



**TOWN OF AYDEN
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

December 14, 2015 – 7:00 pm
Ayden's Old Town Hall (4106 West Avenue)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

Mayor Tripp called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

B. Roll Call

Present:

Mayor Tripp

Commissioners Davenport, Harris, Mewborn, Ross and Skinner

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brandon Holland – Town Manager

Sherri Scharf – Town Clerk

Phillip R. Dixon – Town Attorney

J. Scott Dixon – Associate Town Attorney

C. Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Tripp stated that requests to revise the agenda would be considered by the Board and called on Town Attorney Phil Dixon to state the reason for adding a Closed Session immediately following the Town's regular business. Attorney Dixon stated that the Board consider entering pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(5): to establish or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease; or the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract and G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) – to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

Mayor Tripp called for a motion and asked for a show of hands to vote.

Motion: Commissioner Skinner

Second: Commissioner Harris

Discussion: None

Approved: 3-2 with Commissioners Mewborn and Ross opposed

The motion to revise the agenda by adding the above-referenced Closed Session passed.

Commissioner Mewborn stated that he felt the Board was trying to “pull a trick on him” by entering Closed Session and that he was opposed because he wants the public to hear about a “serious problem that is going on in town.” He then stated that it has been a “long-standing tradition” that the commissioner with the most citizen votes during the election becomes the Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Mewborn stated that he wanted to revise the agenda by moving up the appointment of a Mayor Pro-Tem so that it is addressed sooner on the agenda.

Mayor Tripp called for a motion and asked for a show of hands to vote.

Motion: Commissioner Mewborn

Second: Commissioner Harris

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to revise the agenda by moving the appointment of a Mayor Pro-Tem from Section V Item A: Action Items to Section II Item C: Public Comments was approved.

II. PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comments

1. Leonard Gibson, 255 Second Street, stated that the Town lost a valuable employee with the resignation of Robert Sutton and added that he blames the Town and Board. He also acknowledged that while citizens received a 10% decrease in their electric rate, they are now receiving a \$1.50 electric surcharge each month that offsets that decrease. In reference to the Mayor Pro-Tem appointment, he stated while he was on the Board he remembers that the Board made the decision on which commissioner to appoint. He stated that the Board needs to work better together like they did in the past.
2. Linda Evans, 4224-B Deer Meadow, stated that it has been a year since she asked about her “grandma’s house” on 302 Garris Street and her family is still waiting to hear when the work will be done. She said they have done their part but get no response. Attorney Phil Dixon stated that not all deeds that were issued to multiple property owners have been signed and returned to make the CDBG transaction in compliance with the law. Mayor Tripp stated: “we will get an update and meet with your family in the next couple of days.”
3. Mary Dail, 313 Garris Street, implored Mayor Tripp and the Board to stop “behind doors sessions” and to “do the right thing” and not to “treat whites one way and blacks another,” adding that they don’t want to “go back to the 70’s when there were riots.”
4. Joseph Bray, 4560 S. Lee Street, said that several areas including the Martin Luther King area of town need a lot of improvements. He stated that the annual Community Unity celebration on S. Lee Street is a time for the whole Town to come together. He asked for more Governing Board members to come and associate with the citizens at this event,

adding that many citizens don't even know who their commissioners are. He implored the Board to be honest and get along better.

5. Chuck Dunn, 911 Country Club Drive, stated that he has been a resident for 71 years and "has never been more disappointed in what has come of Ayden." He can't speak for all his neighbors, but his close ones feel that Commissioner Ivory Mewborn has done a good job for all in their ward. He feels he should continue to be Mayor Pro-Tem.
6. Skip Stang, 3927 Winchester Drive, said he wanted to thank Commissioner Mewborn and Town Manager Holland "for getting my yard flooding problem taken care of in one day."
7. Travis Woods, 3953 Northeast College Street, said that he is concerned about rumors and that he has heard, so he came to see what is going on. He stated that he believes in and respects Mayor Tripp and his leadership, but asked him to "do the right thing and not hidden agendas that hurt Ayden." He added that he remembers when Commissioner Skinner was Mayor Pro-Tem and "had enough votes to remain;" adding that it was "only right that Commissioner Mewborn remain."

