



MINUTES

The Holly Springs Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Mayor Mayefskie 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 Mayefskie, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Berry, Council members Aaron Wolff, Timothy Forrest and Kristi Bennett.

Council Members Present by Electronic Means: Council member Shaun McGrath.

Council Members Absent: none.

Staff Members Present in Chambers: Randy Harrington, *Town Manager*; Scott Chase, *Assistant Town Manager*; Daniel Weeks, *Assistant Town Manager*; John Schifano, *Town Attorney*; Linda McKinney, *Town Clerk* (recording the minutes); Jeff Wilson, *Director, IT*; Mathew Mutter, *IT*; Kendra Parrish, *Executive Director of Utilities & Infrastructure*; Tim Athy, *Utilities and Infrastructure*; Chris Hills, *Director, Development Services*; Cheryl Caines, *Development Services*; Elizabeth Goodson, *Development Services*; Corey Petersohn, *Administration*; Cassie Hack, *Director, Communications*; Irena Krstanovic, *Director, Economic Development*.

2. and 3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by an invocation by Bishop Mark Savoldi of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

4. Agenda Adjustment: The February 15, 2022 meeting agenda was adopted with changes, if any, as listed: table item 9, SCIMMP Update, to the March 1, 2022 meeting

Motion: Berry

Second: Wolff

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 written comments were received: Juhin Patel requested Council reconsider the proposed zoning change for 4821 Optimist Farm Road.

The following comments were received in person: none.

RECOGNITIONS

5. Black History Month Proclamation

Mayor Mayefskie proclaimed February as Black History Month in Holly Springs and presented the proclamation to George Kimble of the M L King Committee.

6. Recognition of Snow Response Team

Paige Scott, Director of Public Works, said that the town had four snow response events in the month of January which involved 34 employees from four different departments, working over 100 hours to keep the streets safe. She wanted to recognize them and their hard work and dedication to the town. The Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation and a representative group of employees came forward for a photo with Council.

REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Annual Report

Susan Smith, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), gave a report on the 2021 activities of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and their plans for 2022. Highlights included feedback and support through the COVID closures, the update of the Parks and Rec Master Plan, and received many reports from staff throughout the department. They participated in Town park tours, and have a liaison on the Tree Advisory Committee, with whom they participated on Arbor Day celebrations. They participated in the conversations with the mural artist at Womble Park, and went to parks and recreation facilities in other municipalities to prepare for the future in Holly Springs. She said a resident had come to one of their meetings to discuss e-bikes and scooters on greenways. In 2022 they plan to invite Parks & Recreation staff to share program updates, and they plan to proactively engage the public for feedback. They have requested that a few members of the Teen Parks & Recreation Committee serve *ex officio* on the PRAC. They want to engage with members of the community. She said they are an active board who likes to go out on the greenways and to the parks. She thanked the staff for the great ideas they came up with during COVID and the hard work they put in every day.

Council member Wolff asked what feedback the resident gave on e-bikes and scooters. Ms. Smith said that the resident wanted them, but there is going to need to be discussion about that, because opening greenways up for motorized vehicles can be problematic. But the committee is interested in investigating possibilities.

8. Zoning Reassignment Update

Sean Ryan, Development Services, said that the purpose of this item was to update Council on the Zoning Reassignment process and the public engagement that has happened to date. He said the new UDO which was adopted in November 2021 consolidated and renamed zoning districts. Drafts of the UDO outlined how districts would be consolidated and renamed. He showed how current districts were consolidated into newly named districts with substantially similar characteristics.

Mr. Ryan explained that properties were reassigned to comparable districts but current use of the property is allowed as long as the property does not change hands. It was not used to proactively rezone properties for potential development. A rezoning request to Council would be the proper way to achieve that goal. Mr. Ryan explained the methodology used, where properties were converted to new districts, which were then adjusted for existing developments, and efforts were made to minimize nonconforming uses.

