

**DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF A LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST  
OF THE CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016, AT 8:00 AM**

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Pam Hemminger, Council Member Jessica Anderson, Council Member George Cianciolo, Council Member Sally Greene, Council Member Ed Harrison, Council Member Nancy Oates, Council Member Maria Palmer, and Council Member Michael Parker.

**Staff members present:** N.C. Representative Verla Insko, N.C. Representative Graig R. Meyer, N.C. Senator Valerie Foushee, N.C. Senator Mike Woodard, N.C. League of Municipalities Director of Governmental Affairs Rose Vaughn Williams, Town Manager Roger L. Stancil, Deputy Town Manager Florentine Miller, Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos, Mayoral Aide Jeanne Brown, and Acting Town Clerk Christina Strauch.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY THE MAYOR.**

Mayor Pam Hemminger opened the meeting at 8:24 a.m. and welcomed the Council, legislative delegation, and staff. She spoke briefly about House Bill 2 (HB2), emphasizing Chapel Hill's values of inclusion and respect, and acknowledged supportive statements from surrounding communities.

**2. COMMENTS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION.**

Representative Verla Insko began by stressing the importance of aligning education and workforce development, noting recent findings on poverty and economic mobility. Representative Graig Meyer added that connecting school based career development with economic development efforts was becoming increasingly critical.

Council Member Maria Palmer raised concerns about food insecurity among students. She explained that thousands of children qualify for free lunch and that summer food distribution continues to be a challenge. Legislators responded by discussing volunteer shortages and the logistical demands of supporting 20 summer food sites.

Senator Valerie Foushee encouraged strengthening regional coordination—with Carrboro, Hillsborough, and Orange County—to address pockets of poverty and service gaps.

Mayor Hemminger provided updates on stormwater concerns, highlighting flooding issues in Camelot Village and the limits of on site mitigation. She also described watershed monitoring and flood related findings for Jordan Lake and Falls Lake.

Council Member Sally Greene left the meeting at 8:46 a.m.

Council Member Palmer then raised questions about mental health service gaps. Legislators described severe shortages in psychiatric beds, long emergency room wait times for youth, and ongoing funding cuts to mental health systems. Representative Meyer and Senator Mike Woodard both spoke about the overlap between mental health issues and the criminal justice

system, noting the need for stronger drug court support.

Council Member Jessica Anderson added that DPI was working on legislation to improve school based mental health support and expand access to social workers. Representative Insko noted parallel state-level efforts to rebuild family focused support teams.

Senator Woodard and Representative Meyer also discussed the status of the transit funding cap and expectations for Senate action, with Senator Woodard noting that the Senate might use the cap as a negotiation point.

### **3. COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL.**

#### **a. Local Bill Issues**

Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos and Council members asked about potential legal strategies regarding HB2. Representative Meyer encouraged cities to coordinate closely if pursuing litigation, emphasizing that diverse participation—beyond urban areas—would strengthen any case. Senator Woodard and Foushee agreed that timing, collaboration, and a broad coalition were essential.

#### **b. League of Municipalities Advocacy Goals**

Council Member Palmer asked about the League's short session goals. League of Municipalities Director of Governmental Affairs Rose Vaughn Williams explained that the League was focused on stabilizing municipal–state relations during the HB2 response, assisting cities with communications, and preparing for the 2017 goal setting process. She stressed the importance of unified messaging, so policymakers receive consistent input from municipalities.

#### **c. Metro Mayors Coalition Issues**

Representative Meyer commented that the Coalition continues to track statewide legislation affecting urban areas and emphasized the need for consistent municipal advocacy, particularly where local authority is at stake.

#### **d. Other Statewide Issues**

Council Member Palmer raised concerns about teacher shortages. Representative Insko described conditions as a statewide crisis. Council Member Anderson asked about the education budget outlook, and Senator Foushee responded that projections appeared more optimistic than what would likely advance in the legislature. Representative Insko added that sales tax redistribution remains a long term goal but would not be addressed in the short session.

### **4. OTHER ISSUES**

Participants briefly discussed the importance of continued public engagement and advocacy leading into the upcoming election cycle, noting that long term concerns around education, local control, and state–local relations would require consistent attention.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.