Commissioner Skinner stated that he has been on the Board for 13 years and "citizen votes never had anything to do with it," adding that the Mayor Pro-Tem is elected by peers on the Board.

At 7:40 p.m. Mayor Tripp stood up and stated he was calling "order" and closing the public comments. He then stated that the Ayden Code of Ordinances states that the Mayor Pro-Tem is elected by the other commissioners, adding that the position has the same voting power as being a commissioner. He recalled having served 22 years on the Board, with both J.J. Brown and Marvin "Bear" Baldree, and never remembered it being an issue who amongst them would be Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mayor Tripp then announced that the Board would take a 20 to 30 minute break for a public reception, with the meeting to resume immediately after.

B. Board Swearing-In Ceremony & Reception

Town Clerk Sherri Scharf called upon the recently reelected Board members to be sworn-in by Pitt County Judge David Leech in the following order: Ward 1: Commissioner Ivory Mewborn; Ward 2: Commissioner Mary Alice Davenport and Mayor Steve Tripp.

C. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore

Town Manager Holland stated that it would be the appropriate time to appoint a Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Tripp called for motions and asked for a show of hands for votes.

Motion: Commissioner Ross

Second: Commissioner Mewborn

The motion to appoint Commissioner Mewborn as Mayor Pro-Tempore failed due to lack of a majority vote.

Motion: Commissioner Harris

Second: Commissioner Davenport

Approved: 3-2 with Commissioners Mewborn and Ross opposed

The motion to appoint Commissioner Skinner as Mayor Pro-Tempore passed.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Open Session Minutes of November 9, 2015
- B. Ordinance No. 15-16-07 Requiring Owner to Demolish and Remove Dwelling at 4333 Watermelon Street
- C. Ordinance No. 15-16-06 Requiring Owner to Demolish and Remove Dwelling at 4345 Watermelon Street
- D. Ordinance No. 15-16-08 Requiring Owner to Demolish and Remove Dwelling at 428 E. Barwick St.
- E. Ordinance No. 15-16-09 Requiring Owner to Demolish and Remove Dwelling at 4198 West Ave.
- F. 2015 Tax Levy – Additions and Releases
- G. Resolution No. 15-16-09 to Adopt Ayden Housing Authority's 5 Year Plan
- H. Resolution No. 15-16-10 to Adopt AHA's Procurement Policy Revisions
- I. Resolution No. 15-16-11 to Adopt AHA's Admissions/Occupancy Policy Amendment and Corresponding Revisions to the AHA Lease Agreement

Mayor Tripp called for a motion and show of hands to vote on the consent agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Mewborn

Second: Commissioner Harris

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to approve the consent agenda passed.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Zoning Map Amendment Application: Quadrant Construction, Inc.

Town Manager Holland stated that this zoning request had previously been before the Board in April this year. He stated that Quadrant Construction representatives were present to address the concerns that had led to the previous denial and then asked Community and Economic Planner Stephen Smith to lead the discussion.

Planner Smith stated that the Town of Ayden's Zoning Ordinance allows an applicant whose request was denied to appeal the decision after a 6 month period. Quadrant Construction Inc. (applicant) is requesting a change in zoning from R-8 (Residential) to MF (Multi-Family) for 6.7 acres at the corner of Second Street and Juanita Drive (Pitt Co. Parcel No. 15252). In 2005 the property zoning was changed from R-10 to R-8. This parcel was previously included in the development plan for the Arbors Subdivision but to date has not been developed. The parcel is surrounded by R-10 zoning to the south, east and west, MF zoning to the north and east, and R-8 zoning to the north.

Planner Smith stated that this request was previously heard by the Planning Board on March 16th and denied due to concerns with downzoning as well as sewer and traffic issues. The Governing Board also denied the request during its April 13th meeting. However, at its November 16th meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the rezoning from R-8 to MF.

Staff recommends approving the request at this time. The Future Land Use Map designates this property as Medium Density Residential (MDR) and the MF zoning district does permit

single and multi-family residential uses at a density up to 11 units per acre. The MDR designation states that higher densities should be allowed if Town services are provided. The rezoning request is consistent with the Future Land Use designation of MDR. At this time, staff recommends a public hearing and Board consideration of the request.

