

**DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF A LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
OF THE CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014, AT 8:30 AM**

Council Members Present: Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, Council Member Donna Bell, Council Member Laurin Easthom, Council Member Sally Greene, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Harrison, Council Member Gene Pease, and Council Member Lee Storrow.

Council Member(s) Absent: Council Member Matt Czajkowski, and Council Member Jim Ward.

Staff members present: Town Manager Roger Stancil, Deputy Town Manager Florentine Miller, Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos, Senator Mike Woodward, Senator Valerie Foushee, Representative Verla Insko, Representative Graig Meyer, Mayoral Aide Mark McCurry, and Communications and Public Affairs Director and Town Clerk Sabrina Oliver.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt opened the meeting at 8:48 a.m. and welcomed attendees. He noted that while past legislative sessions involved extensive agendas, the current short session was expected to be more limited. He emphasized the importance of concentrating on issues most critical to municipalities and invited the legislative delegation to share expected challenges and priorities.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Members of the delegation outlined expectations for the short session. They discussed planning for legislative debates and highlighted the likelihood of addressing certain issues through press conferences and public engagement. They identified major topics including teacher pay proposals, potential efforts to freeze tax cuts to fund raises, and the necessity of defending core state programs rather than advancing major new legislation.

They also noted uncertainty in the Senate's agenda, referencing limited information shared by leadership. Concerns were expressed about statewide economic trends, including job growth lagging since 2008 despite population increases. Additional discussion centered on a pending tree-ordinance bill, particularly a late-added provision regarding fertilizer regulation, and the possible removal of privilege license fees, which would significantly impact municipal revenue. Delegation also reviewed expected debates around Medicaid, coal ash legislation, and the overall pace of the upcoming session.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

a. Local Bill Issues

Council discussed ongoing efforts to secure legislative authority to regulate fraternities and sororities. Council acknowledged prior legislative support for economic development tools,

though concerns remained regarding limits placed on local environmental regulation and constraints in state law affecting solar-related public-private partnerships.

b. League of Municipalities Advocacy Goals

Council members emphasized the importance of local control in land use, environmental protection, and economic development. They noted that urban areas, including the Triangle, continue to drive statewide economic recovery and that municipalities must retain the authority necessary to manage growth and maintain competitive, vibrant communities. Broader statewide advocacy efforts, including participation in public demonstrations, were also referenced.

c. Other Statewide Issues

Discussion included state economic direction, the role of taxation, and the interplay between state and municipal authority. Delegation members noted that legislators sometimes revisit decisions when public reaction indicates broad concern, citing recent debates over teacher pay as an example.

4. OTHER ISSUES

Council and legislative delegation discussed housing, homelessness, and mental health policy, focusing on opportunities to advance Supportive Housing and Housing First initiatives during the short session. Legislators noted that funding for affordable housing remained stable and encouraged continued collaboration. They highlighted challenges in integrating housing with mental health services, emphasizing that successful implementation requires adequate housing stock and accessible treatment options.

Concerns were raised about barriers to mental health care, including eligibility restrictions, limited Medicaid acceptance, and administrative burdens. Council and legislative delegation also discussed including emergency mental health services for undocumented residents, in state tuition legislation, and proposed constitutional changes related to firearms. They also stressed the importance of community education to build support for Housing First and discussed reframing tax investment as a tool for community improvement.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.