



RESPONSE LETTER FROM COUNCIL

The Apex Town Council is always working in the best interest of our community. We want to work well with our Mayor and remain committed to collaboration that benefits everyone in Apex.

At our meeting on September 9, 2025, questions were raised about the process surrounding board appointments. We'd like to provide clarity on what happened. Mayor Gilbert left the meeting before the closed session and did not return. Earlier that evening, the Council voted on several board appointments he had recommended. All of those recommendations were approved, except for his nomination for the Board of Adjustment.

For that board, the Mayor asked us to vote on two nominees as a slate. Councilmember Brett Gantt moved to separate the recommendations, allowing an individual vote on each. This motion aligned with Robert's Rules of Order and longstanding Council practice. The Council supported the motion.

As seen in the recording of the meetings, the Mayor protested this effort, despite knowing that the Council wanted to have a separate vote for each recommended member. (See Apex Town Council Meeting 2025.9.9 on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VushxEq7Z58>, at 2:58:18). This was not the first time Mayor Gilbert attempted to prevent a vote on each nominee for the Board of Adjustments. (See Apex Town Council Meeting, 2025.6.24 on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pR4ihjD6Prg>, at 2:32:48). Further, at the last regular meeting of August, the irregularity of the Mayor's actions was the subject of the review of the minutes for that June 24th meeting.

The Mayor objected to this process, despite knowing that one of the recommendations faced unanimous opposition. Instead of allowing the vote to go forward, he attempted to adjourn the meeting early. At that point, the Council acted to temporarily suspend the rules so that the vote could take place properly, which is consistent with Robert's Rules. This suspension applied only to that one motion.

It's important to note that the Mayor's authority was not limited nor removed by the Council. His decision to leave the chambers was his alone. It saddens the members of this Council that some are pushing the perception that the Mayor was somehow mistreated.

Our rules and process are not subject to the desires of any individual. They apply to and are formed by the collective FOR THE PEOPLE OF APEX. Our system works best when we remember that appointments are a collaborative process: the Mayor recommends, and then the Council votes. No single member can dictate the outcome. We adhere to longstanding council meeting rules and our shared traditions to promote fairness, transparency, and accountability to our community.

We will continue to conduct the Town's business in a way that reflects respect for our rules, our roles, and most importantly, the residents we serve.

The Apex Town Council