



MINUTES

The Holly Springs Town Council held a budget workshop meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the Law Enforcement Center and via livestream. Mayor Mayefskie presided, calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established as the Mayor and five Council members were present as the meeting opened.

Council Members Present in the room: Mayor Sean Mayefskie, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Berry, Council members Tim Forrest, Danielle Hewetson, Chris Deshazor and Annie Drees.

Council Members absent: none.

Staff Members Present in the room: Randy Harrington, Town Manager; Linda McKinney, Town Clerk (recording the minutes); Daniel Weeks, Assistant Town Manager; Scott Chase, Assistant Town Manager; Tina Stroupe, Finance Director; Corey Petersohn, and MaryBeth Spoehr, Budget, Innovation & Strategy; Jeff Wilson, IT director; Jesse Dixon, IT; John Schifano, Town Attorney; LeeAnn Plumer, Parks and Recreation Director; LeRoy Smith, Fire Chief; Michael Leonas and Rachel Ingham, Utilities and Infrastructure; Sabrina McDonald, Director of Human Resources; Irena Krstanovic, Director of Economic Development; Paul Liquorie, Police Chief; Cassie Hack, Director of Communications and Marketing; Paige Scott, Director of Public Works; Chris Hills, Director of Development Services; George Brown, Office of Customer Care.

Mayor Mayefskie said the intent of tonight's meeting was to review the recommended budget, give feedback and get answers to questions.

1. Overview: Randy Harrington, Town Manager, gave an overview of the budget process. He said that he made his presentation on the budget to the Council on May 13th; last Tuesday was the public hearing; and now it was time for Council to make sure that the budget meets their expectations and advances their priorities. He wanted to touch on a few areas, and then it would be turned over the Council to discuss.

Mr. Harrington said that in Council Manager form of government, Council set the priorities and then tasks the manager to create a budget that funds as many of them as possible while still maintaining service to residents. He reminded Council that any additions, deletions, or amendments to the recommended budget required support from at least three Council members, and that state law requires a balanced budget, so any additions require an offsetting expenditure reduction or identification of new funding. He said that he would highlight a few components that were not shared at the presentation:

2. Other Budget Highlights

Randy Harrington, Town Manager, shared additional highlights:

1. New Hill Holleman 751 US 1 Bridge partnership: Council has discussed this partnership with NCDOT and Apex to build the bridge to the full buildout, including pedestrian and bicycle sidepath. \$250,000 would be the Town's share.

2. Wastewater Regionalization Study – There is an opportunity for a collaborative effort with Cary to do a feasibility study for regional wastewater partnerships/solutions to go beyond 8 MDG per day. The Town’s share would be \$250,000 to see if there are pathways to pursue
3. Enterprise Resource Planning Financial System Replacement – This system tracks all accounts, is the source of record, and manages billing. Cost would be \$500,000 shared between General Fund and Utility Fund.
4. Holly Springs chamber of Commerce has increased dues \$1,465. The Chamber has talked about 2 evenings of candidate forums rather than one. One would be for Mayoral candidates and one for Council candidates. They will probably ask for a second in-kind contribution of space for the second evening.
5. Biennial community survey (\$21,000) proposing to absorb within the Administration budget.

A recent development he wanted Council to know about was around GoRaleigh. They currently provide fixed-route service from Fuquay Varina to Raleigh and are exploring replacing it with microtransit. There is a possibility of them extending to the Holly Springs Walmart area, providing a connection to the proposed Holly Springs microtransit service. This would not serve as a replacement of the proposed Holly Springs Microtransit.

3. Mayor & Council Discussion on the Recommended FY 2025-26 Budget

Mayor Mayefskie said that a lot of questions were asked and answered by staff and he would like to leave tonight with at least three people agreeing to a budget. And suggestions should not be in the form of a question, but a solution.

Council member Deshazor said he is interested in exploring “budget billing” for utilities in case it would help residents. Equal payment, averaged over three months, like electrical bills. He doesn’t know whether the software can handle it or what it would do to staff. Randy Harrington said our current software does not allow that, but we can explore that when we change software. And we would want to do some legal research to be sure we are allowed to do that. Council member Deshazor said we spend a lot of money on printing and paper. If we can challenge people to go paperless it is environmentally friendly and saves us some money from printing. Tina Stroupe, Finance Director, said 50% of our customers currently go paperless. Mr. Harrington said we do pushes from time to time to get people to sign up for paperless billing. Ms. Stroupe said we are doing one of those pushes now.