Mayor Tripp declared the Public Hearing to be open at 8:45 p.m.

James Maides, Quadrant Construction Inc. (Jacksonville NC) thanked the Board for allowing him to revisit his request. He stated that this senior/aging-in-place housing project is one of several in the state, that they "take care of their communities," and that he is "sold on Ayden." Since April, he has talked to neighbors in the Ayden community, including Governing Board members, about the housing project. He has also sent the design plans to their engineer for assistance in addressing some of the previous concerns, and he is confident they can do so.

Mark McCloskey, Quadrant Construction Project Manager described the project a "\$6.5 million total investment in Ayden." Regarding sewer capacity, he referred the Board to the letter from CMSD that stated CMSD had previously issued allocation to Ayden to accept wastewater from the Arbors Subdivision, that the current project is within the CMSD service area, and that CMSD will "gladly accept the wastewater from this 64 unit project." A letter to Mr. Maides from Davenport Engineering states that "the proposed project has the potential to generate approximately 220 trips per day onto the surrounding roadway system. The senior adult homes are expected to generate ... 18 trips per day less than the current zoning..." The trip generation summary scenarios provide details that show that 64 occupied dwelling units produce 220 average daily trips while 25 dwelling units produce 238 average daily trips. He then distributed to Board members energy cost reports conducted by Southern Energy Marketing as he explained that only electric utilities would be paid by residents as water/sewer and trash allowances would be factored into the monthly rent. The senior duplexes are energy star rated. Using Ayden's current electric rates, utility costs average \$1,035 annually/ \$86 monthly for the one-bedroom unit and \$1,234 annually/\$103 monthly for the two-bedroom unit. Mr. McCloskey also stated that he attended Ayden's Community Policing Council meetings to gain insight on citizens' concerns related to security in the proposed new neighborhood. As a result, Quadrant Construction will add security cameras at ingress/egress points; specifically, cameras will cover the parking lot, clubhouse building, and be spread around the grounds.

Raymond Langley, 3826 N. Hills Drive, expressed a concern that Ayden has the Housing Authority and many other apartments/townhouses. He asked how adding additional "apartments" might impact property values, particularly for those living in the N. Hills Drive and Robin Road area. Mr. McCloskey replied that there would be "an overall increase in the value of square footage."

Commissioner Ross inquired whether Mr. McCloskey had spoken to residents in this area, and Commissioner Mewborn stated that Thomas Heath is opposed to it. Mr. McCloskey replied that he had spoken to residents, and that Mr. Heath said he would be opposed to "anything" in the area.

Mayor Tripp stated that former Commissioner Leonard Gibson spoke in favor of the project at the Planning Board meeting and that none of the other residents in attendance opposed it.

After determining no other citizens wished to speak, Mayor Tripp closed the Public Hearing at 9:05 p.m.

Mayor Tripp called for a motion and show of hands for a vote.

Motion: Commissioner Skinner

Second: Commissioner Harris

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 15-16-10 to Amend the Town's Official Zoning Map from R-10 to MF for Pitt Co. Parcel No. 06098 was approved as presented.

B. Zoning Map Amendment to Determine Highway Commercial Corridor

Town Manager Holland stated that staff has been preparing for development that will likely occur along the Southwest Bypass route in Ayden, and then asked Community and Economic Planner Stephen Smith to lead the discussion. Planner Smith stated that at the October 19th Planning Board meeting, staff was directed to draft a zoning map amendment to change zoning on properties currently zoned B-2 (Highway Commercial) along NC 11 to B-2/CCOL (Highway Commercial/Commercial Corridor Overlay). This proposed change will rezone 23 parcels along NC 11.

Planner Smith further stated that the intention behind the CCOL District is to promote community goals and objectives for character and aesthetics along key corridors within the Town of Ayden's Planning and Zoning Jurisdiction. Specifically, to promote commercial development that is compatible with surrounding areas; to minimize the negative impact caused by strip commercial development, loading facilities, storage facilities, sign clutter and proliferation of access points; and to strengthen the quality of life by providing for a well designed built environment that plans for orderly growth as well as promoting and preserving the unique character of the Town of Ayden. This overlay district is currently in place along the NC 102 Corridor from NC 11 to the proposed Southwest Bypass interchange. With Southwest Bypass construction set to begin in early 2016, it is anticipated that development along the existing NC 11 corridor will increase.