Mr. Ryan explained the public engagement efforts which included postcards mailed to approximately 11,500 property owners; information in the town newsletter; open houses, both in person and virtual; the project webpage, interactive map and social media postings; and phone and in-person inquiries. Most inquiries were of a general nature, some had concerns but did not request an alternate zoning district. About seven property owners requested a new zoning district. For those properties staff will verify that the current zoning was reassigned correctly. They will look at the property to verify existing development and identify any nonconformities, and evaluate development potential referencing the Future Land Use map. Most of these were properties in the ETJ reassigned from either R-30 or R-20 to RR. The Future Land Use map does not always line up with the zoning, but the zoning is meant to be sure the current use can continue and be conforming.

Next steps are presenting the map and the seven requests to the Planning Board for recommendation, and then to bring it to Council at the March 1st meeting.

Council member Forrest asked if the emailed public comment regarding the Optimist Farm address was seen by Development Services. And he said that he had concerns about the timeline. He was concerned that there were no exceptions. Mr. Ryan said he was not aware of any pending development requests on the Optimist Farm property, but he will talk to the property owner as part of the process. This property was R30 and is going to Rural Residential. If the owner wants to rezone for future development they can do that through the regular process. The other option would be for Council to consider that request and make that adjustment when adopting the new zoning map. Council member Forrest asked that changing the zoning on this property be listed as an option as part of the motion at the next meeting. Council member Wolff asked if staff thought this was the appropriate zoning. Mr. Ryan said the property did not meet the R-30 requirements. It did not meet the frontage requirement. Staff is still investigating, but it appears to be a nonconforming lot currently and if it goes to RR would continue to be nonconforming.

Consent Agenda

The Council passed a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried following a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Berry, a second by Council member Wolff and a unanimous vote. The following actions were affected:

10. Minutes – Council approved the minutes of the business meeting held February 1, 2022.

11. Budget Amendment Report – The Council received the budget amendment report. *A copy of the Budget Report is attached to these minutes.*

12. Approval of Sale of Surplus for Town Fleet Combo Truck and Chipper – The Council approved the Sale of Surplus for Town Fleet Assets 168 and 84.

13. Ting Stadium Structural and Drainage Capital Maintenance – The Council awarded a contract to Baker Restoration in the amount of \$115,200 for Ting Stadium structural and drainage capital maintenance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

14. Norris Crossing Rezoning 20-REZ-04

Cheryl Caines, Development Services, said that this item is a return of a request to rezone a parcel of about 74 acres from R-30 to R-10 CU. The original request was for R-8, but the applicant modified that request. She showed where the site is located off Avent Ferry Road between Stonemont and Mills at Avent Ferry. The Future Land Use plan has the area designated as Residential Neighborhood, and the property is currently zoned R-30 Residential. At the March 16, 2021 public hearing key discussion areas were traffic on Avent Ferry Road, the site surrounding an unannexed parcel, the requested R-8 zoning, which was not consistent with the adjacent parcels which were R-10, and the conservation of the on-site pond.

Ms. Caines said that discussion since then had resulted in a draft Developer Agreement with the following conditions: maximum of 173 dwelling units and 2.33 units per acres; a fee-in-lieu contribution of \$490,000 for the traffic signal at Avent Ferry and Holly Meadow; an on-site amenity in the location of the existing pond; and off-site road improvements per the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA).

Rachel Jones, Development Services, pointed out the three intersections that were studied and said that the TIA recommended Avent Ferry Road be widened to one-half the ultimate cross section across their frontage, as well as connecting street stubs to adjacent neighborhoods. The site has access to public water and sewer and a downstream sewer and pump station evaluation was completed with the rezoning request.

Cheryl Caines said that Planning Board recommended approval with a vote of 6-2. The dissenting votes were based on traffic concerns and timing development to alleviate the impact.

