



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

Town of Carrboro

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

September 1, 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 (Arrived at 8:00 PM)

Also Present: David Andrews, Town Manager; Cathy Dorando, Town Clerk; Nick Herman, Town Attorney

POETRY READING

Fred Joiner, the Town's Poet Laureate, read a poem entitled "I knew I Wasn't Poor" by Jan Beatty.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE

Council Member Foushee spoke the names of Jacob Blake, Brionna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Sandra Bland and stated that countless other black lives are injured or lost to police violence. She expressed the importance of voting in the November election and reiterated the point that Black Lives Matter. She stated that it is now the time for action and continued work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shelley Welch stated that she wants to know what steps have been made toward mediation between the Wildflower property that she owns and the Merritt Gravel Pit. She asked if there has been a survey or remediation plans for their damaged property. She asked for communication on what is happening on their property.

Nick Herman, the Town Attorney, stated that at this point he is unable to comment publicly on the matter but that anyone is able to make a public records request.

Kevin Poimboeuf stated that they have made public records requests and that the documents they are seeking have not been provided.

Nick Herman noted the process of public records request and noted that all documents that are disclosable will be provided.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 16 AND JUNE 23, 2020

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAINE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2020 AND JUNE 23, 2020. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, ABSENT ONE (SLADE)

CONSIDERATION TO CONTINUE THE USE OF FEDERAL AND STATE SEIZURE FUNDS

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to decide if the police department will continue to participate in the North Carolina Controlled Substance Act and Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program.

Council Member Seils noted that there is a state and federal seizure process and that he would be amenable to ending the Town’s participation in the federal Equitable Sharing Program.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O’DONNELL, TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM STAFF REGARDING THE FEDERAL SEIZURE PROGRAM BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ABOUT CONTINUING THE TOWN’S PARTICIPATION AND TO APPROVE OF THE TOWN CONTINUING TO RECEIVE REVENUE FROM THE STATE’S UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTANCES TAX. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, ABSENT ONE (SLADE)

CHANGES TO TOWN CODE FOR SOLICITOR’S PERMITS

The purpose of this item was to amend the Town Code regarding the solicitor’s permit because the process of conducting background checks for the permit needs to be changed.

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

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF CHAPTER 8
OF THE CARRBORO TOWN CODE
Ordinance No. 3/2020-21

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Town Council ordains:

Section 1. Article VII of Chapter 8 of the Carrboro Town Code (COMMERCIAL SOLICITATION) is rewritten and replaced with the new ARTICLE VII attached as “Attachment A” in the agenda packet.

Section 2. All provisions of any Town ordinance in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

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

Absent: Council Member Sammy Slade

APPOINTMENTS TO THE APPEARANCE COMMISSION, ARTS COMMITTEE, ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD, STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION, AND GREENWAYS COMMISSION

The Town Council postponed making appointments to these advisory boards until applications are received from Black/African-American applicants.

APPOINTMENT TO THE FINAL AT-LARGE SEAT ON THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

The purpose of this agenda item was for the Town Council to adopt a resolution appointing one at-large member to the Comprehensive Plan Task Force to fill a vacancy due to a previously

appointed member's resignation.

The following ballot votes were cast via email directly to the Town Clerk:

Lorie Clark – Lavelle, Foushee, Gist, Haven-O'Donnell, Seils, Slade
Gabriel Vinas – Romaine

The Town Clerk read that the applicant receiving the most ballot votes by email was Lorie Clark.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, TO APPOINT LORIE CLARK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, ABSENT ONE (SLADE)

MURAL UPDATE – END RACISM NOW

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to receive an update on the “End Racism Now” mural.

Trish McGuire, the Town's Planning Director, provided the staff report.

Quinton Harper stated that he wanted the mural to be upright and that he was disappointed that it did not say Black Lives Matter. He stated that he is against a mural being walked on, driven on, or parked on.

[Council Member Slade arrived at the meeting at 8:00PM]

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GIST TO HAVE STAFF LOOK INTO THE NCDOT MURAL LOCATION ON HIGHWAY 54 AND JONES FERRY ROAD AND FOR STAFF TO PROVIDE A LIST WHERE MURALS CAN BE INSTALLED QUICKLY WITH THE LEAST BUREAUCRATIC HOOPS TO JUMP THROUGH. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

Council Member Foushee noted that she likes the Carrboro Race and Equity logo and suggested that it could be used.

Council Member Gist stated that it is important to have free art space available to the public so they can express themselves.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell stated that she recommends the yellow “End Racism Now” in the parking lot if possible.

TOWN COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF CHANGING THE TOWN'S NAMESAKE

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to discuss the recommendations regarding the possibility of changing the Town's namesake from Julian Carr to another person that had the last name Carr.

Jim Porto stated that the cost will be minimal for the Town to change the name and that the Town can raise the tax rate by a cent to offset the cost. He stated that it should not be made after another Carr but rather a name that is befitting of the community. He asked that the Town Council use this as a time to set an example for the community.

Sydney Runkle stated that her attention has been called to local and nationwide racial justice. She stated that she is disappointed to learn that the Town is named after Julian Carr, a known racist. She stated that she would like to rename the Town with a different last name of Carr and suggested Johnnie Carr. She stated that she has started a petition with this name and that it has over 787 signatures at this time.

Deborah Gibbs stated that she is in approval of Johnnie Carr and that it would not be too costly for Carrboro businesses to change the name on their business information.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SLADE, FOR STAFF TO BRING BACK A LOGISTICAL AND COST COMPARISON SHOWING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHANGING THE NAMESAKE VERSUS CHANGING THE NAME. STAFF WAS ALSO ASKED TO CHECK-IN WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES TO SEE WHAT THE COST WOULD BE FOR THEM. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

A DISCUSSION ABOUT REPARATIONS INCLUDING THE DISPROPORTIONALITY OF TREES IN BIPOC (BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR) NEIGHBORHOODS IN CARRBORO

The purpose of this agenda item was for the Town Council to have an opportunity to discuss a topic that falls under the equity principle used in Carrboro's Town governance – reparations including the disproportionality of trees in BIPOC neighborhoods.

Anita Jones-McNair, the Town's Recreation and Parks and Cultural and Racial Equity Officer, provided the staff report.

The Town Council discussed this item and how zoning and governance decisions still impact life in Carrboro, including affordability and those who can afford to live in Carrboro.

The Town Council asked the Town Manager to schedule a work session to acknowledge the Town's past, where the Town is on matters of race in this country, and how to define reparations in the Town of Carrboro. This topic where it would be the only item discussed.

UPDATE FROM CHIEF SCHMIDT ON COVID-19

Fire Chief David Schmidt provided the report. He was asked to continue to share information as it becomes available.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

Town Clerk

Mayor