



MINUTES

The Holly Springs Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Mayor Kondratick 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 Mike Kondratick, Council members Danielle Hewetson, Chris Deshazor, Sarah Larson, and Kara Foster.

Council Members Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Annie Drees.

Staff Members Present in Chambers: Randy Harrington, *Town Manager*; Scott Chase and Daniel Weeks, *Assistant Town Managers*; John Schifano, *Town Attorney*; Linda McKinney, *Town Clerk* (recording the minutes); Kameron Womack, *IT*; Corey Petersohn, *Budget and Sustainability*; Cassie Hack, *Director, Communications and Marketing*; Tamara Ward, Kelly Miller, Chris Belk, Courtney Lucas, *Communications and Marketing*; LeeAnn Plumer, *Director, Parks & Recreation*; Adam Huffman, *Parks & Recreation*; Kendra Parrish, *Executive Director of Utilities and Infrastructure*; Carrie Mitchell, *Utilities and Infrastructure*; Tina Stroupe, *Finance Director*; Chris Hills, *Director of Development Services*; Elizabeth Goodson, and Sarah Sularz, *Development Services*; Irena Krstanovic, *Director, Economic Development*; Neal Duncan, *Economic Development*; LeRoy Smith, *Fire Chief*; Paul Liquorie, *Police Chief*.

2. and 3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by an invocation by Aradhana Aggarwal of Hindy Temple of NC.

4. Agenda Adjustment: The April 21, 2026, meeting agenda was adopted with changes, if any, as listed:

Motion: Hewetson

Second: Larson

Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment: At this time, an opportunity was provided for members of the audience who had registered to speak to address the Council, and the Clerk was asked for any written comments received prior to the meeting.

The following public comments were received in person:

Joan Zahornacky-Cooper, 6758 Fawn Hoof Trail in the ETJ, said she has concerns about development in south Holly Springs. They moved here in 2013 with the intention of retiring here. She said they hoped that perk requirements would keep development low in this area. She said the survey prioritized public safety and small-town charm. There are planned developments close to her home and she is alarmed. Overbrook Ridge is over "her" brook and a lot of old trees are being removed.

Billie Kane Bono, Sunset Ridge South, said she has lived here for a decade and is here to ask for action to make crosswalks safer for our kids. She mentioned a recent incident with a child getting hit. It terrified her. She never allowed her kids to walk to school because of the traffic. Drivers don't observe

speed limits. She said there was no police presence at the crosswalk after the incident, just the principal. She wants the Town to do more. She wants to work to develop a plan to address crosswalk safety. She wants crossing guards funded by the Town. She started a petition and said nearly 150 people had signed it.

CJ Buonacorsi, 1412 Dexter Ridge Dr., said she would like to strengthen Holly Springs for climate resiliency. Wake County does not maintain a centralized climate resiliency plan, which gives municipalities the opportunity. Before Holly Springs can partner with Central Pines Council of Governments to develop a SW Wake regional plan they must develop a baseline of our own vulnerabilities, to make sure any plan reflects our needs and assets. She said that between 2010 and 2020 the town lost 10% of its tree canopy. She said these are functional municipal assets. She quoted statistics on storm water, natural filtration, and the dollar value of the tree canopy. She proposed a \$45,000 budget for the group that she wants to form. She said formalizing a plan and an environmental advisory board is a requirement for many federal grants.

Regina Smardon, 1412 Dexter Ridge Dr., said she wants to present a roadmap for climate resiliency. A one-time cost of \$45,000 would act as an insurance policy for the town's assets. The proposed advisory board would not replace the Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) or compete for funding with things like Arbor Day. She said Holly Springs is ready to talk about the return on investment for having a climate resiliency plan. The return would include property value protection, flood and heat mitigation, having a technical partner for the TAC to ensure municipal planning is data driven and cost effective that does not require outside consultants but standardizes data collection for a base line and provides a plan to move forward. This will provide Holly Springs a position of regional leadership for the SW Regional Plan. We need to work regionally. Finally, she recommends that Council authorize a 26-27 resiliency assessment, create the board, and provide the funds for it. The board would continue to implement the findings for this assessment.

