

ERWIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
WITH PLANNING BOARD
JULY 18, 2022
ERWIN, NORTH CAROLINA

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Erwin with Mayor Randy Baker presiding held a Joint Meeting with the Planning Board in the Erwin Municipal Building Board Room on Monday, July 18, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in Erwin, North Carolina.

Town Board Members present were: Mayor Randy Baker, Mayor Pro Tem Ricky Blackmon, and Commissioners William Turnage, David Nelson, and Timothy Marbell.

Town Board Members absent were: Commissioners Alvester McKoy and Charles Byrd.

Planning Board members present were: Chairperson Ronald Beasley, Vice-Chairperson Pat Cameron, In Town Board Members Judy Price, Angela Gundersen, Out of Town Board Member Michael Shean, and In-Town Alternate Rebecca Kelly.

Planning Board members absent were: In Town Board Member Joshua Schmieding and Alan West, Out of Town Board Member Roger Brown, In-Town Alternate Christa Reid, and Out of Town Alternate William Morris.

Town Manager Snow Bowden and Town Clerk Lauren Evans were present.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Nelson gave the invocation.

Planning Board Member Judy Price led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Both Boards came together to discuss updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and updates to our Ordinances.

Town Manager Snow Bowden informed the Boards of improvements being made to the Town of Erwin such as paving E H Street, getting an LED sign for Town Hall, and an updated Town Website to make it more user-friendly. He provided an update on the CERRI Program, Bruce was currently still compiling data and he will ensure both Boards are aware of the next meeting.

Mayor Baker stated the Planning Board/Board of Adjustments plays a vital role in Erwin. The Town will be contracting with a firm to assist us with the Comprehensive Plan but both Boards will play a vital role in steering and guiding.

The Boards discussed the potential Highway 421 overlay.

Planning Board Member Pat Cameron stated the Comprehensive Land Use Plan needs to be well thought out and not ignore the Land Use Plan once it is in place. He stated he would like to see the Boards start addressing issues now and not wait 14 months for a Land Use Plan. There are

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many significant issues in the current Land Use Plan that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. He expressed the importance of the Town having a Planner.

Mayor Baker stated when there is not anything on the agenda, it is a top priority to have training sessions instead of canceling the meeting. It is important to equip the Planning Board with the information and tools needed to make confident, professional decisions.

Both Boards discussed the concerns of Code Enforcement. The main topic was hiring a Code Enforcement Officer. In the past, both boards agree that in the past, some zoning issues haven't been handled properly and agree that the Town needs a change.

Commissioner Blackmon stated we need different professionals involved who bring a certain amount of expertise and we need to be ready for businesses.

Planning Board Chairman Ronald Beasley stated he would like to see a rebranding of Erwin. We need to update our flag and motto.

Mayor Baker stated his biggest goal is to bring unity to the Town. The Town Board cannot do it on their own and need input from the citizens of Erwin. He was hopeful for growth in Erwin.

Planning Board Member Pat Cameron stated in the last year, the Planning Board has talked about real assets in Erwin, the new School being one. The School will attract young families and more houses will be coming to Erwin. He mentioned utilizing the School for Community. He and other members of the Planning Board get frustrated by the number of Conditional Uses in Erwin. He would love to see a more straightforward approach, Conditional Uses are too unknown, and there are too many grey areas.

Mayor Baker stated his interpretation was that substantial time was not invested when creating the current Conditional Uses. This was when both boards need to come together and take the time to determine permitted rights upfront.

Discussion continued among the Boards of zoning issues the Boards have come in contact with over the years.

Commissioner Turnage asked the Planning Board what infrastructure they would like to see in Erwin.

Planning Board Chairman Ronald Beasley stated he would like to see the sidewalks on East H Street widened to accommodate outdoor seating and make it more inviting for the Public to seat and enjoy a meal or a sweet from Burney's.

Planning Board Member Angela Gundersen stated the Erwin image was what attracted her and her family to move to Erwin from Apex. They liked the small town feel and the appealing history of Erwin.

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated he will keep both Boards informed of any updates in Erwin.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Turnage made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 pm and was seconded by Commissioner Blackmon. **The Board voted unanimously.**

**MINUTES RECORDED AND TYPED BY
LAUREN EVANS TOWN CLERK**



**Randy Baker
Mayor**



**Lauren Evans
Town Clerk**