

**TOWN OF SILER CITY**

The Siler City Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on **Monday, March 5, 2018** at 7:00pm in City Hall Courtroom with Mayor Grimes presiding. Mayor Pro Tem Cheek gave the invocation with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance following. Commissioner Constantino recited the Town of Siler City Mission Statement and Commissioner Fadely recited the Town of Siler City Vision Statement.

**ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Cindy Bray, Larry Cheek, Mike Constantino, Lewis Fadely, John Grimes, Bill Haiges, Thomas "Chip" Price and Tony Siler.

**TOWN STAFF PRESENT:** Town Manager Bryan Thompson, Attorney William Morgan, Police Chief Gary Tyson, Planning Director Jack Meadows, Finance Director Roy Lynch, Parks and Recreation Director Joseph Keel, Building Inspector Charlie McLaurin, and Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Thompson requested the addition of a discussion item of the possible expansion of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

*A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Constantino and unanimously approved.*

**CONSENT**

*A motion to approve the consent agenda which includes the January 27, 2018 Minutes (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule A), the February 5, 2018 Minutes (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule B), and the Assessment of Fair Housing Resolution (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule C) was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously approved.*

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Latino Initiative – Lorena Patterson**

Patterson shared the following information about the Latino Initiative and the Economic and Workforce Development 2018 Go Global NC trip to Mexico.

Latino Initiative:

Started in 1998

850+ North Carolina leaders studied in Mexico

Focus areas from 1998 to 2014 were:

Education

Health

Policy and Community

Focus areas today:

Education

Health

Law Enforcement

Economic & Workforce Development

Prepared by: Jenifer K Johnson, Town Clerk

#### PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

- To increase understanding of the Latino/Hispanic community.
- To promote economic development including untapped economic resources.
- To learn from Mexican models combining Private/Public/Institutional partnerships.
- To learn from the automobile and aerospace manufacturing industry

#### NUTS AND BOLTS

- Traveling in August 6-14, 2018
- Visiting Mexico City for Historical and Cultural content
- Traveling to rural communities in Guanajuato state
- Ending in Guanajuato City

Three major phases of program:

- Community Assessment
- Immersion Study
- Action Planning and Implementation

#### WHY MEXICO?

- Mexico is the second largest market for goods from North Carolina.
- Mexico is the country from which North Carolina has received the most immigrants in the past two decades.
- In 2013, 183,377 jobs in North Carolina depended on trade with Mexico.
- In 2015 \$3.19 billion worth of N.C. goods were exported to Mexico.

#### WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

- Government officials
- Community College and higher education officials
- Manufacturing industries and economic developers
- Any leader in your community that is key in helping create the adequate environment for economic growth

#### TEAM COMMITMENT

- Participation in Community needs assessment
- Participation in a full day pre-departure orientation workshop
- Travel to Mexico for immersion study
- Participation in a full day follow-up workshop to develop action plan
- Application of action plan by county
- Check-in meeting six months after returning from travel
- Host a one year reunion

#### YEAR PROGRAM COST

- The cost of the program is \$6,375 including airfare
- Year Program includes:

Meetings, Orientation and follow-up workshops in North Carolina  
Lodging  
Ground transportation  
Meals in Mexico  
International health insurance  
Spanish –English interpreter fees  
Mexican partners administrative fees and other expenses

The Board of Commissioners thanked Patterson for the information.

Johnson Mobile Home Park – Hispanic Liaison

Ilana Dubester shared the following letter with the Board of Commissioners:

Since August 2017, the residents of Johnson’s Mobile Home Park have been meeting to discuss Mountaire’s purchase of the Johnson’s lot and its plans to evict them from their homes. By “residents” we mean all Johnson’s residents except for the Johnson family.

Although the residents are happy that your company will be bringing new jobs and economic opportunity for Siler City, they are also concerned about the financial and emotional toll of this eviction on themselves and their children. Many residents are experienced poultry plan workers and would be interested in seeking employment with Mountaire.

