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Subject: Town Council Update from Cheryl - May 2020 Edition
Date: May 9, 2020 at 9:12 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 are safe and well as we continue to work together in managing the public health, public safety, and economic impacts of COVID-19. I appreciate your words of support and concern for our community over the past several weeks, as well as your many continued acts of

kindness and generosity shown to one another.

As many of you know, the Town of Apex falls under the [State executive order](#) issued by Governor Roy Cooper that eases restrictions associated with the original stay-at-home order in a [three-phased approach](#) that began May 8th. Here is more information that explains what has changed, and what has remained the same:

[Side-by-Side Comparison](#) - What changes in Phase 1?

North Carolina's Phase 1 FAQ's

I am committed to collaboration with the Mayor, Town Council, Town Staff, and County and State officials as we make data-driven decisions on behalf of the Town of Apex. Council members continue to receive daily updates from Town Manager Havens based on his conference calls with Wake Emergency Management officials. We receive current data on confirmed cases of COVID-19, fatalities, and hospitalizations as well as information on PPE supplies and testing plans. Information regarding the Town's response to COVID-19 is frequently updated on our website: <https://www.apexnc.org>.

In other areas, you may have heard that the Town Council recently appropriated 1 million dollars to launch our emergency loan program for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Council and Staff have been working diligently on this initiative for several weeks, in an effort to support our local business owners and their employees. The loan program officially launched on May 4th and will be administered by the NC Rural Center. Learn more at <https://www.apexnc.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=434>.

At the April 7th Town Council meeting, Council asked Staff to contact the non-profit agencies that provide services to our community, and that the Town currently supports. We wanted to see how they were managing during the pandemic and to ask if they were in need of assistance. Staff identified four non-profit agencies providing essential services and reached out to them – Western Wake Crisis Ministry, White Oak Foundation, Transitions Life Care, and SafeChild. After speaking with the agencies, they identified a list of needs and requests. At the April 21st Council meeting, the following funding appropriations were approved:

- Western Wake Crisis Ministry – \$20,000 with Apex as a leading partner in creating a Family Recovery Fund. These monies will be used to help families in the western and southwestern regions of Wake County who are facing housing, food, and financial instability due to COVID-19.
- White Oak Foundation – \$5,200 to fund loading and delivery equipment, supplies and PPE; and funds for crisis intervention.

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- Transitions Life Care – \$7,300 to fund PPE for workers including masks, gowns, face shields, and gloves.
- SafeChild – \$4,000 to fund an immediate need for a mobile interview recording system to provide services during the pandemic and thereafter.

In addition to COVID-19 management and intervention, Council has been meeting with Staff as we plan the upcoming '20-'21 Town operating budget. Our staff and finance team is strong, and Apex is in a fiscally healthy position. We continue to maintain our AAA bond rating. With that said, however, we will plan the upcoming budget carefully given the full economic impact of COVID-19 is still unknown. The Town's operating budget is approximately 150 million dollars. The NC Local Government Commission recommends that local governments maintain at least 8 percent of expenditures as a fund balance. Apex works to maintain at least a fund balance of 25 percent of expenditures. Our estimated fund balance as of June 30, 2020 will be about 37 percent of our '20-'21 expenditures. These financial reserves are available for unanticipated events and capital expenses.

Apex is also moving forward on an affordable housing plan! This project is just beginning, and we would love your input and involvement. Read more here:

<https://www.apexnc.org/1422/Affordable-Housing-Plan>

As I close this month's newsletter, I want to pause and acknowledge those who have been infected with COVID-19, and those lives lost to the virus.

Additionally, many milestones and events are being celebrated in different ways these days. Congratulations on those birthdays and anniversaries. College graduates, we are proud of you and your many achievements. Teachers (Teacher Appreciation Week: May 4-8) and nurses (National Nurses Week: May 6-12), you are critically important to the well-being of our communities. And then mothers and mother figures (Mother's Day: May 10)

communities. And then, mothers and mother figures (Mother's Day, May 10),
...well, you are the essential heart and soul that binds so many families,
neighborhoods, and communities together through your diligent work,
advocacy, kindness, and love.

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.
Physically distancing, socially connected, we are Apex Strong. - Cheryl



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