



MINUTES

The Holly Springs Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Mayor Mayefskie presided, calling the meeting to order at 7 p.m. A quorum was established as the Mayor and five Council members were present in the Chamber as the meeting opened.

Council Members Present: Mayor Mayefskie, Mayor Pro Tem Berry, Council members Aaron Wolff, Shaun McGrath, Timothy Forrest, and Danielle Hewetson.

Council Members Absent: none.

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); Mathew Mutter, *IT*; Corey Petersohn, *Budget and Sustainability*; Cassie Hack, *Director of Communications and Marketing*; LeeAnn Plummer, *Director, Parks and Recreation*; Adam Huffman, Matt Beard, and Kristen Denten, *Parks and Recreation*; Kendra Parrish, *Executive Director of Utilities and Infrastructure*; Michael Leonas, Kimberly Keyes, and Aaron Levitt, *Utilities and Infrastructure*; LeRoy Smith, *Fire Chief*; Tina Stroupe, *Finance Director*; Chris Hills, *Director of Development Services*; Elizabeth Goodson, Cheryl Caines, and Catherine Jacobs, *Development Services*; Kathy White, *Deputy Clerk*.

2. and 3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by an invocation by Pastor Paul Leitzel of Oasis Church.

4. Agenda Adjustment: The June 20, 2023 meeting agenda was adopted with changes, if any, as listed: none.

Motion: Berry
Second: McGrath
Vote: Unanimous

RECOGNITIONS

5. Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation

Kristen Denton, Parks and Recreation, said the purpose of this was to highlight how Parks and Recreation positively impacts the community. She talked about the program offerings in Town and how many residents participate in the various programs. She outlined several free offerings in celebration of Parks and Recreation Month. She said the department put on 12 events last year and 32 performances. Adam Huffman, Parks and Recreation, talked about park maintenance and customer service, and pointed out that the Parks and Recreation employees work 365 days per year. He then highlighted some other things the department does that the public might not be aware of.

Mayor Mayefskie proclaimed July as Parks and Recreation Month in Holly Springs.

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 Forrest and a unanimous vote. The following actions were affected:

6. Minutes – Council approved the minutes of the June 6, 2023 business meeting.

7. End of Fiscal Year Budget Amendments – Council approved the end of year budget amendment and adopted the associated capital project Ordinance.

Ordinance 23-25 and budget amendments are attached to these minutes.

8. Historic Marker Program Policy – The Council adopted Policy P-052, Historic Marker Program policy.

A copy of Policy P-052 is attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. Bond Order

Tina Stroupe, Finance Director, said the purpose of this action was to consider next steps for the issuance of the 2023 General Obligation Parks and Recreation Bonds and to hold a public hearing regarding the bond. She said that remaining Council approvals include approving the Bond Order and issuing a Resolution setting the bond referendum. The voters will consider the issue on the November 7th ballot and, if they approve, the Local Government Commission approval will be issued in January of 2024.

Ms. Stroupe said the bond order includes information on how the bond proceeds would be spent, to acquire, construct, renovate, and improve Parks and Recreation facilities and greenways. The bond would be for \$100,000,000 and could be issued over seven years. A tax increase to cover the bond is projected to be 5 cents per \$100 valuation, and is expected in the FY 2024-2025 budget. She said that upcoming Council actions would be to adopt a resolution certifying and declaring the results of the Special Bond Referendum if the voters approve on November 7, 2023. She outlined the preliminary projects and their estimated costs.

Cassie Hack, Director of Communications and Marketing, unveiled the Parks Bond 2023 logo and tagline: Shape the Springs. She explained the elements of the logo and said that a special Parks Bond website would go live in August with explanations for the public and an interactive experience to show what the bond funds could accomplish. She outlined the educational campaign that would be launched this summer and said if any groups were interested in having a staff member come to their meeting to explain the Parks Bond, they could contact LeeAnn Plumer, Director of Parks and Recreation.

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

Ginny Suever said she opposed the bond. She said it would cost too much. In November 2011 there was a \$20 million parks and rec bond; in 2018 a \$40 million transportation bond was authorized; and now the Town wants \$100 million. She said her property taxes increased more than her property value. She said Holly Springs is seeing a lot of development, and businesses get front end tax credit, but residents get tax debt. She said she was concerned that Holly Springs could not afford this.

