

# MEETING MINUTES

**Town of Waynesville  
Task Force on Homelessness**

**Thursday, September 23, 2021**

**5:30 PM—7:30 PM EST**

**Location:  
Town of Waynesville Meeting  
Room  
16 South Main Street**

<b>Meeting Facilitator:</b>	Amy Murphy-Nugen	
<b>TOW TFH Members Roster</b>		
✓ Police Chief David Adams Proxy: Lt. Tyler Trantham Both attended	Patsy Davis	✓ Amy Murphy-Nugen (Chair)
Juleah Berliner	✓ Commissioner Kevin Ensley	✓ Bob Cummings
✓ Wanda Brooks	✓ Keri Guidry	✓ Joslyn Schaefer
✓ Dale Burris	✓ Mandy Haithcox	✓ Alderman Anthony Sutton
✓ Sheriff Greg Christopher or appointee	Jon Lynn McDermott	Brandon Wilson

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen opened the meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m., welcoming everyone. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed.

## **Review and Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Alderman Sutton to approve the minutes from July 8, 2021. Joslyn seconded the motion with those who had attended the July 8 meeting voting to approve the adoption of the minutes.

A motion was made by Alderman Sutton to approve the minutes from July 29, 2021. Commissioner Ensley seconded the motion with those who had attended the July 29 meeting voting to approve the adoption of the minutes.

A motion was made by Sheriff Christopher to approve the minutes from September 2, 2021. Chief Adams seconded the motion with those who had attended the September 2 meeting voting to approve the adoption of the minutes.

## TF Discussion: Homelessness Needs Assessment & Recommendations

Chair Murphy-Nugen referenced the charge given to the TF by Town leadership, the decision-making process the TF agreed on early in its formation, and referenced the guiding principles developed by the TF. **The TF charges include:**

1. **Completed:** Research the demographics of persons who are homeless in Waynesville and the causes of homelessness;
2. **Completed:** Examine stigmatization, criminalization and discrimination associated with homelessness;
3. **Completed:** Conduct a gap analysis to identify needs, existing community capacity, and additional resources necessary to prevent and respond to temporary and chronic homelessness; and,
4. **Remaining in Draft:** Developing a collaborative community action plan to fill system gaps and improve existing programs.

As the TF began its discussion on the draft plan and recommendations, Chair Murphy-Nugen began by summarizing the TF's discussion at its prior meeting. She noted that there appeared to be agreement that a CARES Director is needed; however, there was still some question among TF members where the Director would be most effectively situated—with the Town or with one not-for-profit provider. She also presented a job description that was drafted and shared by TF member Brandon and edited by Mandy and Joslyn. The purpose of the draft description was for discussion only.

*Dale made a motion to remove the hiring of three people from the recommendations. Wanda seconded the motion.* Discussion on the motion occurred noting that removing the three people from the recommendations would also remove any associated action items that those positions would be charged with implementing. Discussion occurred concerning TF members who expressed concerns over how the positions would be financially supported—and other TF members indicating anticipated cost savings by fulfilling the positions and noting that the Town Board was looking for solutions. Joslyn called for a vote. A roll call vote recorded 0 aye votes, 9 nay votes, and, 2 abstentions (i.e. Alderman Sutton and Chair Murphy-Nugen). The motion failed.

*Joslyn made a motion for the Town of Waynesville to appoint a hiring committee to hire a CARES Director to implement the recommendations. Sheriff Christopher seconded the motion.* Discussion on the motion occurred noting the importance of coordinating efforts with the county and outreach with existing service providers. A roll call vote recorded 8 aye votes, 1 nay vote, and 2 abstentions (i.e. Alderman Sutton and Chair Murphy-Nugen). The motion carried.

Commissioner Ensley made a motion to support including Option 2 (i.e. strengthen and expand capacity of current system) in the recommendations. Mandy seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion occurred noting how the housing market had become further constrained in the aftermath of the flood in Haywood County. Clarification was provided on existing housing supports/resources—including Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Low-income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). Keri called for a vote. A roll call voted recorded 8 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions (i.e. Alderman Sutton and Chair Murphy-Nugen). The motion carried. Please note, Josyln was not present for this or subsequent votes due to a prior professional commitment.

Mandy made a motion to include the proposed mental health action items in the recommendations. Keri seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion occurred—with Sheriff Christopher noting that he considered these action items among the most important in the recommendations. A roll call voted recorded 8 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions (i.e. Alderman Sutton and Chair Murphy-Nugen). The motion carried.

Following this series of motions, the TF reviewed all of the proposed action items in the recommended CARES framework. Members of the TF requested Chair Murphy-Nugen clarify that the outreach activities be directed by the CARES Director.

### **Presentation of the Findings and Recommendations**

Chair Murphy-Nugen will update the draft plan to reflect the decisions made by the TF. An updated plan will be distributed to the Town Board in advance of their October 12 meeting—where it is anticipated that the TF's findings and recommendations will be presented.

Having exceeded the scheduled time for the meeting, Chair Murphy-Nugen moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:45 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Murphy-Nugen on September 30, 2021.