



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

**Town of Carrboro  
Meeting Minutes – Work Session  
Town Council**

**May 9, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers - Room 110**

**Present:** Mayor Damon Seils, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Eliazar Posada, Council Member Danny Nowell, Council Member Sammy Slade

**Also Present:** Richard White, Town Manager; Wesley Barker, Town Clerk; Brady Herman, Town Attorney

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**DISCUSSION OF FY24 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

The purpose of this work session is to discuss initiatives that will impact the FY24 Budget if approved for funding.

Town Manager White gave a presentation to the Council about the budget.

Employee Cost & Benefit Changes - proposed 3-5% for all FTE's

CPI (consumer price index) = 6% in March 2023

Council Member Slade would be in favor of staying in line with or matching the CPI and not going below this 6% for FTE and PTE's.

Council Member Nowell is in favor of matching the CPI at 6%

Health Insurance (Aetna) would be change in medical provider of a 9.9% increase.

Mayor Seils wanted to know if Aetna includes trans-gender benefits like BCBS does? Julie will check. Council wants this to remain as an option as current plan does.

Council in agreement to keep benefits as close to current benefits with switching to Aetna.

Consensus in favor among Council relating to changes in the employees benefit packages as presented with changes to Aetna and proposed policy revisions.

Downtown Parking:

Council Member Nowell is not in favor of full outsourcing and to keep with Town.

Council Member Romaine parking leases (Fitch Lumber, Fitch Warehouse and Community Worx) were used very little and to save some money, could leases be cancelled after 3 months because of lack of use?

Council Member Romaine recommend including counts on how parking is being used and adjustments that may be needed.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell would like to look at options that would be for local residents, uses town example (maybe Hendersonville) where residents had a mirror tag indicating they were residents, and they could park in paid spaces without paying as some residents don't live within the 2-mile radius of downtown.

Council Member Slade requests that Council see scope of work before any RFPs are issued with the 203 project.

Discussion about parking of employees by County at 203 building and parking off-site. County Manager said they would not be in favor of off-site parking of employees.

Several Council members in favor of using \$3,000 for public engagement for this possible MSD creation. Utilizing bipoc roundtables, having these in person. Also seeing how the town compares to other parts of the state.

Council Member Slade would like to have another work session to discuss this climate data and determine the goals that will impact budget. Or discuss this at a regular meeting.

Council Member Romaine mentioned dashboard for tracking projects.

Council Member Slade looking at help for Laura to meet 10-year goals, Interlocal Agreements and Funding Requests. Discussion took place among council on OCPEH and IFC.

Council Member Slade wants to know what counties in the state are doing and possible putting pressure on this county's commissioners.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell wants to put pressure on Chapel Hill with Good Neighbor Policy.

Discussion ensued around funding and possible tax increases (split between two FY's or at one time), using fund balance, or cutting other budget items, using ARPA funds.

Investigating use of ARPA funds for this. Would be doable but with more reporting needs around it.

Continue having direct continuing conversation with Orange County and raise this again.

Council Member Romaine recommend doing this as a pilot program for a year and see if it would have impact on advisory board diversity and recruitment efforts.

Recommend opt-in, paid out quarterly.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell is in support of pilot program and data it gives for diversity and recruitment, opting-in.

Virtual attendance, where does that fit into this? Would Council Member Nowell need the transportation and childcare if that is the case.

How would you address outward reaching organizations that take part in community events?

Council Member Posada recommended looking at this like paying people for their time, not being a recruitment/diversity tool.

Pilot program- would be in favor of a 2-3 year long program.

Flat fee amount to be fair to all.

Mayor Seils recommended rolling over \$50,000 from existing budgeted amount into this for FY 24.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Council Member Slade, seconded by Council Member Posada to adjourn the meeting.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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