

A regular meeting of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

Present and presiding:

Mayor	Mark Chilton
Aldermen	Joal Hall Broun
	Dan Coleman
	Jacquelyn Gist (arrived at 7:51pm)
	John Herrera
	Randee Haven-O'Donnell
	Alex Zaffron
Town Manager	Steven E. Stewart
Town Attorney	Michael B. Brough
Deputy Town Clerk	Sharmin E. Mirman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEX ZAFFRON AND SECONDED BY JOHN HERRERA TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 14, 2006 MINUTES. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

A REQUEST TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT

Grant Funds, received from the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program, are granted to local jurisdictions. The Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County, and Carrboro worked together to determine the allocation of the grant funds. The Town of Chapel Hill, acting as the agent for this fund, is remitting \$8,115 to the Police Department to enable the purchase of a mobile data terminal for a patrol vehicle.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEX ZAFFRON AND SECONDED BY JOHN HERRERA TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY2005-06 BUDGET ORDINANCE." VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

TOWN CODE AMENDMENT – PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN WEAVER STREET PARKING LOT

An ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the Town Code to add parking limitations in the Weaver Street Parking Lot has been prepared and was recommended for the Board's adoption.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEX ZAFFRON AND SECONDED BY JOHN HERRERA TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF THE CARRBORO TOWN CODE TO SPECIFY PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN THE WEAVER STREET PARKING LOT." VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

**A PUBLIC HEARING TO OBTAIN COMMUNITY INPUT ON TOWN NEEDS AND BUDGET FOR
UPCOMING FY06-07**

Annually, the Board of Aldermen adopts a budget, effective July 1st- June 30th for the Town. The Board, as part of its budget review, schedules a public hearing to receive comments from residents in the community regarding town services. These comments shall be considered in developing the FY2006-07 operating and capital budgets during the budget process.

Robert Dowling, with Orange Community Housing & Land Trust, addressed the Board. He stated that the Land Trust requested \$22,000 from the town for the fiscal year 2006-2007, which is the same amount that was allocated by the Aldermen in the current fiscal year.

Mayor Chilton referred to an email from a Carrboro citizen who is legally blind, stating that there are no audio crossing signals in Carrboro. He asked if there are state or federal funds for that.

Mr. Stewart stated that he had forwarded the email to Dale McKeel, the town's transportation planner, and that the staff needs to identify the intersections.

Mayor Chilton asked if there is an inexpensive, cost-effective way to make the town more accessible to people with wheel chairs.

Mayor Chilton referred to an email from Sharon Cook regarding a bus shelter for the bus stop on Homestead Road, around the corner from Rogers Road. She also mentioned a need for funds to purchase land adjacent to Bolin Creek. She suggested that road repairs and maintenance are priorities.

Mayor Chilton mentioned the possibility of combining fire services between the towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill. Being that we are soliciting applications for a new fire chief, it is important to swiftly get to the point of stating clearly if this is something we need to explore. He suggested that staff bring the Board a short memo outlining what they see as the potential benefits and problems.

Alderman Broun stated that she wants more than a two or three page memo to be discussed during the budget process. She said that she thought we would be doing the citizens a disservice if we do not look at it closely.

Alderman Haven-O'Donnell said that folks see this as a fire response issue and that it is not just a matter of combining services. She suggested a very detailed report.

Alderman Coleman said the short-term question is whether we put the hiring of a fire chief on hold while we explore the question of merging the two departments.

Mayor Chilton said that if this holds a significant amount of promise financially, that we ought to be pursuing it. He does not want to drag out the discussion while hiring a new fire chief.

Alderman Herrera said that he wants to continue looking at ways to save tax dollars but it is dangerous and bad for moral for the Carrboro Fire Department to be missing the head of their team. He wants our fire chief to be part of the fire department and to find the best fire chief as soon as possible. He asked for details of transitions in other towns.

Alderman Broun said that it is a big issue and we need to have more information. Even if we hire a fire chief, we may decide to merge the fire departments. We should proceed with hiring a new fire chief.

Alderman Gist said that twelve years ago, or more, this issue came up. We have a merged bus and school system. Our fire and police departments are very cooperative with each other. She is in favor of getting as many facts as we can to make a decision. We may not have to merge but there are some things we could do together. The last time we found out that it did not save money.

Alderman Gist asked for three board members and a staff member to come up with a list of questions in order to move on with a decision.

Mayor Chilton said that if staff thinks it will save \$10,000, it is not a sum that is worth pursuing. If there are implications about whether a \$1.8 million fire station was really needed, it is worth considering. If it holds any promise to involve numbers like that, it is worth spending more time on. He asked staff for a written reaction. If it appears that this concept holds much potential, we can put it on a future agenda, and if it does not seem that promising, we can drop it.

