

A regular meeting of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2000 at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Board Room.

PRESENT AND PRESIDING:

MAYOR

ALDERMEN

Michael Nelson

Joal Hall Broun (*arrived at 8:00 p.m.*)

Mark Dorosin

Jacquelyn Gist

Diana McDuffee

Allen Spalt

Alex Zaffron

TOWN MANAGER

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

TOWN ATTORNEY

Robert W. Morgan

James E. Spivey

Michael B. Brough

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

Chris Peterson, Public Works Director, introduced Claudia Sanderford to the Board. Ms. Sanderford was hired as the Public Works Department's Administrative Analyst.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEX ZAFFRON AND SECONDED BY JACQUELYN GIST TO APPROVE THE APRIL 11, 2000 MINUTES. VOTE: AYES 6 (Dorosin, Gist, McDuffee, Nelson, Spalt, Zaffron); NOES 0; ABSENT/EXCUSED 1 (Broun).

Alderman Spalt clarified that the requested communications tower report should not be a full-blown report on communication towers. He explained that he had seen a particular kind of tower and wanted to know if that particular design style was effective.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A HOUSING TRUST FUND

At the Board's April 11, 2000 meeting, Myles Presler, representing the Community Action Network, presented a resolution for Board-consideration that voiced Town of Carrboro support of the establishment of a housing trust fund. The Board deferred action on this matter until this meeting.

The following resolution was introduced by Alderman Alex Zaffron and duly seconded by Alderman Allen Spalt.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A HOUSING TRUST FUND

Resolution No. 143/1999-2000

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing is a crisis threatening the character of Orange County; and

WHEREAS, it is important to honor our commitment to maintaining a diverse community through developing affordable housing opportunities for local families; and

WHEREAS, a Housing Trust Fund would provide a progressive, dedicated source of local financing for affordable housing;

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen has spent significant local funds in recent years on affordable housing efforts and is committed to continue this cause of action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Carrboro Board of Aldermen supports creation of a Housing Trust Fund in Orange County and calls upon the Board of County Commissioners to fund this Trust Fund through an allocation equivalent to 1 penny on the property tax rate.

The foregoing resolution, having been submitted to a vote, received the following vote and was duly adopted this 18th day of April, 2000.

AYES: Mark Dorosin, Jacquelyn Gist, Diana McDuffee, Michael Nelson, Allen Spalt, Alex Zaffron

NOES: None

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Joal Hall Broun

WORKSESSION WITH TAB, EAB, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: THE FUTURE OF THE BUS SYSTEM

An April 26, 2000 joint meeting with the Chapel Hill Town Council, University officials, and the Aldermen will transpire to discuss the long range needs of the transit system. Prior to the joint meeting, the Aldermen wanted an opportunity to formulate its own opinion about the long range needs of the transit system. To this end, the Board decided to hold a worksession with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB), and the Human Services Committee to discuss the future needs of the transit system.

Carolyn Elfland, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Auxiliary Services, reviewed several processes the University presently uses to address the transit needs of the student body and University employees. Additionally, Ms. Elfland explained the University's proposed fare-free transit system. She explained that fare costs, the level of bus service, and the evening bus schedule are three main barriers to increased ridership.

Neal Mochel, TAB chair, stated that increased bus ridership can only be accomplished by making automobile use as inconvenient as possible and bus use as convenient as possible. He also stated that increased service hours, weekend service, and the implementation of neighborhood service were issues to be considered.

Shirley Marshall, TAB member, stated that the local transit system should meet the transit needs of all the residents of Carrboro and Chapel Hill and not specifically the needs and/or the academic schedules of the student population.

Ellen Perry, TAB member, stated that the EZ Rider service is complicated to use; that the bus schedules are hard to read; and that e-mail capabilities should exist so that patrons of the transit system could communicate electronically with staff of the system.

Dazzie Lane, TAB member, stated that a “good bus system” needs to be defined. Ms. Lane also stated that the level of bus service should meet the needs of all citizens.

Scott McClellan, Interim Director of Chapel Hill Transit, addressed questions regarding transit service levels and the operational costs associated with different service level scenarios.

The Board proposed four questions to direct its discussion. The four questions were: 1) Why do we need a good bus system? How does a good bus system contribute to our goals for our community? 2) How does the current bus system fall short of meeting Carrboro’s goals and UNC’s goals? 3) What does an ideal bus system look like? 4) What goals should we adopt to achieve the system we want?

The Board offered the following as responses to question #3: What does an ideal bus system look like? The Board stated that an ideal bus system would:

- ⇒ Have headways of no more than 10 minutes.
- ⇒ Operate/run at least until 12 midnight.
- ⇒ Operate/run on the weekend.
- ⇒ Have short routes that are intuitive and gridlike.
- ⇒ Have coordinated local bus service with other systems/modes of transportation, e.g., TTA, rail, bicycle, park-n-ride lots.
- ⇒ Have diversified bus sizes.
- ⇒ Have specifically assigned bus routes for main roadways/thoroughfares (routes that are traveled up and down the assigned route only).
- ⇒ Consider selling advertising space on the buses (to assist in defraying the cost of increased service level).
- ⇒ Implement a fare-free system for everyone (to be achieved by incremental efforts)
- ⇒ Eliminate the reduced bus service schedule that reflect the student population’s academic schedule.
- ⇒ Provide service that reflects the current and future activity of the community.

Mayor Nelson informed the Board that improvements to the “F” route are being considered. He explained that a retail shuttle proposal is being reviewed which would be coordinated with reduced headways and would increase the level of service.

By consensus, the Board decided to attend the April 26, 2000 meeting and suggest/recommend to the other attendees that a 5- or 10-year plan be developed that would achieve the aforementioned goals and the goals of the other parties involved in this process.

CHAPEL HILL/ORANGE COUNTY VISITORS’ BUREAU APPOINTMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEX ZAFFRON AND SECONDED BY JOAL HALL BROUN THAT KEVIN CALLAHAN BE APPOINTED TO THE CHAPEL HILL/ORANGE COUNTY VISITORS’ BUREAU.
VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOAL HALL BROUN AND SECONDED BY ALEX ZAFFRON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:45 PM.

Michael Nelson, *Mayor*

James E. Spivey, **CMC**; *Deputy Town Clerk*