

Additional materials

TriangleBlogBlog's guide to attending tonight's Chapel Hill Town Council meeting!

Welcome! We're glad you're here! If this is your first town council meeting, there are a few things and terms to keep in mind.

Town Council meetings generally follow the same format.

There's a **consent agenda**, which is a block of items that council members can approve or not approve together as a block without discussion. Any item can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a council member or the Mayor.

There are **information items** which are presented to council without discussion. This can include stuff like calendar updates or receiving petitions.

There are **discussion items** which allow public comments, followed by questions from council members.

There are **appointments**: this is when council appoints people to various boards.

What's happening tonight?

The Chapel Hill Town Council will open the public hearing for the Housing Choices proposal (also known as the missing middle proposal). This will be a **discussion item**, meaning public comment will be allowed.

First, Council will hear a presentation from town planning staff on the current proposal and how the proposal has evolved. Then it will take comments from members of the public.

What specifically is being proposed?

The latest proposal allows duplexes and cottage court homes in most residential districts. Triplexes and quadraplexes would only be allowed in areas that already allow large multifamily buildings. Unlike multifamily buildings, though, triplexes and quadraplexes could be approved by town staff rather than Council, which could make them easier and less costly to build.

How is this different from what was originally proposed?

The proposal has already been reduced in scope in response to community opposition. The initial version would have allowed duplexes, triplexes, quadraplexes, and cottage court homes in most residential districts.

Read more at www.triangleblogblog.com

What else is happening tonight?

There are 24 items on the agenda list, but the first 13 are on the consent agenda, which means that they'll be approved pretty quickly. Here are the ones that we anticipate drawing public interest:

15. Open the Public Hearing: Recommended Budget for FY 2023-2024

16. Open a Legislative Hearing for consideration of a Land Use Management Ordinance Text Amendment regarding Housing Regulations

17. Close the Legislative Hearing: Conditional Zoning Application for UNC Health Eastowne, 100-988 Eastowne Drive

18. Close the Legislative Hearing and Consider a Conditional Zoning Application for Barbee Chapel Apartments at 5101 Barbee Chapel Road

Will this meeting be long?

Possibly! Comments may be limited but meetings generally go for a few hours.

Is there a seventh inning stretch?

Unfortunately no.

Should I shift one seat to the right after the 15th agenda item?

No. Please remain seated unless coming to the podium for your public comment.

Should I shout "I consent" when the consent agenda is approved?

No. The mayor and council ask everyone in the audience to be respectful and quiet. That also means no signs. Comments are generally limited to 2 or 3 minutes, depending on crowd size.

Can I start the wave?

We'd love that, but no, you cannot start the wave.

Is there an afterparty?

Sometimes we get together for a gathering after a council meeting. See someone in a Triangle Blog Blog t-shirt for details.

What is Triangle Blog Blog?

We're a group civics blog trying to make Chapel Hill and Carrboro more vibrant, accessible, fun, and sustainable. We cover housing, transportation, schools, community life, greenways, our downtown, and put events in historical context. Our goal is to create a more welcoming Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Everyone deserves a voice in our civic conversations – not just those who have lived here a long time, or those who own a house.

Read more at www.triangleblogblog.com