



**TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE**  
Board of Commissioners Minutes  
Regular Session  
May 20, 2024 7:00PM  
201 S. Main Street, Tarboro, NC 27886

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

**Staff Present: Interim Town Manager Ronald Jackson, Town Clerk Stephanie McBeth, Town Attorney Mark Edwards**

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JONES AT 7:00 PM**

**II. Invocation: Mayor ProTem Myrick**

**III. Public Comments: (Limited to two minutes each as announced by Mayor Jones)**

1. **Mr. Jose Cortes (DID NOT GIVE FULL ADDRESS)** introduced himself and his wife Mrs. Leticia Cortes and their partner Ms. Eneyda Cespedes. They are new residents and new owners of Prince Court here in Princeville. Mayor Jones welcomed them to Princeville. Mayor ProTem Myrick asked if they had anything additional to add or share about their apartments. Mrs. Cortes got up to speak and also acknowledged their partner. She mentioned that Commissioner Brown and Mayor ProTem Myrick had helped them do some things at their apartment, and said they were very kind for that. They said they wanted to learn a little about the citizens and the town and how things worked and that is why they were attending the meeting. Mayor ProTem let them that if they ever needed anything to reach out to our Interim Town Manager, Mr. Ronald Jackson.

2. **Mr. Greg Higgs (1811 or 811 E. St. John St, Tarboro)** discussed the possibility of the Town of Princeville building a recreation center here. He mentioned that previously the Town of Tarboro tried to get the Town of Princeville's interest in their recreation center. He suggested the Town of Princeville does more research before getting a recreation center here because the recreation center in Tarboro is so close. He suggested a center be built on the other side of Pinetops toward Sharpsburg. He said that the citizens of the Town of Princeville could just use their facility for a nominal fee, compared to the fees at other Edgecombe Co. rec. centers. He recommended that we meet/talk with their Parks and Recreational Director, Travis Stegin. Mayor Jones asked if Mr. Higgs had his phone number. Mr. Higgs provided that (252) 641-4276 information.

3. **Ms. Delia Perkins (123 Neville St., Princeville)** asked if we would consider reconfiguring the Farmer's Market into a Super Senior Center/Community Center which would help the Princeville community as a whole. She doesn't feel that we need a Farmer's Market at this time. She thinks the current Senior Center could become a computer lab. She said that at one time there was supposed to be a computer lab here in Princeville called Windows of the World. She also suggested that we put in our budget for cleaning out the ditches since the hurricane season is on its way and the ditches play a major part in the

drainage and water here in Princeville. She also mentioned that on Neville St. where the pavement was stripped, rocks were put in place as a repair. She was concerned about her the rocks messing up her tires. She asked why the repairs couldn't be done as they were on Mullins Street. She added that her recycling had been sitting since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday. She sees trucks pass by Neville Street but not the recycling trucks. She says that as the Town of Princeville moves forward with other things that we consider more things for the Citizens to do and about housing. People have been asking about fixing their housing and that she has not heard back about the application she submitted for work on her house. She things we should do a better job at keep the Citizens more informed about things we want to do and are doing so they are not kept in the dark so much. Mayor Jones thanked her for her comments.

**IV. Announcements - Mayor Jones announced our upcoming events:**

- A. Congressman Davis will be at the Princeville Town Hall on Thursday, May 23, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- B. Senator Murdoch with the Biden Campaign will be at the Mobile Museum for a tour on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.
- C. Mammogram Screening Event: 204 West Church Street, Conetoe, NC 27819 on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**V. Adjustment to Agenda – Mayor Jones asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were none. Mayor Jones asked for a Motion to approve the agenda as written.**

- A. **Agenda:** Motioned by Mayor ProTem Myrick to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Staton. **Vote carried 3-0.**

**VI. The Mayor asked if there was a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Approval of the Consent Agenda (Recommendation: Approval):** Mayor ProTem Myrick motioned to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. **Consent Agenda:** Motioned by Mayor ProTem Myrick to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Staton. **Vote carried 3-0.**

- 1. April Regular Minutes Session: **APPROVED**

**VII. Mayor Jones announced that there were no presentations for this meeting.**

**VIII. Department Reports**

**A. Finance Reports (Check detail, Debit card, Budget vs Actual):**

Mr. Jackson asked if there were budget amendments. The Mayor responded that we would get to that. He then asked if there was a motion to approve Budget Amendment #9. Mayor ProTem Myrick so moved. The Mayor asked for motion to be seconded. Motion seconded by Commissioner Staton.

