

The Smithfield Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Members present:

Michael Smith – Mayor
Bill Harris - Vice Mayor
Steve Bowman
Mary Ellen Bebermeyer
Valerie Bulter
Darren Cutler
Jeff Brooks

Members absent:

None

Staff present:

Michael Stallings – Town Manager
Lesley King – Town Clerk
Mark Kluck - Planner II
Judy Winslow – Director of Tourism
Laura Ross – Treasurer
Alonzo Howell – Chief, Smithfield Police Department
Ashley Rogers – Director of Human Resources
Steve Clark - Grounds Attendant

Legal Representation:

Chris MacKenzie - Sands Anderson, Interim Town Attorney

Press:

Stephen Faleski - The Smithfield Times

Citizens:

7

Mayor Smith welcomed all attendees to the meeting and asked all present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1. Call To Order**
- 2. Pledge Of Allegiance**
- 3. Closed Session Minutes Discussion**

Councilman Bowman asked to address the issue previously discussed by the Council regarding keeping minutes for Closed Sessions. He reported that over the past few months he had a chance to complete research on the issue, and though the minutes taken in Closed Session were not subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the information would be subject to subpoena by a court of competent jurisdiction. He related that he was bringing the issue up because he felt that a "closed" meeting was intended to be just that. He continued that a closed meeting was intended to allow the Council to discuss sensitive matters without any concern about what was being discussed frankly, candidly, and in the best interest of the citizens of the Town did not leave that meeting. He said that by taking minutes and keeping record of a closed meeting, when that meeting was concluded, it was no longer closed.

Councilman Bowman made a motion to no longer take minutes or recordings of Closed Session Meetings.

Vice Mayor Harris seconded the motion.

Councilman Cutler acknowledged that the Council had gained some insight on the matter from their attorneys. He noted that he would have prepared more comments on the matter had he known that they would enter into the discussion had it not been added to the agenda as a surprise. He stated that FOIA law did not say anything in regard to frank and candid conversation, and he knew that many of the other Council members had complaints about Closed Session conduct. He said that the only way to ensure that there was accuracy in recollection of what occurred during Closed Session was to have records. Councilman Cutler stated that it had been surprising to him when he joined the Council that the government and elected leaders allowed Closed Sessions to operate with no record of business discussed. He said that he would be proud if they were the first Town Council in the State of Virginia to keep such a record, and provide that level of transparency. He continued that nowhere in FOIA law did it say that Closed Session was an opportunity for frank discussion, and the purpose of FOIA law was for transparency to the citizens. Councilman Cutler suggested that the matter be subject to a public hearing in order to gauge what the citizens thought rather than just a surprise motion before going into Closed Session.

Vice Mayor Harris conceded that some of the points just made by Councilman Cutler were absolutely true. He acknowledged that, until they had met with the various attorney groups recently, he had been on the fence about the issue. He observed that each of the attorney groups, and the previous Town Attorney as well, had pointed out repeatedly that there were significant pitfalls that came with the recording of Closed Session minutes. He related that one of the attorneys, Attorney Green, had explained the concept of "subsequent disclosure" and the idea that the information could be pulled as part of a subpoena later on had led him to change his mind and support the motion.

Councilman Cutler asked, hypothetically, if there was evidence of a crime discussed in a closed session, would it be better to have all the Council members testify separately over time or would it not be better to have a clear and concise record of what was said.

Vice Mayor Harris questioned how anyone would know of a particular crime being committed, or something spoken that needed to be adjudicated in a Closed Session if someone did not come out of the session and violate the principle by sharing that immediately. He said that he had a problem with that concept.

Councilman Cutler pointed out that the Town Council recently had a Closed Session where they subsequently had a follow-up discussion about litigation and statements that were made during the Closed Session that would have prohibited litigation on the path that the attorneys were discussing. He noted that the example he just used was a good illustration of a good reason to have a record of the minutes. He questioned why they would be afraid of anything that they said in Closed Session, and if they conducted themselves in that manner that they were elected to, then he did not see why there would ever be a problem with a record of the minutes.