Fran Hudson, 5524 Rex Rd. in the ETJ, told a story with a moral against development. She said Holly Springs has ignored the rights of the people. She accused them of being dishonest.

Dawn Cozzolino, 3632 Bosco Rd. in the ETJ, said the Consent Agenda is a grouping of items approved in a single vote unless a Council member removes an item. She said it makes financial decisions untransparent. She said the update to the Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance is a capital framework for long-term investment showing how the town will expand. She said developer contributions are less than 1% and the taxpayers pay the rest. She said residents are carrying the cost of infrastructure that enables private development. She asked how it was justified. She said having a Consent Agenda is not efficiency, it is wrong. She said Apex does the same thing – stick everything into Consent and it gets ignored. She said political power is derived from the people and Council swore an oath to protect them.

The following public comments were received in writing: one comment from Joseph Granger regarding utility rates; one from Jae Rin regarding noise pollution; one comment from P. & G. Lafors and two anonymous comments on preserving tree canopy; one comment from Joan Zahornacky-Cooper regarding preserving natural areas; comments from Babette Cento, Chloe Corrigan, and Karen Campbell to preserve Mims Park; and one comment from Pablo Overton in support of the Mims Park Vision; Logan F. against strict regulation of e-bikes; Billie Kane regarding crosswalk safety.

Recognitions

5. 2026 Holly Springs Citizens Academy Graduation

Cassie Hack, Director of Communications and Marketing, outlined the program of the Citizens Academy and the Mayor recognized the 24 graduates of the third Academy.

6. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Proclamation

Mayor Kondratick proclaimed May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in Holly Springs.

7. Jewish American Heritage Month

Mayor Kondratick proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month in Holly Springs and presented the proclamation to Beth Richman.

8. Apraxia Awareness Day

Mayor Kondratick proclaimed May 14, 2026 as Apraxia Awareness Day in Holly Springs.

9. ALS Awareness Month

Mayor Kondratick proclaimed May as ALS Awareness Month in Holly Springs and presented it to Lauren Linke.

10. Mental Health Awareness Month

Mayor Kondratick proclaimed May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Holly Springs and presented it to Dr. Kristin Valus.

11. “Leading the Way” Award from ETC Institute

Cassie Hack, Director of Communications and Marketing, said the Town contracted ETC Institute to conduct a scientifically valid survey of residents. Following the results of that survey, the Town has been awarded the Leading the Way Award for being in the top 10% of local governments nationwide for satisfaction with the overall quality of services; satisfaction with customer service provided by town employees; and satisfaction with the value residents think they receive for local taxes and fees. She compared Holly Springs’ results on several key metrics with the national results, showing that Holly Springs outperformed them by 30 – 44% and outlined some top community priorities identified in the survey.

12. State Awards for Excellence in Public Communications

Cassie Hack, Director of Communications and Marketing, said that the Town won eight awards at the NC City and County Communicators Awards. Holly Springs received more first place awards than any other city or county in the state. They received six first place awards, one second place, and one third place.

REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

13. Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce Annual Update

Tonya Palumbo, Executive Director, and Kimberlee Edwards, Board Chair, of the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce, said they were here to present their annual report to the Council. Ms. Palumbo said that 92% of their members have fewer than 30 employees. She said the Town’s membership was \$1,400, and the Town is a member and a Diamond Investor for \$10,000, and pays \$20,000 for Governmental Support. She outlined the benefits of the Diamond Investment and the Governmental Support Programming. She gave an overview of the Candidate Forum, Partners Breakfast, Economic Forecast, and Supplier Workshop (in non-election years). She gave an outline of how WinterFest has grown each year.

