



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

**Town of Carrboro**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Town Council**

**December 7, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers Room 110**

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

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

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**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE 2021-2022 TOWN COUNCIL**

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**SWEARING-IN OF MAYOR DAMON SEILS**

Mayor Damon Seils was issued the Oath of Office by N.C. State Senator Valerie Foushee.

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**SWEARING-IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER RANDEE HAVEN-O'DONNELL**

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell was issued the Oath of Office by Town Clerk Cathy Dorando.

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**SWEARING-IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER BARBARA FOUSHEE**

Council Member Foushee was issued the Oath of Office by Judge Joal Broun.

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46 **SWEARING-IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER DANNY NOWELL**

47  
48 Council Member Nowell was issued the Oath of Office by Mayor Damon Seils.

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52 **POETRY READING**

53 Fred Joiner, the Town's Poet Laureate, read his poems "To the Builders" and "Solidarity"  
54 from an anthology called "Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry".

55  
56 \*\*\*\*\*

57  
58 **RESOLUTIONS HONORING OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR**

59  
60 **A motion was made by Council Member Haven-O'Donnell, seconded by Council**  
61 **Member Foushee, that the following resolution be approved:**

62  
63 A RESOLUTION HONORING COUNCIL MEMBER JACQUELYN GIST

64  
65 WHEREAS, Jacquie Gist is fond of saying, "I wasn't born in Carrboro, but I got here as soon  
66 as I could," arriving on our nation's bicentennial, July 4, 1976; and

67  
68 WHEREAS, Jacquie was the first coordinator for the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service  
69 community shelter, was a program manager for The Arc of Orange County, was a founding  
70 board member of the Community Home Trust, and was a member of the UNC Campus Y  
71 and the APPLES Service-Learning advisory board; and

72  
73 WHEREAS, Jacquie has worked as a career counselor for her alma mater, the University of  
74 North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for most of her career, using her training in social work to  
75 assist students and student-led organizations; and

76  
77 WHEREAS, Jacquie served as a member of the Town Council for 32 years, having been  
78 elected in 1989 and subsequently re-elected seven times; and she was honored by the North  
79 Carolina League of Municipalities in 2019 for reaching the milestone of 30 years in local  
80 office; and

81  
82 WHEREAS, Jacquie represented the Town Council on the Carrboro Day Planning  
83 Committee, the Carrboro Vision 2020 Workgroup, the Carrboro-Chapel Hill Public-Private  
84 Partnership, the Centennial Celebration Planning Group, the Community Building  
85 Committee, the Community Home Trust, the End Homelessness in 10 Years  
86 Intergovernmental Steering Committee, the Facilitated Small Area Plan Steering Committee,  
87 the Greenways Summit, the Hogan Farms Facilitated Mediation Design Committee, the  
88 Landfill Owners Group, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Design Group, the OWASA-

89 Carrboro American Stone Neighborhood Facilitated Mediation Committee, the Rogers-  
90 Eubanks Facilitated Community Remediation Group, the Schools and Parks Workgroup, the  
91 Solid Waste Advisory Board, and the Violent Crime and Gun Control Task Force; and she  
92 was the Town Council’s liaison to the Animal Control Board of Appeals, the Appearance  
93 Commission, the Arts Committee, the Board of Adjustment, the Greenways Commission, the  
94 Human Services Commission, the Planning Board, the Recreation and Parks Commission,  
95 the Stormwater Advisory Commission, and the Truth Plaque Task Force; and

96  
97 WHEREAS, as a cofounder of Carrboro Day with Alderman Jay Bryan, Jacquie helped to  
98 bring the community together year after year to share art, music, poetry, and storytelling; and  
99 she further supported the arts by introducing resolutions establishing the Carrboro poet  
100 laureate, the Poets Council, and a paid summer apprenticeship in the arts for local young  
101 people; and

102  
103 WHEREAS, Jacquie called out injustices when she saw them and, as one example,  
104 introduced a resolution to thwart the expansion of the county landfill in the historically Black  
105 Rogers-Eubanks community; and

