



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

**Town of Carrboro
Meeting Minutes
Town Council**

February 28, 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 Danny Nowell, Council Member Sammy Slade

Absent: Council Member Eliazar Posada

Also Present: Richard White, Town Manager; Mary Bryant, Deputy Town Clerk; Nick Herman, Town Attorney

POETRY READING

Poet Laurette Liza Wolff-Francis introduced guest Poet Ebonee Roberson who read "Homage to My Hips" by Lucille Clifton.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

**ENERGY AND CLIMATE PROTECTION PLAN AND COMMUNITY
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

The purpose of this agenda item was to update the Town Council on the Energy and Climate Protection Plan and Community Climate Action Plan implementation efforts.

Laura Janway, Environmental Planner, gave a quarterly update on the implementation of the town's two climate action plans.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell discussed how climate action mitigation and resilience conveys differently in community. One aspect relates to the health of individuals, one aspect reflects the lifestyle of people, and she mentioned the disconnect between the two approaches. Council Member Haven-O'Donnell recommended to have a work session on this topic.

Council Member Romaine discussed recycling at different apartment complexes and asked how the owners could be incentivized to provide recycling.

Council Member Nowell discussed his zeal for a dashboard to help track efforts towards the 2030 climate goals.

Council Member Foushee asked for clarification on the work session and uses for the dashboard.

Council Members discussed when the work session would take place, what would be talked about in the work session and how the dashboard could be used in several ways.

Council Member Slade discussed the need to clarify how to use community volunteers to help implement the Climate Action Plan. He also expressed incorporating progress on the ten-year plan goals in the periodic updates.

A motion was made by Council Member Haven-O'Donnell, seconded by Council Member Nowell to approve the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION RECEIVING AN UPDATE ON THE CLIMATE AND ENERGY PROTECTION PLAN AND COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town Council has received a presentation regarding the Energy and Climate Protection Plan and the Community Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro has a number of emissions-reduction projects in process; and

WHEREAS, Town staff have requested Council input at key milestones; and

WHEREAS, staff have provided the Council with updates on particular projects at regular intervals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Carrboro Town Council that the Council receives this update on the implementation of the Energy and Climate Protection Plan and the Community Climate Action Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Council work session will be scheduled in the fall of 2023 for a conversation on tracking climate action progress and how to incorporate environmental justice into the Climate Action Plan.

This the 28th day of February in 2023.

The motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Council Member Eliazar Posada

AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 5 OF THE TOWN CODE TO COMPLY WITH A STATE LAW CHANGE REQUIRING SPECIFIC WORDING TO PUNISH CERTAIN OFFENSES AS MISDEMEANORS

The purpose of this agenda item was to conform Chapter 5 of the Carrboro Town Code to updated statutory requirements and to make certain offenses in Chapter 5 of the Town Code punishable as misdemeanors as provided in G.S. 14-4.

Town Attorney, Nick Herman presented the item to the Town Council.

Mayor Seils requested clarification on the changes and asked if these changes would create criminal penalties for offenses that currently only have civil penalties, and questioned why the town would want to do that.

The Attorney explained the changes provide the maximum enforcement mechanism available to the municipality, and in certain situations, civil penalties are often ignored.

Council Member Slade stated he did not have an interest in making penalties worse especially since homeless individuals could be held accountable for the changes.

Mayor Seils stated that some of the civil penalties for the listed offenses are already steep.

The Attorney explained that an amendment to G.S. 14-4 provides that a person would not be found guilty of the misdemeanor of the local ordinance if they can show they had not been in violation of any other local ordinance in thirty days of the current violation, or the person charged provides proof of a good faith effort to seek assistance to address the underlying factors related to unemployment, homelessness, mental health, or substance use disorder that might relate to the person's ability to comply with the local ordinance.

Council Member Romaine questioned Police Chief Attack about the discussion. Chief Attack explained that voluntary compliance is the first method used in all situations however if individuals decided to consistently ignore requests, then they have no option to remedy the situation. Council Member Romaine also asked about access to public restrooms with Chief Attack explaining the issue of public property versus private property, stating the public restrooms are at some of the parks in town and at town commons. Council Members Haven-O'Donnell and Slade reiterated the need to provide more access to public restrooms.

Council Member Nowell expressed concern over how this agenda item was presented in the packet.

A motion was made by Council Member Slade, seconded by Council Member Haven-O'Donnell to get more information from staff about public urination/defecation incidents.

The motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Council Member Eliazar Posada

No action taken on Town Ordinance changes.

TOWN OF CARRBORO EQUITY TOOLS

The purpose of this agenda item was to provide an update to the Town Council on equity tools being used in the Town of Carrboro.

Anita Jones-McNair, Chief Race and Equity Officer, gave the staff presentation.

Council Member Romaine asked if it would be possible to have a Race and Equity line item in the budget to identify expenditures dedicated to race and equity. Town Manager stated the need to make an Equity Action Plan to identify specific action steps to establish performance measures to assess over time.

Council Member Foushee commented that she saw this work as an equalizer and appreciated the Race & Equity Department's efforts.

A motion was made by Council Member Haven-O'Donnell, seconded by Council Member Romaine to accept the update.

The motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Council Member Eliazar Posada

CLOSED SESSION - G.S. 143-318.11(A)(3): ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

A motion was made by Council Member Haven-O'Donnell, seconded by Council Memberwat Nowell to go into closed session as allowed under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) for attorney-client privilege matters.

The motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Council Member Eliazar Posada

The Council returned to open session. No further business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Romaine, seconded by Council Member Nowell to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Council Member Eliazar Posada