At its November 16th meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend rezoning 23 parcels from B-2 to B-2/CCOL and to send the request to the Governing Board for approval.

At this time, staff recommends a public hearing and Board consideration of the request. It was also noted that any residents who have home businesses will not be impacted unless they make improvements 50% greater than their existing business. Planner Smith stated that the CCOL designation gives the Planning and Governing Boards latitude to address these concerns as they arise.

Mayor Tripp declared the Public Hearing to be open at 9:12 p.m. Seeing there were no public comments, it was subsequently closed.

Mayor Tripp called for a motion and show of hands for a vote.

Motion: Commissioner Davenport

Second: Commissioner Harris

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 15-16-11 to amend the Town's Official Zoning Map to rezone 23 Pitt Co. Parcels from B-2 (Highway Commercial) to B-2/CCOL (Highway Commercial/Commercial Corridor Overlay) was approved as presented.

C. Zoning Text Amendment: Highway Commercial Corridor Overlay B-2 to Include CCOL

Planner Smith stated that this staff initiated action is the second part of the CCOL request and will allow a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance such that it will carry the new CCOL District designation.

The specific text amendment is to Article 4, Section 4-1: Establishment of Zoning Districts and the Purpose Thereof, Items (L) and (Q) and also a change to Section 6-1: District Intent with the following addition to each:

Effective December 14, 2015, all rezoning requests for B-2 along the NC 11 Corridor will be required to include the CCOL (Commercial Corridor Overlay District) designation.

Mayor Tripp declared the Public Hearing to be open at 9:18 p.m. Seeing there were no public comments, it was subsequently closed.

Mayor Tripp called for a motion and show of hands for a vote.

Motion: Commissioner Mewborn

Second: Commissioner Skinner

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 15-16-12 to amend the text in Ayden's Official Zoning Ordinance, Article 4, Section 4-1: Establishment of Zoning Districts and the Purpose Thereof, Items (L) and (Q) and Section 6-1: District Intent was approved as presented.

D. Ayden Mixed Beverage Proposal for March 25, 2016 NC Primary Election Ballot

Manager Holland stated that the Pitt County Board of Elections needs a resolution approved by December 15th stating the Town of Ayden's intent to have a mixed beverage proposal on the March 15th NC Primary Election Ballot. Noting that there had been several opportunities for citizen input, including a special called meeting on December 7th for that very reason, Manager Holland stated that it would now be appropriate to have a public hearing and vote.

Mayor Tripp declared the Public Hearing to be open at 9:20 p.m. and called for citizen input.

Speaking AGAINST a ballot proposal allowing citizens to vote on Mixed Beverages:

1. Gordon Hart, 3870 N. Hills Drive stated that vowed never to drink and never has as he believes it wrecks lives and homes. He would rather pay taxes than "compromise his soul."
2. Stan Wingard, 4266 Southeast College stated that the bible is against "strong drink." He raised a family in Ayden and has grandchildren here. He thinks it is best for Ayden, who advertises itself as a family community, to not allow alcohol to be a part of the town.
3. Bruce Jones, 4987 Ayden Golf Club Road quoted the bible on "wine and women" and stated that Free Will Baptists promise not to provide or sell alcohol, adding that just because folks "do wrong" doesn't mean that we need to provide it.
4. David Springer, 3782 Wood Duck Court, spoke against this issue during the August meeting and is still against having a mixed beverage election. He stated that the issue was already voted on and was declined, so it should not be brought up again.
5. Latham "Bum" Dennis, Bum's Restaurant, 566 Third Street, stated that he doesn't see alcohol as a "fine dining" feature, adding that the Beef Barn in Greenville had alcohol but it closed. He believes that Parkers, Chick-Fil-A, and Skylight Inn offer "fine dining without alcohol."

