

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
APRIL 21, 2014**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a work session on Monday, April 21, 2014 in the Community Room at the W.C. Witherspoon Memorial Library

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Dixon, Chairman  
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Lloyd E. Griffin, III  
Cecil Perry  
Dr. William R. Sterritt  
Frankie Meads

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Gary G. White (*out of town*)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rodney Bunch, County Manager  
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney  
Shelley Cox, Planning Director  
Lynn Scott, Assistant Clerk to the Board

Also present was Elizabeth City Mayor Joe Peel.

The work session was called to order at 2:42 PM by Chairman Jeff Dixon who welcomed everyone present.

**1. PRESENTATION OF VISION 2020 PLAN BY MAYOR JOE PEEL:**

Mayor Peel thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the findings of the Vision 2020 action teams. He explained that the process lasted approximately fifteen months and involved about 2,500 people. Initially, the group consisted of approximately 100 people who met on four occasions to talk about ways to grow the area's economy, create new jobs and build a stronger community. The group was charged with the task of identifying where we might need to make some improvements in order to be more attractive to businesses. Nine critical success factors within the areas of economic development and community development were identified. Action teams were formed which were represented by a broad spectrum of residents and given the task of addressing each of the nine critical success factors. They were tasked with developing measurable goals and recommendations for what can be accomplished over the next five to seven years in their assigned areas. The teams involved more than 2,300 additional citizens in their work through focus groups, online surveys and face-to-face meetings. He presented a booklet which contains the full reports of each team and summarized their findings and recommendations. He went on to say that a group of people have been identified to serve on an implementation committee. Their job will be to meet several times during the course of the year and track implementation of the strategic plan.

Commissioner Sterritt commended Mayor Peel for his leadership of this project and said he feels a lot of good will come from this. He noted that he was asked to serve on the Championing Diversity Committee and they have met once. He said the Community Relations Committee would like to have the backing of the County Commissioners and the City Council to continue their work on a more formal basis, which will take additional funding. He stated that they would like to meet the fifth Monday in May and have the City Council, the County Commissioners, and Jan King-Robinson come and discuss diversity in the community. Commissioner Sterritt offered a parcel of land which he and his wife own within the city limits for a community fun garden where families can come and plant, weed, and harvest their own food. Mayor Peel advised that there is currently a garden used within the community, but they are looking for other areas as well and he will inform the individuals who are currently operating the garden.

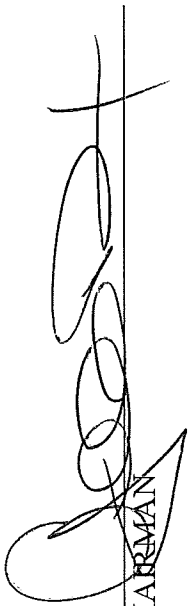
**2. REVIEW OF PROCEDURES FOR ISSUANCE OF CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

County Attorney Mike Cox reviewed multiple legal requirements relating to zoning laws. These included: consistency statements, legislative vs. quasi-judicial decisions, zoning text amendments, conditional use and special use permits. Mr. Cox explained that the Board has the authority to mandate special requirements for specific projects based on such things as being harmonious or compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

Planning Director Shelley Cox reviewed current zoning regulations for solar farms. She informed the Board that the zoning ordinance currently provides that solar farms are permitted in the I-1 & I-2 Industrial Districts and the A-1 & A-2 Agricultural Districts. She stated that the Board will be considering a zoning text amendment application this evening to provide that solar farms will be permitted in the C-1 Commercial District.

Chairman Dixon thanked Mayor Peel and staff for the information provided today. The work session was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

  
ASSISTANT CLERK

  
CHAIRMAN