



**MINUTES OF THE
PINEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT OF
APRIL 29, 2024, AT YOUR OFFICE-BALLANTYNE
15720 BRIXHAM HILL AVE, CHARLOTTE**

The Town Council of the Town of Pineville met for an all-day Priorities and Planning Retreat on April 29, 2024, at the Your Office-Ballantyne, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Mr. Rick Rocchetti of the North Carolina League of Municipalities facilitated the meeting.

All Council Members were present: Mayor David Phillips, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Samaha, Council Members Amelia Stinson-Wesley, Chris McDonough, and Danielle Moore. Also in attendance were Town Manager, Ryan Spitzer, and Town Clerk, Lisa Snyder.

Town Manager Spitzer welcomed everyone. Rick Rocchetti welcomed everyone and shared his background with the new council members. He has done a lot of work with municipal government. He will be discussing two challenges including the police department and the internet challenge. In addition, we will be discussing Council's pillars. Council reviewed the pillars and shared what their goals are. Most want to sort out the issues related to the PD. Mr. Rocchetti asked them if anything needs to be revised. Mayor Phillips said that he appreciated this time to discuss interests with the rest of council and consider new goals. The PD morale and retention are a concern for the safety of the Town.

Town Manager Spitzer would like for Council to come to a consensus about the issues they're currently facing.

Mr. Rocchetti asked what Council is most proud of. Mayor Phillips is proud and grateful for the progress that has been made, including the walkability in town and the ability to connect with people. Council Member McDonough likes the growth and developments that have enhanced the town. He added that he is thankful for Ryan and Lisa. Mayor Pro Tem Samaha concurred with Chris. He added that he feels we have a great staff. He also feels that disinformation is frustrating, and people feel powerless; however, he is very excited about the growth of the town.

Council Member Moore said that she is the vice president of her HOA, she works full-time, has a corporate job and is the first African American woman on the Council. She is very proud of that. Council Member Stinson-Wesley said that her training has caused her to be non-anxious and is proud of how the Town spent the ARPA money for things in the community and things that the town can connect to immediately. She added that she feels that the council members are good stewards.

Mr. Rocchetti discussed the role of Council. Legislature creates and delegates authority to cities, towns, counties, and schools. The Town Charter outlines what council is allowed to do. Town Manager Spitzer reminded council that we have a bill right now, under our Town Charter, allowing us to pay our reserve officers, and are waiting for Congress to approve. Mr. Rocchetti explained that there is a Home Rule and a Dillon-rule state. North Carolina is a Dillon-Rule state. This means that legislature has to give us the explicit authority to do something.

Council expressed concern that most people don't understand that councils are governed by state statutes, in particular, Sections 160A and 160D, and the Code of Ordinances.

Pillars. Mr. Rocchetti reviewed the pillars from the previous council retreat: Organizational excellence; economic development; revitalize Town infrastructure; safe, reliable, and sustainable utility services; and a connected, engaged diverse community.

Goals: Council Member Stinson-Wesley supports the Chamber and downtown businesses. They have downtown infrastructure modernization. They want to continue promoting and encouraging public arts. She noted that citizen engagement and greenways have improved, and the Johnston Road and Lowry projects are going forward.

Goals that are in progress or yet to be completed: Encourage and support performing arts and culture; Pineville Historical Appreciation; Support the Chamber and small business association/Downtown Merchants; Technology-infrastructure modernization; recreational programming; growth and natural resources; prioritize citizen engagement; provide a safe and vibrant community, and transit accessibility.

Potential new goals include expanding Parks and Rec beyond current fields (pickleball, tennis, soccer, all-purpose); crosswalk at Cranford and Main; getting ahead of the police morale issue; support Downtown Merchants and SBA and continue to create harmonious relationships with both; the Blue Ways System (for rivers) to support natural resources preservation; fiscal planning; smart planning; plan strategy for the Communications company; purchase of land (with or without Mecklenburg County); Comprehensive Study for salaries; micro-transit to Pineville; hire marketing manager; and re-evaluate parking on Main Street.

Mr. Rocchetti reviewed the goals, concerns and challenges facing them in the future. There was a general discussion by all members.

Council had a brief discussion on having an attorney present at each council meeting. Town Manager Spitzer said that some municipalities have a “generalist.”

The Council Retreat concluded at 3:00 pm.

David Phillips, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Snyder, Town Clerk