According to information that The Hispanic Liaison has gathered, there are at least 53 children and 62 adults currently living at Johnson’s. Of the 53 children, 24 are enrolled in school - 3 attend high school, 3 attend middle school and 18 attend elementary school. In addition, 7 families also have pets. The residents do not want to leave Siler City, nor want their children to change schools, especially so close to the end of the school year.

The residents own their mobile homes and have lived at Johnson’s for an average of 6 years; many have lived there much longer. Most of the homes were built in the 1970’s, and the residents had to invest thousands of dollars in repairs and improvements. Due to the age and condition of the mobile homes, most will not be able to be moved to a new location.

We understand that Mountaire has a creed of honesty and fairness with everyone, including community neighbors. We appreciate your Corporate Responsibility Pledge to focus your resources and efforts to help your communities in various ways, including “providing support, relief, housing, utilities and medicine to individual and families in crisis situations.” The residents of Johnson’s Mobile Home Park are facing such a crisis situation.

At meetings and presentations, Mr. Reif has shared that Mountaire wants to be “a good neighbor” for Siler City and Chatham County, and that your company takes your Corporate Responsibility Pledges seriously. In turn, we know that our town and county have tried to take good care of your company through taxpayer funded incentive packages and infrastructure support.

The Hispanic Liaison has spent many hours in dialog with the residents to reach an agreement on a compensation package that is fair and reasonable. The residents stand to lose much more than what they are asking your company to provide. They are losing their homes and all that they have invested in improvements. They are losing their neighbors. They are having to disrupt their lives to find a new place to live in a town with few options for low-income housing. Some may have to move their children to a new school.

The residents have low-income jobs and do not have savings to offset the extra expenses associated with moving. Furthermore, if they enter into a lease agreement for a house, apartment or mobile home, they will be spending a lot more of their fixed income on rent, whereas now, they are only paying \$210 per month for their lot.

With all this in mind, we hereby present a list of requests to Mountaire Corporation that we believe are reasonable, legitimate and fair to compensate the residents for the loss of their homes and neighborhood, and for the disruption in their lives and the lives of their children:

1. That Mountaire Corporation unconditionally refrain from collecting lot rent as of November 2017.
2. That Mountaire Corporation pay a compensation in the amount of \$46,000 per mobile home (excluding the Johnson family). This financial compensation is absolutely vital to ensure that the residents are able to move out in a timely manner. This compensation was determined after much deliberation and takes into consideration the following factors, among others:

- Replacement value for a used mobile home
- Fees associated with utility and lease security deposits in a new place
- Moving expenses

Upon agreement from Mountaire Corporation to pay the residents the full amount requested, the residents will commit to moving out of their homes no later than March 31, 2018.

3. This situation is urgent and dire. We request that Mountaire Corporation respond to these requests to The Hispanic Liaison by Wednesday, January 31, 2018. The residents will be meeting again on Thursday, February 1, 2018 to discuss your response and determine next steps.

Dubester stated that they look forward to your response and to working with Mountaire Corporation to resolve this matter in a timely way.

Natalia Trancolous, Johnson's Trailer Park, Lot 1210, Siler City, NC

Hi – I have lived in the Johnson Mobile Home Park for more than 25 years. We are about to lose our homes, because we are being evicted. Unfortunately we don't have a place to go live. Because we don't have the means to be able to move somewhere else. Also, because the available places are very expensive. Also, because my husband and myself, we don't work anymore. My husband and I already retired. My husband is sick. For us it is very hard to leave this place. We want to find a place that is closer to the clinic and the hospital because he needs medical attention at any moment. It is not fair that my husband and I have to start all over again because we are no longer able to work. We worked very hard to achieve what we have and now it looks like we are going to lose everything. Mountaire says that their good neighbors, but we don't see it that way. A good neighbor doesn't evict over 100 people. Mountaire with all its millions of dollars needs to help us, it has to help us. Thank you

Clara, Johnson's Mobile Home Park, Lot 13, Siler City, NC

I'm the owner of one of the homes in the Johnson Mobile Home Park for nineteen years. In addition to paying thousands of dollars to buy my mobile home, I invested thousands of dollars to improve the condition of my mobile home. My daughter lives in this home with her children and she's going to lose her home. So they are going to lose the place that they live and my grandchildren may have to go to other schools. And I would lose all the money I invested in the mobile home. I'm not able to move my mobile home because the city does not allow me to move it out of there. I also don't have the money to move it somewhere else. The cost of moving a mobile home is too high. The Town tells me that my

mobile home is too old to move because it's from 1974. The county does state that I'm able to move it. So you should come to agreement between you so that doesn't make a difference. That's all I have to say. Many thanks.