- 1. Budget Amendment #9 Accepted: **APPROVED**

**B. Public Works:**

No questions, comments or concerns.

**C. Senior Center:**

No questions, comments or concerns.

**D. Edgecombe County Sheriff Office (ECSO):**

Mayor Jones mentioned to Mr. Jackson that Lt. Cofield is our contact for the Sheriff's Dept. and that he will provide him with his contact information. Mr. Jackson stated that he inquired so that he can follow up concerning a run-away juvenile and the overdose and making sure he/she survived, and the run-away juvenile had been found. He also said he would report back on this.

**E. Carolina Family Health Centers, Inc./Freedom Hill Community Health Center:**

No questions, comments or concerns.

**F. AmeriCorps:** Mayor ProTem Myrick said that he had a concern and mentioned Ms. Lewis's participation with the Garden Project. He mentioned there currently being approximately 12 raised garden beds. He also said Ms. Lewis is also working on something over at the Senior Center. He stated Ms. Lewis's contract will run out in June, and that hopefully we can get someone else in her place. He announced that Ms. Lewis will be leaving to go to Singapore. Mr. Jackson stated that we have been in contact with Ameri Corp and will be meeting with them to make sure we get someone in place of Ms. Lewis. He said that we had contacted them last week and will follow up with them next week. He said we will then start the screening process in efforts to get someone here in time for Ms. Lewis to show them around, and so we can make the transition as seamless as possible.

**IX. Town Manager's Report:**

**A. Housing Repair:** Mr. Jackson asked that the Housing Report discussion be moved to the Executive Session because there is sensitive citizen information that he would like to first discuss with Mayor Jones beforehand. The Mayor asked for a motion to have this report moved to the Executive Session. Mayor ProTem Myrick motioned to approve the Housing Report be moved to Executive Session. Commissioner Staton seconded. The Mayor announced that the Housing Report would be moved to the Executive Session. **Vote carried 3-0**

**B. Princeville Youth Academy (PYA):** Mr. Jackson said that we are committed to making sure the Program continues and are currently looking to hire an Academy Director. Screening for this position will take place this month and hopefully will have someone in place by the end of the month. We are now accepting applications for the Program and giving priority to Princeville youth. If there are any slots left, consideration will then be given to applicants outside of our community.

The Mayor asked if we have decided upon a max capacity, and Mr. Jackson stated that we have not at this point. Mayor Jones stated that we're meeting with one of our partners with the PYA from the East Carolina Hope Program tomorrow, May 21, 2024, from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. He asked that one Commissioner join him for that and asked Commissioner Brown to do so.

Ms. Brown asked Mr. Jackson if Ms. Draughn had given him information on the Youth Academy. Mr. Jackson stated that when she came to resign, he did ask if she would come back to provide an update to help us make a smooth transition. She did speak with our Assistant Town Manager, Ms. Alexis Carter, and gave her full report. Ms. Draughn also agreed to come back/be available to answer any questions for us. Mr. Jackson stated that we feel good about this and moving forward with the Program.

C. **Senior Center Elevator:** Mr. Jackson said that we are scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2024, to have all the inspectors in place to spot test it to make sure that all areas are working. Once that is completed, our next step is to get the Dept. of Labor to come out to do their inspection so they can issue us a Certificate of Operation. We are hopeful that once all the inspections have been completed, it won't take long for the DOL to complete their inspection, and then we should have the elevator up and running.

**X. Attorney's Report: The Attorney stated that everything he had was for Closed Session.**

**XI. Business Items**

A. **CDBG-NR Documents:** The Mayor noted that we had to make one correction on planning. It should be \$4,000.00 instead of \$3,000.00 for a total of \$625,000.00. Mr. Jackson confirmed that amount. Mayor Jones asked if that needed to be read. Mr. Jackson said that it did not but offered a brief update on what that entailed. He said that we did meet with Grantors on the \$625K. Our understanding is that it is composed of two homes. We are now in the process of reaching out to those families, and once we have done so we will have to make sure all the deed work is correct. This is to make sure there or no siblings or anyone else who has access to the deeds that might inhibit us from moving forward with the project. If we don't run into any of these problems, we can start bidding out the projects so we can move forward with getting the home repairs done. Because we are under a deadline with the funding, if we do run into any problems, we will try to resolve them as soon as possible. If we run into problems with one person/home, we'll move on to the next one. We have a plan in place and will follow that.

