



MINUTES

The Holly Springs Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 in person and via video conferencing. Mayor Pro Tem Berry presided, calling the meeting to order at 7 p.m. A quorum was established as the Mayor and four Council members were present in the Chamber as the meeting opened.

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem Dan Berry, Councilmen Peter Villadsen, Shaun McGrath and Aaron Wolff, and Councilwoman Christine Kelly.

Council Members absent: Mayor Sears.

Staff Members Present in Chambers: Randy Harrington, *Town Manager*; Daniel Weeks, *Assistant Town Manager*; Scott Chase, *Assistant Town Manager*; John Schifano, *Town Attorney*; Linda McKinney, *Town Clerk* (recording the minutes); Mark Andrews, *Communication and Marketing*; Jeff Wilson, *Director, IT*; Mathew Mutter, *IT*; Kathy White, *Town Deputy Clerk*; LeeAnn Plumer, *Director, Parks and Recreation*; Adam Huffman, *Parks and Recreation*; Cassie Hack, *Communications and Marketing Director*; Corey Petersohn, *Finance*; Sean Ryan, *Development Services*.

2. and 3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by an invocation by Pastor Jonathan Sherrod of Kirk of Holly Springs Presbyterian Church.

4. Agenda Adjustment: The March 2, 2021 meeting agenda was adopted with changes, if any, as listed: added New Business item 12: Together on Center Stage Anti-Bullying Grant.

Motion: Villadsen
Second: Wolff
Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment: Public Comment was requested in writing prior to the meeting. The following number of comments was received and provided to the Council prior to the meeting: none.

Recognitions

5. Oath of Office – Planning Board

Town Clerk, Linda McKinney, gave the oath of office to Planning Board member Rick Madoni.

Requests and Communications

6. Donation in Memory of Owen Schroeder

Adam Huffman, Parks and Recreation, said that in October of 2020, Owen Reed Schroeder tragically lost his life while playing in a Holly Springs neighborhood. From this tragedy, Owen's parents have decided to pursue a joint venture with the Town to commemorate Owen and provide a unique amenity for the children of Holly Springs. He introduced Owen's parents, Laura and Josh Schroeder.

Mrs. Schroeder said they were here today to thank the Town of Holly Springs and those who have been there for them after the sudden loss of their only child, Owen. Specifically, the Holly Springs First Responders, their neighbors on Carolina Town Lane, the Holly Glen community, Thales Academy, their family and friends, and many others who they don't know personally. The support and love they continue to receive is unexpected, uplifting, and appreciated.

Ms. Schroeder said Owen was a super sweet, bright, active, and very social boy. Although they had only moved to Holly Springs a few months before his passing, he quickly made friends. He loved swimming at the Holly Glen pool, going to Bass Lake, visiting local playgrounds, and hanging out with his cousins here in NC.

In Owen's honor, they made a donation to the Holly Springs Parks and Recreation Department. This will allow for an expansion of the existing playground at Womble Park with swing sets and a memorial bench. Their hope is that other children in this community will be able to do what he loved to do and that his memory will live on. Once the updated park is ready, they will be hosting an opening ceremony and hope to see everyone there to celebrate Owen's life. Mrs. Schroeder thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for working with them and making this possible.

Mr. Huffman showed where in Womble Park the new amenities would be located. He said the padding under the swings would be mulch for additional padding for the children. He showed photos of the types of swings, including a double swing that allows two children to swing at once, that will be installed, and a picture of the plaque that will be on the bench dedicated to Owen. He said that this was the only park that would have swings. Owen's legacy will be that he was the child who brought swings to Holly Springs.

Mayor Pro Tem Berry said that the Town is devastated by their loss and thanked them for bringing joy to other children.

Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder presented a check to Mayor Pro Tem Berry and the Parks and Recreation Department.

7. Wake County Southern Regional Center Presentation

Randy Harrington, Town Manager, introduced Richard Hayner, Director of the Southern Regional Center. He said that because services in North Carolina are provided by the County and the municipality, it is important to work together and to know where services are found.

Mr. Hayner explained that the Wake County Southern Regional Center is an arm of the Wake County Human Services Department. It is located on Judd Parkway across from the Post Office. The Center was opened in 1996 as a way to bring Wake County services closer to people who do not live in Raleigh. Mr. Hayner said services that the Center provides include the following:

Economic Services:

- Medicaid Family and Children, Adult;
- Work First;
- Energy Assistance;
- Long Term Care Assistance;
- Food and Nutrition Services;
- Child Care subsidy.