Jorge, Johnson's Mobile Home Park, Lot 3, Siler City, NC

Good afternoon everybody and the people that accompany us. I have lived in Siler City for 15 years and in Johnson for 10 years. I'm an owner of my mobile home and a father. I live at Johnson with my wife, my 4 children, and one pet and we were all born here. My son Jonathan was a player in Los Jets, the soccer team at Jordan Matthews and he was part of the documentary of the championship that the Jets won. Most of the players were Hispanic and they faced many obstacles because of racist against Hispanics. And despite these obstacles they won a championship and that's great for the community and a prize for Siler City. My daughter Joselyn who is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and she wants to go to Jordan Matthews. She wants to follow the steps of her brother. She wants to be a veterinary and a writer. She's participated with some books and art work that she created. My other son is in second grade at Virginia Cross and he wants to follow the steps of his children and he wants to be an astronaut. My baby is nine months and I want them to be a journalist when their older. I our family, I'm the only one that works and several years ago we brought the mobile home that we were renting and we invested several thousand dollars to fix it up. It's a hell of a place, but it's our home. We want to stay in Siler City. We have made our lives here. We want our children to grow up here. I'm depress to find a good home for my family, but it's very expensive to rent a place here in this town and it's also very expensive to buy a house. There are many homes that are in bad condition and I don't want to take my children to live in a place where they are going to suffer because there is no heating or because there is water leakage or worst. This is a very serious problem for Siler City. The issue that many people are renting house and there in terrible condition. The Town is not supervising this and it's not making them fix up these houses. It's also very hard to find places that accept pets. And when they do accept they charge a lot of money. And we don't want to abandon our pets. My neighbors have told me that they have looked for houses and were turned back because they have more than one child. And they are saying that this is against the law but who is going to help with this. Who do we report this to? Additionally there are home owners that are hiking up the prices from one day to the next and they are taking advantage of our despair and this is not fair. In a few months, we are going to have to abandon our homes because Mountaire decided to buy this property. So we come here to ask for your help. We have been good residents of Siler City and we deserve to be supported in these difficult times. We want help to find housing at a reasonable price for our family. The Hispanic Liaison is helping us but they also need from you to be able to help us. We are talking about over 100 people that need a place to live and there are not many options in Siler City. In November we asked Mr. Bryan to help us with a list of housing. We asked for his list of housing that was available in Siler City. The list that we received is very incomplete and it's not helpful to us. Many of the phone numbers don't respond to our calls and there's even the name of someone that is well known for having housing in very bad condition. Be beg that you please present a better list and that you help us so we are able to move somewhere else. We would also like to invite all of you to visit our homes to see how we live and the difficulty that we are going to face to abandon our homes. I'm going to ask the help of the Hispanic Liaison to organize a visit and I hope that you're willing to accept our hostility. Thank you very much for your assistance and we hope that the Town will support.

Rosa Lonte Pepepek, Johnson Mobile Home Park, Lot 5, Siler City, NC

I've been living here over nine years and in Siler City for twelve years. I have contributed to the economy and culture of this town. I am part of this community. So my experience living in this mobile home has been good. It's a tranquil community, where we have not had problems with the neighbors. I feel stressed because I have to find a new place to live now. I cost of moving the mobile home and finding a new space, all those things that we need to do. All this cost accumulate to a very large price. And I'm the owner of my mobile home, but now I'm going to have to rent. And it's not fair that I'm going to lose it, because I spent many years fixing it up. I've looked for a place to move my mobile home, but there's no park that's going to accept it and the rental properties are very expensive. Many houses are in very bad condition. I've also heard of cases of discrimination against families with children. As a single mother I can't cover all these expenses. There is a lot that I need to pay every month. We need your help to be able to find us a solution. Many thanks.

