



MINUTES

The Holly Springs Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. 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 Sean Mayefskie, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Berry, Council members Timothy Forrest, Danielle Hewetson, Chris Deshazor, and Annie Drees.

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*; Kameron Womack, *IT*; Corey Petersohn, *Budget and Sustainability*; Cassie Hack, *Director, Communications and Marketing*; Chris Hills, *Director, Development Services*; Chris Garcia, *Development Services*; Tina Stroupe, *Finance Director*; LeRoy Smith, *Fire Chief*.

2. and 3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by an invocation by Pastor Tony Hageman of Hope Community Church.

4. Agenda Adjustment: The September 17, 2024, meeting agenda was adopted with changes, if any, as listed: none.

Motion: Berry
Second: Hewetson
Vote: Unanimous

RECOGNITIONS

5. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Mayefskie proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and presented the proclamation to Rhonda Raney, Executive Director of InterAct. Ms. Raney said a few words about their organization's work against domestic violence.

6. Community Planning Month Proclamation

Chris Hills, Director of Development Services, said that October is National Community Planning Month. He said this year's theme is "It Takes a Planner" and he elucidated some of the things that planners do to make communities better. He introduced members of the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, and staff. Mayor Mayefskie proclaimed October as Community Planning Month in Holly Springs.

7. Cybersecurity Month Proclamation

Mayor Mayefskie proclaimed October as Cybersecurity Month in Holly Springs. He presented the proclamation to Jeff Wilson, IT Director, and said a few words about the assistance our IT team gave Apex during their recent crisis and cybersecurity best practices. He said there were informational flyers the public could pick up outside the Chamber.

8. Community Satisfaction Award from ETC Institute

Cassie Hack, Director of Communications and Marketing, said that ETC, the company that the Town uses for the Community Satisfaction Survey, has once again awarded the Leading the Way award to Holly Springs for ranking within the top ten percent of all local governments in the United States regarding satisfaction with overall quality of services, customer service, and value for local taxes and fees. She said that there were areas where Holly Springs exceeded the national average by more than 20% in 34 categories, including quality of customer service, as a place to live, effectiveness of town communication with the public, and overall effectiveness of police.

9. National Communications Awards

Cassie Hack, Director of Communications and Marketing, said that at the recent 2024 City and County Communicators Conference, the town won three Savvy Awards. There were over 1,100 entries in 38 categories submitted by municipalities across the nation. Only 94 first place prizes were awarded. Holly Springs won first place for the Parks Bond Educational Video, first place for the Holly Springs 311 campaign, and second place for the Keeping it Green in Holly Springs campaign.

REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

10. Wake County 2024 Library Bond Referendum

Matt Roylance, Community Services Deputy Director of Wake County said he was here to talk about the 2024 Library Bond which will be on the November ballot. He introduced Tammy Baggett, Wake County Library Director. She spoke about her experience and her excitement to be in Wake County. Mr. Roylance introduced Katrina Vernon, Assistant Library Director.

Mr. Roylance said the ballot asks voters to decide on a \$142 million bond for new libraries, and renovations and expansions of existing libraries. He said the last time Wake County held a bond referendum was in 2007, and it passed with over 70% voter approval. He outlined the potential projects if the bond passes.

Ms. Vernon said that if voters approve the bond, the estimated tax liability increase would be \$2.50 per \$100,000 value. She said that the Holly Springs Community Library has upcoming renovations that are outside of the bond schedule. She outlined what these renovations could include.

Council member Drees asked if Wake County has long term plans for growth for the Holly Springs library branch. Mr. Roylance said the usage of the Holly Springs library is high, but the site creates some complexities. He praised the cooperation with Parks & Recreation in the building and said they would like to think creatively in the future to see how they could address that. He said, in terms of timing, it is not included as part of this bond so it would be further out.

11. Yard Waste – Upcoming Leaf Season

Freddie Rodriguez, Public Works, said this item was to provide an update on the fee-free fall yard waste sweep and upcoming seasonal leaf and yard waste collection schedule. He said the fee-free yard waste sweep will be the week of October 14 – 18. Residents can place acceptable waste at the curb for free collection that week on the curb on the Sunday prior. Acceptable waste includes grass, limbs, branches, leaves, and shrubs. Crews will collect by zone, starting on Monday, October 14th.

Mr. Rodriguez said that seasonal leaf collection starts October 28th and residents will receive monthly leaf collection, by zone, as they have since 2022. However, residents now have the additional options of the convenience center and the yard waste cart bi-weekly collection. He showed the zones and gave the weeks during which each zone would receive service, and explained that the zones were sized according to the number of mature trees (and thus leaves) in the included neighborhoods. He said they have been working with Communications and Marketing to get the word out about yard waste collection via social media, mailings, in-person events and newsletters.

Mr. Rodriguez outlined the benefits of the yard waste collection program overall, with carts on a bi-weekly schedule, leaf collection by zones, the fee-free sweep at the beginning of the season, and the yard waste convenience center open seven days a week. He said that the convenience center has now been open for a year and has collected 200 tons of waste – the equivalent of 57 elephants, or 98 cars.

Council member Forrest said one of the selling points for the yard waste program was the reliability of vehicles. He asked what the reliability numbers are and what the savings on maintenance costs are. Mr. Rodriguez said they would get those figures to Council, but anecdotally he knows it is substantial.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

12. Minutes – Council approved the minutes of the August 20, 2024 and September 3, 2024 Business meetings.

13. Bass Lake Spillway Design Contract Amendment – Council approved a change order to the Bass Lake Design Contract for \$24,330.00.

14. Town Council Meeting Calendar – Council amended their 2024 meeting calendar to add a joint meeting with the Planning Board on October 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

15. Sunset Lake Road Widening – NCDOT Sidewalk Maintenance Municipal Agreement – Council approved NCDOT Municipal Agreement for Sunset Lake Road Sidewalk construction (Lockley Road to Holly Springs Road.)

