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Apex Town Council Improving Quality of Life for Our Community



Hello Neighbors and Friends -

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well, and I hope you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. Here are some Town Council highlights from the month of November.

Town Council Meeting News

November 9th - Agenda and YouTube Video

Our Consent Agenda for this meeting had a number of motions for setting public hearings for the November 23rd meeting.

In other news, Mayor Gilbert appointed residents to serve on the Planning Board, and Council approved Special Events Permits for the Apex Annual Tree Lighting and Apex Rotary Christmas Parade which is scheduled for this Friday, Dec 3rd and Saturday, Dec 4th.

Another item to note is that Council approved a construction contract for Public Safety Station #36, which will be located on Wimberly Road in Apex. You can read more here.

The official grand opening of our Senior Center took place on November 1st. This expansion of our Community Center now offers dedicated space for senior programming and those with special needs. The facility has a welcoming reception area, an exercise area, an arts and crafts space with a kiln, multi-purpose meeting rooms and classrooms, and a catering kitchen. In addition to funding from the 2017 Parks Bond, the Town also secured \$100,000 from the State of North Carolina Revitalization and Economic Development Program to help fund this project. At our November 9th Council meeting, we ratified a resolution to name the Senior Center Lounge in honor of Mayor Pro Tem Dozier because of her vision and leadership in seeing this project come to fruition.



Photo Credit: Town of Apex







In public hearings, Council approved some amendments to our Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map and our Transportation Plan in the vicinity of New Hill Holleman Road and Richardson Road. These amendments are intended to align plans with neighboring jurisdictions and improve connectivity with future roadway plans.

Council also approved the renaming of "Lynch Street" to "Justice Heights Street". Concerns about the name "Lynch Street" had

been brought to the attention of Council some months ago. Because the word "lynch" has become a negative reminder of a time of intimidation and oppression of Black and African American residents, Town Staff worked with property owners to discuss a possible street name change. Feedback from the property owners yielded the preference for the street renaming to "Justice Heights Street".

Other meeting items included approval of a <u>stormwater utility</u> <u>fund</u>, which creates a stable funding source for the Town's management of our stormwater needs.

And finally, Council also discussed financial support to DHIC, Inc. for an affordable housing project, <u>Broadstone Walk</u>, proposed near the Apex Walmart. Due to several factors, a 1.5 million dollar funding gap exists in order for this project to remain viable. Council will be collaborating with the Wake County Commissioners to determine if we can work together to cover this funding gap. Council's preference is for Wake County to provide 1 million dollars, and the Town to provide \$500,000 from our established affordable housing fund. More to come after we hear from the County Commissioners based on our request.

November 23rd - Agenda and YouTube Video

The meeting began with conversation with representatives from the Apex Consolidated Alumni and North Forgotten History Committee, thanking Council for the approval of the Apex Consolidated Schools Historical Marker which will be located at Apex Elementary School. This was followed by a mayoral proclamation for <u>Small Business Saturday</u>.

With Consent Agenda items, Council approved resident appointments to the Board of Adjustment and Tree Citizens Advisory Panel. We also approved temporary closure of the onstreet angled parking spaces and sidewalk along the parcel frontage of <u>76 Hunter Street</u> to help facilitate the construction going on there.

Additionally, Council approved an <u>Infrastructure Reimbursement</u> <u>Agreement</u> with the Triad Math and Science Academy Company for installation of sidewalk and curb and gutter along Dropseed Drive (for the Triangle Math and Science Charter School) for costs incurred not to exceed \$50,000.00.

In other news, the Town of Apex just received our first allocation of federal <u>American Rescue Plan</u> funds (about 2.6 million dollars). The UNC School of Government advised municipalities to adopt and approve resolutions acknowledging receipt of these funds. More to come on how these funds will be used for our town.

Council also approved a vendor agreement between the Town and Wake County which will enable eligible Apex utility customers to receive assistance under the Low Income Water Assistance
Program (LIHWAP).

With public hearings, Council approved the annexation into the Town's Corporate limits approximately 20 acres located at 351 New Hill Olive Chapel Road. This property will be used for the Triangle Math & Science Charter School.

