

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017
TOWN OF SAWMILLS SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET RETREAT**

6:00 PM

COUNCIL PRESENT

Joe Wesson
Gerelene Blevins
Joe Norman
Keith Warren
Reed Lingerfelt
Jeff Wilson

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Todd
Terry Taylor

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Joe Wesson called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Councilman Reed Lingerfelt gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Joe Wesson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Joe Wesson asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to adopt the agenda. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION: The Sawmills Town Council meet with the Director of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Anthony Starr, to facilitate and participate in a value and action plan meeting. Starr guided the town council through a list of questions in open conversation to help identify many factors of the council. Below is a list of those ideas.

Why do you serve as an elected official?

- Try to make the town a better place to live
- To serve citizens and their best interests
- To help the people by upgrading the town
- To treat people fairly
- To inform/educate the public

What do you want your legacy to be?

- People think I was fair
- Positive things done in town
- Someone that does not have an agenda
- Represented all people
- Being honest
- People knew I was knowledgeable
- Treated everyone the same

- Wise with citizen's money
- Keeping public informed
- Improved town appearance
- Expanded sewer service
- Veteran's Park
- Expanded programs for youth/children
- Veteran's Memorial
- Better recreation facilities
- Recreation for senior citizens
- Hiring great staff
- Better recreation facilities for handicap/disabled
- "In God we trust" on town hall and council chambers
- Funding school resource officer
- Fire & Rescue Appreciation Week resolution

Great Aspects of Sawmills

- Staff and employees - 2
- Good council that works together - 3
- Economics - fund balance/finances - 1
- Low tax rate - 6
- Good schools - 1
- Good recreation facilities - 2
- Town services - 2
- Beautiful landscape
- Relation with citizens and businesses
- Friendly atmosphere - 1
- Low crime - 1
- Great Fire/Rescue Department
- Town events - 1
- Good churches - 4

Successes the last 3-5 years?

- Maintained low tax rate - 6
- Infrastructure improvements - 4
- Bathrooms in Veteran's Park - 2
- Built cash reserves for large equipment purchase - 1
- Maintained low water/sewer rates - 3
- Gained sewer customers (new connections) - 2
- Low staff turnover rate
- Improvements/additions of town festivities
- "In God we trust" signs - 2
- Maintained our recreation facilities
- Better working relations among council
- New businesses in town - 3

- Elmore Drive Paving - 1

What are the key challenges or obstacles for the next 3-5 years?

- Limited cash flow - 2
- Difficulty of sewer expansions (costs) - 6
- Attracting new residents - 3
- Maintaining low tax/utility rates - 1
- Attracting new business - 3
- Maintaining streets/roads/utilities - 3
- Expanding recreation facilities - 1
- Increasing communication with public
- Increasing property crimes - 3
- Construction of new housing - 2

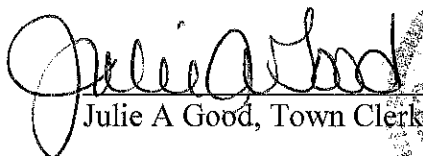
What are the important projects or issues to address in the next 1-2 years?

- Virginia Acres sewer expansion - 5
- Lights at ballfields - 3
- Keeping streets in good condition
- Replacement of old waterlines - 2
- Added security (law enforcement) for town - 1
- Attract new businesses along US321-A corridor - 1
- Better handicap access & equipment at parks
- More code enforcement for some areas in town (Helton Rd., Stancy Rd., Bakers Circle, Sawmills School Rd.)
- Consider rates to finance utility expansions - 1
- Beautification of 321-A corridor - 1
- Extend Christmas/flag decorations - 2
- Sewer service expansion for US321-A business areas - 3
- Expansion to lake area

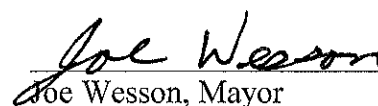
This information will be used to help create an action plan, mission statement, and community values for the council to review at another date.

ADJOURN: Mayor Joe Wesson stated no Council action was required and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.


Julie A Good, Town Clerk




Joe Wesson, Mayor