Councilwoman Bebermeyer asked Mr. MacKenzie if there was any way to find a point of compromise to satisfy both sides of the argument. She related that it seemed to be a situation of all or nothing, and she was hoping to find middle ground.

Mr. MacKenzie observed that there was a scale of ways to operate. He noted that, traditionally, FOIA already required that, before entering into Closed Session, there must be a motion identifying with some level of specificity what was going to be discussed, and that one of the exemptions under FOIA applied. He added that when they exited the Closed Session there must be certification that those topics were all that were discussed. He summarized that with those actions taken; there was a record as to what topics would be covered in the Closed Session. He continued that they were able to create minutes, and they were not intended to be transcriptions, but would be summary as were currently created for the regular meeting minutes. Mr. MacKenzie related that he was not aware of any other governing body that took those steps, and there were risks associated with creating those types of documents, including that once they were created they must be maintained under the Public Records Act. He agreed with Councilman Cutler's statement, and under FOIA they could withhold the transcription under a separate exemption. He gave the reminder that he had provided the Council with an analysis. He concluded that it was up to the Council what level they wanted to pursue after the required motion prior to entering the Closed Session announcing the topics, and then certifying that the

aforementioned topics were all that were discussed during the session.

Councilman Cutler pointed out that Councilman Bowman had reported that the addition of this impromptu agenda item was pertinent to the next agenda item. He asked Mr. MacKenzie if the addition of the item was procedurally correct. He said he was asking as they had prepared for Closed Session, but Councilman Bowman was proposing an agenda addition out of order. He added that the Council was in the process of hiring a permanent attorney and asked Mr. MacKenzie, as the interim attorney, if they should give that attorney the opportunity to advise the Council as they would be working with them in the future.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that he did not think the item was out of order. He said that the matter was directed to the Mayor, and the Mayor, as the chair of the meeting, had the ability to adjust the agenda and take the motion. He pointed out that the Council had not yet adopted their rules of order, and they were still under the Council's review. He summarized that the Mayor set the agenda, he was asked to add an item, and the Mayor agreed.

Councilman Cutler asked for clarification that Mr. MacKenzie did not think that the motion was out of order or that it was not out of order.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that the motion was not out of order, in his opinion. He noted that his opinion was all that he could offer. He observed that the Council was entitled to request legal counsel, but he would continue to provide his services as long as they asked him to.

Councilman Cutler stated that he did not think that motion was pertinent to item 3 b.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilman Brooks voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted nay, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed by a majority of 6-1.

Councilman Cutler asked Mayor Smith if he could ask Mr. MacKenzie an additional legal question pertinent to the same item.

Mayor Smith stated that he could.

Councilman Cutler asked Mr. MacKenzie what the legal requirements were for the records created in the last six or so months. He said that unless the Town Council elected to produce them, they should not be produced in response to any FOIA requests. He said that if the town were to receive a subpoena, then they would review the subpoena and analyze their responses accordingly. He explained that he was not aware of any such subpoena and the records would be maintained for seven years as required by the Public Records Act.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that those records were public records, and they had to be maintained in the same manner as any other Town Council record.

4. Closed Session

Councilman Brooks made a motion to go into Closed Session for the discussion of Acquisition/Disposition of Real Property, more specifically, The Grange @ 10 Main pursuant to 2.2-3711 A3 of the Code of Virginia and to review the interviews from selected legal firms for general legal services pursuant to 2.2-3711 A1 and A29 of the Code of Virginia.

Councilwoman Bebermeyer seconded the motion.

The Town Manager clarified that upon the conclusion of their discussion of Item A they would be asking the Interim Attorney to step out of the Closed Session so that they may discuss Item B without any conflict of interest.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilman Brooks voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Council entered Closed Session at 6:47 pm.