Council member Deshazor said he was excited about the sensory section for WinterFest, and he hopes to see a big crowd for SpringsFest. Ms. Palumbo said over 150 small businesses will be

present at SpringsFest. Council member Hewetson said it was a successful year. She said two of her favorite Christmas traditions came out of COVID – the Tree Trail at WinterFest and Santa on a fire truck.

Consent Agenda

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

14. Minutes of March 3, 2026 and March 17, 2026 Business Meetings and March 10, 2026 Workshop Meeting Minutes – The Council approved the minutes of the March 17, 2026 Business Meetings and March 10, 2026 Workshop Meeting.

15. Budget Amendments – The Council received the Town Manager’s approved budget amendments and approved amendments on Insurance Proceeds, the 150th Anniversary Sponsorship, and adopted Ordinance 26-05 to amend the Street and Sidewalk Capital Project Ordinance.

A copy of Ordinance 26-05 is attached to these minutes.

16. Wireless Service Provider Lease for Antenna Attachments on Lee Street Water Storage Tank – Council approved the Lee Street Water Tank wireless attachment lease agreement between the Town of Holly Springs and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC for a term of ten years at the lease rate of \$2,875 per month.

17. Acceptance of USTA Grant for Tennis Court Resurfacing at North Main Athletic Complex - The Council accepted \$38,600 in grant funds from the United States Tennis Association (USTA), USTA Southern Division, USTA North Carolina, and Western Wake Tennis Association and adopted Grants and Special Revenue Fund Ordinance 26-04.

A copy of Ordinance 26-04 is attached to these minutes.

18. Contract Amendment with Brenntag Mid-South, Inc. for Purchase of Wastewater Treatment Chemicals – The Council approved a \$45,000 increase to the Brenntag Mid-South, Inc. Fiscal Year 26 (FY26) contract for Sodium Aluminate, to bring the new FY26 contract value to \$135,000.

19. Audit Service Engagement Contract Beginning Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026 – The Council approved Audit Services Engagement Contract with Cherry Bekaert beginning Fiscal Year ending June 20, 2026.

20. Downtown Investment Grant Policy (DIG) Update – The Council approved the revised Downtown Investment Grant Policy to include Vibrant Places as a policy grant category.

A copy of Policy 33.04 is attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

21. Voluntary Annexation A25-02 3313 Avent Ferry Rd. Village at Harris Lake (formerly Ragan)

Sarah Lipkin Sularz, Development Services, said this was to consider the annexation of +/- 56.91 acres located at 3313 Avent Ferry Road. She said the Resolution of Sufficiency for this annexation was adopted by Council on March 17, 2026. She showed where the property is located in the ETJ and said while it is not contiguous, it meets the requirements for annexation.

Mayor Kondratick opened the public hearing and the following input was received:

Laura Holleman, speaking for the applicant, thanked staff for their work on this project. She said the property meets all the statutory requirements for annexation. The rezoning and development have been approved. They are preparing construction drawings.

Fran Hudson, 5524 Rex Rd., said that moving forward with this Annexation puts the town at greater risk. She referred back to the rezoning hearing. She said the development team didn't support the criteria. She said the rezoning hearing was lacking factual evidence. She said it was allowed to proceed without any justification and thus this development is void as the decision was illegal. She said the young person who spoke about the tree canopy – that's one of the things we brought up. She said that the natural area on the Comp Plan disallows development and the development plan voids all of these.

William Mitchell, 3309 Avent Ferry Rd., said that Greenhawk and the Town claim they own the right of way, which he said is not theirs. He said the dedicated right of way is still his land. He said that neither he nor Mr. Ragan, who previously owned the land, were compensated for that strip of land and that is against the law. He said this is forced annexation. NC statute states that if it is forced annexation 51% of registered voters must pass. He is the only registered voter in that area, so unless the town finds two other people it is forced annexation and can't pass. He said he will take it to the Attorney General as a violation. He asked why the Town was trying to take his land.