106  
107 WHEREAS, in December 1990, Jacquie introduced an amendment to the Town Code that  
108 added sexual orientation to the list of characteristics protected in the Town’s equal  
109 employment opportunity policy; and

110  
111 WHEREAS, Jacquie initiated the Town’s Truth Plaque Task Force to acknowledge the ties  
112 of the Town’s namesake to racial segregation, as part of a process of transforming the  
113 narrative of Carrboro and dedicating the community to a future of racial justice; and she  
114 asked that Black Lives Matter flags be flown at Town Hall in the aftermath of the George  
115 Floyd murder; and

116  
117 WHEREAS, as a long-time liaison to the Town’s Human Services Commission, Jacquie  
118 shined a spotlight on the important work of local nonprofit organizations in strengthening the  
119 community’s safety net and fueling the local economy; and

120  
121 WHEREAS, Jacquie often paid tribute to the Town’s police officers for working every day to  
122 ensure the safety of the community, and she also highlighted the critical role of social  
123 workers and mental health practitioners in community well-being; and

124  
125 WHEREAS, Jacquie had the foresight to encourage the Town to acquire the vacant property  
126 at 203 South Greensboro Street, which will become home to the Orange County Southern  
127 Branch Library and other vital cultural, recreational, and social services; and

128  
129 WHEREAS, Jacquie was a proponent of the acquisition and preservation of the 27-acre  
130 Adams Tract, another critical addition to the Town’s land bank; and

131  
132 WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jacquie recognized the strength and resiliency  
133 of the community as evidenced by “neighbors checking on neighbors, groups checking on  
134 groups, and the Town checking on everybody”; and from the beginning of the pandemic, she

has been a strong supporter of mask wearing, vaccination, and other important public health measures; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie championed Carrboro’s small-business community by supporting adequate parking and other infrastructure, revolving loan funds, and—during the pandemic—hundreds of thousands of dollars in emergency grants to help support the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie consistently encouraged residents to engage in local government through participation in advisory boards, Council-led listening sessions, and facilitated planning meetings; and she supported additional neighborhood outreach to find common ground on the design of the Martin Luther King Jr. Park, which she called “a living example of what can happen when each voice is listened to and neighbors are willing to work together to make sure no one is left out”; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie encouraged participants in the Carrboro Connects comprehensive plan process to embrace a vision of a “community of neighborhoods,” and she stressed, in particular, the importance of affordable housing for those transitioning out of homelessness, for those in the missing middle, and for everyone in between; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie has lived in Carrboro for the past 45 years and, with her husband, local builder James Arndt, has raised three stepdaughters—Britton, Shelby, and Quinn—all graduates of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools; she is a first-time grandmother to John Archer; and she is adored by many other members of her close-knit family and the broader community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby names the Town’s summer apprenticeship program in the arts the “Jacquelyn Gist Summer Apprenticeship in the Arts,” in appreciation for Jacquie’s 32 years of service and dedication to the Town of Carrboro; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council thanks Jacquie for bringing humor, historical context, and candor as she helped shape our community in innumerable ways over the past three decades; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby expresses its deepest gratitude to Jacquie for her service to the people of Carrboro; wishes her ongoing professional and personal fulfillment in her work with students at UNC-Chapel Hill; and looks forward to her continuing involvement in this “community of neighborhoods” that she cherishes.

This the 7th day of December, 2021.

**Ayes:** Mayor Damon Seils, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Rande Haven-O’Donnell, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Sammy Slade, Council Member Danny Nowell

A pre-recorded video with comments by Jacquelyn Gist was played.