MPT Berry asked where the sewer discharged to. Rachel Jones said eventually the Avent Ferry pump station, with The Mills as an intermediate station. He asked about off-site road improvements and Ms. Jones said the road widening and the turn lanes on Avent Ferry were the road improvements.

Council member Forrest said there is some flooding adjacent to Stonemont and asked if this development would fix that flooding problem. Ms. Jones said that with this development there will be flood plain studies. If there are known impacts they will be required to mitigate their impact, but not to correct an existing issue.

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

Mr. Jason Barron with Morningstar Law Group spoke for the applicant and introduced the team. He said that since this case originally appeared before Council, there have been a lot of changes. They took the feedback from that meeting, held discussions with the community, and with elected officials. He said he would focus his comments on the changes. The request changed to R-8 which reduced the number of lots by 17%. Second, he showed the proposed plan for the development and the amenity that would be developed where the pond currently is. He described the various parts of the area, including walking trails and benches and a pedestrian connection to the future sidewalk on Avent Ferry Road. He said they also were willing to increase the fee-in-lieu in order to support the traffic signal which was important to the Council.

Craig Ashby, 201 Highland Springs Lane, Holly Springs. He said he has lived in Holly Glen for 24 years and witnessed the growth from 5,000 residents to over 40,000. He spoke against the project due to traffic, particularly if the area had to evacuate due to a nuclear accident. He said the average of two vehicles per home would mean an additional 520 vehicles on the road. The presence of five educational facilities, on a 2-lane road, causes gridlock at drop off and pick up time already. The NCDOT has delayed the widening of Avent Ferry to 2029, which means completion will not be until 2030 or 2031. He requested that Council deny this request.

Mr. Brian Oten, 305 Bellamy Mill Drive said he said he was disappointed and confused. He opposed this project last year and is happy to see some of the changes, but he is confused about the term "neighborhood residential." He is disappointed to see the donut hole as part of the project. The donut hole contains an active shooting range and surrounding it with homes and pets is not a good idea. It is not a commercial shooting range, but the owners'. He disputed the neighborhood meetings, plural, mentioned in the application. He said there was one in early 2021, not multiple meetings. Traffic issues have not been addressed, and while development here may eventually happen, now is not the right time. There is not enough change to make this fit the character of the surrounding communities. He voiced his opposition.

Mr. Juan Schaar, said he was a resident of Stonemont. He said he shares everyone's confusion. The developer had a whole year to hear the concerns of the community and all they did was reduce the number of homes and add a pocket park where the drain is currently. He said the developer has been misleading in their statements and have not been transparent with the community. The site plans have not been made public. There is a donut hole that cuts the property in half, and part of the property will be rezoned but not developed. He showed a petition signed by 65 Stonemont residents opposing this development. He said there are traffic issues. He has seen people almost get hit by cars and lots of students walking along Avent Ferry. He asked that more developments not be added until the infrastructure catches up. He said it floods behind his house every time there is a heavy rain and he showed a photo of the flooding. He would like to see developers do the research on flooding and traffic before being rezoned.

There being no further input, Mayor Mayefskie closed the public hearing.

Ms. Caines said that if Council does decide to approve the request, there is one change to the Ordinance, Condition 10 has been amended to reflect the new fee-in-lieu amount.

MPT Berry asked why The Mills doesn't have a sidewalk across its frontage. Ms. Jones said she was not sure but she thinks a fee-in-lieu was paid instead.

Council member Wolff said he spoke with Lindsay Mahaffey with the Wake County School Board and she said there would be capacity for this development. The pond, while a lot of people are fond of it, is not long for this world whether or not this development happens. The donut hole is a problem. Council made it a priority to try to address this issue last year, and creating another donut hole intentionally is a problem. There is a real impact on services when this is allowed to happen. The owner doesn't want to move, and that is understandable, but there has got to be a way to get this property annexed. Lastly, the traffic: community outreach is well heard, and understood. It is a problem and we are going to have to address it. The thought that we cannot build anything along Avent Ferry Road is unrealistic. Housing prices have gone up, and we have 1000 new jobs coming in, so it will have to be done. The main problem is the donut hole, but the traffic concerns are heard. This is not a perfect application. The contribution to the signal is huge, but it is not going to alleviate traffic on Avent Ferry. It will increase safety, and this is a way to get that project done quickly.