Child Welfare Services:

- Child protective services assessment;
- Child protective services in-home;
- Foster Care;
- Foster Home Recruitment/Licensing;
- Adoption;
- Family Support Services (prevention)

Health Clinic Services:

- Family Planning;
- Immunizations;
- Communicable Disease/STD:

- Prenatal Care;
- Pharmacy;
- Lab;
- Child Health (future expansion)

and Public Health Services:

- WIC (Women, Infant, Children);
- Maternal Care Services;
- Case Management for At-risk Children;
- High Risk Nursing Services;
- Health Promotions.

He said that other Wake County services they provide are Vital Records, Revenue, Inspections, Wake County Sheriff, Housing, Veterans Services, and Environmental Services. The center also has facility-based partnerships with UNC Healthcare, NCWorks Career Center, Monarch Behavioral Health, Advance Community Health, and Interact.

He gave more details about NCWorks Career Center, which assists those who are unemployed or underemployed. The Community Advocacy Committee (CAC) partners with local communities to assure quality services for citizens, identify needs and priorities, and make sure service gaps get filled.

MPT Berry thanked him for the presentation. Councilwoman Kelly asked if there were brochures for elder care versus young families. Mr. Hayner said there were and left a copy of the Directory of Resources for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities with the Clerk. Councilman McGrath asked if they coordinated services with any non-profits in the area. Mr. Hayner said that one role of the CAC was to work with other service providers, including nonprofits, and coordinate services. Councilman McGrath asked if there was an effort to work with Veterans' Services. Mr. Hayner said that was a federal, not a county, responsibility, but there are some people in the Raleigh Veterans office who come to the Regional Center on a rotating basis a few days per week.

Public Hearings

8. Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Text Amendment 21-UDO-01 to Section 3.03 TV Town Village – Legislative Public Hearing

Sean Ryan, Development Services, said that last May Council amended the UDO regarding permitted uses in the Village District Zoning district to remove townhouses as a permitted use. In that text amendment, a semicolon and the word “dwelling” was missed in Section 3.03 A. 1. a. This amendment is to clean up a drafting error in the paragraph by removing the semi-colon and the word “dwelling.”

Planning Board voted to approve 8-0-1.

Mayor Pro Tem Berry opened the public hearing and the following input was received: none.

There being no input, Mayor Pro Tem Berry closed the public hearing.

Councilman McGrath asked for clarification for the public on why townhouses were taken out of the Village District zoning district. Mr. Ryan said that the Land Use and Character Plan suggested that the core of our downtown be commercial, with residential on upper floors, which would negate townhouses in this zoning district.

Action: Motion to adopt Ordinance 21-01 to adopt the statement of compatibility and UDO text amendment.

Motion by: Kelly

Second by: McGrath

Vote: unanimous

Consent Agenda

The Council passed a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried following a motion by Councilman Villadsen, a second by Councilman Wolff and a unanimous vote. The following actions were affected:

9. Minutes – The Council approved minutes of the Council business meeting held February 16, 2021.

10. Staff Position Reclassifications - The Council approved the reclassification of the existing Assistant Town Attorney position, salary grade 81, to a Paralegal, salary grade 75; and Water Quality Director position, salary grade 89 to Water Resources Director, salary grade 90.

11. External Auditor for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021 – The Council approved the contract with Cherry Bekaert LLP as Town auditor for a three-year period beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Together On Center Stage Anti-Bullying Grant

Mayor Pro Tem Berry said that Mayor Sears had received a letter from Together on Center Stage (TOCS) requesting a \$5,000 donation to help them obtain a new facility for the program, as they lost their previous location due to the COVID-19 shut downs causing them to be unable to pay their rent. The funds would come from the anti-bullying funds donated to the Town by former State Senator Barringer in 2018 that are currently unallocated. TOCS was based in Holly Springs, before the pandemic. The request was for operations costs and hard costs. They are looking to procure a building through lease-to-own, or to rent a facility. Any remaining funds would be used for scholarships for children who are unable to pay. The group works with special needs children, previously incarcerated children, and others to work together towards a common goal. They have applied for 501(c)(3) status. He said that he and Councilman Wolff are the Council Grants Committee, so they Mayor forwarded the request to them. They recommend that this be granted. The Mayor is very passionate about this topic, and this is a worthwhile program.

Councilman Wolff said the Committee will be considering applications from nonprofits later this spring, but this request is time sensitive. Like the Western Wake Crisis Ministry and others Council gave grants to due to COVID months ago, TOCS was affected by the pandemic. This is unappropriated money that was gifted to the Town from former Senator Barringer, and it meets the requirements of that gift. He agrees that Council should award these funds.

Councilwoman Kelly asked if TOCS could clarify in their letter that if the funds were not able to be spent on the program as requested that they come back to Holly Springs.

Councilman Villadsen said he had personal experience with this group and they do a great job. He supports the effort and the giving of this grant.

