



Town Council
Meeting Minutes - Draft
April 08, 2026, 6:00 PM
Library, Meeting Room B

<p>For interpretation or translation services, call 919-969-5105.</p>	<p>ဘာသာပြန်ဆိုခြင်းနှင့် စကားပြန်ခြင်းအတွက် (ဥပမာ) ငြင်းစွဲ ၅၁၀၅ ကို ဖုန်းခေါ်ပါ။</p>	<p>如需口头或书面翻译服务，请拨打 919-969-5105。</p>	<p>လၢတၢ်ကတိၤကျိးထံ မ့တ မ့ၢ် လၢတၢ်ကွဲးကျိးထံ အတၢ်မၤစၢၤအဂီၢ် ကိးဘၣ် ငြၢၣ်-ငြၢၣ် ၅၁၀၅</p>	<p>Para servicios de interpretación o traducción, llame al 919 969-5105.</p>
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WELCOME to a COUNCIL MEETING!

We're glad you're here. Want to know more about the meeting logistics, see <https://www.chapelhillnc.gov/Welcome-to-a-Council-meeting>

ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Mayor Jessica Anderson, Mayor pro tem Camille Berry, Council Member Wesley McMahon, Council Member Melissa McCullough, Council Member Paris Miller-Foushee, Council Member Theodore Nollert, Council Member Louie Rivers, Council Member Amy Ryan, and Council Member Elizabeth Sharp

OTHER ATTENDEES

Town Manager Theodore Voorhees, Deputy Town Manager Mary Jane Nirdlinger, Deputy Town Manager Loryn Clark, Town Attorney Nicholas Yates, Assistant Town Attorney James Baker, Long-Range Planning Manager Tas Lagoo, Economic Development Director David Putnam, Business Vitality Manager Sarah Potter, Economic Development Marketing & Communications Coordinator Sarah Grace Acker, Chief of Staff Jeanne Brown, Police Captain Todd Harris, Assistant Town Clerk Brenton Hodge, and Deputy Town Clerk Amy Harvey.

OPENING

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

AGENDA ITEM(S)

- 1. **Economic Development Department Update** **[26-0092]**
 Economic Development Director David Putnam introduced the Economic Development department team including Business Vitality Manager Sarah Potter, and Marketing Communications Coordinator Sarah Grace Acker. Mr. Putnam presented an update on the department's work plan, strategic initiatives, and outlined how Council's strategic priorities - complete community, environmental resiliency, housing, and organizational and

fiscal sustainability - inform their work. He described the department's five pillars: product and posture, community partnership, business vitality, real estate and active projects, and access to opportunity.

Mr. Putnam highlighted efforts to strengthen commercial activity nodes, with a particular focus on downtown and the innovation district/corridor, and described plans to profile and activate additional commercial nodes across Chapel Hill. He discussed the importance of prospect and product development, marketing, and leveraging Town-owned real estate. Mr. Putnam also emphasized the value of community partnerships, workforce development, and outside agency collaborations, as well as the launch of programs like Launch Local and the Economic Recovery Center.

Council members discussed the department's strategic direction, the need for a refreshed economic development plan, and the importance of aligning annual work plans with long-term policy goals. Council expressed support for updating the economic development strategy to reflect post-pandemic realities, new market conditions, and the Town's evolving vision. Staff and Council agreed to continue the conversation, interpret Council's feedback, and incorporate it into a new planning effort. This updated effort will move through the Town's planning process and focus on establishing mid- to long-range economic development objectives and strategies that reflect current conditions and community priorities.

This matter was received and filed.

- 2. **Rewriting Our Rules - A Land Use Management Ordinance (LUMO) Update** **[26-0093]**

Mayor Anderson outlined the goals and expectations for the Council's discussion of the Land Use Management Ordinance (LUMO) rewrite. She emphasized that the purpose of the session was to establish shared clarity around the Town's priorities, ensure that Council members had a common understanding of the framework guiding the ordinance update, and create space for Council to identify any missing elements or areas needing refinement. She noted that Council's feedback during this discussion would serve as a foundation for reviewing the draft ordinance and would help staff align the Rewrite Our Rules effort with the Town's broader strategic goals.

Long-Range Planning Manager Tas Lagoo presented an update on the ongoing rewrite of the Town's LUMO. Mr. Lagoo outlined the goal of the evening: to affirm a set of shared "key interests" that will guide Council's review of the draft LUMO. Staff proposed five high-level interests-housing, economic development, sustainability, public realm, and process/ease of use-derived from the Complete Community Strategy, Comprehensive Plan, and Council guidance.

Council members discussed the importance of keeping the framework high-level and flexible, ensuring that cross-cutting values such as equity,

sustainability, and complete community are integrated throughout. The discussion included clarifications about the distinction between policy and operational decisions, the need for clear communication with the public, and the importance of aligning the LUMO with Council's strategic goals. Council and staff refined the list of interests and priorities, agreed to remove or rephrase items that were overly prescriptive or not directly actionable through the ordinance, and emphasized the need for ongoing monitoring and future updates.

The Council affirmed the revised framework of goals and priorities, which will serve as the foundation for reviewing the draft LUMO and guiding future legislative and implementation steps. Staff committed to providing an alignment document and supporting materials to help Council and the public navigate the forthcoming draft ordinance.

This matter was received and filed.

3. [Update Regarding Planning in the Southern Extraterritorial Jurisdiction](#)

[26-0094]

Due to time constraints, the Council postponed discussion of the Southern ETJ planning update to a future meeting. Staff indicated that the item would be rescheduled to ensure adequate time for Council review and public engagement.

This matter was deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.