Susan Smith said she was the chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC). She explained the mission of the committee. She said that as Holly Springs grows, it becomes increasingly clear that we need additional service to meet the demand. The bond will allow the town to get these services and amenities most efficiently. She spoke of the need for a park on the west side of NC 55. She lauded the values of parks and recreation and the experiences it provides to all ages. The bond is an investment for all people in Holly Springs. She said she is a

22-year resident and supported the bond in 2011, and even more now. She said she feels that the money is spent very carefully and is needed. She listed things that were done with the 2011 bond money, including Sugg Farm, Bass Lake Bridge, greenways, and more. She said she personally supports the bond and the PRAC unanimously supports the bond.

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

Action 1: Motion to adopt Bond Order 23-01 for 2023 General Obligation Parks and Recreation Bonds.

Motion by: Berry

Second by: Forrest

Vote: unanimous

A copy of Bond Order 23-01 is attached to these minutes.

Action 2: Motion to adopt Resolution 23-17 setting Special Bond Referendum for November 7, 2023.

Motion by: Wolff

Second by: Berry

Vote: unanimous

A copy of Resolution 23-17 is attached to these minutes.

10. Elliott Farm Rezoning 22-REZ-07

Cheryl Caines, Development Services, said that staff had received a request to rezone the parcel at 2836 Piney Grove Wilbon Rd. from RR Rural Residential to NR Neighborhood Residential Conditional Zoning. The parcel is currently designated Mixed Residential Neighborhood in the Future Land Use and Character Plan, and zoned RR Rural Residential. She reminded the public of the uses for a conditional zoning district and reiterated the design goals for a conditional district.

Ms. Caines said the applicant is requesting attached and detached dwelling units and indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. They are requesting a density of 2.19 units per acre (a maximum of 325 units) and a change in the southern perimeter buffer from 5 ft type A to 10 ft type B. They are requesting a minimum lot frontage reduction from 60 feet to 40 feet for an attached dwelling and 44 feet for a detached dwelling without moving the driveway/parking to the rear. Not all the lots will be this narrow, but some of them will be. Additional design standards include building façade design, elevation variety on adjacent lots, and units pre-configured for future connection to a solar energy system.

Ms. Caines said that points to consider are whether this Conditional District Rezoning is meant to support innovative, higher quality and sustainable neighborhoods, pedestrian oriented communities, open space design, lot layout and development patterns, and building design. She said the Comprehensive Plan calls for mixed residential neighborhood to have a walkable transportation network with parking location on the side or rear with streets in the grid network with varying block sizes. Smaller lot frontages make for garage and pavement dominated frontage, where parking to side, rear, or on-street creates streets focused on pedestrians.

Catherine Jacobs, Development Services, said that the parcel would be connected to potable water and sanitary sewer on Piney Grove Wilbon Rd., with a proposed pump station for the force main to pump to the Basal Creek pump station. She said this development would trigger the Phase 3 upgrade to that pump station. She said the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) calls for widening the frontage to one half the ultimate cross section, with a gap where they do not own the property, and four connection points. Onsite improvements required include turn lanes into the site. The offsite intersections at Piney Grove Wilbon and Burt Road, Duncan Cook Road, and W. Academy Street were studied, but did not require any improvements.

Matt Beard, Parks and Recreation, said that a 10-foot wide sidepath would be constructed along the frontage, with a carve-out around the parcel that is not part of this property. The location

is not within a park search area, so they are not required to dedicate park land, but will pay a fee-in-lieu for Parks and Recreation at the time of subdivision platting.

MPT Berry asked why the jog in the sidepath and how long that gap was. Mr. Beard said it was because that property was not owned by the developer, and he believed it to be within the 300-foot threshold that applies to gaps.

Joanna Holder, Planning Board Representative, said that the Planning Board voted to recommend approval with a vote of 9 – 0. They felt the community would serve a need within the community. They felt the smaller lot size served the need of the audience they were building for. Planning Board did say the lot frontage gave them some concerns for safety of pedestrians. PB proposed that properties that abut current neighbors have additional buffers, but overall they supported it.

