



301 W. Main St.
Town Hall
Carrboro, NC 27510

**Town of Carrboro
Meeting Minutes
Town Council**

May 20, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers - Room 110

Present: Mayor Barbara Foushee, Council Member Catherine Fray (virtual), Council Member Jason Merrill, Council Member Danny Nowell, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Eliazar Posada, Council Member Cristóbal Palmer

Also Present: Patrice Toney, Town Manager; Lamar Joyner, Town Clerk; Nick Herman, Town Attorney

POETRY READING

Poette Laurette Liza Wolff-Francis read her poem "What Eve Taught Me".

PROCLAMATIONS & RESOLUTIONS

National Public Works Week
Heat Awareness Week
4th Amendment Workplace
Memorial Day

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Town Manager Toney provided updates.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Proctor expressed support for a new park in the area where the cement plant has closed.
Sallie Benedict expressed support for a greenway as a replacement for railroad tracks.
William Flowers supports planting and maintaining trees in Town.
Trey Tanner stated concern about parking on Elm Street.
Austin Brown spoke against the Bolin Creek Greenway project.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes from Town Council meeting held on May 6, 2025
- Consideration of 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Town Code Amendment Restricting Parking on Elm Street

Council Member Posada made a motion to pull item 3: *Town Code Amendment Restricting Parking on Elm Street* from the consent agenda to table it until a future meeting and approve the remainder of the consent agenda. Council Member Haven O'Donnell seconded and the motion passed, 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

- **Public Hearing on Town Manager’s Recommended Budget for FY 2026**

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the Town Manager’s Recommended Budget for FY 2026 as required by G. S. 159-12 (b).

The public hearing was opened at 6:40 p.m.

Chaz Offenburg, Chief Financial Officer, and Patrice Toney, Town Manager, explained and gave a presentation on the recommended budget.

Alice Jacoby and Jackie Jenks expressed support for the funding of affordable housing. Ahnie Rising stated support for Longtime Homeowner Assistance (LHA) programs. Brandy Pickrell, Steve Benjamin, Piper Honigmann, and Drew spoke against raising taxes and funding the Bolin Creek Greenway project. Steve Benjamin expressed concern for the increasing of property taxes. Denzel stated the need for security resources for Inter-Faith Council

The public hearing was closed at 7:36 p.m.

GENERAL AGENDA

- **Naming Laurel Avenue, Honorary Strayhorn Drive**

Anita Jones-McNair, Chief Race & Equity Office, explained that South Laurel Avenue was formerly named Strayhorn Drive and on February 11th, Lorie Clark, a family descendant, sent an official request in writing on behalf of the Strayhorn/Barbee family. The request emphasized historic significance, descendants of Toney and Nellie Strayhorn, who are believed to be the first Black family to settle in Carrboro. The honorary designation will not change or have an impact on the official street name or numbering of buildings and street addresses. The postal addresses for honorary streets remain the primary name of the street. The street sign will be fabricated, installed and maintained through the Public Works Department.

The Town established a policy for which applicants can request the honorary naming of a town street. The policy and application can be found on the Town’s webpage along with the Street Renaming Policy.

Council Member Haven-O’Donnell made a motion to approve the Resolution Naming Laurel Avenue, Honorary Strayhorn Drive. A friendly amendment from Council Member Posada to remove the fifteen-year sunset provision was accepted. Council Member Posada seconded and the motion passed, 7-0.

- **Presentation on Parking Count Updates**

Jon Hartman-Brown, Economic Development Director, provided an update on parking counts in public parking lots that were completed in March 2025. After considering the data, at this time, staff believe demand for public parking is being adequately met with the existing parking facilities and recommend no new parking is necessary for the downtown area. The parking access should continue to be monitored for increases in parking occupancy that could lower the level of service currently provided and create difficulty in finding parking spaces.

The presentation was received by Council.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Council Member Haven-O’Donnell moved to **reappoint Elmira Mangum** to the **OWASA Board of Directors**. Council Member Posada seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Council Member Nowell moved to **appoint Jocelyn Tsai** to the **OWASA Board of Directors**. Council Member Posada seconded and the motion passed 6-1. (NOES-Haven-O’Donnell, Palmer recused himself due to relationship)

Council Member Posada moved to **reappoint Josie Hartman** and **Ronnie Zuckerman** to the **Housing & Human Services Advisory Commission**. Council Haven-O’Donnell seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

Council Member Posada moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6) to consider matters regarding the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Council Member Merrill seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The Board heard the update and had discussion regarding the matters. No action was taken.

Council Member Posada moved to go back into open session. Council Member Nowell seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Posada moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Nowell seconded and the motion passed, 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.
