**Town of Haw River**

**Town Council Special Called Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 26, 2016**

The Town Council of the Town of Haw River held a Special Meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the Haw River Municipal Building at 6:00 pm.

Council Members Present: Mayor Buddy Boggs, Lee Lovette, Kelly Allen, and Steve Lineberry

Council Members Absent: Jeff Fogleman

Also Present: Manager Jeff Earp, Clerk Melanie Hamilton

Mayor Boggs called the meeting to order and gave the invocation at 6:00 pm.

6:01 pm

Manager Earp presented Ms. Crystal Morphis, founder and CEO of Creative Economic Development Consulting. Creative EDC performed a Craft Brewery Industry/Cluster Feasibility Study for the Town and Ms. Morphis presented the company’s findings to the Council and the public.

The presentation highlighted that the while there are some very positive factors in both Alamance County and Haw River that would support a craft brewery, there are also some challenges that will need to be addressed prior to attracting this type of business.

Some of the great positives are that the Town has excellent proximity to two interstates, the local government is easy for businesses to work with and has plenty of water/sewer capacity for this type of business, and there is Town owned property in the downtown area that is available to be used for economic development purposes.

Some challenges include no clearly defined downtown area, a lack of suitable or move in ready industrial buildings, a lack of establishments drawing individuals to a downtown area, and the general appearance of the Town.

In Haw River, it is the opinion of Creative EDC that a craft brewery facility would need to be a part of a larger downtown redevelopment project in order to succeed. Ms. Morphis pointed out that most small brewery investments are initiated by locals or one time locals and also stressed the importance of the Town investing in itself as a means to attract private investors. Furthermore, she stressed the importance of a Downtown Master plan to keep the Town headed in a cohesive direction toward the ultimate goal of a thriving downtown.

The full presentation given by Creative EDC is attached to the meeting minutes.

6:58 pm

Following Council discussion and there being no other business, Councilmember Lovette made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

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Buddy E. Boggs, Mayor Melanie R. Eveker, Clerk