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

Mark Frederick, Parker Poe Adams Bernstein, speaking for the applicant, said this development would be an active adult community with at least 80% of all occupied units having at least one resident age 55 or older. He said this area was designated as a place to enhance and neighborhood residential, which encourages innovative uses. He said they are requesting a density well below what was allowed. This CD proposes a maximum of 325 units spread across the parcel, which is well below the permitted density. There is a commitment to a mix of single family and duplex units, with these types spread out across the project. He described the architectural features and said the target purchaser preferred a large backyard and the driveway in the front. He described units with limited steps and grade changes. He said there would be a minimum of 10 floor plans and 4 different elevations, for a mix of 40 different housing styles. He described the open space and pedestrian circulation as well as the tree preservation area they were proposing. He showed examples of the active and passive open space they were proposing. He said the three existing ponds would be “amenitized” with walking trails.

Mr. Frederick said they were proposing to create a connection to Fleming Road and to have a second access point. They propose to widen Piney Grove Wilbon across their frontage to half the ultimate cross section. He said that they have reached out to the property owner of the “gap property” but the property has changed hands and they have not been able to get in touch with the new owner. He said the road widening would go up to the house’s front door, so it was likely the entire property would have to be bought. They will continue to try to work with that property owner. He said that age restricted homes create fewer peak hour trips than other neighborhoods and creates less impact on the roads during peak hours. He showed the interior walking trail and sidewalks as well as the sidepath along their frontage, cutting behind the property they do not own.

He described the force main to the gravity line connecting to Basal Creek Pump Station and said they would complete the necessary upgrades. He said that staff requested that they investigate other options for the routing of the sewer and they will continue to investigate that.

MPT Berry asked why this was 80% age restricted instead of 100% like Regency. James Woofter of Toll Brothers said that Regency was 100% restricted, but this was a matter of choice among Toll Brothers to do something different. MPT Berry asked about the road widening and side path. Mr. Frederick said they did not have to improve the frontage along the property they do not own. Mr. Woofter said they would continue to try to reach out to that property owner. MPT Berry asked why 325 units was not going to make the Burt Rd intersection worse. Kevin Dean, Kimley Horne, said traffic would be added, but they are not expecting them to turn on Burt. There is a change in impact, but it doesn’t change the level of service enough to require an improvement.

Council member McGrath asked which way traffic was envisioned to go out of the site. Mr. Dean said that most people would be going into Holly Springs, not going to Fuquay. McGrath if 75% are coming to Holly Springs, we already know that we are swamped. It surprises him that we are not proposing any improvements. He said the lower density was good, but this would increase traffic without improving the roads. He asked how we reconcile that the other side of the road is Fuquay Varina, and with the cut out and DOT owning the road, how we get to a four-lane road. Ms. Jacobs said that all of these things are development driven. We can only hold developers to their

side of the road, based on the traffic study policy. The applicant met that criteria. Council member McGrath said this cut-out property is going to be put on the tax payers, not the developer. Randy Harrington said that if the developer does not do this piece, it will fall onto NCDOT. Would they come and widen that little section? That would be a hard thing for them to do, so it would probably fall back on the town.

Council member Forrest said that one of the biggest complaints Council receives are that people want to downsize and stay in the area, and the options are limited. Currently, your force main is going backward. Is there any benefit for other residents along there, to tap into the water? Mr. Frederick said he believes the force main would be sized for this community only. Ms. Jacobs said we don't allow taps to force mains. Mr. Frederick said we need to go all the way up Piney Grove, because there is not a regional pump station in this part of town.

Colby Hammonds, 2917 Piney Grove Wilbon, said he lived across the road on a farm, part of the Fuquay Varina ETJ. There are several properties on that road that do not have access to city or county water. His other question is about the road widening. He wanted to know when that will affect his property. He said he had not seen any environmental studies on this. All those ponds are not independent water sources, they are all interconnected. When he looks at the plan, they describe the current ponds as part of the storm water control system. Obviously when it overflows, it will go into the main pond and that concerns him as his only water source is well water. He said the transportation was a nightmare. He said the majority of traffic is coming from Lillington, Fayetteville and Smithfield, into Holly Springs.

Jim Turner, 2929 Piney Grove Wilbon, said he lives across the road from this development on his wife's family's farm. He said he was familiar with the firm and their good reputation. He appreciates the Elliott family and the developer, and thinks it is an appropriate and desirable use for the property.