Speaking FOR a ballot proposal allowing citizens to vote on Mixed Beverages:

1. Chuck Dunn, 911 Country Club Drive, stated that Prohibition proved that people will drink alcohol. Even though his business (Cindirene's) serves alcohol, his patrons do not get drunk – "people look out for each other." He is more concerned about people who drink liquor in Greenville and drive back to Ayden. With respect to the Ayden BBQ establishments, he can only eat so much of it, and wants other restaurant choices in Ayden.
2. Kristy Swanson, 7067 County Home Road, said that she grew up Catholic and alcohol was not banned in her home. She has lived in Ayden 8 years and would love the option of having a margarita while eating at Ayden's Mexican restaurant, but it is not allowed. She feels people in the audience are using fear instead of facts, saying that they could disagree, but did not have the right to "cut off others." Ms. Swanson believes the Town should trust the citizens to decide for themselves.
3. Faye Warren, 297 Sixth Street, stated that she grew up in the Pentecostal Church whose congregation "turned their backs on her" when she tried alcohol. After hearing the pastors tonight, she said she felt obligated to "debunk church myths" on alcohol. She believes someone who drinks knows when they are getting drunk, adding that the average person could not afford to get drunk in a restaurant, but could certainly "buy a fifth at the ABC Store and get drunk." Addressing the church pastors in the audience who had spoken against a mixed beverage ballot proposal: "get over it and let people enjoy their lives; stop lumping everyone together."
4. Raymond Langley, 3826 N. Hills Drive, stated that he believes the citizens have a right to choose but questioned whether the Board "really wanted it or not." Since the topic was tabled at the August meeting to seek more citizen input, he asked the Board what new information they received, other than what is being said at the meeting tonight.
5. Paula Loftin, 3789 Ernest Loftin Road, stated that Ayden accepts revenue for beer and wine and decided it was OK to have an ABC Store on Third Street, but that economic growth can't be dictated. She asked the Board to "be fair to the constituents."

Seeing there were no other citizens wanting to speak, Mayor Tripp declared the Public Hearing to be closed at 10:10 p.m.

Commissioner Davenport stated that she doesn't drink but knows that liquor doesn't kill folks, folks do it to themselves. She believes mixed beverages will bring nice restaurants to Ayden and help it grow. She feels the citizens should decide for themselves on the ballot.

Commissioner Ross stated that three years ago the citizens decided that "liquor by the drink" will not bring growth to Ayden. Therefore, she feels the Board should focus on downtown by enforcing the codes and fixing the buildings. She believes new businesses will come if the downtown is "presentable." She feels those who want liquor can go to Greenville to drink it. She believes the Southwest Bypass won't really help the Town. "Like it or not, we live in a low wealth town, and we have citizens that need to be taken care of," she said.

Commissioner Mewborn agreed with Commissioner Ross and said he believes "liquor by the drink is a trick," and he won't "fool himself into believing it." He feels Ayden needs jobs not liquor.

Commissioner Skinner said that the topic has been discussed in the past and the Board agreed to let the citizens decide. He has talked to Ayden citizens who told him "don't speak for me, let me make my own decisions." He knows some citizens will be for and some against it.

Commissioner Harris said that he agrees with Commissioner Skinner. Although he has "the utmost respect" for citizens who spoke tonight, he will vote to put mixed beverages on the ballot and let the people decide.

Mayor Tripp thanked the citizens for their passion and beliefs, adding that he recognizes that some people seek alternatives to feel better, which is why he works with Ayden's ministers to try and build relationships and change hearts.

Mayor Tripp called for a motion and asked for a show of hands to vote.

Motion: Commissioner Harris

Second: Commissioner Skinner

Discussion: None

Approved: 3-2 with Commissioners Mewborn and Ross opposed

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-16-06 to hold a Mixed Beverage Election on March 15th 2016 to allow the citizens of Ayden to vote via ballot proposal was approved.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointments to Various Town Advisory Boards

Mayor Tripp stated that after each municipal election the Board considers appoints to various Town advisory boards and asked if any of the commissioners wanted to see changes. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed by consensus to the following ex-officio appointments:

- Planning Board = Commissioner Mewborn
- Arts & Recreation Commission= Commissioner Harris
- Library Trust Board = Commissioner Skinner
- Fire Department Advisory Board (2 year term) = Mayor Tripp
- Fire Department Relief Fund Board (1 year term) = Commissioner Ross

