DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

TOWN OF APEX
TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025
12:00 M

The Apex Town Council met for a Regular Town Council Meeting on Friday, October 10th, 2025 at 12:00 PM in the Council Chambers at Apex Town Hall, located at 73 Hunter Street in Apex, North Carolina.

This meeting was open to the public. Members of the public were able to attend this meeting in-person or watch online via the livestream on the Town's YouTube Channel. The recording of this meeting can be viewed here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ0mvmTEdss

[ATTENDANCE]

Elected Body
Mayor Jacques K. Gilbert (presiding)
Mayor Pro Tempore Ed Gray
Councilmember Audra Killingsworth
Councilmember Terry Mahaffey
Councilmember Brett Gantt
Councilmember Arno Zegerman

Town Staff
Town Manager Randy Vosburg
Deputy Town Manager Shawn Purvis
Assistant Town Manager Marty Stone
Assistant Town Manager Demetria John
Town Attorney Laurie Hohe
Town Clerk Allen Coleman
All other staff members will be identified appropriately below

[COMMENCEMENT]

Mayor Gilbert called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. He made a note that he would be leaving at 2:00 p.m.

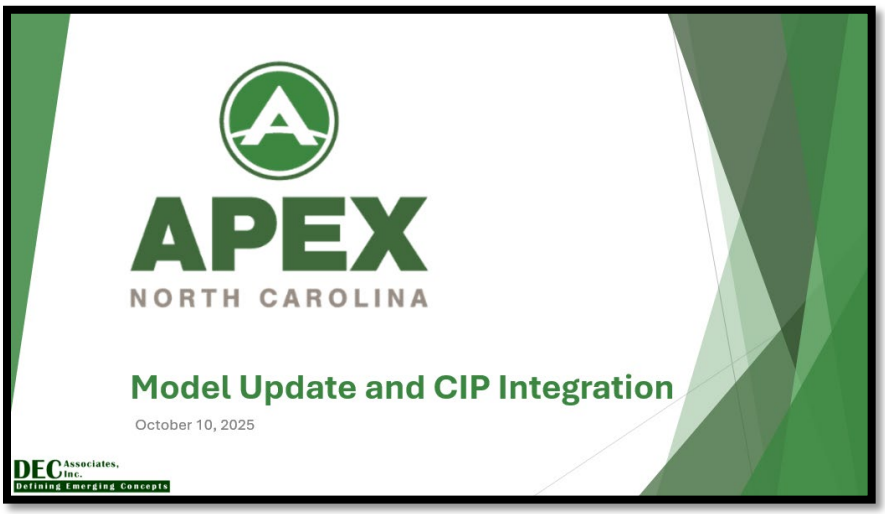
Town Manager Vosburg said that this is one of two major meetings done throughout the fiscal year, the second is the Budget Retreat, typically held in February, and with two new Council Members coming then, several of the items will be covered in this meeting and a

more robust retreat will be in February. He introduced the Director team and introduced the new Finance Director, Jon Griffin.

[FINANCIAL ADVISORS – COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (CIF) AND CAPITAL PLAN REVIEW]

Financial Advisors Douglas Carter, DEC Associates Inc., Andrew Carter, DEC Associates Inc. and Jeremy Carter, DEC Associates Inc. gave an overview, laying the groundwork of where Apex is financially and for future planning. Andrew and Jeremy were introduced as the newest associates with DEC Associates. Andrew and Jeremy gave the following presentation:

[SLIDE 1]



[SLIDE 2]

[SLIDE 3]

Current Policies

- Current financial and debt policies
  - Debt policies
    - Net Debt as a percentage of total assessed value should not exceed 2.5%
    - Debt Service as a percentage of total governmental fund expenditures should not exceed 12%
    - 10-yr principal payout ratio target of 55% or better
    - End of fiscal year CIF fund fund balance coverage ratio policy – 50% or better
  - Reserve policies
    - "Available" fund balance at least 20-25% of annual operating budget
      - If drops below this level, Town has 36 months to restore
      - Excess funds in "available" fund balance over 30% is to be transferred into the CIF Fund after completion of annual ACFR (audited annual financial report)

[SLIDE 4]

Current Issuance Plan

Planned new General Government investments:

2026 Limited Obligation Bonds		
	Tunstall House	$3,404,000
	Town Hall upfits	$3,000,000
	Land Acquisition	$8,400,000
	Salem Streetscape	$3,000,000
		$17,804,000
2026 General Obligation Bonds		
	Remaining Transportation	$24,500,000
2028 Limited Obligation Bonds		
	Fire Station #3	$12,853,580
	Total:	**$55,157,580**

[SLIDE 5]

General Government Capital Model Update

- Integrating CIP projects
  - "Steady State" at approximately $24M every other year starting in 2030
    - Requires prioritization and timing of projects in CIP