Brandon Von Unruh, 7201 Starlight Circle, said his property was on the southwest border of this project and he has concerns and questions about the project. Is it sensitive to natural resources as the staff report claims? The proposed tree preservation shaves off some of the trees – how will this be maintained? He asked if they could affirm that the tree preservation will not be changed administratively. He asked if water runoff would be held and treated onsite and where it would be discharged. He asked if there had been a study of possible flooding from runoff. He said the communities use Burt Road to access Piney Grove Wilbon. His wife almost got hit turning left on that road the other day. He said that traffic is already bad and it's going to get worse. We don't have a turn lane to get on or off of Burt Rd. and it is dangerous. Fleming Rd. is convenient for the developer, but Burt is one property south and it is going to be the most dangerous intersection. He thanked the Town for holding this public meeting and he asked that green areas be preserved.

Jeff Keith, 7205 Starlight Circle, said he has lived here since 1985 and has seen a lot of the progress in the county. He agrees with some of the comments about needed communities for those who want to downsize. His biggest concern is the traffic flow. This area now is already a disaster during rush hours, and those rush hours are starting to creep so that Piney Grove Wilbon is crowded longer. He lives off of Burt Rd. and sees exclusive turn lanes on the plan, but his fear is that during rush hour it will be standstill traffic on Piney Grove Wilbon Rd. People will not be able to get out of the subdivision and will turn off onto Burt Rd. He doesn't see how 325 more cars doesn't create a dangerous situation. He is concerned for his family and his neighbors' families. He foresees a lot of traffic accidents.

Connor Sheehan said he lived at 2813 Piney Grove Wilbon. A big draw to moving to this area was the mixture of small town farmhouse living mixed with being close to things around. He is not a huge fan of this project due to the traffic situation. The road backs up a mile plus at that intersection. You cannot turn left. He said this project is something that will make that traffic worse. He said this is not the way we need to build out.

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

MPT Berry asked how far the sewer run to Basal Creek was. Ms. Jacobs said it was four miles. He asked what it would cost if we did it ourselves and whether it was under or beside the

road. Ms. Jacobs said we did not have an estimate for cost, but it would run along the side of Piney Grove Wilbon Rd.

Council member Forrest asked when NCDOT plans to widen Piney Grove Wilbon. Ms. Jacobs said we do not know. Council member Forrest asked if there was a way, and what it would cost, when they run the water line, to allow residents to tap in. Ms. Jacobs said the developer will stub towards Duncan Cook for future development; and bring a 12" parallel main to the property. As long as flow is adequate some might be able to tap in. But the residents who spoke about water access are in the Fuquay Varina ETJ and they would not be eligible to tap in.

Council member Forrest asked if the environmental impact analysis was posted online. Ms. Jacobs said they are not typically done at rezoning. That would happen when they come in for subdivision. To speak to water quality, the developer is not proposing to use the existing ponds for stormwater control, they have additional structures for that.

Council member McGrath said this is probably a well-needed project, but how do we work with the interjurisdictional challenge along this road? We get all the traffic from the development in Harnett County. He asked what levers we have, besides talking to CAMPO. He asked how much we talked to Fuquay Varina on this specific development. Randy Harrington said what you are seeing tonight are some of the challenges we have known in this area of the county. Fuquay Varina also has water-sewer problems getting to this area. Other developers have tried and couldn't make it work, but this developer has a plan. We have been in contact with Fuquay Varina and tried to find what would work. Chris Hills, Director of Development Services, said that there has been a lot of interaction between the two municipalities. The confluence of two jurisdictions and a DOT owned road, and the development to our south contributing more traffic than either Holly Springs or Fuquay Varina has been discussed. We have to work with DOT on this, but it is a priority among priorities. We turned over many stones about the best way to provide utilities, and asked if there were more efficient ways to serve this area? We found that Fuquay Varina's challenges are more than ours as far as serving this area. We coordinate our CTPs and Land Use plans with other jurisdictions and NCDOT. There are a series of intersections to the south that are the biggest issues, but they are not in our jurisdiction so we will continue working with Fuquay Varina on this.

Council member Forrest said this is a great project and we need it. But he has concerns over traffic patterns. The town has limits in what we can ask a developer to do off site, but we need to look deeper for traffic solutions. He has driven that road a lot and it gets bad. It needs improvement like every other road in this area. But it's a needed project and he would like to find a way to make it work.