Bricel Hill, Johnson Mobile Home Park, Lot 10, Siler City, NC

We have been there for four years and my family own their trailer. There are twenty eight at Johnson's Mobile Home Park with 53 children and 60 adults. I have grown up with many of the children there. Mountaire buying the property on which our mobile home sits on is affecting every family including my own. For me this means potential having to move schools, as I am currently in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I'm currently in a program called AVID, also known as Advancement Via Individual Determination. This program is very important to me because it is helping me be prepared to go to college in the future. I'm currently taking 9<sup>th</sup> grade honors classes, while other school systems might not accept those classes. Just as importantly all this is effecting my family. The cost of moving is very expensive and it is not easy. Moving is a stressful situation, it is not fair because we are going from home owners to renting and renting is very expensive. My family is not the only one going through this. Everyone at Johnson's Mobile Home Park are also facing the same harsh reality. Thank you

Ilana Dubester thanked the Board of Commissioners for placing this on the agenda. She asked the residents in the room to stand and asked for help. Dubester stated that they are not done with the negotiations with Mountaire and we are not sure where that's going to go this week and we are not sure we are going to reach an agreement.

Commissioner Haiges asked: You mentioned that you're at an end pass with Mountaire, what can you tell us what the end pass is?

Dubester: The end pass is over the amount of money that the residents think is fair and just for what they're going through and what they need in order to move out.

Commissioner Haiges asked: Is there a dollar figure that you can share?

Dubester: Last week before reaching the end pass, closed to an agreement, is what I thought, and we're only a few thousand dollars apart. The residents came down significantly from the original ask in order to reach a compromise with the company. The company started by offering zero came up significantly to meet the resident's needs.

Commissioner Price asked: In your negotiations, have the sellers of the property been involved in this?

Dubester: The sellers of the property sold the property.

Commissioner Price asked: Yes, I know, but have the Johnson's been involved?

Dubester: I know you're talking about the Johnsons, but they sold it. They didn't take any responsibility for that. I heard from Mountaire that they talked to the Johnson family about this, about possible

compensation, but that never materialized, I don't have the details. But instead of thinking about offering compensation to the residents, they just sent them an eviction notice.

Commissioner Price asked: The homes that the individuals bought, who did they purchase those from.

Dubester: They purchased from the Johnsons, a bunch of years back, more than 6 years ago.

Commissioner Siler: I live right down the road. I have been in the parking lot. Some have nice houses, I feel their pain. Some of them have been there 25 years, I feel their pain.

Mayor Pro Tem Cheek: I was more familiar with it when I was working for the power company, so I have seen them.

Commissioner Fadely asked: So it's a couple of thousand dollars, and when was this end pass?

Dubester: This was on Thursday. That's when Mountaire wanted to be done with this.

Commissioner Fadely asked: So two business days since Thursday?

Dubester: Right, but we have been at this for six months now. There is only so much time that these residents have been living in such a limbo about how they are going to afford to move out of their homes. We are now in March, they need to leave in a few months. Possible on June 30, which is around the corner. It seems like we could string this on forever but we can't and they can't. We are a small organization, we have 2 full time people and 2 part time people and we serve the whole county. The Hispanic Liaison can't bear the burden of helping to solve this community crisis and we need you and all of the organizations to step up and to help these families find housing. We are they going to go? That list, Bryan, that list is not helping.

Mayor Pro Tem Cheek: I'm aware that this does not solve the problem, but we are working with affordable housing. We have a representative on the Chatham County Affordable Housing Committee. It's not that we're not working on it, I understand that there is a problem, but we are working on it.