Dawn Cozzolino, 3632 Bosco Rd. said this annexation is not routine. It brings up several concerns. All political power is derived from the people. This is serving primarily private advantage. It is a non-contiguous annexation, not connected to existing town limits and not natural growth. It requires sewer expansion in an environmentally sensitive area. It returns after a prior denial, tied to the same underlying private development. She said this does not meet a public purpose. She said the surrounding community has expressed objections and the primary beneficiary is a private development. There is no public purpose. She asked where in the record was the clearly articulated public purpose. She said if it is not documented, the legal standard has not been met. She said it was their responsibility to assure that a public purpose is articulated.

Allan Jones, 3128 Avent Ferry Rd. said he owns a 50-acre farm that connects to this property. He participates with NC Fish and Wildlife, trying to make this a better place to live. This development is affecting what he does. He is in a contract for bats with NRCS on the part of the property that connects with this property and the lights will affect the research on bats. He mentioned mental health and said the Town has not said anything about what they are doing to protect the farms. He asked them to rethink this annexation because we are crowded beyond comprehension and we have to protect these areas. His farm is in a 10 -year conservation easement and the Town is making that difficult. He has heard announcements about Arbor Day and he lives that. He asked Council to consider not putting houses on every piece of land and to try to preserve land as we grow.

Rosemary Senosky-Daws signed up but was not present.

Mayor Kondratick closed the public hearing.

Mayor Kondratick asked the Town Attorney about Mr. Mitchell's concerns about his property. John Schifano said Mr. Mitchell is not in the annexation area. He's in the general area but not the property up for annexation. He is correct that annexation cannot happen without property owners' petition. His property would not become annexed. Council member Hewetson said we need to understand that we are not at the approval of a subdivision. That has been passed down by the Court. What we have here is an annexation of an approved development. This decision was not void. It is a voluntary annexation. Council member Foster asked what would happen if it didn't get annexed. Mr.

Schifano said the developer could stop. Or they could develop and provide their own water and sewer. Or Council could choose to serve them outside the town limits. They have land use rights now with the approved zoning and subdivision. Council member Foster said so denying it would not stop the development. Mr. Schifano said they could be served by private utilities, like Avocet. The package sewer plants are not operated the way our municipal one is, if you want to talk about environmental issues. For master planning purposes, you are building a town. Failing to annex may stop the development, or it may not. He can't speak for the developer. The zoning stage is your number one tool in the toolbox to regulate growth and you're past that. You're just deciding whether you are bringing those 50 acres under town control. Council member Deshazor told the people who spoke that he heard them. But the land has been zoned, it's been purchased. Now is the time to define a good neighbor to work with. He has heartburn about building a development and leaving them without water and sewer. The long-range plan has always been there and he is in support of annexing so we can do right by them.

Action: Motion to adopt Annexation Ordinance A25-02.

Motion: Deshazor

Second: Hewetson

Vote: unanimous

26. Voluntary Annexation A26-01 Innovate Avenue

Sarah Lipkin Sularz, Development Services, said this was to consider the annexation of +/- 9.772 acres of right-of-way located along Innovate Avenue between Bumgardner Dr. and Biotechnology Ave. in order for the Town to have the right-of-way around the road that was accepted from NCDOT on March 3, 2026. The property is contiguous with town limits and staff had no concerns with the annexation. The Resolution of Sufficiency was adopted by Council on March 17, 2026.

Mayor Kondratick opened the public hearing, and the following input was received: none.

Mayor Kondratick closed the public hearing

Action: Motion to adopt Annexation Ordinance A26-01.

