Written by Gary Childers
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Have you wondered why the street lights on the new section of 421 from Forest Hills Drive to Howard Street are not as tall on the north side of the street? Town Council does and they know what it's going to take to fix the problem but they're having trouble understanding why the Town has to pay extra money to for it. During Tuesday night's meeting at the Agricultural Services Center Public works director, Blake Brown, explained that the lights on the north side of the road had to be moved back from their originally planned location due to being too close to AT&T's underground duct banks. This move caused the street lights to be too close to the power lines so their poles had to be shortened. Mr. Brown further explained that to lower the lights on the south side of the road to match the others will take an additional $31,000 beyond the $711,000 the project has cost to this point. Several members of the Town Council struggled to understand why the Town should pay the cost for this correction when none of the engineers from NCDOT or AT&T involved with planning the road project let them know that the duck banks were going to cause a problem with the planned street light installation. After discussing options they could explore to keep from having to pay the extra costs with the Town's attorney, including the possibility of legal action, Council moved to discuss their options further in closed session during their upcoming Thursday evening meeting.