Mr. Stewart said he is still unclear about moving forward and recruiting a fire chief. He stated his concern that there are good applicants who will not risk current jobs for something that might disappear in six months. The town staff wants to give the Board something meaningful and will move as quickly as possible.

Mayor Chilton stated that Nerys Levy requested \$500 for the Community Dinner.

Alderman Coleman asked for a short status report about the Bolin Forest Homeowner's Association letter. What is going on with the Adams Tract?

Alderman Herrera said that some people he works with do not understand English or have email and asked if there is a way to get interns/students/Americorps to host a forum where we invite the community to give their feedback. You cannot contribute much if you do not understand what is being said. Do we have an accessibility policy?

Mr. Stewart said that it depends on what you mean by accessibility. If it is physical, the Town complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act to make sure we meet the requirements. We can explore how to reach out but we cannot anticipate every need that someone has if they do not express it. We need to help folks find ways to express it.

Alderman Herrera asked if a summary of key budget issues could be posted in Spanish on the town's website.

Alderman Haven O'Donnell asked if he was asking for headphone translators at Board meetings.

Alderman Herrera said if we purchase that equipment, it is a good investment for charettes and key meetings. It might be a good investment to hire somebody - an interpreter. That way you get a large amount of folks who otherwise would not have access.

Alderman Gist said that if we have meetings like that, we can get more help than we need with student volunteers who would come in and act as interpreters.

Alderman Herrera said that last week, at transit forum, there was not a single Spanish speaking person there. They are the ones who use the busses. They could not come to a night meeting where there is no childcare.

Alderman Broun said that when we look at the budget, we need to think how it is intertwined with other things and if it brings in tax revenue.

Ellen Perry addressed the Board. She asked if there was something that could be located near the exit sign by the front entrance to the Town Hall that would blink to alert people inside that someone outside needed to come in.

Alderman Gist asked about reinstating a Youth Town Hall Day, which was a program where high school kids learned how the town functioned.

VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF THE CARRBORO HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 201 ROCK HAVEN ROAD

The purpose of this item was to receive citizens' comments regarding a petition for the voluntary annexation of the Carrboro High School property located at 201 Rock Haven Road and to consider the adoption of an ordinance incorporating the property into the Town effective February 28, 2006.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOAL BROUN AND SECONDED ALEX ZAFFRON BY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEX ZAFFRON AND SECONDED BY JOAL BROUN TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CARRBORO HIGH SCHOOL." VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

CONTINUATION OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON LAND USE ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS TO ESTABLISH ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS FOR DOWNTOWN CARRBORO

The Board of Aldermen held a public hearing on January 24, 2006 and received public comments on a draft ordinance that establishes architectural standards for the downtown. The Board of Aldermen continued the hearing to allow additional time for consideration of the draft ordinance.

Trish McGuire, the town's Planning Administrator, addressed the Board.

Alderman Broun proposed creating a subcommittee with architects and members of the Planning Board and Appearance Commission to develop a group of standards that are performance based.

Alderman Coleman said he is intrigued by the suggestion made by James Carnahan about revising the burden of proof for the CUP. He would like to see staff comment on the workability of this proposal.

Mayor Chilton expressed concern about a grocery store project where Mellott Contracting is now. It could be done well or poorly from an aesthetic point.

Mayor Chilton said that a few items strike him as very important and we ought to be proscriptive. A ground floor exclusively for parking is a bad idea. He does not want to completely adopt or shelve what we have in front of us. He asked that the Planning Board and/or some knowledgeable people to go through this and keep the good points – even if they cut out 80-90% of what is there.

Alderman Broun said that she is not opposed to that, but as of now, she cannot support it. She wants more commercial and not more expensive condos.

Bob Kirschner addressed the Board. He asked for a summary of James Carnahan's email.

James Carnahan addressed the Board to summarize his email.

Mayor Chilton stated that the Board should consider looking at the Table of Permissible Uses and types of permits for land uses. Our ordinance would allow an Advance Auto to open with a zoning compliance permit and permission from staff, but in the same zoning district, a childcare center would require someone to come before the Board and it would take 12-18 months. It does not make any sense at all.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEX ZAFFRON AND SECONDED BY JOAL BROUN THAT THE PLANNING BOARD, APPEARANCE COMMISSION AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION DISCUSS THE ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS AND PRESENT A REPORT TO THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BY MID-MAY. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

REQUEST TO KEEP PAYDAY LENDERS OUT OF CARRBORO

Alderman Herrera said that we had successfully stopped the Pay Advance lending industry from coming to Carrboro. They are a predatory multi-billion dollar industry. He asked if they could be banned for life from Carrboro.

Mayor Chilton said he would be interested in doing that. He asked to hear back from staff with something in writing. .

Mike Brough said it could not be addressed through the land use ordinance.

Alderman Herrera asked if we could research the question.

