



**Knightdale Town Council
Work Session Minutes**

**November 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
950 Steeple Square Court, Knightdale, North Carolina 27545**

Members Present: Mayor Jessica Day, Mayor Pro Tem Latatious Morris, Councilor Ben McDonald, Councilor Stephen Morgan, Councilor Mark Swan, Councilor Steve Evans

Staff Present: Town Manager Bill Summers, Assistant Town Manager Dustin Tripp, Assistant Town Manager Suzanne Yeatts, Town Clerk Heather Smith, Development Services Director Jason Brown, Parks and Recreation Director JP Lefever, Community Relations Director Rachel Morris, Communications and Marketing Manager Terrence Dove, Recreation Supervisor Andrew Wilkins, Senior Planner Kevin Lewis

1. WELCOME

Welcome by Mayor Day at 7:01 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

...Motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion by Councilor McDonald

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Morris

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. DISCUSSION

a. 2024 Community Survey

Community Relations Director Rachel Morris introduced Jason Morado with ETC Institute who conducted the town's 2024 Community Survey.

Mr. Morado reviewed ETC Institute's credentials, discussed the Community Survey, and reviewed the methodology of data collection. He noted surveys were distributed by mail and online to a randomly selected sample of Town residents with 412 responses being received. Mr. Morado highlighted the geographical locations of respondents and provided key takeaways.

Mr. Morado reviewed how survey results compared to 2022, highlighting increases in satisfaction related to the availability of diverse/cultural experiences, visibility of police in retail areas, effectiveness of Town Manager and staff, and Knightdale as a place to work. He noted decreases in satisfaction surrounding Development Services customer services, special events, value for tax dollars and fees, and enforcing cleanup of debris on private property.

Mr. Morado summarized top priorities for the town moving forward based on survey results and answered questions from Council pertaining to questions included in the survey.

Mrs. Morris indicated the Community Relations department will share survey results once the data has been uploaded to the online dashboard.

b. Public Art Presentation

Town Manager Bill Summers introduced Administrative Intern Joshua Fesmire who discussed the Council's strategic goal of exploring a public arts program.

Mr. Fesmire defined public art, shared results of benchmarking data, and highlighted types of public arts programs that would be feasible in Knightdale.

Mr. Fesmire shared that many municipalities with public arts programs have a committee dedicated to the program, keep a collection of art in online databases, call artists through newspapers and social media, and have an identified set of goals to promote the benefits of public art.

Mr. Fesmire provided a sample vision plan for Knightdale's Public Art Program and recommended an annual partnership with the United Arts Council, the formal adoption of a Knightdale Public Arts Plan, a commitment to annual budgetary allocation for arts, and the creation of engagement opportunities for artists throughout Knightdale to showcase their work.

c. Roundtable Discussion on Public Art

Town Manager Bill Summers introduced Jen McEwen, President of the United Arts Council, who answered questions from Council about art committees, art on private property, stage programming, budgetary expectations, and guidelines for developers.

Council highlighted what they would like to see in a future public arts program, such as additional bike racks, gardens as public art, the providing of spaces and platforms for organic and spontaneous performances, art camps and classes, interactive and sensory pieces, additional story walks with the library, art throughout the new passive park, symphony in the park, art for seniors, local craft markets, musical art pieces, and a digital suggestion box for residents to upload ideas to the committee.

Ms. McEwen shared her observations for what could be done in Knightdale such as classes, open mic nights, murals on the pool deck, wraps for the pool fence, continuation of bike racks, sculpture trail along the new greenway, and mosaic art on a public wall.

Consensus of the Council was to move forward with the creation of a Knightdale Public Arts Plan and the formation of a Public Arts Committee. Mr. Summers identified next steps in which the council will need to take action such as approval of budgetary allocation in FY26, formation and adoption of a public arts committee, and a contract approval with the United Arts Council.

d. Monthly DS Update

Senior Planner Kevin Lewis reviewed SB166, which will impact the town's water allocation policy. He highlighted proposed changes to the policy, discussed the timeline for implementation, and answered questions from Council.

Mr. Lewis provided updates on the following projects, collecting feedback and answering questions from Council.

- Old Faison Place
- Parkside at Westlake
- EP Mart

Mr. Lewis reviewed construction drawings under review, highlighted upcoming public hearings, and answered questions from Council pertaining to sewer capacity at Downtown North.

4. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Town Manager Bill Summers shared that he was approached by the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce and former Mayor Russell Killen asking for support of the town of Lansing, North Carolina. Mr. Summers noted that staff will offer direct support to that community and the town will place a joint resolution of support on an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Summers also indicated that several County Commissioners from the western part of the state have reached out to thank the Council and community for their support during recovery efforts.

5. ADJOURNMENT

...Motion to adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Morris
Seconded by Councilor Morgan**

Motion Carried Unanimously

Heather Smith, Town Clerk

Jessica Day, Mayor