

03-24-2021 Town Council Meeting
Responses to Council Questions

**ITEM #17: Open the Public Hearing: Limited Scope Special Permit Modification --
Signature Health Care of Chapel Hill, 1602 E. Franklin Street**

Council Question:

Could you please provide more detail on the specific climate action plan-related reasons for the split Planning board vote on this item?

Staff Response:

Several members of the Planning Commission recognized that the Climate Action Plan had not yet been adopted by the Town Council, but they were interested in requiring that the project both meet the current energy code regulations as well as the parameters of the community action standards. They expressed concerns about global warming and discussed ways that the project could be more energy-efficient, such as solar panels. There were also concerns that by approving the SUP modification they were allowing the new addition to be built under old regulations. The applicant is prepared to move forward with a building permit this spring, and the building permit requires that the applicant meet the current commercial building codes, including the energy code. Some commissioners did not believe that the current state energy codes went far enough to promote sustainability.