Council member Drees said she appreciates the built-in ways you can set thresholds online to monitor your spending on water. But she looked around on the website for information on assistance on paying your water bill. She wants to make sure that we have obvious answers to the public on where to go to make connections with those who can help you pay.

Council member Drees said that after the NCDOT engineer came it is obvious that no one is going to complete all the roadwork we need done. We talked about Avent Ferry, and there’s nothing we can do in the budget today that can move that forward. She asked if the \$500,000 that is set aside for a festival street, could be used to address traffic – new signals, or to accelerate ITS. Council discussed what \$500,000 could and could not do toward traffic, and the priority they have set on the downtown area as well as NCDOT’s commitment to Avent Ferry improvements. Consensus was to keep the funding for the Festival Street to draw businesses and people downtown.

MPT Berry said last year there were 4 votes to raise taxes that were designated for transportation and Fire Station 4. He asked how it was factored into the recommended budget. Mr. Harrington said the portion of the tax increase that was dedicated to future roadway investments and Fire Station 4 bought Council future debt capacity, which in the FY27 to FY29 timeframe gives

debt capacity to do transportation projects and Fire Station 4. That is building up your reserves in the debt service fund so you have that capacity later.

Council member Drees said sewer pipes being above capacity came up a lot on Tuesday. From a budgeting point of view, do we have a plan. Mr. Harrington said yes, the primary capacity component is the treatment capacity at the wastewater treatment facility. We do have areas, like in the NE Gateway, where the piping is at its max from a design standpoint, not necessarily from a flow standpoint. We build conservatism into the design. We are bumping up against design threshold and whenever development is done we look for partnerships to increase capacity. Council member Drees said she wants to be sure we have that in our line of sight and have a plan. Mr. Harrington it is not a concern for those already here, but for future development we need more capacity, so we partner with developers.

Council member Forrest said that once the budget settles if there's money left over he wants to do a traffic study on signals. Mr. Harrington asked Jeff Wilson, Chief Information Office, if a study like that was done with the ITS. Mr. Wilson said the synchronization needs to happen first before they study timing plans. The last timing plan was done last summer. But with the ITS they will be able to adjust in real time. We can ask DOT when the next scheduled study will be. Mr. Harrington said with ITS they will be able to make adjustments in real time and there won't need to be studies. If Council is interested in doing one we should test the idea with DOT to be sure that we aren't duplicating effort.

Council member Deshazor said it looks like we are almost maxing stormwater fee account. He asked if we were at risk of not being able to maintain what is necessary. Mr. Harrington said we are probably at some risk. We are able to do basic maintenance, but we don't have a proactive repair fund. He would like to do a recheck with Council on where we are at a later time, perhaps a fall workshop. The actions Council did in 2020 and 2021 were important, but we haven't been able to elevate it. Council member Forrest said he would like a report on how the yard waste program has impacted stormwater. Mr. Harrington said we already know that we have had fewer incidents of localized flooding due to stormwater since the implementation.

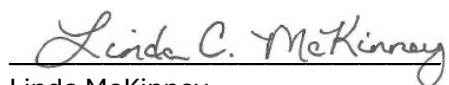
MPT Berry said he was surprised to see the Office of Customer Care only has four people. As the call volumes increase we should look at staffing to see if we have enough people to answer calls. If it's not people, can we have software that would assist in routing workflows. That call volume count is going up and he doesn't want that team to be overlooked. Mr. Harrington said he agrees 100%. In our budget conversation we did ask. We would like to see a little bit more data after a full year of service, and seeing whether we can funnel people to the app, which uses less staff time. We want to be sure this department has what they need to keep the service level up.

Mayor Mayefskie polled Council to see if they were ready to vote on June 3rd and they indicated that they were ready.

4. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by MPT Berry seconded by Council member Forrest and passed with a unanimous vote. The May 22, 2025 budget workshop meeting of the Holly Springs Town Council was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted on Tuesday, June 17, 2025.


Linda McKinney
Town Clerk