**A motion was made by Council Member Foushee, seconded by Council Member Haven-O'Donnell, that the following resolution be approved:**

**A RESOLUTION HONORING MAYOR LYDIA LAVELLE**

WHEREAS, Lydia Lavelle has lived a life of public service, and by the time she found her way to Carrboro, she had served for a decade on the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission and on the Durham Recreation Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 and 2007, Lydia served as the chair of Carrboro's New Horizons Task Force, which aimed to foster better communication between the Town government and the residents of her neighborhood and other neighborhoods that had been newly annexed into Carrboro; and she later served on the Carrboro Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, Lydia is a lifelong learner and teacher and in her professional life is a member of the faculty of the North Carolina Central University School of Law, where she teaches state and local government law, sexual identity and the law, transgender rights, and social justice and gender law and policy; and

WHEREAS, Lydia served as an alderman of the Town of Carrboro for six years, having been elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, and then served four terms as mayor of Carrboro, after being elected in 2013 and re-elected in 2015, 2017, and 2019; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as mayor and alderman, Lydia represented Carrboro as a member of the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, the North Carolina Department of Administration's Commission on Inclusion, the Chatham-Orange Joint Planning Workgroup, the Orange County Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, the Orange County Intergovernmental Parks Workgroup, the Orange County Solid Waste Advisory Group, the Chapel Hill Public Transit Committee, and the Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Directors, and as the chair of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board; and she was the Town Council's liaison to the Affordable Housing Task Force, the Greenways Commission, the Planning Board, and the Recreation and Parks Commission; and

WHEREAS, Lydia takes pride in finding opportunities for Carrboro to shine as a leader among North Carolina municipalities and in modeling the way for her colleagues across the state; and

WHEREAS, Lydia worked with Carrboro resident James Williams to initiate the annual reading of Frederick Douglass's essay, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?"—which has become one of Carrboro's signature events by featuring dozens of community readers and presenting keynote addresses from prominent historical and legal scholars such as Professor Reginald Hildebrand, Professor Ted Shaw, Professor Blair Kelley, Professor April Dawson, Professor William Sturkey, and Professor Freddie Parker, and most recently from Associate

Justice Anita Earls and former Chief Justice Cheri Beasley of the North Carolina Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, for most of her last term as mayor, Lydia led the town through the COVID-19 public health emergency, working collaboratively with the mayors of Chapel Hill and Hillsborough and the chair of the Orange County Board of Commissioners to take a unified, countywide approach to keeping all our communities safe, sharing consistent and accurate information, and supporting the county health director and emergency services director in organizing an effective emergency response; and

WHEREAS, Lydia was the first and is so far the only openly lesbian person to serve as mayor in North Carolina, and for most of her time as mayor was the only openly gay or lesbian mayor in the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Lydia and her wife, Alicia Stemper, became the first same-sex couple to receive a marriage license in Orange County and celebrated their wedding in a public ceremony on the Town Commons; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Lydia led the charge among local governments in calling for repeal of the anti-transgender, anti-gay, anti-worker House Bill 2; and in the aftermath of that fight, she worked in coalition with statewide advocacy groups to help towns, cities, and counties across North Carolina adopt comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinances that now protect the rights of millions of North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, Lydia is a great advocate for the town and is deeply passionate about all things Carrboro, especially the music and poetry festivals, the Farmers' Market, the holiday celebrations and Pride parades, the ribbon cuttings, and other opportunities to celebrate the community and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Lydia was a strong and steady supporter of The 203 Project, which will add to the vibrancy and accessibility of downtown Carrboro as the home of the Orange County Southern Branch Library; and

WHEREAS, Lydia established the custom of inviting Carrboro's poet laureate to open each meeting of the Town Council, and at special events she often shared a poem of her own; and

WHEREAS, in October 2018, Lydia hosted Carrboro's first ever "mayor's roundtable," which featured a discussion among former Mayors Robert Drakeford, Jim Porto, Ellie Kinnaird, Mike Nelson, and Mark Chilton; and

WHEREAS, Lydia brought her lifelong love of sports into the mayor's office, most recently starting a student essay contest on "What Baseball/Softball Means to Me"; writing a "Play Ball Summer" proclamation for Carrboro; and celebrating the Centennial of the Negro Leagues; and she has never let her Town Council colleagues forget that she is a diehard fan of the NC State Wolfpack; and

WHEREAS, Lydia met regularly with elementary school students to talk about town government, she established the mayor's Youth Advisory Board, and to the delight of parents and coaches, she made a point of inviting local high school athletic teams to Town Council meetings to celebrate their achievements; and