Council member Wolff said he likes the project. He likes that it is Toll Bros, and he likes the concept and that they have made the commitment to getting utilities to the area. He understands the concerns about traffic, especially when we get into the outskirts. But if we are going to make this conditional on traffic, we have to realize that it will be years or decades. Multi-jurisdictions insure that we cannot do that quickly. He said the "cut out" property is the sticking point for him. There is not a developer that would buy that tiny parcel and make the improvements, because the numbers wouldn't work. For him, he needs that gap fixed. He can't approve the project until that is taken care of. He would like to table it to allow the developer to engage with the new owners and get the complete road face.

MPT Berry said this is the reason he voted against the Comp Plan. Having this designation where the roads aren't ready is a problem. Getting the density down is admirable. He lives off Piney Grove Wilbon and deals with that traffic every day. He agrees that Toll Bros is a reputable company that builds a great product and we need age-out communities. They help with impact on schools, and it is less traffic than it could be. He doesn't underestimate the efforts made to get the proposal forward. But there are still things that keep him from being ready to approve. He would be willing to table it and allow the team to come back, but they need to bring a solution around the widening at the cut-out section that is not an unfunded taxpayer liability. We cannot have another hour glass shaped road. That has to be solved, and it's something you need to do. Also, look further into the Burt Rd situation. There should be a place to meet in the middle. Lastly, he sees no reason it cannot be 100% age restricted.

Council member McGrath said he doesn't disagree. His opinion is for a motion to table until the cut-out is solved. He would also like more on how the inter-jurisdictional piece would be dealt with. He suggests that those who are coming out to speak direct their comments to the state to increase NCDOT funding to deal with these roads.

Council member Hewetson said she agrees with the rest of the council that the cut-out is the biggest thing holding her back. It makes the rest of the frontage improvements irrelevant. She would like to see this type of development if some of those things can be changed or improved.

Action: Motion to table Ordinance RZ23-05 to a future meeting.

Motion by: Forrest

Second by: McGrath

Vote: unanimous

MPT Berry asked if it could come back to the August meeting, rather than July, to give the developer time.

Mr. Harrington said the next quarterly meeting is the first of September, which could also be a good time to address this.

11. Duke Operations & Training Center Development Plan 22-DP-09

Cheryl Caines, Development Services, said that this item was not ready to go to a vote as the sanitary sewer study had not been evaluated, but the public hearing had been advertised so she requested that the hearing be opened and continued to the July 18th meeting.

Mayor Mayefskie opened the public hearing.

Action: Motion to continue Public Hearing to July 18, 2023.

Motion by: Wolff

Second by: Forrest

Vote: unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

12. 2023 Street Resurfacing and Preservation

Michael Leonas, Utilities and Infrastructure, said the purpose of this item was to update the Council on the 2023 Street Resurfacing Project and Street Preservation Project, and to consider construction contracts and budgets. He explained the resurfacing project would be the traditional "mill and fill" on 19 streets for 2.69 miles. The total project budget was \$1,370,395.09 with a start this summer and 70 days for completion. He explained the means used to notify residents when their street was going to be affected. He said the Preservation Project would involve the application of Reclamite ® which replenishes chemical compounds lost due to aging of the asphalt. This would encompass 7.16 miles with a total project budget of \$147,825.33 and is estimated to start in August of 2023 and last for 30-60 days. He said that the material goes down pink, and is then sanded.

Mr. Leonas said that the Town owns and maintains 157 miles of streets. He explained how streets were selected for resurfacing or preservation based on condition and usage. He said the contractor will be required to notify residents in advance of resurfacing and preservation work. This notification would be augmented by social media outreach via the Town's social media platforms.

Mr. Leonas said the Town was able to fund both the base bid and alternate bid projects. Resurfacing would cover 2.69 miles and preservation would include 4 neighborhoods and cover 7.16 miles of streets.

Council member McGrath asked what the lifecycle costs were and what we were doing with developers to increase the longevity of the roads we are inheriting. Mr. Leonas said pavement design is a different animal; staff looks at not only axle loads, but number of trips. This is something we can discuss with Development Services; Phased developments, with construction traffic going over those roads, you are prematurely aging the pavement. Mr. Harrington said that anytime a

subdivision is built they do not become the town's streets until after it they been inspected and are determined to be up to the Town's standards.

