

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. Thanks to everyone who is following the advice from our county, state, and federal health officials with vaccinations and the 3 W's as we continue to work toward mitigation efforts with COVID. I know it has been a long 17 months. Thank you for being good neighbors to one another, and

for doing your part. Your efforts are much appreciated. For those needing information about COVID vaccinations, the NC Department of Health and Human Services can provide you with comprehensive details at www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov.

August was a busy month for the Town Council. Here is a summary from our three meetings.

Town Council Meeting News

August 4th – Special Meeting – [Agenda](#) and [YouTube](#) Video.

This meeting was a special public hearing to gather public input and make some final decisions with our downtown plan. Here are the decisions that were made:

- Saunders Lot Option “A” was approved (3-2), which will cut down the tree in the current green space and allow for an additional 27 parking spaces. Council Member Mahaffey and I voted against this measure, as we wanted to allow the tree (although stressed) to live as long as possible.
- Commerce Street clean-up. About 2/3 of the parking spaces will remain private for employees or business owners. The utility wires will be relocated and trash/recycling bins consolidated or screened in. The other 1/3 of the parking spaces are planned for public use (either for public parking or some type of gathering space). Approved 5-0.
- Seaboard Street clean-up. None of the parking spaces will remain private for employees or business owners. The utility wires will be relocated and trash/recycling bins consolidated or screened in. There will be more space for public gathering. I voted against this measure because I was concerned about parking access for store employees and owners. Passed 4-1.
- Peak Alley clean-up. Approved 5-0.
- Creation of a Saunders Street Public Gathering Space. Passed 5-0.

- Salem Street Option "B". This option leaves 10 parking spaces on Salem (down from the current 30). Two spaces will be for drop-offs, and 8 spaces will likely be for short-term parking / access options to downtown businesses. In my view, this option was a compromise to help accommodate access to our businesses (in general but also on inclement weather days), and to help accommodate residents/patrons with mobility needs. This option also allows for street trees and more outdoor dining possibilities. (Approved 4-1).



Salem Street Option "B"

- Curbs versus Curbless on Salem. The curbless design passed 3-2. I voted for a curbless design with bollards because this will better accommodate people with mobility needs and strollers.
- We also discussed the possibility of a solar canopy for the Saunders Street parking lot. Several of us (including me) were concerned about the cost, and we asked Staff to explore this option in more breadth and depth, and report back when more information has been gathered. Approved 4-1.
- Remaining Items: Approved pavers, Smart trash cans, a traffic signal upgrade, and lighting enhancements for Salem Street. Passed 4-1.

August 10th – [Agenda](#) and [YouTube](#) Video.

This meeting was relatively brief as we approved motions for public hearings for our August 24th meeting, approved appointments to the Vision Zero Apex Steering Committee (efforts aimed at zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries), and approved a new Remote Work Policy for eligible Town employees. We also approved a couple of annexations, which will allow residents to access Town water and sewer services. And finally, we approved amendments for the opening and closing times for various parks, greenways, and shelters to help maximize opportunities for our residents to get out and enjoy the outdoors. For example, some of our parks are now opening at 6:30 am and closing at 10:00 pm.

August 24th – [Agenda](#) and [YouTube](#) Video.

Our meeting began with a Medal of Honor presentation to Captain Scott Pearson of the Apex Fire Department. He led the rescue effort of a couple in Haddon Hall, whose home caught fire on May 20th, 2021. We give thanks for Captain Pearson, as well as other first responders and Haddon Hall neighbors who provided emergency services that day.



Photo Credit: Apex Fire Department



On our Consent Agenda for this meeting, we had some routine business items to review and approve such as meeting minutes, encroachment agreements, and tax reports. We also approved Special Event Permits for the American Legion Oktoberfest & Car Show on October 30th, and the Apex Chanukah Festival on November 28th. Additionally, we approved a Vaccine Incentive Policy for Town employees, an updated Personal Use of Social Media Policy for Town Employees, and an ordinance prohibiting the possession of venomous and exotic dangerous animals within the Town limits.

In public hearings, Council did approve two rezoning applications. One was the [Hackney Planned Unit Development](#) on Olive Chapel Road. This will be a neighborhood with 100 single family homes and 133 townhomes. The developer will preserve as much natural habitat as possible, replace trees of a certain size, install solar conduits, install solar panels on two model homes and the pool amenity building, and provide 10 of the townhomes as more affordable home units as part of our housing affordability work for the town.

We continue to collaborate closely with Wake County Public Schools on capacity issues in our community. Even though we have three elementary schools and a STEM charter school coming to Apex, we still need to monitor this situation carefully for our resident families with school-age children. In an effort to potentially influence capacity issues to some degree (by possibly targeting homebuyers without school-age children), the developer has also committed to having 25% of the single family homes with primary bedrooms on the first floor.

The second project approved was the [Evans Road Planned Unit Development](#), which will include approximately 115 units – 65 single family homes and 50 townhomes. This project will provide solar conduits on the homes, and preservation of natural habitat to the fullest extent possible. A donation to a tree conservation fund will be made for the trees that are removed and cannot be replaced on the property.

To help address affordability in Apex, the developer will donate to our affordable housing fund and will make approximately 15% of lots smaller. Twenty-five percent of the single family homes will also have primary bedrooms on the first floor. There will also be some infrastructure improvements provided (sewer and water) to the project, better entrances and exits to the property, and improved pedestrian crosswalks across Humie Olive Road for Apex Friendship students. There will also be at least 2 historical markers on play lawns that describe the legacy and history of the Friendship community.

Other Information, Community Events, and Outreach

I had the pleasure of attending The Friendship School Historical Marker Dedication on August 22nd. It was a very meaningful community event to gather and honor the history of this Rosenwald School in our midst. Thanks to the many organizers, participants, and alumni who attended this special event.





In closing, best wishes to you all in the coming month. Thank you for your persistence in helping our community be the best that it can be in these challenging times. Feel free to stay in touch 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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