Council member Forrest said that in many ways agrees with Council member Wolff. Avent Ferry is a huge problem. We have to find a way to solve it before 2029. Avent Ferry is the most dangerous road that is not on the plan to be fixed. He has heard the public outreach. But development is coming. We can try to manage it, and build appropriately. Regarding the development itself, it is the owner's right not to sell the donut hole land. But when that land is transferred it will come back to the Town to bring it in and develop it at that time. It will be part of the town one day.

Council member Bennet said this is not a decision she takes lightly. Residential growth outpacing infrastructure is one of the main things that we heard on the community survey. She understands the residents' frustration and she feels like that frustration is being aimed at the developer and shouldn't be because it is Council's responsibility to fix the road. It may not be perfect, but she thinks current and previous Councils bear the responsibility. It is not unique to the Avent Ferry area. The entire town is growing, and the problems are not neighborhood specific. We need to prioritize actions based on residents' needs. The traffic light is a good, but there are other factors to this decision.

MPT Berry said that in March 2021 we discussed this and he walked away with a quote that "you'll know long before we come back here for a public hearing what changes we have worked out with staff." That was from the team. Prior to Mr. Baron's involvement, we have gone ten months without contact, at least at the Council level. He thought there was a commitment to work on this and the feedback didn't change. It was the same throughout the process. Largely until now we have been inching away at making it a better proposal. This one presents some meaningful changes. The contribution to the traffic signal cannot be understated. The change to R-8 and the contribution to the traffic signal are meaningful changes. The donut hole is a concern. It's not good planning and it's not a precedent he wants to set. The traffic issues are real, but Avent Ferry is a DOT road and the sole responsibility is theirs. The state has inadequately funded NCDOT for years now, which has caused the road improvement delays. The Town can supplement it and accelerate the process, but it is not our responsibility totally. He appreciates the meaningful changes, but he's not sure they are enough to overcome his concerns about traffic and donut hole.

Council member Wolff said, for the residents who are here, Avent Ferry Rd., as the Mayor Pro Tem said, is a DOT road and it's going to take state partnerships to get it done. We will be pushing hard with our legislative partners to get this accelerated and are looking for solutions on this road.

Mayor Mayefskie reopened the public hearing to ask the applicant questions about the donut hole.

Council member Wolff asked what the specific hold up about this project and annexation. Not selling for development, but annexation. Mr. Barron said he had no contact with the sellers, but he understands that the owner has no desire to sell and no desire to be annexed until he's ready to

sell. Council member Wolff asked if the developers would be willing to pay for the annexation if the resident could be convinced. Mr. Barron said yes. Council member Wolff asked if there would be willingness to add an additional condition to require that property to be annexed. It is a horrible practice and affects the Police and Fire departments negatively. Mr. Barron said that adding a condition to annex would basically be denying the request. The developer has not been able to make any progress with the owner. He would be happy to develop that property too, but the owner is not interested.

Mayor Mayefskie closed the public hearing again.

Action: Motion to adopt Rezoning Ordinance RZ22-01 to adopt statement of compatibility and to approve rezoning with amended conditions as offered by the applicant, to wit: the applicant agrees to provide a Fee in Lieu contribution for the installation by others of the proposed traffic signal at the intersection of Holly Meadow Drive and Avent Ferry Road payable at the issuance of the Land Disturbing Permit for the project. This fee in lieu - \$490,000 – is in excess of any improvements identified within the approved Traffic Impact Analysis Special Study. Further, the dedication and construction of street rights of ways as shown in the approved Comprehensive Transportation Plan shall be required consistent with the requirements of N.C.G.S. Sec. 160D-801, *et. seq.*

Motion by: Bennett

Second by: Forrest

Vote:

Aye: Forrest, Wolff,

Nay: Berry, Bennett

Mayor Mayefskie broke the tie with an Aye vote.

