



MINUTES

The Holly Springs Town Council met in a workshop session on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 in the Holleman Room of Holly Springs Town Hall, 128 S. Main Street. Mayor Pro Tem O'Brien presided, calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established as the mayor pro tem and four council members attended.

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem Tom O'Brien, Councilmen Dan Berry, and Peter Villadsen and Councilwomen Christine Kelly and Cheri Lee.

Council Members Absent: Mayor Sears

Staff Members Present: Randy Harrington, Town Manager; Linda McKinney, Town Clerk (recording the minutes); Daniel Weeks, Assistant Town Manager; Scott Chase, Assistant Town Manager; Cassie Hack, Director of Communications & Marketing; John Schifano, Town Attorney; Kendra Parrish, Director of Engineering; Daniel Colavito, Engineering; Aaron Leavitt, Engineering; Tim Athy, Engineering; Mary Hogan, Director of Finance; Corey Petersohn, Finance; Jeff Wilson, Director of IT; LeeAnn Plumer, Director of Parks and Recreation;

2. Workshop Overview

Staff Resource: Randy Harrington, Town Manager

Mr. Harrington gave an overview of the items on the agenda, and explained that if the meeting was running long, the last item could be tabled until a later meeting.

3. Non-Profit Grant Funding Process

Staff Resource: Linda McKinney, Town Clerk; Corey Petersohn, Finance

Linda McKinney, Town Clerk, gave an overview of how the non-profit grant funding was managed in FY2018-2019. Corey Petersohn outlined the applicable statutes and current best practices. Council was presented with three possible areas the grants could be focused on, and options for managing the program to best meet each of those focuses. Pre-evaluation questions were suggested, and a scoring system was presented for Council's consideration. Council's consensus was that they want the focus to be on 1. reflecting the joys of small town living; and 2. assisting local organizations. They would like a question to be added to the application that asks how the project reflects the Town's strategic priorities. They liked the hybrid approach, with more staff involvement in the pre-evaluation stages, and Council taking the final two steps in the decision process. Staff was taxed with bringing concrete suggestions back to Council on evaluation criteria and processes.

4. Citizen of the Year

Staff Resource: Linda McKinney, Town Clerk;

Linda McKinney, Town Clerk outlined the Citizen of the Year Committee's (CoYC) proposal for how the award should be handled going forward. Council discussed the proposal in light of the time of year and how soon HollyFest is. There was discussion of the steps the CoYC is taking to obtain nonprofit status and more transparency. There was discussion of the perception in residents' minds that the award was a Town award, and whether there is some education that could be done. Consensus was that things continue for 2019 as they have been, with the exception that the CoYC takes over all administrative and financial responsibilities, and Council

revisits the issue of the award's connection to Town events (HollyFest, Happy Holly Days Parade, Tree Lighting) in 2020 after the CoYC has had time to organize.

5. Stormwater Program

Staff Resource: Daniel Colavito, Engineering and Scott Chase, Administration

Daniel Colavito, Engineering, outlined the key components of the current stormwater fee structure and potential strategic considerations for a fee structure that may be more compatible with the growing needs of the Town's aging infrastructure. Considerations were raised around issues of the Town's role for repairing infrastructure on private property, fee equity, funding adequacy, and fee credits.

There was discussion around repairs on private property and how to evaluate whether the Town should/could make those repairs. There was understanding that most home owners do not have the funds available to make such repairs, but also that the Town cannot afford to pay for every project. A weighted set of criteria exists that gets a project put onto the waiting list for Town action, which includes such factors as, public safety, damage to Town infrastructure, and other issues that might move a project higher or lower on the list of funded projects.

Questions were asked about when a study could be done to see what the impermeable surface area in town is, and how much the Town should be charging to bring the program up to standard. It was suggested that this would be a good topic for the Council retreat.

Consensus was to get the consultant to map impervious surfaces and draft a plan for the program, and for staff to bring back to Council some ideas for fee credits and cost sharing, perhaps at the February retreat.

6. Holly Springs Road Update

Staff Resource: Randy Harrington outlined the issues around this complicated situation. There are a variety of factors that went into creating it: staff missed some opportunities to communicate; the plan was approved a decade ago, and people have forgotten, or did not know; there are DOT regulations involved; and the residents and businesses along the road have been impacted.

Kendra Parrish said that in 1999 it was established that our major roads would be 4-lane median-divided roads. Medians increase the carrying capacity of roads; provide pedestrians a place of refuge when crossing; provide space for landscaping; provide safe left turns; and reduce head-on collisions at left turns. The landscaping softens the hard surface of the road, and gives opportunities to display community character. But they are frustrating because people are used to turning wherever they want to, and then they suddenly have a barrier. There are questions about EMS access. This is not unique to our community – EMS deals with this all over. The benefits of medians usually outweigh the negative impacts.

From 1999 until around 2011, the major thoroughfares were identified as 4-lane median-divided roads. In 2011 the Comprehensive Transportation Plan was adopted. As development occurs this map is referenced. DOT does not require medians, but once you decide to put a median in, DOT has requirements on how to do it. For example, at 45 mph or less, openings in the median must be at least 1200 feet apart. There have been ongoing conversations with DOT on the turn into Earnie Lane.

When Downton subdivision came in, the subdivision next door came before Council and did not want interconnectivity. There was a lot of conversation about the roads. Council required that the developer build Inglesham over to Holly Springs Road for full connectivity. Savannah Place (currently under construction) will connect Tullich to Third Street and a drive to Burt. There is interconnectivity on the north side of the road. On the south side of the road, in the professional park, there was pushback in 2010 from the residential area nearby, and the interconnectivity was not built.

In 2010, the plan had the driveway note that the entrance could become “right in, right out” at the full buildout of Holly Springs Road.

Next Steps – Engineering has been in daily conversation with DOT. For Earnie Lane, if the developer conducted a study to see what the back up on Holly Springs Rd would be, to show what the queue distance would be, DOT would be open to evaluating what the impact of a left turn lane would be. If the numbers show that the line of vehicles does not back up as far as Earnie Lane during that time period, DOT could look at whether there is enough storage to warrant a left turn lane.

At this point Mayor Pro Tem O’Brien left the meeting (at 8:15 pm) and Councilman Berry was elected to chair the meeting in his absence.

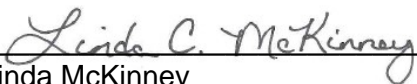
Options for next steps include a partnership for the TIA between the business association and the Town; or ripping out median which would cost around \$600,000. It is unknown whether DOT would consider a small cutback in the median to Earnie Lane. Staff was instructed to continue talks with DOT, while simultaneously talking with the business association for businesses on Earnie Lane to begin a traffic study.

7. Signal Maintenance and Fiber Future (tabled to a later meeting)

Staff Resource: Kendra Parrish, Engineering Director; Jeff Wilson, IT Director, & Scott Chase, Administration

8. Adjournment: There being no further business for the evening, Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Lee second by Councilwoman Kelly and passed with a unanimous vote. The October 8, 2019 meeting of the Holly Springs Town Council was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.



Linda McKinney
Town Clerk