



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

Town of Carrboro

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

October 20, 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 Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Damon Seils, Council Member Sammy Slade

Excused: Council Member Jacquelyn Gist

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

EXCUSAL OF COUNCIL MEMBER GIST

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAINE TO EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER GIST FROM THE MEETING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, EXCUSED ONE (GIST)

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, TO AMEND THE AGENDA BY ADDING A CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE AS THE LAST ITEM ON THE AGENDA. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, EXCUSED ONE (GIST)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Proctor asked the Town Council to consider a pocket park at the Westwood Cemetery location. He stated that there is an area that has not been used for burial plots and asked for the Town to pause any additional selling of burial plots at that location until after Town Council can consider this request.

POETRY READING

Fred Joiner, the Town's Poet Laureate, read a poem composed by the 2020 Carrboro Poets' Council called "Home Song" written for the West End Poetry Festival.

STORMWATER UTILITY MONTHLY REPORT

The purpose of this agenda item was to provide the monthly update regarding Stormwater Utility projects and initiatives.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, TO ACCEPT THE REPORT. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, EXCUSED ONE (GIST)

FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

The purpose of this item was to provide the Town Council a monthly overview of calls for service.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, TO ACCEPT THE REPORT. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, EXCUSED ONE (GIST)

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

The purpose of this item was to provide Town Council with a brief overview of the monthly calls for service.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, TO ACCEPT THE REPORT. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, EXCUSED ONE (GIST)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT

The purpose of this item was to provide the regular monthly activities and status report for the Economic Development Department.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, TO ACCEPT THE REPORT. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, EXCUSED ONE (GIST)

CARRBORO REPARATIONS RESOLUTION PREPARED BY MAYOR LAVELLE AND COUNCIL MEMBER/MAYOR PRO TEM FOUSHEE AND A DISCUSSION ABOUT REPARATIONS PART II

The Town Council first discussed the draft resolution prepared by Mayor Lavelle and Council Member Foushee. After that discussion and before a vote, they requested that the Council move into the discussion of the second agenda item that was titled, “A Discussion About Reparations Part II.”

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

A motion was made by Council Member Foushee, seconded by Council Member Seils, to approve the following resolution and for Council Member Foushee and Council Member Haven-O’Donnell to work with David Andrews and Anita Jones-McNair to develop a charge for the Racial Equity Commission and to work with other jurisdictions that are doing similar work:

Resolution Supporting Reparations for Black Carrboro

WHEREAS, Black people have been unjustly enslaved, segregated and incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, Black people have been systematically excluded from historic and present private economic development, the awarding of government contracts, and other community investments and, therefore, Black-owned businesses have not received the benefits of these investments; and

WHEREAS, Black people have been denied housing and homeownership opportunities through zoning laws and other racist practices in the private real estate market, including redlining, steering, denial of mortgages, and gentrification leading to the displacement of residents in vibrant, historically Black neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Black people have been consistently impoverished by discriminatory wages and experience disproportionate unemployment rates and reduced job opportunities causing tremendous financial as well as psychological hardship; and

WHEREAS, Black people have been denied access to early childhood education and segregated from mainstream education, and have experienced unacceptably high K-12 discriminatory disciplinary practices and achievement gaps, and unacceptably low high school graduation and college matriculation rates; and

WHEREAS, Black people, in the past and the present, as made all the more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, receive inadequate and sometimes detrimental healthcare as can be seen in morbidity/mortality rates and life expectancies that result from the generational trauma of systemic racism and discriminatory treatment by medical professionals such as involuntary sterilization, denial of adequate testing and denial of preventative procedures; and

WHEREAS, Black people have been unjustly targeted by law enforcement and criminal justice procedures, leading to mass incarcerations; and

WHEREAS, Black people have for centuries been denied the right to vote through federal, state, and local voter suppression laws and other forms of voter intimidation; and

WHEREAS, industrial plants, highways, dumps, and municipal landfills have systematically been sited adjacent to Black communities, neighborhoods, and residences where they are exposed to environmental hazards that cause health disparities; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism was created centuries ago, will take time to dismantle, and this resolution is a first step in that process; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro affirms the dignity and humanity of each of our residents, and the right of every resident to be free from discrimination and harm caused by actions, speech, and attitudes due to their race; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro is committed to working to eliminate racial bias and racial disparity, build trust in government and other institutions, and create a more just and equitable world.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF CARRBORO:

1. Apologizes and makes amends for (what would later be named) Carrboro's participation in and sanctioning of the Enslavement of Black People.
2. Apologizes and makes amends for its abominable history of unjustly empowering white supremacists and even naming its town after one, and enforcement of segregation and its accompanying discriminatory practices.
3. Seeks to establish, within a year, a Racial Equity Commission that will be empowered to make short, medium and long-term recommendations that will make significant progress toward repairing the damage caused by public and private systemic racism, boosting economic mobility and opportunity, and creating generational wealth in the Black community.
4. Empowers the Commission to hold community conversations to educate the public on the mission of the commission and discuss implementation of the above recommendations.
5. Directs the Town Manager to give, at a minimum, a bi-annual update to the Town Council on the progress of work performed as it relates to this resolution.
6. Calls on the Truth Plaque Task Force to continue to uncover the truth and shine the light on centuries of institutional and systemic racism.
7. Supports and actively participates in the Government Alliance for Racial Equity, a national network to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all, and encourages town staff and Town Council to participate in racial equity training.
8. Calls on the state of North Carolina to begin policy making and enact a program to allocate funding for reparations to governments at the local level, healing some of the deepest wounds we face today and reaffirming our commitment to a more inclusive future.
9. Calls on the federal government to work toward the immediate enactment of the following policies and bills:
 - a. A program to provide reparations to the descendants of enslaved Africans sufficient to eliminate the racial wealth gap;
 - b. A program to provide a universal basic income to all citizens sufficient to meet each person's basic needs;
 - c. A program to provide a guaranteed federal or federally-funded living-wage job to all citizens;
 - d. An increase in the federal minimum wage to \$15/hr. or higher, with regular increases to account for increases in cost of living and inflation;
 - e. A program to provide universal health care;
 - f. H.R. 40, a bill to establish a federal Commission to Study and Develop Reparations for African Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Carrboro requests that the Town Clerk send copies of this resolution to N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore, N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, U.S. Rep. David Price, U.S. Senator Thom Tillis, and U.S. Senator Richard Burr, and any new officials elected to these seats in the November 3, 2020 general election.

This is the 20th day of October, 2020.

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

Excused: Council Member Jacquelyn Gist

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (A)(3) TO CONSULT WITH THE ATTORNEY REGARDING A MATTER OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, EXCUSED ONE (GIST)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SLADE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAINE, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, EXCUSED ONE (GIST)

Town Clerk

Mayor