



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

## Town of Carrboro

### Meeting Minutes

### Town Council

**Tuesday, June 9 and 11, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

**Remote Meeting**

**This meeting was held via Zoom teleconference and broadcasted live on cable television and the internet.**

**Present:** Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Jacquelyn Gist, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Damon Seils, Council Member Sammy Slade

**Also Present:** Cathy Dorando, Town Clerk; Brady Herman (June 9<sup>th</sup>), Town Attorney, Nick Herman (June 11<sup>th</sup>), Town Attorney

**Absent:** David Andrews, Town Manager

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### **POETRY READING**

Fred Joiner, the Town's Poet Laureate, read a poem by Mahogany Brown called, "Litany."

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### **AGENDA TOPIC DISCUSSION**

The Town Council decided to address the following items at a continued meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2020:

- Approval of Minutes for May 26, 2020
- Carrboro Tourism Development Authority (CTDA) FY 20-21 Budget Presentation
- Review of the Lloyd Broad Neighborhood Overlay District
- Community Climate Action Plan Modules Project

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Soteria Shepperson, owner of Johnny’s Gone Fishin’, shared her experiences in Carrboro as a black woman and read a poem that she wrote called, “Arrival.”

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 26, 2020**

This item was postponed until June 11, 2020.

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**AMENDMENT TO PROJECT ORDINANCE AND CONSTRUCTION  
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE BROAD STREET CULVERT REPLACEMENT**

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to appropriate additional funding from the Stormwater Enterprise Fund and authorization for the Town Manager to execute a construction contract to complete construction for the Broad Street culvert replacement.

**A motion was made by Council Member Seils, seconded by Council Member Foushee, to approve the following ordinance:**

**STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE FUND  
CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
FOR BROAD STREET CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
Ordinance No. 20/2019-20**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Carrboro on June 18, 2019 adopted a Capital Project Ordinance appropriating \$20,000 for preliminary engineering for the Broad Street Culvert Replacement at the Public Works Facility site, and amended the Ordinance to provide an additional \$30,000 on January 14, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, it is now necessary to obtain construction services to complete the project, estimated at \$135,775;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO THAT:

Section 1: Funding for the Broad Street Culvert Replacement Capital Project is authorized to be increased from \$50,000 to \$186,000 for this project until all activity is completed.

Section 2. The funding in Section 1 above is appropriated from the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund Operating Budget to the Storm Water Utility Enterprise Capital Project Fund.

Section 3: All other conditions and expectations set forth in the original capital project ordinance of June 18, 2019, as amended on January 14, 2020 continue to be in effect.

Section 4: The Town Manager is authorized to solicit and obtain construction contractual services to complete the project.

Section 5. Within five (5) days after this amendment is adopted, the Town Clerk shall file a copy of this ordinance with the Finance Director.

This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020

**Ayes:** Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Jacquelyn Gist, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Damon Seils, Council Member Sammy Slade

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**AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR LAVELLE TO SEND LETTER TO CHIEF JUSTICE BEASLEY TO REMOVE THE PORTRAIT OF THOMAS RUFFIN DISPLAYED IN THE COURTROOM OF THE NC SUPREME COURT AND THE STATUE OF THOMAS RUFFIN DISPLAYED IN THE NC COURT OF APPEALS**

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to endorse the request by the NC Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System and to authorize the mayor to send it on behalf of the Town Council.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR LAVELLE TO SEND A LETTER TO CHIEF JUSTICE BEASLEY TO REMOVE THE PORTRAIT OF THOMAS RUFFIN DISPLAYED IN THE COURTROOM OF THE NC SUPREME COURT AND THE STATUE OF THOMAS RUFFIN DISPLAYED IN THE NC COURT OF APPEALS. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL**

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**UPDATE FROM CHIEF SCHMIDT ON COVID-19**

Fire Chief David Schmidt provided the update. He was asked to help get the word out of where masks can be donated for future distribution. Council also asked that the Orange County Health Department provide an accurate and public dashboard as soon as possible and to provide information on transmission rates as they become available.

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**COMMENTS, DISCUSSION, AND REPORT FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT REGARDING DEFUNDING POLICE AND THE 8CAN'TWAIT POLICE REFORM REQUESTS**

Anna Richards, president of CH-Carrboro NAACP, spoke about the mistreatment and lynching of black persons in America and the need for a total rethinking of public safety. She stated that resolutions and commissions have not provided the results that are needed. She asked the Town Council to work on this.

Caleb Easterly, medical student at UNC School of Medicine, spoke on behalf of a group of medical students that formed to address the epidemic of police violence. He stated that the letter released by the Police Department did not state the names of the recent victims of police brutality and did not condemn the actions of the officers. He stated that the Police Department is the largest division of Carrboro local government and that their budget is scheduled to increase and that is unacceptable and inappropriate.

