Town Council

JUNE 8, 2026

WORK SESSION

New Business

Excellence in Governance Discussion

WOODFIN TOWN COUNCIL

Priority as Outlined in 2026 Retreat

Key Goal: Be the best governing body we can be.

- Explore our model of Governance and the working relationships between Town Staff/Appointed Boards and the Town's elected officials
- Governing as a unit
- Council-Manager form is new to Woodfin - we have the opportunity to provide an Excellence in Governance road map for future TOWO teams
- Making this a priority will accelerate our improvement

Workshop Goals

- Clarify roles of Council and Mayor
- Define boundaries between and responsibilities of Council/Mayor and Staff/Boards
- Understand the impact of resource constraints on governance
- Identify best communication practices between Council/Mayor and Staff/Boards

Today's Process

- Define each of the 4 broad goals
- Discuss and document ideas
  - Legal framework
  - Best practices
  - Examples
- Decide and commit to team decisions

Clarify roles of Council and Mayor

- Statutory distinctions
- The governing unit and collective decision-making
- Policy and priorities vs administration and execution

Define boundaries

- Council/Mayor interactions with Staff/Boards
- Communications: Town Manager as funnel and filter vs. more open style
- Collective Decision-making by the governing unit

Governing with Constraints

- Resource limitations
  - Financial
  - Time
- Prioritization
  - Focus on priorities chosen
  - Flexibity towards new opportunities and challenges
  - Inelastic resource realities

Communications

- Respect time of staff
  - Assess urgency of request
  - Determine if you can “do it yourself”
  - Manage or batch communications; reduce interruptions with impromptu requests

Next Steps

- Discuss and build consensus around actionable steps to achieve these goals/objectives
- Review progress in 6 months and adjust as needed

Adjournment