

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2024
SEWANEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Community Council meeting was held in person in August with an option to also participate online via Zoom.

Members present: Rob Pearigen, Scott Wilson, June Weber, Ben Beavers, Rhea Bowden, John Solomon, Michael Payne, Robert Benton, Phil White, Evelyn Patton, Bill Harper, Ben Tarhan, and Roger Speers

Members via Zoom:

Absent: Sallie Green, Bruce Manuel, Laura Willis, Lynn Stubblefield, Marilyn Phelps, and Aidan Goulding

Minutes taken by: Carey Fulmer (attending via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

(1) Approval of the May Minutes

The minutes for May 2024 Community Council were approved as circulated.

(2) Airport Project Update from Jimmy Wilson- Scott Wilson

Jimmy Wilson briefed the Council about the environmental impact assessment to clear a flight path in compliance with FAA and TDOT regulations for the Franklin County Airport in Sewanee. Below is an outline of his presentation.

We would like to inform you about upcoming work at the Franklin County Airport and the surrounding area. The first phase of the work involves an Environment Assessment (EA) of the airport property. The second phase of the project is to identify the trees and obstructions that penetrate the 20:1 Flight Path. The 20:1 Flight Path is the specific descent gradient used in aviation, particularly during approach procedures. This gradient is a general rule of thumb to ensure a safe and manageable descent. The 20:1 Flight Path must be free of obstructions that penetrate the area so that pilots can safely land their aircraft. Primary work will be on the University property on both ends of the runway.

The project will meet the following requirements:

- Ensure compliance with Federal Aviation Administration regulations.
- Ensure compliance with Tennessee Department of Transportation regulations.

Vendors involved

- Terracon
- Allen and Hoshall Engineering Firm
- Nate Wilson and/or Sandy Gilliam

Environmental Assessment for the Franklin County Airport will include:

Preliminary Water Delineation	Archaeological Survey
Habitat Assessment	Architectural History Survey

(3) Student Rental Housing Assignments- Scott Wilson

Scott Wilson discussed the need to move students into residential areas while two dorms are renovated and outlined the process of selecting 8-10 upstanding students to reside in three rental units on Running Knob Hollow Road (2) and Oak Hill Circle (1). The students housing in these rental homes will be themed houses. Vice Chancellor Rob Pearigen discussed the higher number of students enrolling citing this issue as a “great problem.”

(4) Redesign of University Avenue and Community Traffic-Calming Measures- Scott Wilson

Scott Wilson discussed the redesign of University Avenue for bike lanes, parking, and ADA compliant parking spaces as well as the additional steps that are forthcoming in the next few weeks. Information included in this agenda discussion:

- Reestablishing bike rental for students
- Bike stalls added in strategic locations
- Discussed the parking reorganization on campus for student, employee, and community parking
- Shuttle service implemented for students and University employees with bi-weekly service to Winchester and Montegale
- New parking lot areas created off central campus for first year students to encourage walking
- New crosswalk to be added between Biel Commons and McClurg Dining Hall
- Speed hump update and explanation for key specification to be met for installation
- More areas would be studied to install speed humps to slow traffic and increase pedestrian safety

Dr. Rob Pearigen reminded the Council that many of the changes being implemented were developed from the strategic planning process, which was initiated by student representatives to enhance safety and accessibility on campus.

(6) Announcements and/or Questions

Questions from audience and Council discussed:

- Upcoming general election on November 5. Ben Tarhan, Election Officer outlined the open seats and nomination process and timeline. Petitions to run must be submitted by October 14.
- Update requested on the SVV Apartments (Currently working to scale down the cost of building by possibly reducing the number of apartments from six units to four or five units).
- Question on plans with Lumiere building- more info will be announced soon of the restaurant that is coming to this location.
- June Weber reminded the Council that the Grant Committee will be online soon to accept applications for support. She also asked for a volunteer to assist with reviewing grants that would be received.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Fulmer