Town Council returned from Closed Session at 7:42 pm.

Councilman Brooks made a motion to come back into open session and to certify that only the topics previously mentioned were discussed during Closed Session.

Councilwoman Bebermeyer seconded the motion.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilman Brooks voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Smith acknowledged that, over the past few months, the Town Council had conducted a significant number of Closed Sessions regarding the acquisition/disposition of real property, specifically the property known as The Grange. He reported that they had come out of their last session having spoken with a number of involved groups, including the current owners of the property and the Chair of the Finance Committee who would discuss more about their decision.

Councilman Brooks made a motion to adopt a Resolution approving the real estate purchase agreement and property purchase from LSMP, LLC for \$6.5 million.

Councilman Cutler seconded the motion.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilman Brooks voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted nay, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed by a majority of 6-1.

Councilman Brooks made a motion to adopt a Resolution declaring the Town of Smithfield's intention to reimburse itself from the proceeds of one or more tax-exempt financing for certain expenditures made and/or to be made in connection with Capital Projects for the Town.

Councilwoman Bebermeyer seconded the motion.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilwoman Butler voted nay, Councilman Brooks voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed by a majority of 6-1.

- a. **Closed Session for the discussion of Acquisition / Disposition of Real Property, more specifically, The Grange @ 10Main pursuant to 2.2-3711 A3 of the Code of Virginia**
- b. **Closed Session for the purpose of reviewing interviews from selected legal firms for General Legal Services pursuant to 2.2-3711 A1 and A29 of the Code of Virginia**

5. Informational Reports

- a. Town Manager's Activity Reports
- b. Committee Summary Reports

6. Upcoming Meetings And Activities

March 3 -	6:30 p.m. - Town Council Meeting
March 10 -	6:30 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting
March 17 -	6:30 p.m. - Board of Historic and Architectural Review March 17 - 7:30 p.m. - Board of Zoning Appeals
March 23 -	3:00 p.m. - Town Council Committee Meetings

7. Public Comments

Joe Thompson of 4 Carl Point in Smithfield, reported that he was the Senior Minister at Smithfield Christian Church located on Battery Park Road. He stated that he was present at the meeting to share information about a free medical and dental clinic that the church would be hosting on April 18th, 2026 from 9:00am to 2:00 pm. Mr. Thompson handed out flyers for the event to the members of the Town Council. He stated that the Church was partnering with an organization called Hasten International Medical Missions based out of Kernersville, North Carolina. He detailed that Hasten focused mostly on international services and medical services, but they also had a domestic branch that utilized a 45-foot trailer with two exam rooms that was open for anyone or everyone in need of medical services but could not afford them. Mr. Thompson reported that no insurance or residential requirements were needed to access the services. He said that the service was possible through volunteers such as licensed medical personnel and dental personnel who provided basic medical and dental services to attendees of the clinic. He noted that the clinic would be located at Smithfield Christian Church's facilities. He encouraged the Council to spread the word about the clinic, to come out to the clinic to volunteer or to see how the clinic ran. He said that they hoped that the clinic would become a regular yearly program that they would be able to offer to those in the community.

Councilwoman Butler related that she was excited about the clinic as she felt that the Town was in a medically underserved area. She said that the clinic was very much needed, and she would work to get the word out about it.

Bob Hines of 216 Washington in Smithfield asked Mr. MacKenzie if the Closed Session that the Council had just come out of had been recorded by shorthand or transcription, then what access would there be to it following the meeting.

Mr. MacKenzie said that the public comment section was not for Q & A, but was a time to just make comment.

Mayor Smith stated that he would like to answer Mr. Hines's question, but they did not take any record during the previous Closed Session.

Mr. Hines asked if the Council had access to the recorded Closed Session minutes.

Mayor Smith stated that they did.