WHEREAS, Lydia's colleagues on the Town Council describe her as "a gracious and inviting public servant who could be tough and tenacious when necessary"; "level-headed in her leadership" and having "successfully sustained an even keel through the most intense issues that the council has had to grapple with"; "thoughtful about community needs and values" and "a source of knowledge and support for council members"; "devoted to a collaborative process when problem solving"; "a strong advocate for Carrboro...and solid negotiator when representing Carrboro's interests at the county and interjurisdictional levels"; and "humble, down to earth, unpretentious—all qualities that really stand out in the world of politics"; and

WHEREAS, as another colleague said, "Lydia didn't understand that this was a part-time job. She did not stop. She was always available and worked full-time at being a mayor every week."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council wishes Lydia continued success as a teacher and mentor to future public servants, fun and happiness with family and friends on what will undoubtedly be her many upcoming trips to the beach, and great pride and pleasure riding her new e-bike all over Carrboro.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby expresses heartfelt thanks to Lydia for her service to the people of Carrboro, her optimism, and her example.

This the 7th day of December 2021.

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

Lydia Lavelle made outgoing remarks and thanked the Town Council for the resolution.

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#### **APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SLADE, TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER SUSAN ROMAINE TO THE MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE POSITION. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL**

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311 **APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT OF VOTES CAST AT THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021**  
312 **ELECTION**  
313

314 The purpose of this item is for the Town Council to consider approval of the Abstract of  
315 Votes Cast at the November 2, 2021 Election.  
316

317 **A motion was made by Council Member Foushee, seconded by Council Member**  
318 **Haven-O'Donnell, that the following resolution be approved:**  
319

320 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ABSTRACT OF VOTES CAST  
321 AT THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021 ELECTION  
322

323 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CARRBORO TOWN COUNCIL:  
324

325 Section 1. The Abstract of Votes Cast at the November 2, 2021 Election is hereby approved  
326 as follows:  
327

| Contest                       | Choice                 | Party | Total Votes | Election Day | One Stop | Abs Mail | Provisional |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------|-------------|--------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| TOWN OF CARRBORO MAYOR        | Michael Benson         |       | 378         | 230          | 135      | 13       | 0           |
|                               | Damon Seils            |       | 3,782       | 1,809        | 1,868    | 98       | 7           |
| TOWN OF CARRBORO TOWN COUNCIL | Barbara Foushee        |       | 3,748       | 1,808        | 1,833    | 101      | 6           |
|                               | Jacquelyn Gist         |       | 1,796       | 866          | 876      | 50       | 4           |
|                               | Randee Haven-O'Donnell |       | 2,038       | 975          | 1,013    | 49       | 1           |
|                               | Aja Kelleher           |       | 1,067       | 600          | 432      | 34       | 1           |
|                               | Danny Nowell           |       | 2,871       | 1,400        | 1,384    | 81       | 6           |

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331 Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.  
332

333 **This, the 7th of December, 2021.**  
334

335 **Ayes:** Mayor Damon Seils, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Barbara  
336 Foushee, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Sammy Slade,  
337 Council Member Danny Nowell  
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340

341 **ADOPTION OF 2022 MEETING CALENDAR**  
342

343 The purpose of this agenda item was for the Town Council to adopt their 2022 meeting  
344 schedule.  
345

346 **MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY**  
347 **COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, TO ADOPT THE 2022 MEETING**  
348 **CALENDAR AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE**



349 **ALL**

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352 **TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

353  
354 The purpose of this item was to allow the Town Council to consider committee assignments  
355 for 2022.