Councilman McGrath said he agrees that this is the Mayor's passion and as Mayor Sears says, "if it is good for the kids it's good for Holly Springs." He supports this grant.

Action: Motion to approve a \$5,000 sub-grant from the Town's Department of Public Instruction grant to Together on Center Stage (TOCS) for Anti-Bullying initiatives, with a condition that the request letter include information on returning funds that are unused.

Motion by: Villadsen

Second by: McGrath

Vote: unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tem Berry said there had been 2,219 cases of COVID-19 in the 27540 zip code, and five deaths. He reiterated the importance of cross walk safety and asked that drivers pay attention to crosswalk signals, and slow down in neighborhoods. He said that the Legislative Action Committee met with Representative Paré and Senator Batch and members of the development community to discuss impact fees. It was a productive discussion and he hopes to find mutual solutions in the future. Yesterday he had the opportunity to stand in for the Mayor in a national TV spot partnered with the Ryan Hamilton Foundation here in Holly Springs. It was an interesting experience and he was grateful for the opportunity. He thanked Cassie Hack, Communications and Marketing Director for helping him to prepare. The episode will possibly air later in the spring.

Councilman Wolff said while there were no definitive outcomes from the meeting with state legislators, he was proud that they were the catalyst, and that the message from Holly Springs, Fuquay Varina, and Apex was clear, concise and unanimous. To add on to the COVID discussion, he said the second half of Group 3 are eligible to receive their vaccines starting tomorrow. Wake County has a great portal to register and the state will reach out to you. Group 4 will start on March 24th. It is great news, but we need to keep wearing masks, staying 6 feet apart, and not going out unless necessary.

Councilwoman Kelly said that March is Women's History Month. She asked Council to support a resolution for Women's History month. She also asked that Council consider a resolution supporting the Equal Rights Amendment. She read the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

Council agreed that they would support a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing Women's History Month and Councilwoman Kelly said she would reach out to the Mayor.

The request to consider a resolution supporting the Equal Rights Amendment was debated. It was put forward that this was an issue that some Council members felt they needed more information on before they could decide, and that it was a matter to be handled at the General Assembly. Other Council members felt it was important for the Town to express its values on this issue. The final consensus was that Council members' contact information be shared with Dianna Wynn of the League of Women Voters to give Council members educational opportunities to learn about the proposed Amendment.

Councilman McGrath thanked the Schroeders for honoring their son with the donation to the Town. He said that traffic is picking up, especially with kids back in school, and asked that drivers watch their speed, and be cautious of pedestrians and other drivers. He expressed appreciation to his colleagues for letting him participate electronically in the last meeting. He said most committees like Triangle J Council of Government and NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization are meeting virtually. He said that NCDOT is releasing some funds as traffic is picking up. As we get in the midst of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, it's good to hear things are moving forward.

Councilman McGrath gave an update on the Landfill working group, saying Mr. Harrington has been working with David Ellis at the County to set up a meeting with Commissioners Hutchison and Calabria and representatives from the Wake County Landfill and GFL to be part of a steering committee to work on long-term solutions. This is good progress.

There followed a discussion regarding the landfill subcommittee, headed by Councilwoman Kelly, which has been working to gather Holly Springs-specific data points and metrics to quantify how the landfill malodor is affecting the Town. Council members discussed the make-up of the subcommittee and its goals and mission. Consensus was to bring the issue to the next workshop to discuss the organization and function of this committee.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Randy Harrington, Town Manager, recognized the Schroeder family for their strength and courage in coming to the meeting. He told Council that next week's workshop agenda is shaping up to be robust but productive. The Comprehensive Transportation Plan will take at least an hour; then there will be a discussion of updates to the Strategic Plan as discussed at the retreat; Council has asked for a discussion of the electronic meeting policy; and there will be a discussion on the North

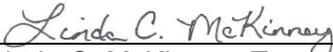
Ting development agreement. Adding the landfill committee to this agenda will make it five items. There will probably also be a closed session, so he wanted to acknowledge that the open part of the meeting could go to 8:30 or 9:00. If Council is ok with that staff will add the landfill committee item. Consensus of Council was to put it on the agenda, and if they don't get to it, it can be tabled.

Mr. Harrington said the Town is proud to announce the opening of the first dog park in Holly Springs. The "leash cutting" will be March 13th at 10 am at Sugg Farm. There will be a few vendors. The public is asked to please wear face coverings and maintain social distancing. There is also a new restroom facility at the park.

CLOSED SESSION: none

Adjournment: Councilman Villadsen made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. It was seconded by Councilman McGrath and passed with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.



Linda C. McKinney, Town Clerk

Addenda pages as referenced in these minutes follow and are a part of the official record.