



March 3, 2020

MINUTES

The Holly Springs Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 in the Council Chambers of Holly Springs Town Hall, 128 S. Main Street. Mayor Sears presided, calling the meeting to order at 7 p.m. A quorum was established as the mayor and five council members were present as the meeting opened.

Council Members Present: Mayor Sears, Councilmen Dan Berry, Peter Villadsen, Shaun McGrath and Aaron Wolff, and Councilwoman Christine Kelly.

Council Members Absent: none.

Staff Members Present: Randy Harrington, *Town Manager*; Daniel Weeks, *Assistant Town Manager*; Scott Chase, *Assistant Town Manager*; John Schifano, *Town Attorney*; Linda McKinney, *Town Clerk* (recording the minutes); Kathy White, *Deputy Town Clerk*; Cassie Hack, *Director Communications and Marketing*; Tamara Ward, *Communications and Marketing*; Mark Andrews, *Communications and Marketing*; Mathew Mutter, *IT*; Gina Clapp, *Director of Planning & Zoning*; LeeAnn Plumer, *Director Parks and Recreation*; Kendra Parrish, *Director Engineering*; Aaron Levitt, *Engineering*; Dirk Siebenbrodt, *Engineering*; Irena Krstanovic, *Director of Economic Development*; Seann Byrd, *Director Water Quality*; Patty Dressen, *Interim Director Finance*; John Herring, *Chief of Police*; and Leroy Smith, *Fire Chief*.

2. and 3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting opened with an invocation by Bishop Randy Adamson, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

4. Agenda Adjustment: The March 3, 2020 meeting agenda was adopted with changes, if any, as listed: none.

Motion by: Berry

Second by: McGrath

Vote: Unanimous

5. Public Comment: At this time, an opportunity was provided for members of the audience who had registered to speak to address the Council on any variety of topics not listed on the night's agenda. The following comments were recorded:

Joe Fanjoy, 109 Fairground Road, Holly Springs spoke requesting improvements to Grigsby Avenue. He said it was a big improvement to get the sidewalks that exist to get runners off the road. But he said he believes it is a substandard road for the amount of traffic it serves. He said it was a major thoroughfare, used by runners, people going to the Hunt Center and others, and he said it was too narrow. He also spoke about the Green bond projects and said he thought the Town should move forward with the Grigsby improvements.

6a. Oath of Office: Board of Adjustment Members Morgan Wiley and Jayson Greene; Planning Board Members Chris Deshazor and Van Crandall

Mayor Sears introduced the newly reappointed members of the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board. Linda McKinney, Town Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Wiley, Mr. Greene, Mr. Deshazor and Mr. Crandall.

7a. Public Hearing: Thales Academy Bond

Kristen Kirby of McGuire Woods, LLP, counsel for Thales Academy, said that Thales Academy desires to issue bonds not to exceed \$40,000,000 of Public Finance Authority Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds, series 2020. Per 26 U.S. Code §147(f) it is necessary for the school to have a public hearing and receive approval in principle from the “governmental unit having jurisdiction over the area in which any facility, with respect to which financing is to be provided from the net proceeds of such issue, is located.”

She said that the bonds will be used to refinance current debt and for capital building. She explained that this resolution creates no obligation for the Town of Holly Springs in relation to these bonds.

With that explanation completed, Mayor Sears opened the public hearing. The following input was recorded: none.

There being no input, Mayor Sears closed the public hearing.

Action: Motion to approve Resolution 20-06 approving in principle the issuance of bonds by Thales Academy.

Moved by: Kelly

2nd by: Berry

Vote: Unanimous

8. Consent Agenda

The Council approved a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried following a motion by Councilman Berry, a second by Councilman Villadsen and a unanimous vote. The following actions were affected:

8a. Minutes – The Council approved minutes of the Council business meeting held February 18, 2020 and the Council retreat meeting held February 21-22, 2020.

8b. Update to Standard Unit Cost Policy – The Council approved the updated Standard Unit Cost within the existing Infrastructure/Reimbursement/Surety Unit Price Requirement Policy P-002.1. *A copy of the updated Standard Unit Costs is attached to these minutes.*

8c. Amendment to Parks and recreation Committee Ordinance – The Council approved an amendment to the Parks and Recreation Committee Ordinance 18-05, to allow officers to be elected at the second regular monthly meetings of the new fiscal year. *A copy of the Amended Ordinance is attached to these minutes.*

NEW BUSINESS

9a. Holly Springs Express Bus Service

Aaron Levitt, Engineering, gave an overview of the presentation made to Council last November regarding bus service to Holly Springs. He said that Council asked at that time for other options. Staff worked with GoCary and GoTriangle, and they have drafted some other options to consider. He then introduced Eric Landfried of GoTriangle. Mr. Landfried gave an overview of the previous studies and planning efforts by Wake Transit. He said that fares to either Raleigh or RTP would be \$2.25 one way, \$4.50 round trip. He then outlined options considered by GoCary and GoTriangle for bus service to and from Holly Springs. He showed a map of Bus Routes 305 and 311, which go to Raleigh and RTP respectively, showing how the chosen route passes through the most densely populated employment centers. The original option had trips every 60 minutes during peak hours, required a transfer in Apex to get to Raleigh or RTP, and had stops at Holly Springs