The motion passed.

At the meeting, the Town Attorney determined that a second reading was required pursuant to NCGS 160A-75. However, subsequent to the meeting the attorney determined that the statute requiring a second reading was changed as part of the revisions to 160D. Therefore the Ordinance was adopted as of February 15, 2022.

15. Gallagher Brewery Special Exception use 21-SEU-06

Bronwyn Bishop, Development Services, said the purpose of this item was to consider a Special Exception Use for Artisan Food and Beverage Producer located within The Block on Main. She said this property is an existing tenant space at 300 S. Main in the Downtown district. It is designated Downtown Village District on the Land Use and Character Plan and zoned TV Town Village. She said that a different company was approved for an Artisan Food and Beverage Producer in 2019 in this same place, but ultimately did not proceed.

Van Crandall, Planning Board, said that the Planning Board recommended approval with a vote of 8-0. Questions that came up were the specific location of the site and any gases and odors released in the brewing process. The Planning Board was satisfied with the business' response. They were asked about conversations with residents and were told that there had not been any, but any outdoor seating would come before them separately and be dealt with at that time.

Chris Gallagher, the applicant, said that he is a local resident, he is the owner of Local Time Brewing, and that what was missing from downtown was a place to enjoy craft brewed beer. He said the space they are considering is next to Mamma Mia! on the end of The Block. He showed a potential layout of the property. They would install a 7 barrel brewhouse with indirect fired kettle, five fermentation vessels and two bright tanks for brewing 2-3 times per week onsite. The seating capacity would be approximately 50 in the taproom, with standing areas also. He said it would be a family friendly establishment, which, although they would not serve food beyond snacks, intends to work with nearby restaurants to enhance the customer experience. There would be events such as trivia and live music and the option for private events.

He said an SEU was approved for an Artisan Food & Beverage Producer in this building in the past, although that project did not move to completion. The proposed use will follow all state, local, TTB, and ABC regulations. The proposed use is consistent with the character of the Village District and the Town's comprehensive plan. The tenant space is below an office use, next door to a restaurant, and above a parking garage. He said there was the possibility of a future petition to use outdoor space for an outdoor seating area, and they would provide appropriate screening should that occur.

Mayor Mayefskie opened the public hearing.

There being no input, Mayor Mayefskie closed the public hearing.

Action: Motion to adopt Resolution 22-05 approving Special Exception Use 21-SUE-06 for Gallagher Brewery (aka "Local Time Brewing") with the conditions listed in the agenda packet.

Motion by: Forrest

Second by: Wolff

Vote: unanimous

A copy of Resolution 22-05 is attached to these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

16. Arbor Creek/Middle Creek Greenway Construction Contract Approval

Matt Beard, Parks and Recreation, said that this item was to request approval of construction contract for the construction of the Arbor Creek/Middle Creek Greenway. This stretch of greenway is 2.9 miles long, connects 5 neighborhoods and two major roadways, and connects to Apex to the north. He showed the location of the trailheads throughout those neighborhoods.

Mr. Beard said that five bids were received, ranging from \$4.9 million to \$7.6 million. This project meets the strategic initiative to complete the Arbor Creek/Middle Creek Greenway and increases the Town's greenway mileage by 20%. It supports the public feedback of priority investments in trails and greenways, provides safe, off-street biking and walking area for both recreational and transportation use, and will be a significant connection point to downtown Holly Springs and Apex.