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357 **MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY**  
358 **COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, THAT THE FOLLOWING**  
359 **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS BE APPROVED. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL**

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361  
362 **Town Council Committee Assignments**  
363 **December 7, 2021**

| Town Advisory Boards   |   |
|--|---|
| Affordable Housing Advisory Commission                               | Seils                                       |
| Appearance Commission  | Seils                                       |
| Arts Committee   | Nowell                                      |
| Board of Adjustment  | Seils                                       |
| Climate Action Team  | Haven-O'Donnell, Slade                      |
| Community Safety Task Force  | Seils, Foushee, Slade                       |
| Economic Sustainability Commission                                   | Haven-O'Donnell, Romaine                    |
| Environmental Advisory Board   | Haven-O'Donnell                             |
| Greenways Commission   | Seils, Haven-O'Donnell                      |
| Human Services Commission  | Foushee                                     |
| Northern Transition Area Advisory Committee                          | Romaine                                     |
| Planning Board   | Nowell                                      |
| Racial Equity Commission   | Foushee, Haven-O'Donnell                    |
| Recreation and Parks Commission                                      | Nowell                                      |
| Stormwater Advisory Commission                                       | Slade                                       |
| Transportation Advisory Board  | Foushee                                     |
| Truth Plaque Task Force  | Romaine                                     |
| Youth Advisory Board   | Seils                                       |
| Intergovernmental Bodies   |   |
| Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Directors        | Seils                                       |
| Chapel Hill Public Transit Committee ("Transit Partners Committee")  | Seils, Haven-O'Donnell, manager's designee  |
| Chatham-Orange Joint Planning Task Force                             | Seils                                       |
| Community Home Trust Board of Directors                              | Foushee                                     |
| Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board | Seils (member), Nowell (alternate)          |
| Family Success Alliance Advisory Council                             | Slade                                       |
| Intergovernmental Parks Work Group                                   | Romaine                                     |
| North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition                         | Seils                                       |
| Orange County Climate Council  | Slade (member), Haven-O'Donnell (alternate) |
| Orange County Food Council   | Slade                                       |
| Orange County Local Government Affordable Housing Collaborative      | Romaine                                     |
| Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness Leadership Team        | Foushee                                     |
| Orange County Solid Waste Advisory Group                             | Seils, Haven-O'Donnell                      |
| Orange County Transit Plan Policy Steering Committee                 | Foushee                                     |
| Orange County Visitors Bureau Board of Directors                     | Seils                                       |
| Triangle J Council of Governments Board of Delegates                 | Haven-O'Donnell                             |

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402 **A RESOLUTION CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE COUNCIL**  
403 **MEMBER SEAT VACATED BY THE ELECTION OF MAYOR SEILS**  
404

405 The purpose of this item was to allow the Town Council to call a special election to fill the  
406 vacancy on the Town Council that was created upon Mayor Seils assuming the office of  
407 Mayor.  
408

409 **Motion was made by Council Member Nowell, seconded by Council Member Foushee,**  
410 **that the following resolution be approved:**  
411

412 A RESOLUTION CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE  
413 CARRBORO TOWN COUNCIL  
414

415 WHEREAS, Damon Seils was elected as Mayor; and,  
416

417 WHEREAS, Damon Seils' current term as Council Member does not expire until December  
418 2023; and,  
419

420 WHEREAS, the Council Member seat is now vacant; and,  
421

422 WHEREAS, the Charter of the Town of Carrboro requires that whenever a seat on the Town  
423 Council (other than that of the Mayor) becomes vacant that the Town Council decide to fill  
424 that seat by appointment or by calling a special election; and,  
425

426 WHEREAS, a special election shall be called by the Town Council by the adoption of a  
427 resolution pursuant to G.S. 163-287.  
428

429 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CARRBORO TOWN COUNCIL  
430 THAT:

- 431 1. A special election is hereby called for March 8, 2022 to coincide with the General  
432 Primary Election date.  
433 2. The filing Fee shall be: \$10.00.  
434 3. The filing period shall be: Beginning at noon on Wednesday, December 8, 2021  
435 and ending at noon on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.  
436 4. The Town Clerk is hereby authorized to work with the Orange County Board of  
437 Elections to ensure the success of the special election.  
438 5. The March 8, 2022 Town Council meeting is hereby cancelled.  
439 6. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.  
440

**This, the 7th of December, 2021.**

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

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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**Town Clerk**

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**Mayor**