



**TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE**  
Board of Commissioners  
Special Call Meeting Minutes  
July 9, 2024, 6:00PM  
201 S. Main Street, Tarboro, NC 27886

**Board Present: Mayor Bobbie Jones, Mayor ProTem JoeRoam Myrick, Commissioner Vananza Brown, Commissioner Lee V. Staton, and Commissioner Alvin Jones**

**Staff Present: Interim Town Manager Ronald Jackson, Assistant Town Manager Alexis Carter, Town Clerk Stephanie McBeth, and Administrative Assistant Dina Wilbanks**

- I. Meeting called to order by Mayor Jones at 6:00 PM**
- II. Invocation: Commissioner Alvin Jones**
- III. Public Comments: (Omitted as this is structured as an open discussion for the duration of the meeting.)**
- IV. Announcement**
  - 1) In the event of an emergency, please use any exit that is the safest.
- V. Special Call Items**
  - 1) Ground Rules:**

The ground rules were given by Mr. Jackson and are as follows:

    - a. One person will speak at a time
    - b. Be respectful of each other
    - c. Mayor Jones and Commissioner Jones will keep order to the meeting
  - 2) Purpose of the Meeting:**

The purpose of the meeting is to identify, prioritize and set forth initiative as a totality of our citizens and not just as an individual citizen.
  - 3) Priority & Planning Session:**

Mr. Jackson announced that we are going to start with an exercise. Ms. Carter asked the citizens to write three words that describe Princeville NOW. Ms. Carter then read all the words out loud. She then asked the Board which words stood out to them. These are some of the words they gave: poor, run down, progress, cleanliness, improve, success, growth, beautification, revenue, infrastructure, nasty, needs a face lift, upgrading, incomplete, developing, underprivileged, and resilient. Citizens were asked what kinds of things they wanted to see in Princeville that Mayor Jones asked our citizens to think about and express

what would make them feel good about Princeville and what would help make the Town better and turn the negatives into positives. His vision for Princeville is to see it as self-sufficient, self-supporting, and self-sustained.

These were the topics that our citizens seemed to focus on the most:

a) **Attracting/engaging/focusing on the youth/young adults** - Some of the ways citizens suggested we address the youth in Princeville were getting new equipment for the playground at HeritagePark, getting them involved in sports teams/leagues, providing a recreation center for them, providing an area they could ride their 4-wheelers/dirt bikes, a bowling alley and a skating rink. It was also suggested connecting them with tutors and mentors to help them with their schoolwork and to provide some guidance/role models for them. The older citizens talked about being examples for the younger citizens, saying that if the younger ones could see the older ones in action, that would inspire/encourage them to follow suit. Citizens also talked about “pouring into our young people” with wisdom and showing an interest in their lives/well-being/futures. It was also discussed to present trade schools as options for young people who don’t see college as an option for them and for citizens in general who want to learn new skills, start/change careers, become more job-ready/employable, be more competitive in the job market, etc. It was also mentioned to assist/encourage our citizens to get their GED’s. This would also help them to become more employable, job-ready, be more competitive in the job market, etc. Citizens also talked about getting young people to attend our board meetings so that we can get their ideas and input on their visions for Princeville and what it would take to retain them and/or bring them back if they ever left Princeville. The Board also talked about getting the younger generation involved in local government and providing training for and having a Junior Commissioner.

b) **Bringing new businesses to the Town** – A major concern with the citizens was finding ways to bring more revenue into Princeville. They said that we need to find ways to attract people to come to Princeville and to spend their money here. Citizens suggested that Princeville should have a gas station, a nice restaurant, a bank, and possibly a space where truckers could park overnight/their down time. Several citizens mentioned incubator businesses as well as having multi-purpose buildings/warehouses available to them to start their own businesses and to shop. Ms. Tate, our Senior Center Director,

stated that someone from Edgecombe Community College would even come out to talk about/help with starting a new business and to discuss educational/GED/trade opportunities. It was also suggested that the Farmers Market could be better used as a multi-purpose building rather than as a "farmers market". One option for multi-purpose buildings is that people could set up booths in them. Or, if Princeville could get a new Senior Center, the existing building could then be used as a multi-purpose place to house a computer lab, provide some job-readiness training, etc.

- c) **Cleaning-up/beautification of Princeville** – Many citizens voiced their concerns about Princeville needing to be cleaned up and beautified. They expressed how run-down and dirty the Town was. They wanted to see the town not only cleaned up but "beautified" to make it more attractive not only to our citizens but to attract outsiders to Princeville. They were very concerned about their communities, namely the upkeep of their neighbors' properties and vacant properties, and cleaning and maintaining the cemetery. Citizens suggested doing better with maintaining their own properties and coming together as a community to help clean up their neighborhoods. Mayor Jones mentioned that Tarboro expressed wanting to put up signage reading "Welcome to Princeville" coming into Princeville at the time they install a sign saying "Welcome to Tarboro" going into Tarboro. It was also suggested to get the youth/young people involved to instill in them an appreciation for their communities, to show them that the adults have a vested interest in their town/communities, and to build bonds between the older and younger generations. Citizens also expressed their concern with "cleaning up" Princeville as it relates to the crime rate here. Someone suggested Princeville needs its own police department.
  
- d) **Ditches/Floodgates** – Citizens also expressed their concerns about getting the Town's ditches cleaned/kept cleaned as well as repairing/maintaining the floodgates. Commissioner Staton expressed his concern for our citizens not being able to get protection from floods and about ACOE continuing to do "studies", but he wants to see results.

Once some main areas of concern were identified, the Board tried to narrow down five and ten-year visions to help with setting goals and being able to measure/meet those goals.

**Five-year Vision:**

1. Repair and open mobile museum
2. Install new playground equipment at Heritage Park, provide areas for kids to play/have fun in the community and establish after-school and sports activities for the youth.
3. Mentor/engage the children and young people, take an interest in their education/getting their GED's/employability, talk to them about their future/plans/dreams
4. Organize community/cemetery clean-ups and beautification projects
5. Signage
6. Install/work on dike/reservoir/reversion channel
7. Clean ditches
8. Address vacant properties/houses
9. Finish the Farmers Market/use it as a multi-purpose facility
10. More streetlights

**Ten-year Vision:**

1. Recreation center
2. Go-cart track
3. Bike trail
4. Bowling alley/skating rink
5. Gas station
6. Restaurant
7. Bank/ATM

After compiling the five-year and ten-year lists, the Board decided that we come back for a Priority Planning meeting on July 23, 2024, at 6:00 pm to prioritize the above items/projects.

**VI. Adjournment: Mayor ProTem Myrick motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Vote carried 4-0.**

  
Bobbie Jones, Mayor      08/29/24  
Date

  
Dina Wilbanks, Finance Clerk      8/29/24  
Date