Town Center and the downtown Village District, with a possible park and ride in the South Main Street area. This route would take 85 minutes from Holly Springs to Raleigh and require a transfer. Option A extends Route 305 from Apex to Holly Springs, making the trip to Raleigh a no-transfer option. Trips would be every 30 minutes during peak hours with stops at Ting Park and Holly Springs Road at Main Street. This route would take 70 minutes from Holly Springs to Raleigh. Option B would have trips every 60 minutes, have stops at Ting and Main St. at Center St. It would take 75 minutes to get to Raleigh and would not require a transfer. All three options require a transfer to go to RTP.

After discussions with staff, GoTriangle suggests a hybrid option, with the trips every 30 minutes, but stops at Main St. and Center (as well as Ting) to reach more residents who do not drive. Mr. Landfried said that the next steps will be revising the FY21 Wake Transit Work Plan by March 6th, holding public outreach events during the month of April, and taking the plan to the May 27th meeting of the GoTriangle Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

Council asked questions about how many stops would be on the route outside of Holly Springs and Mr. Landfried said that they were not set yet, but there are many employment centers along the route so it would be a local service, not express. He was asked about parking for the Village District bus stop and said that it was not a park and ride, and was meant for people who walked or biked to the bus stop. He said that the shelter at the Holly Springs Town Center would add travel time and hurt the service because of difficulties of turning left out of the center back on to Hwy 55.

Councilwoman Kelly asked why the cost was higher from Holly Springs than from Cary or Apex. Mr. Landfried said that it was because it was a regional service. There used to be separate fares for express fares and local service, but that is changing this summer. Local service within a municipality fares can be set by the municipality and can be lower, but regional service requires busses to go further from the garage, and the cost reflects that.

Mr. Landfried said that over 50% of their ridership uses the GoPass, which is an employer-subsidized fare. There is also a Youth GoPass for riders under 18; NC State offers a GoPass to their students; seniors ride free; people with disabilities ride for half fare.

Councilwoman Kelly thanked Mr. Landfried for doing the extra analysis and work to come up with new routes.

Mr. Landfried said once they implement mobile ticketing, one of the benefits is fare capping. Discounts are currently provided for people who ride a certain number of times per week or month. Fare capping would implement those caps automatically once a rider has met that number of trips while paying as they go. This would be available on mobile phones, but also on Smart Cards that could be reloaded with cash for the unbanked.

Councilman McGrath asked if an analysis of parking at Ting had been done. Mr. Levitt said staff was waiting for direction from Council but doesn't think there would be many improvements needed. Councilman McGrath asked if there was an accommodation for a bus to pull over on Main Street to avoid backing up the traffic that is currently on Main Street. Mr. Levitt said there could be fewer cars on the road once we have bus service, and there were solutions that could be explored to avoid that problem. Mr. Landfried said GoTriangle would work with staff to identify a place where the bus could lay over between runs. But loading times are usually no more than 30 to 60 seconds, so the delay at the stop itself would be minimal. They will work with the Town to discover a place for layovers.

Councilwoman Kelly asked about public outreach. Mr. Landfried said it would be a combination of education and receiving feedback on what people want to see. They would like Council's blessing to bring one option forward to the public. He outlined the public outreach that GoTriangle would do in April. He also said that in order to start service in August, they need to take the plan to the GoTriangle Board of Trustees in May.

Action: Motion to recommend GoTriangle move forward with Hybrid of Option A and B.

Motion by: Villadsen

Second by: Wolff
Vote: Unanimous

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Sears gave an update on crosswalk safety and speeding.

Councilman Villadsen asked for an update on the sidewalks on Main St. to Ting. Kendra Parrish, Director of Engineering, said that Public works has begun work and staff will update Council in a Friday briefing memo.

Councilwoman Kelly thanked staff for an excellent retreat and for recent events, including the blood drive, pancake breakfast, and the polar plunge. She said she likes how staff is reaching out to the community and believes the community appreciates it.

Councilman McGrath said that he met with Councilwoman Kelly to start the landfill engagement group and will work to engage with the County Commissioners.

11. MANAGER'S REPORT

Randy Harrington, Town Manager, said that there was a reported case of the Covid19 Corona virus in Wake County. He said the Town is taking it seriously and monitoring it closely. He referred residents to Wakegov.com which has much helpful information for the community.

He then thanked the Mayor and Council for a great retreat, and for the great feedback staff received from them.

12. CLOSED SESSION: The Council entered into closed session, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss an economic development incentive agreement, and pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(9) to discuss public safety preparedness. No action was taken.

Motion by: Berry
Second by: Villadsen
Vote: Unanimous

13. Adjournment: Councilman McGrath made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm. It was seconded by Councilman Berry and passed with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted on Tuesday, April 7, 2020.



Linda C. McKinney, Town Clerk

Addenda pages as referenced in these minutes follow and are a part of the official record.