

Cheryl Stallings

Apex Town Council
Improving Quality of Life for Our Community



Hello Neighbors and Friends –

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well, and enjoying our beautiful weather. We continue to make progress with the vaccine roll-out, and kudos to all who have been able to get their shot(s). Every North Carolinian age 16 or older is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and nearly 50% of adults in our state are at least

partially vaccinated. For those still needing vaccines, find a [spot and take your shot](#).

Effective today (Friday, April 30 at 5 pm), a new Executive Order from Governor Cooper goes into effect. Face coverings are now not required in outdoor settings. Read more about Executive Order 209 [here](#).

Town Council Meeting News

April 13th meeting – [Agenda](#) and [YouTube video](#).

As for meeting highlights, we began with two proclamations. We honored National Telecommunicator Week and Earth Day. Additionally, we approved public hearings for the April 27th meeting as well as new members and appointments on the [Environmental Advisory Board](#).

We also annexed some properties into the Town's corporate limits (on Jessie Drive and then Jordan Lutheran Church on Chapel Ridge Road).

In an effort to address street and sidewalk improvements, Council plans to move forward with a bond order authorizing the issuance of up to \$42 million subject to the approval of voters in the upcoming November 2021 election. Our Finance Director, Mr. Vance Holloman, is working on this and provided an update to Council.

Mr. Holloman is also working on the Town's Customer Assistance Program in an effort to help those experiencing financial hardship with their utility bills. Western Wake Crisis Ministries (WWCM) has agreed to assist the Town in determining eligibility of customers. The Town will appropriate funds to provide assistance to eligible customers and pay WWCM their administrative costs as well. Additionally, our "[Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#)" program is a direct way to assist others in need with utility bills if you would like to participate.

And finally, Council had a Work Session to discuss the impact of new residential development on school capacity (given a number of our schools are getting capped). Staff, Wake County Public School officials, and some members from the development community were present. Council is trying to be careful and mindful of the pace of residential growth and the impact on our infrastructure. We will be continuing these conversations as we work toward solutions. We have two new elementary schools coming (Friendship Elementary and a new school on the Depot 499 project), but capacity concerns remain.

April 27th meeting – [Agenda](#) and [YouTube video](#).

This was a long meeting filled with a number of agenda items. We had presentation updates on transit plans and services ([GoApex Route 1](#)), as well as a proposed columbarium wall at the Apex Town Cemetary (given there are essentially no more burial plots available).

There were two proclamations (Municipal Clerks Week and Arbor Day), as well as a presentation about our [Apex Sculpture Walk](#). We have several sculptures in our downtown area that will be there for approximately one year for the public to enjoy!





A Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing and possible motion for a major site plan for [Felton Grove High School](#) on Stephenson Road involved a lengthy discussion between representatives for the Wake School System and the owner of a nearby mobile home community, Briarwood Farms. The residents and owner of Briarwood Farms are concerned about traffic impact and related safety concerns for their children at play in the neighborhood with the school nearby. There is also a yard waste landfill to the south of the school property. I asked a lot of questions at the hearing, and Council was assured the project firmly met our UDO requirements for a school to be on this site. Given that Apex is projected to have a 1400-seat deficit in our schools in the near future, I voted for the school project to move forward. The project was denied with a 3-2 vote.

Because of this school capacity need being denied, I could not then vote for the rezoning application for the [Hackney PUD](#). The applicant for this project worked very hard to provide a number of conditions related to fewer homes, affordable housing, solar panels, and tree replacements. However, because of the continued concerns with school capacity, the applicant and Council agreed to postpone a final decision for about six months, in hopes that we can work out some better solutions with our school needs.

In economic development news, our [Cash Corporate Center](#) just welcomed our first business tenant to our new industrial park! [EnviroFlight](#) is a leader in sustainable insect ingredients designed for animal and plant nutrition. They will have their headquarters in Apex and will hire about 40 people.

We continue to have much business interest in the Cash Corporate Center, and hope to share more good economic development news soon!

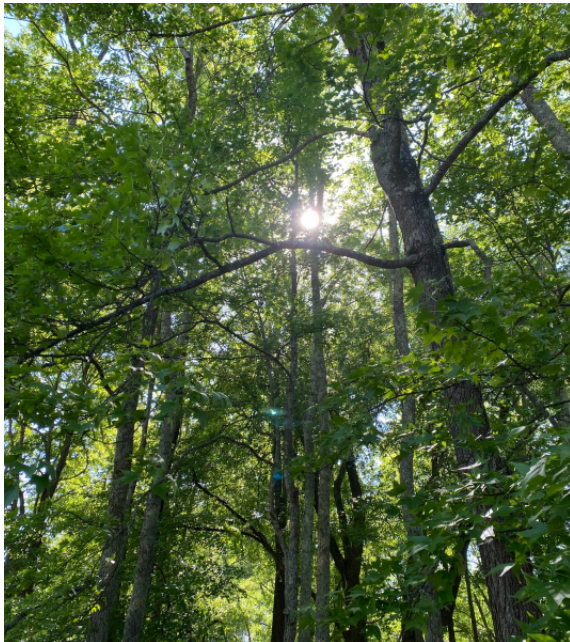
Other Meetings, Community Events, and Outreach

On April 13th and 14th, I attended 2 listening sessions with members of our police department. These sessions are part of our [action plan](#) associated with the recent cultural assessment of the department. Council wanted to give officers and staff a chance to present their perspectives about the assessment as we move forward together in the work of building stronger internal culture and equitable public safety services for our community.

We continue to meet to discuss the 2021-22 [budget](#). We had another meeting on April 22. We welcome any feedback from the public as we continue to work through this process.

Council is also in the final stages of hiring a new Town Manager. We have been interviewing finalists (April 29 and April 30), and hope to have an announcement soon. Our new Town Manager will assist us in the selection of our new Police Chief (and this vacancy has been officially announced).

And finally, Happy Arbor Day! Thanks to the Town of Apex for planting trees at our Clairmont Park today!



In closing, best wishes to you all in the coming month. I look forward to more of us getting vaccinated so we can get our schools, businesses, faith communities, and cultural and recreational programs back open and back on track for a healthier 2021. Feel free to stay in touch and let me know if I can offer assistance to you. Stay safe and well. – Cheryl

[Our Vision](#)

- A community unified in the stewardship of our small town charm, natural environment, and a future where all succeed.

Our Mission

- Provide exceptional public service that cultivates opportunity for the individual and community to live, thrive, and reach their peak.

Strategic Goals

- High Performing Government
- Healthy & Engaged Community
- Environment Leadership & Responsible Development
- Economic Vitality
- Safe Community with Reliable Infrastructure

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