

**DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
OF THE CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL
HARGRAVES COMMUNITY CENTER
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2013 AT 8:00 A.M.**

Council Members Present: Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, Mayor pro tem Ed Harrison, Council Member Donna Bell, Council Member Matt Czajkowski, Council Member Laurin Easthom, Council Member Sally Greene, and Council Member Jim Ward.

Council Member Absent: Council Member Gene Pease and Council Member Lee Storrow.

Others present: Senator Ellie Kinnaird, Senator Mike Woodard, Representative Valerie Foushee, Representative Verla Insko, and Representative Paul Luebke. Town Manager Roger Stancil, Deputy Town Manager Florentine Miller, Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos, and Administrative Technician II Christina Strauch.

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1: Welcome and Introduction by the Mayor

Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m. Mayor Kleinschmidt welcomed attendees and emphasized the importance of maintaining strong communication between Chapel Hill officials and state leaders. Attendees introduced themselves, including the newly seated Council Member Sally Greene.

Item 2: Comments from the Legislative Delegation

Legislators offered general remarks on the political and policy climate at the State level and shared perspectives on how local governments could best engage during the upcoming legislative session. Delegation members described the dynamic of the new General Assembly and expressed that local voices would be increasingly important in policy discussions, particularly on issues where statewide representation felt unbalanced.

Discussion included comments on reproductive-health legislation noted in a resolution referenced by Council Members, with legislators advising that such issues warranted close monitoring. Delegation members encouraged Chapel Hill officials to communicate their priorities consistently and publicly, noting that constituent engagement, editorials, and coordinated messaging could help influence outcomes. Transportation, higher-education protection, and maintaining support for research universities were highlighted as major concerns. Legislators emphasized that Chapel Hill and Orange County must work across party lines to advance local interests.

Item 3: Comments from the Mayor and Town Council

a. Local Bill Issues

The Council and delegation discussed statutory limitations that prevented the Town from pursuing certain innovative strategies for capital projects. Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos explained that current law restricted public-private development partnerships for Town property

to downtown locations, which limited Chapel Hill's ability to redevelop aging facilities such as fire stations in ways that could achieve both public-service and economic-development goals. Officials noted that similar authority had been granted to other municipalities and that statutory changes could help Chapel Hill stretch local tax dollars more effectively.

Fire protection funding was raised as an immediate concern. Fire Chief Dan Jones described the State's reimbursement formula for communities hosting significant state-owned facilities, explaining that payments were currently 30–40 percent below fair cost and had been insufficient for many years. Legislators suggested compiling data to support a funding adjustment and encouraged outreach to both the Budget Office and key members of the majority caucus. The group also discussed the unfunded status of the State's urban search and rescue teams, noting that local governments were now bearing costs previously covered by Homeland Security allocations, with annual expenses of \$100,000–\$200,000 per team depending on size..

b. League of Municipalities Advocacy Goals

Council reviewed key NC League of Municipalities priorities and highlighted long-standing concerns about local taxing authority, revenue-sharing structures, and the erosion of funds such as the state trust fund, which had experienced significant reductions the prior year. The group discussed extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) rights and the balance between ensuring residents near town boundaries have a voice in planning decisions while managing annexation authority in ways that support orderly and equitable growth.

c. Other Statewide Issues

Legislators and Council discussed broader state issues, including preserving funding for university-related services, transit and water infrastructure protections, local campaign-finance frameworks, and regional coordination among municipalities. Legislators reiterated their willingness to continue working with Chapel Hill leadership throughout the legislative session to address shared priorities.

Item 4: Other Issues

Council members discussed additional topics related to local-state partnerships, including strategies for ensuring bipartisan sponsorship of local or statewide bills and opportunities to collaborate on regional needs such as transportation and emergency-response infrastructure. Legislators encouraged Chapel Hill to continue proactive engagement and committed to returning for future discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Brittney Hunt
Town Clerk