Council denied Rezoning Application #21CZ21 <u>Beauregard Place at Weddington</u>. The applicant, AG Wimberly LLC., sought to rezone approximately 3.30 acres from Rural Residential (RR) to Low Density Residential-Conditional Zoning (LD-CZ). The proposed rezoning is located at 0 Wimberly Road. The property to the north and south of this parcel is dedicated for resource conservation purposes and Council was concerned about environment impact with this project, and thus it was denied.

In other public hearings, Council approved Rezoning Application #21CZ22 Old Ivey Road. The applicant sought to rezone approximately 8.82 acres from Rural Residential (RR) to Low Density Residential-Conditional Zoning (LD-CZ). The proposed rezoning is located at 1516 Old Ivey Road and 7620 McQueens Road. One added condition that was provided based on discussion with Council was building 2 homes with roof top solar systems. All other 24 single family homes will be wired with solar conduits.

Council also approve Rezoning Application #21CZ23 Scotts Ridge Office and Veterinary Hospital. The applicant sought to rezone approximately 1.45 acres from Residential Agricultural (RA) to Neighborhood Business-Conditional Zoning (B1-CZ). The proposed rezoning is located at 0 & 6633 Apex Barbecue Road, and will likely be a veterinary hospital.

And finally, Council approved Rezoning Application #21CZ25 <u>Villages of Apex PUD Amendment</u>. The applicant sought to rezone approximately 3.62 acres from Planned Unit Development-Conditional Zoning (PUD-CZ #17CZ11) to Planned Unit Development-Conditional Zoning (PUD-CZ). The proposed rezoning is located at 0 Laura Duncan Road.

This will be a mixed use project that will entail mostly commercial (retail, eateries) on the first floor and apartments on the other floors. While the building will be 5 stories to help with affordability, the floor to ceiling height will be modified so the building will have the height of a traditional 4-story building. The project will include approximately 90 apartments, offering a variety of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom options (including some units that will be provided for lower income residents). This project is also consistent with the Downtown Plan (which recommended increasing retail, office, and restaurant opportunities within the Peakway) as well as the 2019 Apex Downtown Master Plan and Parking Study (which recommended increasing the number and mixture of housing units within the Peakway by 850 units and the number within 0.5 miles of downtown by 340 units).

Other Information, Community Events, and Outreach

As many of you know, we had municipal elections in Apex on Tuesday, November 2nd. Congratulations to Council members Audra Killingsworth and Brett Gantt on their re-elections. Mayor Pro Tem Dozier did not seek re-election. Ed Gray won her vacated seat. I look forward to working with these Council members as we head into 2022. Their swearing-in ceremony will be on December 14th at 6 pm.







The official grand opening / "wire cutting" event for our new Electric Department at 2850 Milano Avenue was held on

Wednesday, November 10th. I enjoyed attending this event with Mayor Gilbert and Mayor Pro Tem Dozier along with a number of our Town employees. This new 20,000 square feet facility on approximately 14 acres will house all administrative and operations personnel within the Electric Department (previously housed at the Public Works building off of Upchurch Street). This site will also help reduce vehicular traffic in downtown Apex during the morning and afternoon rush hours as well. We continue to try and plan for traffic mitigation and ease of traffic flow for our residents and Town employees.



Photo Credit: Town of Apex



Photo Credit: Town of Apex



I attended our downtown Veterans Day ceremony on November 11th. Thanks to American Legion Post 124 for organizing another meaningful event. Music was provided by our own Apex Friendship High Patriot Regiment, and incoming Council member and veteran Ed Gray was our guest speaker.



On Tuesday, November 23rd, I attended a virtual Community Violence Intervention Program Meeting hosted by Gerald Givens with the Raleigh-Apex NCAAP. A number of community stakeholders were on the call as we discussed gun violence and domestic violence prevention efforts for our Wake County community at large.

As we enter into December, I wish you all an enjoyable and safe holiday season. There are a variety of traditions and practices that our residents celebrate such as Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. May you experience hope, peace, and happiness in these special days ahead.

Best wishes and 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

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





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