Mr. Beard said CLOMR (Certified Letter of Map Revision) has been submitted to FEMA and permits and construction drawing approval is expected in June of 2022. Notice to Proceed is estimated for June or July of 2022, with construction completed in fall of 2023. The original 2020 Design and Construction budget was \$4.95 million. With design, construction, easement acquisition, permits, construction administration, and recent bid opening, the updated total project cost is estimated at \$5.85 million, with an added contingency bringing the cost to \$6.48 million. This leaves a budget gap of \$1.51 million. This can be bridged by using \$1,177,668 from the Bond Premium Payout and \$354,097 from Parks and Recreation reserve funds.

Council member Wolff asked where we were on right of way acquisition. John Schifano, Town Attorney, said there are a few condemnations to be filed. Council member Bennet asked about how long greenways last. Mr. Beard said that new construction methods allow greenways to last longer. Across town we are dealing with maintenance on greenways built with different standards, some requiring more frequent maintenance. With new greenways we should get ten years without major maintenance costs. We looked at value engineering, and Tim Athy in Utilities and Infrastructure combed through and of the 5.9 million, 4.4 could not be adjusted without reducing the length. Landscaping was looked at as a way to reduce costs, but they did not reduce the cost significantly and it is not staff's recommendation to remove them.

Action 1: Motion to adopt Parks and Recreation Capital Project Ordinance 22-03 to fully fund the Arbor Creek / Middle creek Greenway project at \$6,484,565 including design, land easements, construction, and contingency.

Motion by: Wolff
Second by: Berry
Vote: unanimous

Action 2: Motion to award the construction contract to Fred Smith Company in the amount of \$4,987,525 for the Arbor Creek/Middle Creek greenway.

Motion by: Wolff
Second by: Berry
Vote: unanimous

17. Condemn portion of right of way at 1000 South Main Street for Road Improvements

John Schifano, Town Attorney, said this item was to consider authorizing the town attorney to initiate an eminent domain action to acquire right of way along Main Street. He said that 153 square feet of right of way is needed, and 4,572 square feet of temporary construction easement. The property is owned by Avani Properties and they have a development petition pending. The adjacent Village Gate property is ahead of them in the development process and the right of way is needed for that development to progress. Avani properties would need to dedicate this right of way when they develop, but the timing means it needs to happen sooner.

Council member Wolff asked if after we pay the current land owner, they would not have to dedicate that land when they develop. Mr. Schifano said this bit will overlay what Avanti will have to dedicate. It was a timing issue, that Avanti didn't want to voluntarily give his neighbor the right to do construction that might interfere with his own. But Avanti is not far enough along in the process for that to actually occur. Neither party has done a lot of work in Holly Springs and they aren't familiar with time frames for development.

Action: Motion to approve Resolution 22-06 initiating eminent domain action for the acquisition of right of way and temporary construction easements at 1000 S. Main Street, as described in the resolution.

Motion by: Berry
Second by: Wolff
Vote: unanimous

18. 2022 Local, State, and Federal Legislative Agenda

MPT Berry said that the Legislative Agenda Committee, consisting of himself, Council member Aaron Wolff with staff support from Randy Harrington, Town Manager, and John Schifano, Town Attorney, drafted a list of advocacy priority areas to address with county, state, and federal counterparts. This list was presented at the February 8th workshop, and is now brought to Council for formal adoption. Key areas to address with Wake County are reducing the landfill malodors and expanding public transit. Key areas to address with the state are preserving local authority; supporting investment in transportation infrastructure, water/wastewater/reuse infrastructure funding partnerships; and economic development. Key areas to address at the federal level include water/wastewater/reuse infrastructure funding partnerships and U.S. Post Office facility investments.

Council member Wolff said that, germane to the conversation we had at the public hearing, we specifically are laying out the Aventura Ferry corridor as an area that needs to be looked at. And supporting the NC League of Municipalities around transportation funding and some creative solutions for closing the gap for transportation funding.

Action: Motion to approve the Town Council's 2022 Legislative Agenda.

Motion by: Forrest

Second by: Bennett

Vote: unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Mayefskie spoke about the retreat and the amount of valuable information brought to them by staff. He said they had a good time and got a lot of work done.

