



Special Apex Town Council Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2020

Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor
Nicole L. Dozier, Mayor Pro Tempore
Brett D. Gantt, Audra M. Killingsworth, Cheryl F. Stallings,
and Terry Mahaffey, Council Members
Drew Havens, Town Manager
Shawn Purvis, Assistant Town Manager
Marty Stone, Assistant Town Manager
Donna B. Hosch, MMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk
Laurie L. Hohe, Town Attorney

The Special Meeting of the Apex Town Council
scheduled Monday, April 27, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.
was held in the Council Chamber of Apex Town
Hall, 73 Hunter Street

In attendance were Mayor Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole L. Dozier (remotely), and Council Members Audra M. Killingsworth, Brett D. Gantt, Cheryl F. Stallings, and Terry Mahaffey (remotely)

Also in attendance were Town Manager Drew Havens, Assistant Town Manager Shawn Purvis, Town Clerk Donna B. Hosch (remotely), and Town Attorney Laurie L. Hohe

COMMENCEMENT

Mayor Gilbert called the meeting to order, read a diversity and inclusion statement as it relates to religion, gave the Invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

PH1 Joanna Helms, Economic Development Director

Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 to establish a Small Business Emergency Loan Program to assist small businesses in Apex that are experiencing hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town intends to appropriate fund balance in the General Fund to cover the aforementioned costs. The purpose of the proposed loans is to increase the business prospects of the Town by assisting small businesses impacted by the pandemic in maintaining their employment and business opportunities.

Staff stated the purpose of the Public Hearing. The loan was intended to be a bridge to help businesses get through this emergency. The loan cap/business would be \$50,000/business, the administrator of the program being the NC Rural Economic Development Center. Staff stated it was anticipated that the program would open within a day or two, pending finalization of the agreement.

Responding to Council, staff stated the Rural Center acts as administrator for several funding initiatives. Golden Leaf had provided funds for the recovery. The Apex program would be only for Apex Businesses. Staff thought the Rural Center might again receive funds which would be available across the state. If some businesses in Apex had not received funding, they could possibly receive those coming in at a later date.

Mayor Gilbert declared the Public Hearing open.

Nicholas Blatchford's comments submitted via online form were read:

"I commend the Town Council for its foresight in establishing this program. Our local businesses are key to keeping Apex the Peak of Good Living and the loans will help them survive this crisis and will help maintain the commercial tax base in the future. So, I support this program, but was interested in how it is funded. So here are my questions:

- 1. Where did the Council find the \$1 million for this program--from the Rainy Day Fund, the operating budget, the capital budget? Did anything have to be deferred to pay for this?*
- 2. When (and if) the loans are repaid, do those funds go back into the budget where they came from?*
- 3. Do we have any sense from the businesses that will get these loans how they will use the money? Will it enable them to keep employees on their payroll?*
- 4. Do we have any sense of how much of a bridge this will be for these businesses, that is, how long it will keep them afloat?*

Thanks, and keep up the good work! Mark Blatchford"

Mayor Gilbert declared the Public Hearing closed.

Staff stated when loan payments come in, the funds would go as Council directs. Unless other specified, the funds would go back into General Fund.

Responding to Council, staff stated there were no specific restrictions on how the businesses could use the money whether it be for rent, mortgages, utilities, ecommerce, day to day operations, etc. Council asked how this would bridge the needs in Apex, staff responding that this was hard to estimate because of the various kinds of businesses. However, we would estimate funding would last for two months' operating expenses.

Mayor Gilbert called for a motion. Council Member Killingsworth made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #14 in the amount of \$1,050,000.00;

Council Member Stallings seconded the motion.

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Gilbert referenced an article in the Triangle Business Journal which reflected the great work by [Economic Development Director] Joanna Helms and her team and the entire staff.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business and without objection from Council, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the meeting.

Donna B. Hosch, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor