



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014

William M. Sutton, Mayor
Eugene J. Schulze, Mayor Pro Tempore
William S. Jensen, Scott R. Lassiter, Nicole L. Dozier,
and Denise C. Wilkie, Council Members
Bruce A. Radford, Town Manager
Drew Havens, Assistant Town Manager
Donna B. Hosch, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk
Henry C. Fordham, Jr., Town Attorney

The Special Workshop Meeting of the Apex Town Council scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. was held in the Council Chamber of Apex Town Hall, 73 Hunter Street

In attendance were Mayor William M. Sutton and Council Members William S. Jensen, Scott R. Lassiter, Nicole L. Dozier, and Denise C. Wilkie
Also in attendance were Town Manager Bruce A. Radford, Assistant Town Manager Drew Havens, Town Clerk Donna B. Hosch, and Town Attorney Henry C. Fordham, Jr.
Absent was Mayor Pro Tem Eugene J. Schulze

COMMENCEMENT

Mayor Sutton called the meeting to order, Council Member Lassiter gave the Invocation, and Mayor Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor welcomed those in attendance and explained this was a specially-called meeting to get recommendations from the Manager and Fire Chief on present and future plans for the Fire Department. Those from the audience who wished to speak were called upon to address the Council.

Denyse Brown thanked the Fire Department for saving her parents' home, reading a statement explaining the heroic effort surrounding the incident and naming the individuals involved in the rescue. She expressed concern that growth will take over infrastructure. Ms. Brown asked that before closing Fire Station 1 (FS1), Council listen to citizen concerns.

Billy Gilbert with the Apex Fire Department stated he's enjoyed his work, even though it's hard and long hours. FS1 is an important icon in Apex, and he was in disagreement with its closing. It's disappointing

that this is even being thought about. FS1 has been in existence since 1939; we should not want to get rid of this landmark.

Jerry Henderson stated he fell over dead in Food Lion several years ago and explained how Lt. John White and crew brought him back to life. He did not know exactly what they did, but all the doctors stated it was short of a miracle that he was alive. Mr. Henderson stated he would do anything for these skilled, well-trained people, and didn't see the sense in reducing the same type of chance for someone else. If anything, more stations should be opened to continue to help people.

Marilyn Langdon has been a business owner since 1973, and she loves Apex and the downtown fire station. Ms. Langdon thought it would be an advantage to have a station on each side of the railroad tracks or additionally at another convenient location where the Town already owns the land.

The Mayor explained this was a Workshop and no decisions would be made on this evening – any decisions would be made at a Regular Meeting. The Mayor stated that Chief Haraway will be leaving at the end of the year, and he expressed his deep appreciation for everything that the Chief has done for so many years.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation 01 : Fire Chief Mark Haraway

Presentation and discussion on Fire operations and Fire facility plans within the Town of Apex

Chief Haraway overviewed the Fire Department Service Delivery Model and Plan for the Future.

The Mayor asked about moving people from FS1 to another site. The Chief asked that if anything is done with FS1, that the Council allow the organizers to provide input. Council commended the Fire Department for being one of the top departments in the State and how it's being done cheaper than in other municipalities. Even though it is believed there is a better option for operation than FS1 one, FS1 is a huge piece of Apex history. It is hoped we don't turn our backs and forget from where we came.

The Chief stated Cary was faced with this same problem years ago. It turned its downtown station into an administrative facility; Apex could do the same and maintain the historical integrity. The Chief's recommendation of progression would depend on how fast White Oak Basin grows. Fire Station 5 (FS5) is the priority, which could address the needs in White Oak Basin. Staff reminded Council that the land for FS5 has been purchased and design plans have begun. Council stated that we are not in a hurry to change FS1; we are simply doing the planning that needs to be done. We also need to be looking out for property for Fire Station 6 (FS6).

The Chief stated that if there is an opportunity to purchase property for training, then we need to get that done first and worry about FS6 later. Briefly discussed was what type of property would be perfect for a training facility. Preference was for this to be done by redesigning FS1. If Veridia comes to fruition, land has been promised us for Fire Station 7.

Mayor Sutton called for a ten minute recess. Following the recess:

The Town Manager presented the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), explaining that it is a moving document based on affordability. Large expenses, however, are scheduled as they are true capital expenses. Speaking specifically about the General Fund, overviewed were the funds that would be needed through 2018 – the big ticket items being highlighted, i.e., resurfacing of streets.

Mentioned was that the skate plaza is not in a budget that we've been authorized to spend, although Council has tentatively identified some funding. A group supporting the plaza is supposed to contribute \$1 million toward the project. Staff outlined what would be needed for parks and facilities. Next year improvements to public safety building #5 will be looked at. Money has been set aside for future parkland. The planning phase of a new town hall annex has been authorized. We are trying to get grant money for the White Oak greenway in cooperation with Cary. Overviewed were transportation projects such as the Salem Street interchange and completion of the Peakway from 55 to Schieffelin Road, with possible funding assistance from DOT.

Council asked could transportation projects be handled with bonds. Staff gave the General Fund debt numbers and additional debt capacity. Approximately \$8 million could be borrowed without a tax

increase, but it would not be enough to complete the Peakway. Council stated there is still a question about how much completing the Peakway project would improve traffic flow. Briefly discussed were developers and road widening.

The Town Manager stated affordability should be kept in mind. We can forecast growth fairly accurately two years out; after that we can't. We will only suggest working on those projects which are affordable.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business,

MAYOR SUTTON CALLED FOR A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCIL MEMBER LASSITER MADE
THE MOTION; COUNCIL MEMBER WILKIE SECONDED THE MOTION.
THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-0 VOTE.

Donna B. Hosch, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

William M. Sutton, Mayor