The Board of Commissioners discussed affordable housing, workforce development, and economic development. Mayor Grimes thanked those present for their comments and recessed the meeting for 10 minutes.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Bray Park Concession Stand**

Keel stated that Town staff publicly advertised requests for proposals to operate the concession stand at Bray Park Sports Complex. Staff received three proposals, one of which was withdrawn by the applicant. The two qualified proposals were from Cindy Szilvay and Shanita Moffitt. Both applicants spent a good amount of time on the proposals and both have experience working in concessions. (Incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule D)

Keel stated that Cindy Szilvay was awarded our concessionaire bid last year. Cindy did a great job last year and has promised to do so again. Cindy Szilvay has obtained her Serve Safe Certification and brings a positive attitude. She is also willing to donate 10% of her profits back to the Town. Cindy took the time to meet with me one on one to discuss the upcoming year at Bray Park Sports Complex. This shows her attitude and characteristics of going the extra mile, which staff noticed last year in her work at the concession stand.

Keel stated that Cindy has also agreed to work the long nights and weekends in which the concession stand demands. She brings the exceptional customer service skills the department is looking for. Staff recommends Cindy Szilvay for the 2018 concessionaire bid.

*A motion to award the concessionaire bid to Cindy Szilvay for 2018 was made by Commissioner Haiges, seconded by Commissioner Siler and unanimously approved.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Mural Permit – 117 S Chatham Avenue – Oasis Market

Meadows stated that the Oasis Market is proposing to install a 15' tall by 77' wide "Day in the Park" mural along the southern exterior wall at 117 S. Chatham Ave. The subject wall faces Beaver St. (see attached photography and information). (Incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule E)

Meadows shared the following with the Board of Commissioners:

Definition of Mural: "An image, such as a painting or enlarged photograph, applied directly to a wall or external ceiling."

##### §274 Special Provisions for Certain Signs

###### (n) Murals

- (1) Murals are allowed with a mural permit.
- (2) Murals are purely artistic forms of expression. While basic content is free from evaluation, obscenity and other language deemed questionable may require approval.
- (3) Depending on content, murals will be evaluated for signage calculation and the remaining area can be deemed a mural. If the following content are incorporated within a mural, those items shall be classified as signage and comply with the standards for attached wall signs and be included in the attached wall sign area calculation:
  - (a) advertising message for contemporary establishments and/or contemporary merchandise/services;
  - (b) advertisement for products, services, or businesses;
  - (c) commercial text;
  - (d) logos;
  - (e) registered trademarks; and
  - (f) containing graphics (other than logos or registered trademarks) related to goods and services provided on site.
- (4) Murals are highly visible in the public realm and may express town history and community character. In the absence of a recognized group tasked to review and consider these qualities, and the artistic intent of the design, evaluation will be regulated on a content-neutral basis. The following design requirements have been determined advantageous to the community in mural placement.
- (5) No person shall paint a wall mural on the exterior of any structure or change any existing mural on the exterior of any structure prior to the issuance of a Mural permit. The following design criteria shall apply to any mural artwork commissioned.
  - (a) The proposed wall mural shall be well integrated with the building and neighboring structures and is harmonious with the surrounding environment. The proposed wall mural, by its design, scale, construction and location, shall not have a substantial adverse effect on



abutting property or the permitted use, and will contribute to Siler City unique character and quality of life.

- (b) The proposed wall mural shall exhibit exceptional design quality that enhances the overall development and appearance of Siler City. The paint and/or materials to be used and applied on the structure shall be appropriate for use in an outdoor locale for an artistic rendition and shall be of a permanent or long lasting variety.
- (6) Maintenance of the wall mural is the responsibility of the property owner. It shall be the property owner's responsibility to remove the wall mural if it is not maintained as required. While natural aging is acceptable, murals that are not maintained sufficiently may be considered a public nuisance.
- (7) A mural permit application shall be completed by the building owner or their applicants assign and submitted to the Town Planning office. Review and approval must be obtained from the committee/board designated by the Town Board. The application shall include at a minimum the intended location of the mural, size, subject matter, medium and a summary of the general color palette to be used. A visual representation shall also be included in the application.

***A motion to approve to approve the mural permit for Oasis Market at 117 S. Chatham Ave was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Haiges and unanimously approved.***

Expansion of Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Thompson shared a letter that Commissioner Constantino asked to be placed on the agenda. Mayor Grimes opened the agenda topic up to residents that wanted to speak.

