer to getting inmates to work within the Town of Elizabethtown, a new employee will soon join the Public Services Department, Tory Hole Picnic Shelter has received a new roof as well as the Building on Morehead Street.

Item #5: Expected Changes

Town Manager Eddie Madden recognized Tax Administrator for the County of Bladen, Mr. Chris Ellis. Mr. Ellis presented the revaluations that recently took place in Bladen County and the impact it will have on the Town and the County citizens.

Mr. Jay Leatherman talked about Gross Revenues, and Privilege License Fees as well as Sales Tax. Mr. Madden talked about Long Term Debt, Personnel Changes, Inmate Labor and Professional Service Contracts.

Item #6: Lunch and Speaker

Mayor Campbell recognized Ms. Kate Dixon who is involved in Friends of the Mountains-to-the Sea Trail (FMST). Ms. Dixon presented a presentation in which she gave a wealth of information on bike trails, that run from the mountains to the coast and the attraction it has on small towns and the benefits of having this in a community. Ms. Dixon stated that the Town of Elizabethtown has beautiful scenic areas and this would be a great resource for the Town. Ms. Dixon ended her presentation with a request for volunteers for anyone interested in participating in the FMST project.

Item #7: 2015-20 CIP Overview and Update with PowerPoint

Mayor Campbell recognized each department to present their respective Capital request for the coming fiscal year. In addition, Council will be providing a recommendation on the 2015-20 CIP plans, which will be used for long-range planning, grant writing, and project implementation.

Fire Chief Nick West requested additional employees within the Fire Department due to being short-handed on numerous occasions when the department has been extremely busy with emergency calls and being very short staffed. Police Chief Bobby Kinlaw requested the purchase of three (3) additional police cruisers. Public Services Director Pat DeVane stated that he would like to have more mapping knowledge in his department as well as renovate the public services building. Finance Director Jay Leatherman reported that he was short staffed in his department and was looking to hire a new employee. Mr. Madden stated that a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund application was awarded to the Town of Elizabethtown in which a skate park was in the process of being constructed as well as a beach volleyball court. Also, the Town is in the process of obtaining three (3) bids from Grading Contractors to fix the soccer field behind Town Hall. Mr. Carter Hubard of WK Dickson presented the Downtown Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement project. Mr. Hubard presented an in-depth presentation regarding this project and conveyed to Council the importance of the project and the funds it would take to repair and replace.

Item #8: Council Priorities and Brainstorming Session

Mayor Campbell requested that Council take into consideration all that was presented and asked for questions and/or comments. Public Services Director Pat DeVane stated that certain streets owned by the Town were in very poor shape and requested that Council consider repairs and using Powell Bill funding. Council Members stated that they would like to visit these areas and view the situation for themselves so they would know the degree of urgency of the needed repairs.

On another matter, Police Chief Bobby Kinlaw stated that he would be retiring on August 28, 2015 after 34 years with the Town of Elizabethtown's Police Department.

Item #9: Recess

Mayor Campbell stated that the meeting would recess until 6:30pm and everyone was invited to attend the Dinner at the Cape Fear Farmers Market.

Sylvia Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah L. Baysden, Deputy Town Clerk