

Summary of Public Comment regarding the Downtown Service District

The Town sought public comment from downtown business owners, as well as the public in conformance with NC Statute 160A-536. Public comments were received from January 4th through January 11th. A public notice was published in the Johnstonian News and on all social media sites. Emails went out to all business owners in the downtown, via email addresses provided by DSDC. Comments were received via walk-in, telephone through a direct line, and through email. Two comments were received via the phone, which were both regarding the process and questioning why the Town was seeking public comment. No one walked into Town Hall to provide comment. Nine comments were received via email, all from downtown businesses.

The summary of comments follows with the original emails attached:

Market Street Businesses:

Traffic and parking on Market Street remains a concern. DSDC is positive overall, but a request to bury existing power lines out to Highway 301 is requested.

South Third Street Businesses:

Improve appearance of downtown by cleaning sidewalks, interesting crosswalks, improving the appearance of business frontage.

New Leadership needed downtown.

Improved and more Marketing of Downtown Smithfield including billboards on I-95.

Make South Third Street a social district, closing the street. (Vehemently opposed by one business).

More decorative lighting.

Resurrect Ham and Yam to the event it once was.

More social events like Third Streeterly with country and rock and roll bands.

Food Trucks for events.

Portable Bathrooms and additional trash cans during events.

Address the curb trash issue.

Repaint needed curbs, light posts and fire hydrants.

Increase social events downtown.

Bring a Farmer Market to Downtown

More community involvement.

More nightlife downtown.

Allow all businesses to have a decorative sign out front, rather than only the older businesses.

Save money and do not do the Downtown Development Plan.

The Howell Theater has a different marketing need and is in conflict with several of the requests cited above. Please review their email, individually.