



Town Council
Meeting Minutes - Draft
March 18, 2026, 6:00 PM
Library, Meeting Room B

For interpretation or translation services, call 919-969-5105.

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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:** 8 - 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, and Council Member Amy Ryan
- Absent:** 1 - Council Member Elizabeth Sharp

OTHER ATTENDEES

Town Manager Theodore Voorhees, Deputy Town Manager Loryn Clark, Town Attorney Nicholas Yates, Communications and Engagement Director Susan Brown, Business Management Director Amy Oland, Business Management Assistant Director Matthew Brinkley, Public Works Director Lance Norris, Engineering and Infrastructure Manager Chris Roberts, Engineer III Robert Gehris, Stormwater Community Education Coordinator Merrill Robinson, Chief of Staff Jeanne Brown, Police Captain Shane Osborne, Assistant Town Clerk Brenton Hodge, and Town Clerk Brittney Hunt.

OPENING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

AGENDA ITEM(S)

1. FY 2026-27 Budget Development Update

Business Management Director Amy Oland presented an update on the

development of the FY 2026-27 recommended budget. Ms. Oland outlined the goals for the evening: to provide Council with an overview of revenue trends, cost pressures, and the approach to preparing recommendations that support core services, the workforce, and Council's strategic priorities. She noted that, due to positive property and sales tax projections, staff does not anticipate recommending a tax increase for the coming year.

Ms. Oland described the base budget process, which begins with revenue projections and incorporates departmental budget submissions, prioritizing competitive pay and benefits, and accounting for rising operating costs. She emphasized the Town's commitment to investing in employees, sustaining core services, and aligning resources with Council's priority areas, including community housing, environmental sustainability, and organizational resilience.

The presentation included updated revenue forecasts, highlighting stronger-than-expected property tax collections and a projected 4.2% growth in sales tax revenue. Ms. Oland reviewed the five-year budget outlook, recent investments in parks, fire, and facilities, and the next steps in the budget process, including upcoming work sessions and the schedule for public hearings and Council action.

Council members asked questions regarding employee health costs, the sustainability of fire capital allocations, and the need for more detailed information on core services and strategic priorities. Council members requested greater clarity on the Town's approach to innovation, cost savings, and the impact of federal funding threats. Council also emphasized the importance of transparent communication with the public about budget trade-offs, the rationale behind funding decisions, and the alignment of investments with Council's strategic goals.

This matter was received and filed.

2. Stormwater Program Update

Public Works Director Lance Norris, Stormwater Community Education Coordinator Merrill Robinson, and Engineering and Infrastructure Manager Chris Roberts, along with consultants from Ardurra Daryl Hammock and Tom Murray, provided an update on the Town's Stormwater Program.

Mr. Norris covered key highlights from the Stormwater Master Plan, including the spectrum of stormwater infrastructure (from gray to green to natural), the role of sub-watershed studies, and the prioritization of projects based on public benefit, safety, and cost-effectiveness.

Ms. Robinson explained the goals and objectives of the 2014 Stormwater Master Plan, the importance of addressing both water quantity (flooding) and water quality, and the integration of green and natural infrastructure

into the Town's approach. The team discussed the challenges of managing stormwater in a developed environment, the benefits and limitations of small-scale versus large-scale interventions, and the need for ongoing maintenance and ecological evaluation.

Consultants from Ardurra reviewed the results of recent studies, including the cumulative benefits and costs of proposed projects in the Booker Creek watershed, the use of FEMA's cost-benefit tool, and the trade-offs involved in various flood mitigation strategies. They addressed Council questions about the effectiveness of different interventions, the impact on tree canopy and ecosystem services, and the feasibility of buyouts and regional solutions.

Council members expressed a desire for more information on project prioritization, the effectiveness of different combinations of solutions, and the long-term sustainability of investments. They emphasized the need to clarify the Town's goals for stormwater management, to consider both immediate and systemic solutions, and to communicate clearly with the public about the rationale for decisions. Staff and consultants agreed to provide additional data, explore options for technical assistance programs, and continue engaging with Council and the community as the Town refines its stormwater strategy.

This matter was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.