Motion: Deshazor

Second: Hewetson

Vote: unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

23. e-Bike Safety Ordinance Changes

Paul Liquorie, Police Chief, said that this ordinance change addresses the use of personal conveyance vehicles (PCVs), e-bikes, and other vehicles on Town roadways and multi-use paths. He said there has been an increase in complaints from residents regarding e-bike usage, and more dangerous and brazen behaviors being observed by officers and captured on video by residents. He outlined the stakeholders that Holly Springs Police Department has been working with. The desire is to expand and promote the safe and courteous use of PCVs and e-bikes while addressing these unsafe behaviors and unlawful uses of the more powerful mopeds and motorcycles. He showed an example of the unsafe riding being observed.

Chief Liquorie said there are three major components to the proposed modifications: aligning Town ordinance language with the General Statutes; regulating the "who, what, and where" of PCV, e-bike, moped, and motorcycle operations within the Town; and penalties. The penalties include a written warning for the first offense, followed by progressive fines for repeat offenders coupled with

impoundment of the vehicle. He showed examples of e-bikes, mopeds, and motorcycles and explained the differences between them according to the North Carolina General Statutes. He outlined the state requirements for the different types of vehicles, including licensing, insurance, and helmet requirements. The ordinance would allow PCVs and e-Bikes to operate on sidewalks, sidepaths, and greenways, affirms the right-of-way of pedestrians on shared use paths, prohibits riding on Town property that is not intended for egress or ingress, and affirms state law regarding the rules and regulations concerning mopeds and motorcycles. First offenses would result in a written warning, second offenses a \$250 fine, and third and subsequent offences a \$500 fine. In conjunction with these would be impoundment to immediately stop dangerous behavior and to allow for parents to be notified and educated and for fines to be paid. He referenced the applicable state laws and their consequences, and said the revision removes the prohibition for PCVs and e-bikes to ride on sidewalks, sidepaths, and greenways.

Chief Liquorie said the ordinance effective date would be June 1, 2026 to allow time for staff to develop an online resource guide, put out educational social media content, have pop-up events and a presence at Town special events to provide education, and to collaborate with the Wake County Public Schools.

Council member Larson thanked him for the outreach, especially to youth. She said Raleigh started an e-bike program so we are not the only place dealing with this issue. She asked if officers would be on bikes for off-road enforcement. Chief Liquorie said the department has officers that have had motorcycle training and are putting other officers through it. We have been talking with Raleigh to get their vendor standards. It will help us engage with youth and allow us to keep up with those making poor decisions. Officers can talk to them about their motorcycles. When school is not in session our SROs patrol the greenways on standard bikes and they might use e-bikes in the future.

Council member Deshazor asked if the officers would take them to their home or contact parents. Chief Liquorie said the law is targeted to the owner of the vehicle, which would default to the parent. Council member Deshazor asked about requiring headlamps after dark. Chief Liquorie said staff debated this. Mopeds and Motorcycles by law must have lights. We thought that, although it is a good idea, but most e-bikes are not sold with lights, it would require an aftermarket addition. We highly recommend that parents add them, but it would be difficult to enforce. Council member Deshazor said a resident sent an idea about certifications for bikers. He asked if something like that was in the future for e-bikes. Chief Liquorie said staff would entertain that idea. The Department does bike rodeos regularly. And we are open to community engagement in that way if it is desired. Council member Deshazor said Council is trying to get out and meet with HOAs and it would be good for us to partner with the police department because this is a hot button issue and we would like to have you there. Chief Liquorie said he would be glad to be there. Staff is working on the educational materials and pushing those out to HOAs. Mayor Kondratick asked how long the public education campaign around this would be. Chief Liquorie said obviously the June 1 date gives us an initial period, but it will be ongoing. We will get a new crop of pre-teens every year. Our target audience is middle schoolers and it will be cyclical. We hope to pair with the public schools and our SROs to educate students and parents on the rules and regulations. We have a plan with Parks & Recreation to do pop-up events for that age group – like soccer meets, etc. There will be a big push, but education will be ongoing. Mayor Kondratick asked him to please err on the side of overcommunicating. Chief Liquorie said officers have a lot of discretion – they are looking for those behaviors that are unsafe and unsound. They are trying to reach the parents who often do not realize what the statutes are around these vehicles.

