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Subject: Town Council Update from Cheryl - August 2020 Edition
Date: August 16, 2020 at 7:44 PM
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Cheryl Stallings

Apex Town Council
Improving Quality of Life for Our Community



Hello Neighbors and Friends –

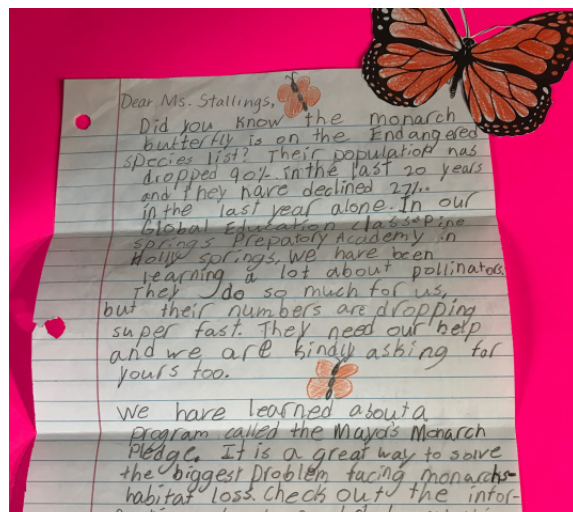
I hope you all continue to be safe and well. Thanks to all of you who are supporting each other in our town and beyond. If you need assistance, please reach out to a family member, friend, or me and we will try to offer help or connect you with someone who can assist.

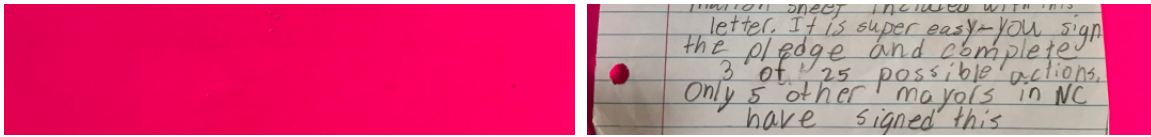
Work on the Town Council continues to be enjoyable and busy. I very much appreciate all the hard work our Town employees do on a daily basis to serve our community well - even during pandemic times. I will share some highlights from the past month. You can always find comprehensive information about our departments, services, committees, plans, projects, and upcoming meetings on the town [website](#).

Town Council Meeting News

Given we did not meet the first Tuesday in July due to the holiday, Council had a full agenda on July 21st. Before the official Council meeting, we were updated by Staff on several Department of Transportation (DOT) projects in a work session. Due to a lack of current funding, a number of projects are being delayed unfortunately. You can still report DOT roadway concerns related to debris or pothole repairs for example at their [website](#).

At the Council meeting, we voted to approve a resolution designating Apex as a Bee City USA affiliate. We have an official Bee City Committee now in Apex that is made up of Staff member David Wood and five citizens. This group will work to raise awareness of the role pollinators play in our community and how we can work to provide a healthy habitat for them. Mayor Gilbert also has plans to sign on to "[The Mayor's Monarch Pledge](#)" that is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. This effort will also be managed by our Bee City Committee as we work to raise awareness and create healthy habitat for the monarch butterfly, currently an endangered species. More to come on this work in the fall, and we thank Ms. Thompson's 3rd grade class from Holly Springs in bringing the monarch pledge and project to our attention!





On another environmental topic, Council also voted to adopt a resolution supporting clean water and continued monitoring, testing, and removal of contaminants (regulated and unregulated) to make sure we have safe drinking water in Apex. This resolution supports the City of Greensboro and the NC Department of Environmental Quality in their efforts to address issues related to unregulated contaminants such as 1,4-dioxane. As noted in the resolution, Greensboro is in the Haw River Basin, which conveys into a portion of Jordan Lake. The Town of Apex water intake is about 6 miles upstream of the Haw River confluence and in a different portion of Jordan Lake than the Haw River Basin conveyance. Our Water Resources Department will be monitoring this issue carefully.

In development news, Council spent a good amount of time discussing [Depot 499](#), which will be a significant mixed-use project on the Poe Farms property in the vicinity of old US1, 540, and Apex Barbecue Road. This 200-acre property will have a mix of commercial space to contribute to our town's economic development, single family homes, townhomes, and apartments that will be built out over about 10 years.

I met with this development team three times over the past few months and worked with them on integrating a number of important components into this project. Homes will be pre-wired for solar with some homes having solar panels, and there will be an elementary school on the site (750-student capacity which will help relieve current school crowding issues). Walkability and connectivity will be addressed throughout the project as will green spaces and significant tree replantings (which will work to address net tree canopy preservation). Affordable housing will be integrated within this project, and South Salem Street will be widened to four-lanes as well.

Our meeting on August 4th was much briefer with more routine business and annexations. We did approve a public mural that will be located on a

and annexations. We did approve a public mural that will be located on a wall of the public works building facing Highway 55. We also received an update on other initiatives by the [Apex Public Art Committee](#).

Construction Project Updates

With a number of construction sites in Apex, I wanted to provide an update on the Community Center Expansion/Senior Center (on Hunter Street), Pleasant Park (on Pleasant Plains Road), and the Electric Office Facility (on Mt. Zion Church Road). Council gets regular updates with these projects, and I am happy to report all are on schedule. You may recall that the Community Center Expansion/Senior Center and Pleasant Park projects are receiving funding through the 2017 Parks Bond that was approved by voters. The community center is scheduled to be completed at the end of January 2021 (with approximate move-in date March 2021). Pleasant Park is scheduled to be completed in 2022, and the Electric Office Facility is scheduled to be completed at the end of this current year (with approximate move- in date March 2021 as well).



Senior Center



Pleasant Park



Electric Facility

Community Events and Outreach

On July 27th, I attended the monthly Zoom discussion group of “Because It Matters”, which is organized and hosted by [Western Wake Crisis Ministries](#) (WWCM). As many of you may know, WWCM works to help us create a healthy, hunger-free, and housing-stable community. The July topic focused on unemployment and underemployment during the pandemic.

Thanks also to Pastor Harvey of Ambassador Presbyterian Church in Apex who invited Council members to a unity prayer event on August 1st. Several local clergy, vocalists, and residents gathered outside on the church grounds to pray for our community, race relations, our police department, and elected officials.

If you are able and would like to assist others in the community who are having difficulty paying their utility bills, you can participate in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program. [Find out more here.](#)

Our County Commissioners have also approved a program called WakeHELPS, which is also designed to assist with utility bills for eligible households. Read more [here.](#)

It is still not too late to complete the 2020 Census if you have not done so! Census results will shape our town, state, and country for the next decade. It is critical that every person be counted to ensure that we have just representation and fair funding. If you did not receive a mailed questionnaire, you can complete the Census [online here.](#)



Housing Affordability

We have a housing affordability study underway in Apex, and there will be opportunity for public input and review along the way. A number of households in Apex are cost-burdened, which means more than 30% of annual income is spent on home (mortgage or rent) and utility payments. We are in Phase One of the study now, and welcome your input via a community survey. The survey is open through August 31st, 2020. Learn more [here](#).

Best wishes to you all in the coming days. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at cheryl.stallings@apexnc.org. Feel free to share my newsletter with others, or have your friends send me a request to be on the distribution list. Take care - 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

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