Mr. Hines stated that he understood Councilman Bowman's point to keep the discussion behind closed doors. He reviewed that Councilman Cutler had referenced that the only access to the record would be if the information was subpoenaed. He stated that he did not understand how not taking any minutes during Closed Session kept the Council members from relaying that information to others. He said that not recording the session did not keep them from communicating what was discussed with others. He reiterated that he did not understand why the Town Council did not want to have access to those minutes should they ever be needed in the future. He said that, with the exception of Councilman Cutler, he was disappointed with all the members of the Town Council for the way they voted. Mr. Hines also agreed with Councilman Cutler's assertion that the springing of the agenda item was out of order. He noted that when items were added at the last minute, they were usually brought up as a discussion item only but not voted on immediately as had been done that night.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak. Hearing and seeing none, he closed the public comments section.

8. Council Comments

Councilman Cutler thanked the Luter Family and LSMP for their close coordination with the Town Council. He observed that a lot work had gone into the project and he also acknowledged Mr. Stallings and Mr. MacKenzie. He reported that he had returned the previous evening from travel to a large city, and noted that it was a lot different coming home than when he had left since we were a nation at war. He asked that from the fantastic police department to all of the Town's citizens that they keep their eyes open, and if you see something - say something. He gave the reminder that there was a risk to the nation for terrorist attacks, and asked that everyone

keep the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines that were serving in the Middle East and throughout the world in their thoughts.

9. Consent Agenda Items

Councilman Brooks made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Councilwoman Butler seconded the motion.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilman Brooks voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted aye, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

a. Invoices Over \$20,000 Requiring Council Authorization:

Finance Committee Chair, Jeff Brooks

- i. Isle of Wight County - IT Services** **\$ 40,500.00**

b. Resolution Appropriating the Sum of \$585,102.05 from the Water Fund Balance to the FY 2025-26 Water Fund Operating Budget

Finance Committee Chair, Jeff Brooks

c. Motion to Award Luter Sports Complex Maintenance Facility Construction Contract to A.R. Chesson Construction in the Amount of \$1,764,000.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, Mary Ellen Bebermeyer

d. Motion to Adopt Tourism's Action Plan

Public Buildings and Welfare Committee Chair, Valerie Butler

e. Motion to Approve the Town Council Summary Minutes of February 3rd and February 23rd, 2026

10. Action Items

a. PUBLIC HEARING: Special Use Permit - TPIN 32-01-096A2 (Sheetz) - Randy Royal applicant

Tammie Clary, Director of Community Development and Planning

Mr. Kluck reported that the applicant was seeking a special use permit under the provisions of Article 3.I.C.30 to allow for reduced stacking spaces in the drive-through. He added that because the drive-through would feature a pickup window (as opposed to a traditional drive-through), the applicant would have five (5) stacking spaces, as opposed to the required ten (10) stacking spaces as outlined in Article 8.G.5. He updated that the applicant had removed the order board and all ordering would take place through the Sheetz app. He reported that the Planning Commission had favorably recommended the application to the Town Council.

Mayor Smith observed that the matter was subject to a public hearing and asked if there was anyone who wished to speak.

Olivia Beck of 1821 MacTavish Avenue in Richmond, representing the Sheetz corporation, was present to answer any additional questions that the Council had.

Vice Mayor Harris asked for confirmation that anyone who ordered from the restaurant portion of Sheetz must do so via app.

Mrs. Beck explained that ordering through the app was only needed for access to the pick-up window, however there was still the ability to go inside the store and order off of a touchscreen menu. She addressed an earlier question that had been raised by Councilman Cutler, updating that they were still in internal discussions regarding the installation of Electronic Vehicle charging stations.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any other members of the public who wished to speak on the matter. Hearing and seeing none, he closed the public hearing.