Rosemary Lentzen, 303 S Dogwood Avenue, Siler City, NC

I have been told that there was a possibility of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners going from 5 to 7 members and I spent some time over the weekend trying to roll that over in my mind. I happen to go down to the drug store to get a prescription and it just so happen to have one of those child proof lids. I got that bottle home and I twisted and I turned and I finally got a hammer and I still couldn't get it open. My seven year old grandmother walked in the house to visit and she said oh grandma I'll so you how. And she opened it very easily. Later that day I decided I needed to mow my grass so I got my brand new gas can and went down to the gas station and tried to open the can and couldn't open it. I saw a man and asked him if he would open the can, he couldn't get it open and said I should return it to the store. The one thing that came into my mind is change isn't always good. If we go from 5 districts to 7, we must first ask ourselves have the 5 districts served our county well up unto this time and I think the answer is absolutely yes. And if they have what is the need to go to seven. There's an old quote if it isn't broke don't fix it and I'm suggesting to you that 5 has served us well in the past. Thank you

Vickie Russell, 503 W Elk Street, Siler City, NC

This concerns me also. I went to a commissioners meeting, it was chaos, and that was just with five commissioners. They turn families against families and neighbors against neighbors. If 5 can be that destructive, what would 7 be? I feel like we need to leave well enough alone. Those 5, I want say I agree with all of them, but I think 7 would be one big confusion. We need to concentrate on what needs to be done and not adding to it. There's a lot 5 can do, that 7 cannot do. I'm asking you do not decide to go with 7. Thank you

Paul Powell, 916 Shannon Drive, Siler City, NC

My entire life I have seen when you get more people involved in anything, the harder it is to come to a consensus. I know there's 7 of you sitting there, I've got news for you anytime you get more than 3 you've got an issue. It's been working fine, why change it. Citizens of Chatham County have been well represented. We've had some power shifts, and I think sometimes that's good. I'm asking you to not endorse this letter of support.

Constantino stated that at the joint meeting last week, that with all the new stuff coming, with Chatham Park, if anyone has seen the construction. Our board here is almost an ad hoc committee, yes we do get some compensation, and I do go to meetings in Chatham County when I can. I don't know that it pays for my gas to go to these different places, but at that meeting the chair of the county board, Diana Hales, spoke on the new things going on in Chatham County and the needs in the county, which was what that meeting was about. She said she talked to the county director of the school board and Pittsboro and Siler City and never realized the state of Siler City schools and how disparity this end of the county needed a new school, didn't even know that that problem existed. In large part that's because they're so busy with all the things that are right there, Chatham Park, you see it all the time, and in the paper. I think that you're making a mistake by not letting a couple more people on that board.

Walter Petty, 2287 Bonlee Road, Siler City, NC

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight, I don't normally do this. As you know, I'm on the county board and I address people from the other side of the table. I have a couple of thoughts tonight that I wanted to share because I think the information we're providing is a little bit misleading. First of all Chatham Park is a Pittsboro issue, because it's in the Pittsboro town limits, we share inspections, but its town issues for planning. As far as school issues, school needs are determined and requested by the Board of Education, not the Board of Commissioners, so if there's a need for a school that request comes from the Board of Education and that's determined by the state numbers. What I want to share with you and some of the comments I've heard are the need for additional commissioners on the board. One of those reasons is that there is more work, not really. The boards responsible for the board is to be a policy making board. It's up to staff to carry out those policies. The only reason to have additional commissioners is if you have commissioners that want to get involved in the daily grind that the staff is doing. My experience has been, stay out of staff's way and let them do their job. The other thing I've heard is that Siler City doesn't have a voice and that they're not properly represented. That's not a true statement either, because the county board of commissioners is split and there's actually 2 county board members that represent Siler City, and I happen to be one of them. The problem we have with that is that the current Board of Commissioners are voting on at large. So two more at large is not going to help that situation and in fact the largest voter block is outside of Siler City's town limits. So the commissioners are elected outside the town's limits. If you really wanted to address the problem to make sure you have representation then vote by district. One of the other points that's been made is the other two seats would give flexibility in drawing the district lines, but that's not true either, because the lines are drawn based on population. The districts would have to be equally populated. That population will change from one census to the next. Lastly and probably the most concerning thing to me is that there's not representation and I personally take exception to that, because I've worked very hard for eight years for Siler City. Here are some examples of some of the things we have done for Siler City: gave \$450,000 for the CAM Site Option 1, \$225,000 for CAM Site Option 2, \$124,000 for certification cost for CAM Site, \$750,000 for Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, \$50,000 for CAM