Council member Foster said, as you are educating kids who haven't taken drivers ed yet, is there some plan to teach proper greenway etiquette – how to pass, etc. Chief Liquorie said the ordinance does affirm the right-of-way of the pedestrian, and that will be part of the education. Also making sure they know those regulations are not just for greenways, but all paths and that they have to follow the rules of the road just as a bicyclist does. Council member Foster said in the education, can you add in safety ideas for parents for items that are easy for them to find. Chief Liquorie said we can show them options for safety equipment.

Action: Motion to adopt Ordinance 26-06 regarding the safe use of e-bikes.

Motion: Larson

Second: Deshazor

Vote: unanimous

24. Womble Park Basketball Courts and Dugouts

Adam Huffman, Parks and Recreation, said this item was a 2023 Parks and Recreation Bond Project for basketball courts at Womble Park and the replacement of the dugouts. He said the Town is currently underserved for basketball, with some courts being undersized, without lines or lights. Two new courts at Womble would be high school regulation sized with fences, timed lights, room on the baseline and sidelines, and a sidewalk to greenway and parking areas. He showed where the courts would be positioned in the park. Council member Deshazor asked if there would be Holly Springs branding. Mr. Huffman said it is not part of the design request and would cost additional, but we could add it if so directed. Council member Larson asked if there would be benches. Mr. Huffman said there would be benches in the middle between the courts, but the extra space is for players running off when the game comes to that side. Council member Larson asked if any bike racks would be part of this. Mr. Huffman said staff was talking about adding bike racks in other locations and we could put some in this area. They are a minimal expense.

Mr. Huffman said the current dugouts at Womble are to be replaced with larger, more open style dugouts to improve breathability, provide more space, be more aesthetically pleasing, and provide greater visibility.

Kendra Parrish, Executive Director of Utilities and Infrastructure, said they chose the Design Build method of delivery in order to keep costs within budget and deliver it on time. A Request for Qualifications was issued and Muter was selected. The project will be done in two phases with Phase 1 being design and obtaining general project items, and Phase 2 construction of both the dugouts and basketball courts. She said the timeline was scheduled to accommodate the fall baseball season with Notice to Proceed issued in May and design from May to July. In either July or August Phase 2 will come back to Council. They hope to begin construction on the Dugouts at the end of July to avoid “fall ball” and the Basketball Courts in August, with a November completion date.

Action 1: Motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Muter Construction for the Womble Park Basketball Courts and Dugouts Design-Build Services (Phase 1 – Design/Pre-Construction) in the amount of \$319,625.

Motion: Deshazor

Second: Hewetson

Vote: unanimous

Action 2: Motion to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate, sign, and execute any other required agreements, amendments, or change orders necessary to deliver the Womble Park Courts and Dugouts project, consistent with prior Council action and scope, and within the approved project budget.

Motion: Larson

Second: Hewetson

Vote: unanimous

25. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Strategic Plan

Corey Petersohn, Office of Budget, Innovation, and Strategy, said this item was to consider updates to the Town Council's Strategic Plan. He explained that the plan is based on the Vision Statement and Council's four strategic priority areas. He outlined eight completed initiatives from previous year's plans and said updates focused on multi-modal transportation and creating a Housing Affordability Action Plan. There are four new initiatives including design and construction of a Fire Station; determining future wastewater treatment capacity options; enhancing public engagement opportunities; and assessing new cultural and recreational offerings to coincide with opening Eagles Landing Park in 2027.