Councilman Bowman made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit as presented. Vice Mayor Harris seconded the motion.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilman Brooks voted aye, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

b. PUBLIC HEARING: Special Use Permit - 108 South Mason Street

Tammie Clary, Director of Community Development and Planning

Mr. Kluck reported that the applicant was seeking a special use permit under the provisions of Article 3.H.C.31 to allow for reduced parking spaces for the proposed single-family dwelling. He said that the applicant would provide one parking space instead of the 2 parking spaces required by Article 8.E.29. He noted that the Board of Historic and Architectural Review (BHAR) had made the request that the applicant only provide one parking space to keep in line with the neighboring properties. Mr. Kluck stated that the Planning Commission had favorably recommended the application to the Town Council.

Mayor Smith observed that the matter was subject to a public hearing and asked if there was anyone who wished to speak.

Phillip Hines, applicant, reported that he did not have any comments to add, but that he was present to answer any questions that the Council may have.

Vice Mayor Harris commended Mr. Hines for the clarity and thoroughness of his application.

Councilman Bowman noted that Mr. Hines had attended Certified Planning Commissioner School at the same time as he and Councilwoman Butler had.

Bob Hines of 216 Washington Street in Smithfield stated that Mr. Hines, who is his son, went before BHAR to get in front of the process and ensure that he kept the integrity of the Historic District intact. He noted that Councilwoman Bebermeyer had been there as well, and commended her for attending nearly all the Town's various board meetings. He stated that the BHAR meeting went very well, and then at the Planning Commission he was able to speak with the Board member who had dissented more in-depth after that meeting.

Mayor Smith confirmed that there were no further speakers and closed the public hearing.

Councilman Brooks also commended Mr. Hines for the work that he put in for designing the home to fit the area that it would be constructed in. He made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit as presented.

Vice Mayor Harris seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Bebermeyer related that Mr. Hines had received feedback at the BHAR meeting, and he had modified his plans to suit the character of the street in which it would be located. She noted that she was not usually a fan of less parking, but in this particular case it fit in with the design and character of the street.

Councilwoman Butler added that the case they were reviewing illustrated perfectly the flexibility that a Special Use Permit gave to applicants.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilman Cutler voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilman Brooks voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

c. PUBLIC HEARING: Rezoning, Comprehensive Plan Amendment, & Future Land Use Map Amendment - 315 Main Street

Tammie Clary, Director of Community Development and Planning

Mr. Kluck stated that the Town Staff was requesting the rezoning of the aforementioned property

from Heavy Industrial to Downtown, which was in line with neighboring properties. He reported that the only proposed addition was a shed to house the Tourism golf cart. He said that the action would require a Conditional Official Zoning Map Amendment (Rezoning) and the property was currently being used for retail sales, which was permissible in the Downtown Zoning District, by-right. He continued that the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Future Land Use Map Amendment) entailed the Historic District/ Downtown Mixed Use would be the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designation for both parcels and the Historic District Residential designation would be removed. He noted that a plat consolidating the lots into one parcel would be recorded. Mr. Kluck reported that the Planning Commission had voted to favorably recommend the application to the Town Council.

Mayor Smith stated that the matter was subject to a public hearing and asked if there was anyone who wished to speak. Hearing and seeing none, he closed the public hearing.

Councilman Cutler made a motion to approve the rezoning as presented. Councilman Bowman seconded the motion.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilman Brooks voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Invoice over \$20,000 Requiring Council Authorization:

Finance Committee Chair, Jeff Brooks

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| i. Virginia Auction Company, Inc. | \$ 23,400.00 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|

Councilman Brooks made a motion to approve an invoice for the Virginia Auction Company, Inc for \$23,400.00 that had been received after Committee Meetings had been held.

Councilwoman Bebermeyer seconded the motion.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Councilman Brooks voted aye, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

11. New Business

a. Motion to Authorize Opening of a New Town Checking Account for the 250Sail Project

Michael Stallings, Town Manager

The Town Manager explained that in tandem with the planned celebration for America 250, the Town would like to open a new checking account specifically for the 250Sail Project. He noted that the account would be set up to exclusively handle the sponsorship money, thereby allowing them to remain separate from the Town funds.