Council member Forrest thanked the Utilities & Infrastructure staff for what they are doing to maintain town assets.

Action 1: Motion to award the 2023 Street Resurfacing Project contract to Daniels, Inc. of Garner in the amount of \$1,245,813.72 (base bids & alternates) plus a contingency allocation of \$124,581.37 bringing the total approved project budget for resurfacing to \$1,370,395.09

Motion by: McGrath

Second by: Forrest

Vote: unanimous

Action 2: Motion to approve the use of a sole-source based contract for the 2023 Street Preservation Project and award the contract to Pavement Technology, Inc. in the amount of \$134,386.66 plus a contingency allocation of \$13,438.67 bringing the total approved project budget for preservation to \$147,825.33.

Motion by: Berry

Second by: Forrest

Vote: unanimous

13. Operations Campus Phase 1A Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment 1

Kimberly Keyes, Utilities and Infrastructure, said this item was one Council had seen at the workshop. The purpose is to award the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment 1 to Edifice General Contractors. She said the Town purchased the 30-acre property in 2020 to develop a campus for public service operations and maintenance. In November 2022 Town Council approved the first Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) contract and project delivery method and preconstruction services with Edifice. She reminded the public where the property is located and said that Phase 1A would be the extension of Bumgardner Road, the gravel access road, and the 2.3-acre laydown area. Phase 1B would be the Administration Building, the Operations Building, vehicle and equipment storage, a Convenience Center for residents, and greenway. Phase 2, which is not yet funded, would include fleet maintenance, a covered fueling center, additional covered lay down and equipment storage and a truck canopy.

Ms. Keyes said the project budget was not to exceed \$41 million and gave the current estimates for the various parts of Phase 1A and Phase 1B. She said staff continues to value engineer the Phase 1B.

Mayor Mayefskie said he had sat in several meetings that Ms. Keyes put together and these few screens did not touch on all the work that had been done and he appreciated the staff's work.

Action: Motion to approve the Construction Services Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment 001 with Edifice General Contractors - CMAR in the amount of \$2,811,760 for the Operations Campus Phase 1A.

Motion by: McGrath

Second by: Forrest

Vote: unanimous

14. Condemnation Resolution: Holly Springs New Hill/New Hill/Old Holly Springs Apex Road Realignment Project

John Schifano, Town Attorney, said the purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the Town Attorney to initiate eminent domain action to acquire right-of-way and other necessary easements from three property owners for the Holly Springs New Hill Road, New Hill Road, and Old Holly Springs Apex Road realignment project. He showed where the intersection is located and

what the ultimate build would be like. The three property owners and the area affected are: Fusion 1300, LLC with 6,316 square feet; Lisa Leslie & Calvin Leslie with 3, 673 square feet; and Barbara Leslie McNeil with 1, 241 square feet.

Action: Motion to adopt Resolution 23-15 to authorize eminent domain action to acquire right-of-way and other necessary easements from three property owners for the Holly Springs New Hill Road, New Hill Road and Old Holly Springs Apex Road Realignment transportation project.

Motion by: Forrest

Second by: Berry

Vote: unanimous

A copy of Resolution 23-15 is attached to these minutes.

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 writing:

One comment from Rick McClain asking that the Council assist in selling two million tickets to the movie *Sound of Freedom* and proclaim Holly Springs a sanctuary city for young children.

One comment from psychologist Kristen Valus asking Council to protect the mental health of the LGBTQ+ community by immediately adding sexual orientation to the Pride Proclamation and adopting the Wake County Nondiscrimination Ordinance.

One anonymous comment thanking the Town and the Police for their efforts to enforce the noise ordinances related to loud vehicles.

The following public comments were received in person:

Donna Friend said she made a commitment that she would not appear in Town Council meetings in June. But when the Mayor issued the Pride of Holly Springs Proclamation and left off LGBTQ from the proclamation, she couldn't stay silent. It was an insult and she said the Town missed the mark. She said, sadly, it didn't surprise her. She said it has become obvious that Public Comment is getting moved later in the meeting, and it lets all of us know how important our comments are to Council. She asked that be revisited so more people could participate in meetings.