Council member Deshazor said that after all the public comment saying there is no planning he wants to point out that the Strategic Plan is what drives the town. There is lots of planning involved. These things don't move fast but there is a ton of planning. He encourages anyone who has questions, talk to Council, but also look at these plans, which are online, and give a really good picture of where we are going. Council member Larson said this is great and goes to show what this board is doing in partnership with the staff. We just saw the Citizens Academy graduate and how excited they were. It is important to know about all the planning that goes on behind the scenes. Council member Foster said it was great to see how this is coming together after the retreat, putting this together in a short amount of time. Council member Hewetson said she agrees with Council member Deshazor – if you don't know what is going on, look at the plans. It is being done by the staff behind the scenes. Ask a council member, we can hook you up with staff if we can't answer your questions. There is a lot happening all the time.

Action: Motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Strategic Plan.

Motion: Larson

Second: Hewetson

Vote: unanimous

26. Fiscal Year 2027-2028 Nonprofit Grants

Mayor Kondratick said this year the process was overseen by him and Council member Larson. He said there was an overwhelming response to the grant program with 29 applicants requesting in excess of \$57,000. He said they had their work cut out for them. He outlined the criteria used to evaluate requests: the projects' availability to all residents, tangible impact to life in Holly Springs, clarity of public purpose, alignment with Holly Springs strategic priority areas, and leadership and board structure. They stayed focused on whether funds would stay in Holly Springs, and how far that money would go. Council member Larson said she is thankful for all the nonprofits we have catering to residents. It was exciting to see a record number of applicants. She said this might be a good time to look at some best practices, but we looked at our return on investment, of how many residents were being impacted and how far that money would go. She wanted to clarify that there was \$20,000 available, because in one place the website said there was \$25,000. She said she would like to update the process next year. Mayor Kondratick said that no one got the full grant amount because the competition was so stiff. He said to please continue to apply in the years to come, particularly if you were a first time applicant. We want to generate as much interest as we can. Help us understand how your project will impact Holly Springs residents, and how many residents it is likely to impact.

Council member Deshazor said he would like the board to look into re-evaluating the process. We told many people that without an audit you cannot request more than \$500. Eleven groups are getting more than that and five said they did not do an audit. This seems unfair and he wants to clean that up. He said he also heard rumblings that the form is hard to fill out. What he noticed that is great is that several of them came from LaunchHOLLYSPRINGS. This is the backbone of Holly Springs and this is helping them.

Action 1: Motion to award grants to the following organizations and in the following amounts:

Civitans	\$ 500
Mbolden Ministry	\$ 500
Arts Holly Springs	\$ 1,500
Pride of Holly Springs	\$ 1,000
Neighbor Up	\$ 2,000
Toward Zero Waste	\$ 1,500
Diaper Train	\$ 1,500
Holly Strings Youth Orchestra	\$ 1,000
HSHS PTSA	\$ 500
Hawktimus Prime	\$ 500
The Sword Conservatory	\$ 250
KIRAN	\$ 500
Military Missions in Action	\$ 500
MLK Committee	\$ 500
Interfaith Hospitality	\$ 500
BeSHE Inc	\$ 500
Center for Volunteer Caregiving	\$ 750
InterAct	\$ 750
Kraft YMCA	\$ 1,000
White Oak Foundation	\$ 750
For Girls Like Quaneisha	\$ 1,000
Holly Springs Community Band	\$ 1,000
Nepal Center of NC	\$ 500
Felton Grove Band Boosters	\$ 500
Holly Springs Elementary PTA	\$ 500

Motion: Larson
Second: Hewetson
Vote: unanimous

Action 2: Motion to direct staff to review and update the current policy and application processes for the grants with Council reviewing this at a future workshop.

Motion: Deshazor
Second: Foster
Vote: unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS

Council member Foster expressed appreciation for everything that went into the e-bike discussion and how quickly it was turned around to improve the safety for our kids. Also, there has been a lot of discussion about how to get kids outside and off of screens. She likes the multi-modal transportation. As these kids get older, we are teaching a new generation that there are other ways to get where you need to go. In the last couple of weeks there have been a lot of celebratory events. She recognized staff for all the work they have done on these projects. It is a testament to staff. Finally, she is appreciative of the community engagement we have had.