NEW BUSINESS

16. Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) Application

Chris Garcia, Development Services, said this item was to provide Council an update on the FY26 Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) submittal process and recommended projects for this application cycle. He said that LAPP projects are for funding priority projects, major collector road, medium to large scale, shovel-ready projects. It is not for local roads, small scale projects, “what if” projects or brand-new projects. He said that the majority of LAPP projects have been roadway, with bike and pedestrian projects taking a bit more than a quarter of the funding, with transit a distant third out of the yearly \$25 million allocated.

Mr. Garcia outlined the past successes that Holly Springs has had over the last five years, with four roadway and three pedestrian projects receiving funds totally about \$11 million. He explained how the scoring worked, and that design project score lower than shovel-ready construction projects. He said municipalities are also limited in the number they can apply for if successful projects are still ongoing. To improve our chances of receiving funding in the future, he said we should complete our current projects, identify project funding in the CIP, and invest in design and right-of-way acquisition for priority projects. He said that if Holly Springs Road West had been ready for construction it would have scored as the second highest project in 2023.

Mr. Garcia explained the project selection approach most likely to result in funding would include projects that are in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, identified in the Strategic Plan and funded through the CIP, meet the LAPP Scoring criteria, and are construction ready.

Mr. Garcia said staff has identified two projects for this year’s application. The first, and staff’s recommendation, is Holly Spring Road West, design. The estimated investment is \$3 million, with a 20% local match and 80% federal match. Council has identified this as a priority corridor. The current volume is over capacity and the project will increase capacity to acceptable levels through at least 2050. The second option is the Cass Holt Rd. Improvements, which is also a design project.

The estimated investment is \$1.5 million, with the same 20/80 match. The current volume is over roadway capacity and the project will increase capacity to acceptable levels through at least 2050, and will be a proactive safety measure for the new park and Holly Springs High School.

Mr. Garcia outlined how these two projects meet the LAPP criteria, with Holly Springs Road West having a slight advantage as it has been identified as a Council priority. He said that if Council agrees this is the best option, the next steps are to apply in October. CAMPO will release the funding decision in February of 2025.

Council member Deshazor asked if Cass Holt should be looked at more because of all the development going on in that area, and because LAPP projects take more time. He said we could afford to take more time on Cass Holt. MPT Berry said we hear a lot from residents about getting construction done before development, particularly since it is our development. We know there are pedestrian safety projects there. He asked why it was \$1.5 million for design since it is less than a mile. He also said he doesn't think that either would get picked, but he still wants to apply. Council member Hewetson said Holly Springs Rd. West is top of her priority list. Not doing the West section would defeat the purpose of widening the rest of it. But she asked, since we didn't win because it was design last time, what makes this year different. Mr. Garcia said they aren't likely to score very high up, but we never know what others are applying for in any given year and we might get funding because the others are submitting design projects. Council member Forrest said we have some developers coming in to the Cass Holt area that might pay for the road improvements there. With that said, his priority is Holly Springs Rd. West. He said we need to finish the thoroughfare from 540 to 55. We have a better chance of the development community finishing Cass Holt Road. Council member Drees said she agrees that Holly Springs West is near-term on the CTP and Cass Holt is mid-term. The Parks Bond also includes some safety items for pedestrians near Eagles Landing, so she prefers Holly Springs-West

Action: Motion to authorize staff to proceed with LAPP application for Holly Springs Road West – Design.

Motion by: Forrest

Second by: Hewetson

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 writing: Comments from Barbara Brandt and Chris Fillio in favor of the town signing the Wake County Nondiscrimination Ordinance.

The following public comments were received in person:

Kristen Valus said she was a clinical psychologist and a member of Holly Springs Pride. They had a Pride event on Sept 7th with 150 attendees and 50 local businesses participating. They raised over \$2500 for the LGBT center in Raleigh and many pounds of food for the Food Cupboard. She presented a collage to Council that was focused on mental health for the community. She asked Council to reconsider passing the Nondiscrimination Ordinance and use their roles as elected officials to hold businesses accountable to the same standard that they meet as elected officials. She said the reason she is given that we don't need the NDO is because we are already accepting. In this case, passing the NDO would have no negative effect. And if it's not true, passing the NDO would protect all of our residents from discrimination. It has been successful for two years in other locations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council member Drees requested a cybersecurity update. Mr. Harrington said that there is a closed session provision to discuss security and Council consensus was to have that closed session.

Council member Drees asked if there was interest in connecting with Wake County regarding future investment in the Holly Springs Library. Mr. Harrington said that one possibility was to add that to the legislative action agenda, or it could be topic at the annual retreat. Council member Drees asked if there was interest in getting data from Wake County on the NDO cases and resolutions. John Schifano said he would ask them for data.

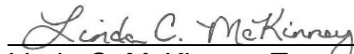
MANAGER'S REPORT

Randy Harrington, Town Manager, said he got confirmation today that the Water Partnership Groundbreaking will be Tues. Oct. 29th at 10 am. More information will be coming. That evening is the joint Planning Board meeting so it's a busy day. Canine Con is this Sat. from 8 am to noon at Sugg Park. There will be onsite grooming, pet vaccines, and pet and human snacks. Town Information Day at the Farmers Market is Sept. 28th, and we hope some of you can come out for that day. Finally, this weekend he is going to Pittsburg for the ICMA conference. Assistant Manager Daniel Weeks is also going, and Assistant Manager Scott Chase will be in town.

CLOSED SESSION: none.

Adjournment: MPT Berry made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 pm. It was seconded by Council member Forrest and passed with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.



Linda C. McKinney, Town Clerk

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