Lesslie Corner said she wants to say that when she moved here she had the mistaken idea that North Carolina had made progress in the nature of inclusion. It never occurred to her that her children would not feel safe visiting her. By leaving LGBTQ+ out of the proclamation and not signing the Nondiscrimination Ordinance gives the loud and clear message that families like hers are not welcome here.

Dillon Hale and Steve Bergstrom were called but had left the meeting.

Kim Peppers said she was here to support her children and the LGBTQ+ community and she wished that her community was accepting. She does not believe that this council is accepting of her children and their community. She has been here 16 years and is appalled at the proclamation Pride Of Holly Springs. She said that she has pride in this community, but Pride should be for a group of people who have not been accepted in the community like they should be. NC Governor Roy Cooper stated in his proclamation Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Month and our proclamation states none of that. She said she wished that the Council, that still has time this month to present a re-proclamation for this group of people. She wished that this community would accept everyone, because everyone deserves the respect of equality.

Mike Kondratick said he thought the presentation earlier in the meeting was pointed. He said you recognized an entire month as Parks and Rec Month, and you recognized the Parks & Recreation Staff. We can agree that it would be odd if the staff weren't included in your recognition of this month. The message from that is clear – the staff's work and what they add to this

community is important. He said that the LGBTQ community is not asking for anything more than this. A proclamation that uses the language that their community has risked their lives to popularize during a month that is set aside to recognize their work and their sacrifice. He asked that the Mayor update his proclamation to include LGBTQIA+ community, to recognize that what they add to this community is important and valued.

Dr. Kristin Valus said she has been a clinical psychologist for 24 years and was here to advocate for her clients who are Holly Springs residents and who do not feel empowered to speak for themselves. She said the Mayor's exclusion of the LGBTQ community from the proclamation was harmful. She stated statistics of suicide and suicidal ideation among members of the LGBTQ community related to their inability to be themselves in the world. She said her clients feel unsafe. She said the mental health community needs him to do better. She asked that he add LGBTQ+ to the proclamation and sign on to the Wake County NDO which would make a tangible difference to the mental health of the community.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council member Forrest said he is concerned about HB 660 which would expand the use of PFAS in construction. It is a forever chemical that is deadly to all of us. It can accumulate in the human body and wildlife and cause cancer, immune system disorders, and other problems. He encouraged the public to reach out to their state legislators.

Council member Hewetson said that she wanted to say that while she could never recognize all the programs that Parks & Recreation does, the free movie Weds. are a wonderful program she wanted to shine some light on.

Council member McGrath said with Independence Day coming up, he wanted people to recognize those who risked their lives to protect our freedoms so that we can all be treated equally. We have enemies that are external; it doesn't help us to fight enemies who are internal.

MPT Berry said we are entering into summer schedule, and we have lightened the staff load a bit, and he hopes that staff will take some time to enjoy with their families.

Council member Wolff wished everyone a Happy Juneteenth.

Mayor Mayefskie said yesterday Wake County mayors met at the FUJI plant. It rained so they didn't get a full tour, but he thanked them for allowing the mayors to go visit the facility.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Randy Harrington, Town Manager, said he had two items. This Thursday Friday and Saturday he and Assistant Manager Scott Chase will be at the Managers Association meeting in Wilmington. Assistant Manager Daniel Weeks will be out on vacation starting Thursday, so Kendra Parrish, Executive Director of Utilities and Infrastructure will be on point on those days. Second, on July 5th we have the annual fireworks celebration starting at 6 pm going till around 9:30 when the fireworks are over. It's one of the biggest events of the year that Parks & Recreation does, with help from public safety.

CLOSED SESSION: The Council entered into closed session, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to discuss *Holly Springs v. Gladys Adams and Michael Adams*, and pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss an economic development update.

Motion by: Berry

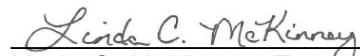
Second by: McGrath

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to leave closed session was made by Council member McGrath seconded by Council member Forrest and passed with a unanimous vote.

Adjournment: Council member Wolff made a motion to adjourn at 10:03 pm. It was seconded by Council member Forrest and passed with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted on Tuesday, July 18, 2023.



Linda C. McKinney, Town Clerk

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