

**WINCHESTER COMMON COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
JOINT MEETING AT PLANNING COMMISSION RETREAT  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2009  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Vice-Mayor Butler, Clark, Hill, Vice-President Major, McInturff, Veach, Willingham. (7)

**ABSENT:** President Buettner, Mayor Minor. (2)

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Susan Masters called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Council Mission and Directives** – Vice-President Major thanked everyone involved on working on the Comprehensive Plan.

He explained that the old mission was directed toward staff. The new mission statement states “Our Mission is to provide a safe, vibrant, sustainable community while striving to constantly improve the quality of life for our citizens and economic partners.”

Council presented the following objectives to the Planning Commission:

- Increasing median household income
- Increasing appreciation rate of home values
- Improving educational attainment for all citizens
  - o Requiring Virginia Workplace Readiness Skills certification for all students
  - o Raising graduation rates to state average
  - o Increasing the percentage of citizens with post High School graduation education
- Increasing the number of jobs
- Raising the average salary of jobs in Winchester
- Increasing sales tax revenue

Councilor Willingham stated that in order to provide better jobs, we have to have an educated workforce. He asked the Planning Commission to consider these objectives when working on the Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Commission Chairman Susan Masters said that the Commission would make sure the Comprehensive Plan included the objectives.

3. **Adjourn**

The Councilors were able to dismiss during a break at 9:38 a.m.