Mayor Chilton said there must be another town in America that is looking into this.

Mike Brough said that he would check and find out.

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY BOARDS

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen considered making appointments to the town's advisory boards. The town staff recommended that the Board adopt a resolution making the appointments.

Alderman Broun recommended that Carolyn Buckner be appointed to the Environmental Advisory Board.

Mayor Chilton stated that there were no representatives in the transition area.

James Carnahan addressed the Board. He stated that he had asked Mary Rabinowitz to apply because he wanted to appoint someone from the annexed area and, at that time, he did not anticipate other applicants from the annexation area would apply.

Mayor Chilton asked that a letter be written to the school board, asking them to submit a name for the Recreation and Parks Commission.

The following resolution was introduced by Alderman Alex Zaffron and duly seconded by Alderman Randee Haven-O'Donnell.

**A RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO
CARRBORO ADVISORY BOARDS
Resolution No. 82/2005-06**

WHEREAS, there are terms on advisory boards that expire in February of each year; and

WHEREAS, those individuals whose terms expire in 2005 were sent notices thanking them for their service and asking them to complete an application form if they were interested in being re-appointed; and

WHEREAS, these seats were also advertised and applications were received; and

WHEREAS, all applications were forwarded to the chairs of the various advisory boards for review and recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO RESOLVES:

Section 1. The following appointments are made to the town's advisory boards:

BOARD	TYPE OF TERM	RECOMMENDED APPOINTEES
Board of Adjustment	In-Town (5 seats)	Brad Demicco Richard Ellington Chip Muller
Planning Board	In-Town (2 seats)	Heidi Paulsen Mary Rabinowitz
Appearance Commission/ NPDC	3 seats	Catherine Devine Grimball
Transportation Advisory Board	2 seats	David Deming Darren Purdee
Transportation Advisory Board	ETJ (1 seat)	Tom High
Human Services Commission	4 seats	Lillie Atwater Earleen Burch David Harrison
Economic Sustainability Commission	▪ Resident of Downtown (1 seat) ▪ At-Large (1 seat) ▪ Business Owner (1 seat)	Jefferson Parker Nathan Milian Bill Soeters
Environmental Advisory Board	2 seats	Bob Taylor Carolyn Buckner
Northern Transition Area Advisory Board	1 seat	Jeanette Moore
Arts Committee	3 seats	Amanda Bryan Jon Wilner

Section 2. Those individuals who are currently serving and who were not re-appointed will be recognized for their service at the April 13th Advisory Boards Recognition Dinner.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, received the following vote and was duly adopted this 21st day of February, 2006:

Ayes: Joal Hall Broun, Mark Chilton, Dan Coleman, Jacquelyn Gist, John Herrera, Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Alex Zaffron

Noes: None

Absent or Excused: None

Alderman Coleman asked that all board chairs summarize qualifications of each applicant for people they are proposing/recommending. He asked that the liaisons get recommendations in advance and have conversation with the chairs that are making recommendations to understand why.

BUILDING HEIGHTS ISSUE

Alderman Zaffron stated that there is a proposal to build a nine-story building on the Chapel Hill/Carrboro border and nobody from our side has said anything. He is hesitant to meddle around in other jurisdictions because it is a border issue.

Mayor Chilton said it is a decision for the Chapel Hill Town Council.

Alderman Zaffron said there is a legitimate interest in reviewing what the impacts will be. He asked that town staff take a look at it.

Mr. Stewart said that Chapel Hill planners contacted our planning staff. They have not received a formal application on that project. They are planning to send the information over to Carrboro and ask for a courtesy review.

Mayor Chilton asked that we follow up on that discussion.

BOB SHELTON DAY IN CHAPEL HILL

Alderman Coleman said that Chapel Hill declared today "Bob Shelton Day". He was the founder of Internationalist Books. Alderman Coleman acknowledged what a resource The Internationalist Bookstore was to Carrboro and the community.

REQUEST FOR A CARRBORO REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE ORANGE COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

Mayor Chilton stated that we need someone to represent Carrboro on the Orange County Visitors Bureau Board of Directors. He had recommended Jackie Helvey, but she declined.

Alderman Zaffron said he would investigate.

COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Alderman Gist said that on February 28th, there would be a committee meeting to address homelessness. She stated that there would be focus groups throughout the county.

REQUEST FROM ALDERMAN HERRERA

Alderman Herrera asked the Board to recommend that he be appointed to the Policy and Advocacy Committee for the National League of Cities.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOAL BROUN AND SECONDED BY RANDEE HAVEN O'DONNELL TO RECOMMEND THAT JOHN HERRERA BE APPOINTED TO THE POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE for THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOAL BROUN AND SECONDED BY RANDEE HAVEN O'DONNELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:10 P.M. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

Mayor

Deputy Town Clerk