Council member Hewetson gave big congratulations to Communications and Marketing. It is very exciting and well deserved. On top of that, the response at the Citizens Academy dinner before the

meeting was great - the way the cohort talked about staff. On April 26th the library will close for renovations. Not the Cultural Center, but the library. She asked Chief Liquorie about if the Holly Ridge SRO directs traffic at the cross walks. Chief Liquorie said the SRO does sometimes go out and direct traffic, in the morning hours. But one of the officers is helping move along the pick-up and drop-off lines. They patrol and look for people there at that time. He said the incident with the student – he was not crossing Holly Springs Rd., he was crossing an entrance to the school. Given the number of vehicles, an accident like that is an anomaly.

Mayor Kondratick said reflecting back on the past weekend, he was grateful to the Nepali community for inviting us to the Holi celebration. He thanked Nepali Center of North Carolina for the invitation and their hospitality. Also on Sat. Holly Springs High School celebrated their 20th anniversary and invited him to the celebration.

Council member Deshazor said CPCOG meeting is tomorrow. He said the recommended budget was shared and our membership cost will not go up this year. He said SpringsFest is this weekend. Regarding taxes, he wants to say that we are about to go through our budget season. He recommends people pay attention. Holly Springs has the 2nd lowest tax rate in the County and we should pat ourselves on the back, but that goes back to staff. We can't control everything but we are doing things right.

Council member Larson said there has been chatter for additional bike racks so she would like that to be included in future planning. This week is National Volunteer Week and she thanked all our volunteers. You can go to the Town website for volunteer opportunities. Also the nonprofits in town could use volunteers. We are voting on new Tree Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) members next month, so reach out to us if you applied. The Mayor will sign the Monarch Butterfly Proclamation at the next PRAC meeting on May 14th here in the Chamber.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Randy Harrington, Town Manager, invited Kendra Parrish, Executive Director of Utilities and Infrastructure, to come forward and explain the Town's Water Shortage Response Plan, including what would trigger its implementation. He said Holly Springs does not get their water from Raleigh, who gets their water from the Neuse. We pull our water from the Cape Fear River basin.

Ms. Parrish explained the rules under the North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) that govern the preparation of a Water Shortage Response Plan. The Town will continue to monitor the water supply from Harnett Regional Water. If the drought reaches Stage One restrictions would start to be implemented. She outlined the restrictions for State 1, State 2, Stage 3, and Stage 4. She outlined the tiered response that Holly Springs' plan has from no water shortage through Water Shortage Crisis and the differing restrictions that would be imposed for each higher tier of shortage. She emphasized that we are currently at Stage 0 (normal) with annual seasonal voluntary restrictions and a prohibition on overwatering. She explained what would trigger a shortage warning based on water supply and daily water demands. She said people can check for updates on Holly Springs' website, and information will be communicated through all our social media platforms.

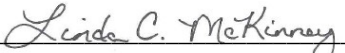
Mr. Harrington said the International Food Festival is May 1st from 5-8 pm at the Cultural Center; May 9th is Live at the Springs at NMAC with Vertical Horizon from 6:30 – 10 pm. Tickets are still available. May 13th the recommended budget presentation will be here in the chamber at 6 pm. But following that he would like to use the Holleman Room for a workshop to share the annual water quality report.

CLOSED SESSION: Council entered into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss two economic incentives, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(5) to discuss real estate acquisitions, with a motion by Council member Larson and a second by Council member Hewetson and a unanimous vote.

Motion to leave closed session was made by Council member Deshazor with a second by Council member Hewetson and a unanimous vote.

Adjournment: Council member Deshazor made a motion to adjourn at 11:20 pm. It was seconded by Council member Hewetson and passed with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.



Linda C. McKinney, Town Clerk

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