Mayor Jones announced that we do have our partners from Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governors/Government? here tonight and asked if they had anything to do add. Ms. Tyra Hines, Upper Coastal Plain introduced herself and her partner Mr. Ben Farmer. She confirmed the \$625K budget/funding and stated that before they would reach out to either of the homeowners, they would

first need a couple of compliance plans adopted. One is an Equal Opportunity Employment plan, and the other is an Anti-Displacement plan. Mayor ProTem Myrick asked her what the deadline for the funding to be exhausted. Ms. Tyra Hines said that it is a 30-month grant and the funds had to be obligated by months 25 or 27. Mr. Ben Farmer offered that it is relatively easy to get an extension but that we don't want to have to, and if we run into any issues with the repairs we will know well enough in advance to take the necessary steps to request an extension. Mr. Jackson confirmed that we do not want to have to ask for an extension, but if we need to, it is an option and is a relatively easy process and we won't lose the funding.

Mayor Jones asked if there were any public hearings to be read aloud. Ms. Tyra Hines and Mr. Ben Farmer stated that there were no public hearings and that once the Board understands, adopts and signs them, that will take care of the Public Hearing requirements.

Mayor Jones asked for a motion to approve the EEO Policy & Plan for the Town of Princeville. Mayor ProTem Myrick moved to approve. Commissioner Staton seconded. **Vote carried 3-0**

Mayor Jones asked for a motion to approve the Residential Anti-Displacement Relocation Assistance Plan. Mayor ProTem Myrick moved to approve. Commissioner Staton seconded. **Vote carried 3-0.**

Mr. Jackson stated that we need to update these forms to reflect him as the Town Administrator. He confirmed that only one of the forms needed to be updated with this information. Ms. Tyra Hines also stated that we have to advertise for a Housing Rehab Specialist. She asked if the Town is set up for an Electronic Vendor Report. Mr. Jackson asked if that is through the State. Ms. Tyra Hines said it is a State website. Mr. Jackson asked if it was IPS. Ms. Tyra Hines said that was the old employment site. Mr. Jackson stated that we have to get updated to the new site and that it should be a fairly simple transition. Ms. Tyra Hines said she would work with us on that. Mr. Jackson said he would reach out to her. Mayor Jones stated that this form had to be updated due to a mistake that was found on it. He asked who would be responsible for that. Mr. Jackson said they could talk about that once he and Ms. Tyra Hines got together about the updated site matter. Ms. Tyra Hines inquired about what the error was, and the Mayor said it pertained to the planning portion. Mr. Jackson and Ms. Tyra Hines agreed they would work on that together.

## **XII. Board Comments:**

**Mayor ProTem Myrick** thanked everyone for coming out and stated that we are really trying to move the Town of Princeville forward and to put a lot of things in place. He encouraged the citizens to continue coming out as we are trying to move the Town forward and in a new direction.

**Mr. Jackson** asked if he could make a comment. He announced that if anyone had had a question or needed to know anything or needed to talk with him, they could schedule to come in and do so. Mayor Jones commented about how we're trying to talk Mr. Jackson into staying here with us!

**Mayor Jones** addressed the Cortes's and Ms. Cespedes, thanking them for being here tonight and investing in the Town of Princeville. He asked them when their apartment complex would be open. Mr. Cortes stated that if they can pass inspection this month, they can open up to receiving applications next month. Mr. Jackson also stated that if they need anything to come let us know and we will take care of it.

**Commissioner Staton** asked a question about the \$2,000.00 Recreational Grant from the County. Mayor Jones responded that we did receive the grant.

**XIII. Executive Session: Mayor Jones asked if there was a motion to go into Executive Session**

**Mayor ProTem Myrick motioned to go into executive session, Commissioner Staton seconded. Vote carried 3-0.**

- N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(6) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of the Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.
- N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) To discuss relating to the location or expansion of industries agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment.

1. Personnel

2. Economic Development

**Mayor ProTem Myrick motioned to reconvene the regular session, seconded by Commissioner State. Vote carried 3-0.**

**XVI. Adjournment: Mayor ProTem Myrick motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Staton. Vote carried 3-0.**

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**Bobbie Jones, Mayor**  
Date

06/18/24

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**Stephanie McBeth, Town Clerk**  
Date