MPT Berry said we spent a lot of money in the last month, but progress comes at a price and he is very excited about the greenway which will bring much benefit to the community. He will follow up with UNC Rex, but wanted to offer a public thank you to them for completing the sidewalk to Maple Street. You can now walk from the hospital all the way to Ting. You may have to cross Main St., but at crosswalks, and you can be on sidewalk the whole way.

Council member Bennett said she is learning that there is a lot that constituents struggle with that we don't have the ability to address. She said COVID has made raising a family more difficult. She has seen a vaccination rate of 78%, even with many of our residents under 18. She would like to read an open letter to the Wake County School Board and invite colleagues to weigh in on it and sign if they feel moved. She read a letter stating opposition to mask mandates for children in Wake County Public Schools.

Council member Wolff said he thinks we should discuss that letter. He thanked her for reaching out beforehand. He pushed for town-wide indoor mask mandates earlier, but now he does not think they have utility that is worth the cost. He thinks the risk is well understood and people can make the decision for themselves. He has some consternation about the way some individual schools handle the mask mandate. However, he doesn't think this letter is the right choice. He has not received any comment from residents who want the mask mandate removed, and he has heard from teachers who are concerned and would like the mandate to remain. The school board has been under an immense amount of pressure, including personal threats to their families and their wellbeing and personal lawsuits. This letter could add smoke to the fire without getting any action. The Legislative Committee could reach out to the school board. He spoke to school board member Lindsey Mahaffey and she understands the concerns and the Board plans to vote on it on March 1st. We can always discuss this after that point and, if need be, have the Legislative Committee reach out to her. If we do not understand where she is we should do that before we send a letter like this.

Council member Forrest said he agrees with Council member Bennett. He thinks the town believes in, and listens to, the science. He would encourage the Wake County Board of Education to address the mask policy and make it optional. Recent reports by the CDC say it is not worth it for children. We didn't have this information two years ago, but now we do. He would be happy to sign on and would say that our town has shown the resolve and proved that we support science by our vaccination rates alone. He said that his family is vaccinated, but that was their choice. Speaking as a father with children in Wake County Schools who wear their masks every day, he sees the detriment over time.

MPT Berry said that anyone who has seen his style over the last four years realizes that he is not a big proponent of handling things that are outside of our jurisdiction. He prefers to advocate and build relationships. This is kind of there. What is different is that a month ago when considering whether or not to reinstate the mask mandate, WCPSS considered asking children 2 to 4 to wear masks. The Board won't listen to parents, and they aren't going to listen to this letter either. He will discuss this with Ms. Mahaffey. But after that particular matter it became personal for him. He said there was a precedent from 2017 when a letter was sent regarding reassignments, so it wouldn't be the first time this Council has weighed in on a School Board issue, but he doesn't discount Council member Wolff's comments. We have a Legislative Action Committee now and we should use it, which may lead to better outcomes. We have the right to our individual opinions. But he would

support the letter, but would like the Town Manager to look at it first and make any suggestions about wording.

Mayor Mayefskie said that he has children in the health care industry, and is well aware of what is happening in the hospitals. He likes the suggestion that the Legislative Committee address this, which could be more effective than a letter. But he does support the letter. And would like the manager to take a look at it.

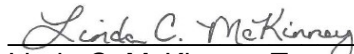
MANAGER'S REPORT

Randy Harrington, Town Manager, said he had two items. He thanked the Council for the amazing work they did at the retreat. The second item, that there is an exciting and free opportunity, to see collegiate baseball: University of Perdue vs. Princeton for four games Feb. 25 – 27, and Perdue v. Longwood University for four games March 4 – 6, all at Ting Stadium. It's a fun, free event.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

Adjournment: Council member Berry made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm. It was seconded by Council member Wolff and passed with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.



Linda C. McKinney, Town Clerk

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