Site shovel ready test, \$120,000 for Airport, \$8.8 million dollars for the business park, we just put in another grant for another \$1.2 million dollars for the wastewater treatment plant, and the million gallons of water. So I would say you have representation, you have no bigger advocate for Siler City that has been standing right here tonight. I live here, I work here, and I was born and raised here. I want Siler City to survive and thrive and in order to do that we have to have some jobs. The problem we have with what was here earlier is lack of employment and lack of good paying jobs. You can fix the housing problem, you can fix the education problem, you can fix law enforcement problem, and you can fix most of those problems by providing a good level of income. If we would focus our energy on getting jobs and industry here and good way to provide for their family, then a lot of what we are experiencing will be minimized. All those things I mentioned are just Siler City, that doesn't have anything to do with the other things that we participate in for other towns. For instance we have agreed to give \$450,000 to the Town of Pittsboro to help with a new town hall. We have put in \$126,000 a year for 40 years to a town of \$5 million dollars to help the Town of Goldston to help get their wastewater system put in, and another \$180,000 to close septic tanks that weren't currently in use. Your Board of Commissioners is trying to represent you and we have a good working relationship with the other boards in the county, that's because we have had group meetings and sat down to see how we could work together. We all are working for the citizens of Siler City, whether they be in Siler City, Pittsboro, and Goldston or in the county. I think some of the issues that have been brought before you have been misrepresented. What we need is not more commissioners, what we need is more accurate representation which would be better accomplish by district voting rather than at large. I respectfully ask that you not approve this letter tonight. This is not easy and it's a work in progress, we have to work together to serve the citizens of Chatham County. We have elections every two years in the county and it's open for anybody to file and run, my seat included, that's what the process is all about. I'm not resigning, I wasn't say that. If there are other people that feel like they can do the job, that's what the election process is for. Petty stated that he was not speaking for the board tonight, that this was his personal opinion.

Mayor Pro Tem Cheek stated that when Siler City was getting ready to form district voting, I was fortunate to sit on that committee and it was a lot of work. We had to bring in a man that specialized in that and I'm saying this because during that process we had to present to the board and let the board know what they were going to be voting on, not just saying we were going to have seven commissioners. I think in due process if that is what the county commissioners do.

The consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to ask the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to research the idea board expansion as well as voting by district.

Mayor Pro Tem Cheek ask if it was possible to discuss an amendment to our UDO where we might be able to temporary allow the 1976 mobile home, if they are capable of being moved to be located somewhere else in town.

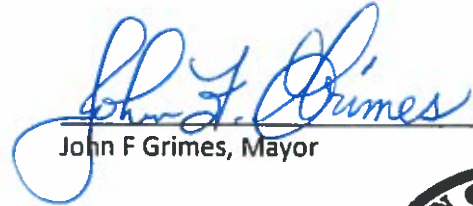
***A motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion of amending the UDO to temporarily suspend the 1976 ordinance for mobile homes was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Haiges and unanimously approved.***

UDO 1976 Mobile Home Discussion

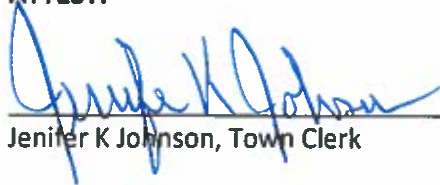
Meadows and the Board of Commissioners discussed the UDO 1976 Mobile Homes. After discussion the Board of Commissioners asked Staff to bring back a detailed list of the mobile homes in the Johnson Mobile Home Park as well as an UDO amendment changing the town's policy to mirror the state policy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 9:26pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John F Grimes, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jenifer K Johnson, Town Clerk