B. Employee Grievance and Whistleblower Procedure

Manager Holland reminded the Board that in November they tabled the discussion of the Employee Grievance Procedure and Whistleblower Policy so that more consideration could be given to a timeline for reporting and addressing grievances. To address specific concerns, Manager Holland prepared a proposed timeline with a table that shows the original proposal and recommended changes. It is below:

Informal Resolution	Original Proposal	Recommended Change
Meeting with Department Head	5 working days	3 working days
<u>Step 1:</u>		
Written submission	5 working days	3 working days
Written response	5 working days	3 working days
<u>Step 2:</u>		
Appeal to Town Manager	5 working days	3 working days
Response from Town Manager	10 calendar days	5 working days
<u>Step 3:</u>		
Appeal to Governing Board	5 calendar days	(no change)
Response from Governing Board	30 calendar days	(no change)

Appeal Procedure for Discrimination:

An employee or applicant for employment should appeal an alleged act of discrimination within 30 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory action, but may appeal for up to six months following the action. It is recommended that no changes be made to this component as it is consistent with the EEOC law.

Commissioner Harris asked Manager Holland if, as manager, he felt an expedited timeline would allow enough time to address issues and manage the process. Manager Holland responded "yes" and that he believed people would address the issues while "fresh" and that it will also increase pressure to respond quickly.

Mayor Tripp called for a motion and show of hands for votes on the recommended changes.

Motion: Commissioner Mewborn

Second: Commissioner Ross

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to approve the Employee Grievance and Whistleblower Procedure with a revised timeline was approved as presented.

C. Resolution for Town Attorney to Petition Superior Court Re: Property at 4186 Lee Street

D. Resolution for Town Attorney to Petition Superior Court Re: Property at 4215 Lee Street

Both properties are owned by Mert Sutton, under the names Sutton Realty Company and Ludlow Management LLC, respectively. Since the requested action is the same for both

properties – to direct Town Attorney Phil Dixon to petition the Superior Court for an order directing Mr. Sutton to comply with an order issued by Ayden’s Code Enforcement Officer – it was suggested that both resolutions be considered together.

Mayor Tripp called for a motion and show of hands for votes.

Motion: Commissioner Skinner

Second: Commissioner Harris

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to approve Resolutions 15-16-07 and 15-16-08 was approved as presented.

VI. INFORMATION

Staff Departmental Reports

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

All Board members thanked the citizens for coming and participating in the meeting.

Commissioner Mewborn said that the Board should focus on bringing jobs to Ayden instead of using its energy for “getting liquor by the drink.” Commissioner Davenport asked “what do you recommend for bringing jobs?” Commissioner Mewborn replied that the Town should place ads in state-wide newspapers stating “what we want in Ayden,” and follow-up with offering incentive funds for new businesses.

Mayor Tripp produced a two-page typewritten document entitled “Opportunities for the Town of Ayden” and stated that it represented his “platform” and what he will work on for the foreseeable future.

Commissioner Ross stated that she did not like the way the Mayor Pro-Tem appointment was conducted or the outcome of the votes. She doesn’t think it is fair that Commissioner Skinner previously served as Mayor Pro-Tem for six consecutive years compared to Commissioner Mewborn’s recent term of only two years.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Tripp stated that the Board would enter Closed Session as previously cited under the NC General Statutes at the beginning of the meeting when the agenda was revised.

Mayor Tripp called for a motion to enter closed session.

Motion: Commissioner Skinner

Second: Commissioner Harris

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to enter closed session at 10:42 p.m. was approved.

IX. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Tripp called for a motion to return to open session.

Motion: Commissioner Harris

Second: Commissioner Ross

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to return to open session at 11:09 p.m. was approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business before them, Mayor Tripp announced that without objection the Governing Board would stand adjourned at 11:09 pm.

CERTIFICATION

Minutes from December 14th, 2015 meeting were adopted and certified this 11th day of January 2016 in Ayden, North Carolina.



AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen W. Tripp'.

Stephen W. Tripp, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherri Scharf'.

Sherri Scharf, Town Clerk