Police Chief Walter Horton provided comments to the Town Council in regards to the Police Department budget and his response to the requests to defund the police and the “8Can’tWait” policies.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SLADE TO START A CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW TASK FORCE TO REFORM/TRANSFORM POLICING, POST A LINK TO THE LATEST RACE AND POLICING REPORT AND THE RESPONSES FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY BIAS FREE POLICING COALITION, POSTPONE FILLING THE VACANT POLICE OFFICER POSITION, AND REQUEST THAT CHIEF HORTON PROVIDE THE TOWN COUNCIL WITH INFORMATION RELATED TO '8 CAN'T WAIT.' THERE WAS NO SECOND TO THE MOTION.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O’DONNELL FOR STAFF TO LOOK AT THE THREE DISTINCT THREADS OF CONVERSATION IN CARRBORO AND TO DISCUSS EACH OF THE THREE TO DEVELOP A GAME PLAN FOR EACH, AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. DEFINING LAW ENFORCEMENT AS IT CURRENTLY IS AND WHAT WE WOULD CHANGE AND WHY**

**2. BUDGET AND FUNDING**

**3 COMMUNITY PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY POLICING WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE THINK WE COULD GO –CAMDEN AND COMPTON**

**THERE WAS NO SECOND TO THE MOTION.**

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GIST, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAINE FOR A GROUP OF COUNCIL MEMBERS, SMALLER THAN A QOUROM TO GET TOGETHER TO LOOK AT WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID AND TO PULL SOMETHING TOGETHER FOR NEXT WEEK. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL**

Council Members Haven-O'Donnell, Seils, and Slade volunteered for this subgroup work.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SLADE, TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE TOWN MANAGER ABOUT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET, INCLUDING REASONS BEHIND THE PROPOSED INCREASE, AND A RANGE OF POTENTIAL OPTIONS TO DECREASE THE BUDGET, IF POSSIBLE. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, NOES ONE (LAVELLE)**

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**CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON HOW COVID-19 IS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING BLACKS, LATINOS, AND OTHER UNDERSERVED AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES AND ADOPTION OF ACTION STEPS**

The purpose of this agenda item was for the Council to continue the discussion from the June 2, 2020 meeting on how COVID 19 is disproportionately affecting Blacks, Latinos and other underserved and marginalized communities.

Council Member Foushee discussed the priorities that were submitted in the agenda packet. After discussion by Council the following motion was made.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL FOR EACH ITEM BELOW TO BE LISTED AS A PRIORITY OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND THAT FOR INITIAL STEPS TO BE TAKE ON ITEMS SHOWN IN BOLD:**

**Housing**

- **Direct financial assistance for housing/rental assistance and utility fees - TOC and County Housing departments, requesting CARES Act funds to assist with this effort**
- Affordable Housing Special Revenue Fund

**Public Health**

- **Consult with Health Department and see how we can support this - Support for health department COVID19 needs - need space and funding to expand testing access/other COVID-related activities especially for Carrboro residents.**
- Need more efficient data collection
- Access and provision of PPE - ongoing and should continue, giving priority to the most vulnerable and marginalized/underserved community members
- Access to free testing with expanded testing sites
- Identify and connect community members with readily accessible mental health services

### **Outreach/Education/Engagement**

- Outreach/Education/Engagement- multiple languages, intentional cultural sensitivity around language, values and perspectives. Everyone does not receive/process information the same way, meeting people where they are at is key. Need a strategic plan sooner rather than later

### **Additional Comments**

- **GARE Initiative - keep it fully funded and on track, no delays!**
- Engage in County Recovery Plan for more access to resources
- Police racial bias and equity efforts/Orange County Bias Free Policing Coalition - audit to assess potential for re-allocation of resources from policing—>address basic human needs and other root causes, criminal justice reform/debt fund
- Make housing and food a BUDGET PRIORITY - even if it means cutting other items
- **Investigate with Legal - Public benefit vs public charge rule - for those who are on track for a green card, what are implications?**
- Collaboration with non-profits when possible.
- **Another rounds of COVID Emergency - loans for minority businesses, grants, or training, Town Manager to work with staff with this**
- **Voter registration and education along with how to register for absentee voting to communications platform**

**STAFF SHOULD REPORT BACK BY JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> FOR THE CARES ITEM AND PROVIDE UPDATES AS THEY ARISE FOR OTHER PRIORITIES. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL**

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**MEETING CONTINUATION**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GIST, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL FOR THIS MEETING TO BE CONTINUED TO 7:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL**

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020 – ALL TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT**

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**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**This item was postponed until June 16, 2020.**

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**CARRBORO TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CTDA) FY2020-21 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to receive a summary of the CTDA budget.

Donald Strickland, chair of the CTDA, provided the update of the annual budget.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SLADE, TO ACCEPT THE REPORT. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL**

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**REVIEW OF THE LLOYD BROAD NEIGHBORHOOD OVERLAY DISTRICT PROVISIONS**

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to review information about how the overlay district provisions have been working.

Marty Roupe, the Town's Planning Administrator, provided the staff report. Police Chief Walter Horton, provided information about police calls for service in the neighborhood.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBE SLADE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, TO ACCEPT THE REPORT. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL**

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**COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN MODULES PROJECT**

The purpose of this item was to provide a report to the Town Council on the Community Climate Action Plan Modules Project and request approval for project implementation.

Laura Janway, the Town's Sustainability Officer, and Dr. Katie Veleta, provided the presentation of the modules.

**A motion was made by Council Member Gist, seconded by Council Member Foushee, to approve the following resolution:**

**A RESOLUTION RECEIVING A REPORT ON THE COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN MODULES PROJECT AND APPROVING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

WHEREAS, the Town Council has received a report regarding the Community Climate Action Plan modules project; and

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Carrboro Town Council that the Council receives this report on the Community Climate Action Plan modules project and approves implementation of this initiative.

This the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020

**Ayes:** Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Jacquelyn Gist, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Damon Seils, Council Member Sammy Slade

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY  
COUNCIL MEMBER SLADE, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE  
ALL**

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**Town Clerk**

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**Mayor**