Councilman Brooks asked if expenditures would also come out of the account.

The Town Manager confirmed that expenditures would come out of the account in relation to the event. He said that as sponsors sent in funds they would be placed in that specific account. He continued that as different needs arose, Tourism would then request the Town to expend the funds needed, for example when they set up the drone light show.

Vice Mayor Harris asked where the money was coming from.

The Town Manager stated that the sponsorship money was coming in from businesses and other entities, essentially making the Town the fiduciary for the Tourism event.

Councilwoman Bebermeyer confirmed that once the event had concluded, the bank account would be closed.

Councilman Brooks made a motion to approve the opening of a new Town checking account for

the 250Sail Project.

Vice Mayor Harris seconded the motion.

Mayor Smith called for the vote, with seven members present. Councilman Brooks voted aye, Councilman Bowman voted aye, Vice Mayor Harris voted aye, Councilwoman Bebermeyer voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilman Cutler voted aye, and Mayor Smith voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Old Business

a. Citizen Email Response Discussion

Councilwoman Butler reported that she had sent the Council members an email regarding her feelings about email responses to citizens. She recalled that they had addressed the issue prior, but had not taken any action on the matter. She related that they could have one person respond to emails as the point of contact and include verbiage that stated something like, "In response to your email, the Town Council have reached the following decision..." She continued that she thought it was unprofessional for the Town Council to have several different emails responding to a citizen. She related that she made a concerted effort to respond to citizen emails sent directly to her, but she did not necessarily respond to emails sent to all seven of the Town Council members. She noted that she did not receive a response from any of the other Council members on the matter.

Mayor Smith said that he thought they had reached consensus that if all seven of the Council members were on an email that one person could respond.

Councilman Bowman said that he had not received the email in question until it was sent another way. He suggested that the Town Manager knew the logistics needed to address the issue. He said that unless it was in regard to a policy or political matter that required independent decision-making from a specific Council member, he felt that the Town Manager should be the one to address them.

Councilwoman Butler pointed out that in the citizen email received, the Town Manager had not been included, but she did forward it to him after-the-fact. She related that she was looking for feedback from the Council members specifically on whether they thought one person offering a response was a good idea or not.

Councilman Bowman said that, based on his previous experience, it was a good idea to forward the email to the Town Manager to be addressed. He stated that he had previously told an inquiring citizen that he did not have all the pertinent information regarding what they were asking, forwarded the email to the Town Manager, and then the Town Manager responded and attached him to the email so that he could see the solution.

Vice Mayor Harris said that he thought Councilwoman Butler's idea was a good one, he had just thought it would be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

Councilwoman Bebermeyer noted that the way to appropriately respond also depended on the situation as well. She said that if it was an issue specifically with the Town, then yes, it should go to the Town Manager for response. She stated that she did not think that they could come up with a concrete rule of response.

Mayor Smith stated that the issue should be revisited during Committee Meetings.

Vice Mayor Harris stated that if an email received did warrant an individual Council member's response, then maybe they could attach the other Council Members to it.

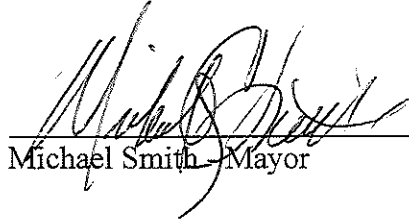
The Town Manager cautioned the Council members that if they engaged in responses back and forth on an email with all members attached, then they would find themselves in a situation where they had created an illegal meeting.

Councilwoman Bebermeyer observed that was why she did not use "Reply all."

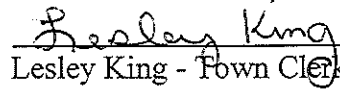
Councilman Cutler noted the recent press release sent and commended Chief Howell for his department's effort to bring added safety to the community.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.



Michael Smith - Mayor



Lesley King - Town Clerk