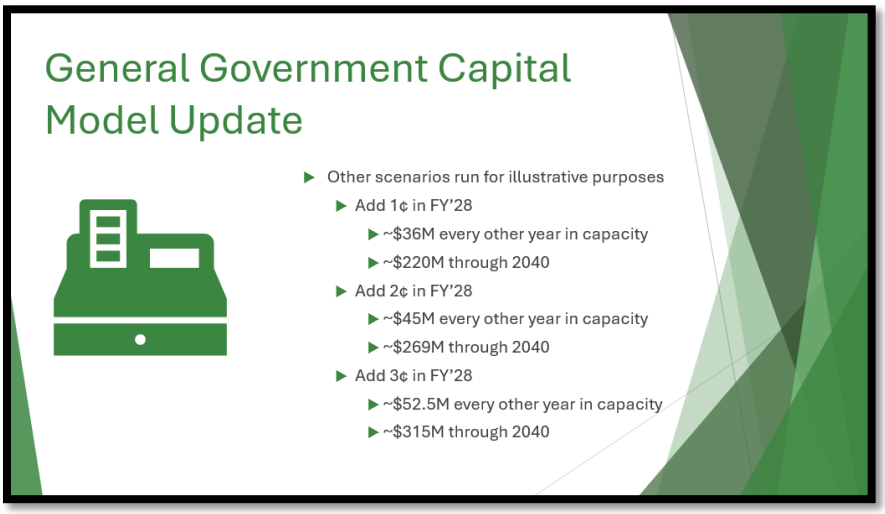
Fire Administration	$	14,364,964	Public Facilities
Pleasant Park	$	14,000,000	Park
Fire Station #7	$	13,205,600	Public Facilities
Fire Station #2	$	11,205,600	Public Facilities
Town Hall	$	13,017,943	Public Facilities
Nature Park Operations	$	16,800,000	Parks
Fire Station #8	$	13,205,600	Public Facilities
Police Administration	$	29,536,371	Public Facilities

* No transportation or major parks projects included

Councilmember Gantt asked if certain bonds were only for certain purchases, and how they are used.

Mr. Carter explained the difference between General Obligation bonds (GO), Limited Obligation Bonds, and two-third bonds. He said that GO bonds require voter approval and can fund any project listed on the ballot question, Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBs) do not require a vote and may be used for most Capital projects at the discretion of the Board, and Two-thirds bonds are another financing tool that allows issuance of up to two-thirds of the previous year's debt service without voter approval. GO bonds are for projects like streets and sidewalks that don't have physical assets to serve as collateral and LOBs can be used for building projects that qualify as assets.

[SLIDE 6]



Councilmember Zegerman asked if a penny tax could be $12 million, why does another penny only generate $11 million.

Mr. Carter said that it has to do with the ratio with the 50% payoff to the debt service. He said it gets way far out where there is a 50% fund balance and the CIF starts flashing and then the pennies are added and it is then getting to the guard rails with debt service ratio grows a little faster.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that last year there was a CIF created and a 7 cents funding which included a penny and a half, which was a little aggressive, he asked for a sense of how that level of funding for a town is the size of Apex compared to other towns this size.

Councilmember Gantt said that Holly Springs is putting in more.

Mr. Carter said that they had a large project and increased it 3 to 5 pennies by vote and it seems higher because of the parks. He said that Apex's funding is in a good place but there is room to be prepared and may consider CIF. He said it depends on what percentage of the budget goes to Capital and there is room before getting to the guard rails in CIF.

Councilmember Zegerman asked if instead of putting pennies all in one year, about staggering a penny in for each year, and would this help with a negative financial impact.

Mr. Carter said that this approach may be helpful and this would be something that would come back to the February budget meeting to evaluate. He said the more revenue you have, the more you can have in funds.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said that there are multiple options that the current version reflects, and it would be a separate piece for Council to consider a GO approach where that additional tax impact is not included in the current mode.

Director Jessica Hoffman, Budget and Performance Management, gave an overview of conclusions using the model that DEC Associates has created with steady State and there are three pages, with the first two pages showing all the projects that are fundable with the funding source. She said that the City typically allocates about $7 million annually in pay-go funding, provided through General Fund transfers or capital allocations within the operating budget included in grants and other governmental funds, all of the debt models are included that are currently anticipated. She said that there are rolling stock loans for the larger equipment. She said the 2nd and 3rd page is not based on cost, it includes how fund year and two are funded and this is how staff went through and assigned funds to projects, and with these funding guidelines is what could potentially be funded and this is the amount that is left. She said this gives you the overall picture of the total that can be found.

Councilmember Zegerman asked if items could move between funded and unfunded areas and what criteria was used to determine what should be funded and stay unfunded.

Director Hoffman said the first project funded was pay go, then projects with deadlines are prioritized first and then current projects are prioritized. She said that other projects are prioritized in their entirety to make it a little simpler, but this is flexible.

Town Manager Vosburg said that it can be changed in the future.

Director Hoffman said that this method was just to get a total baseline and around $215 million can be funded in this model, and then there would be $300 million unfunded, this is an overall total and will be prioritized through the process.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked if the model included the GO bond for the PO work and to clarify the General Fund transfer.

Director Hoffman explained that these items were funded through direct transfers from the General Fund into Capital projects each year.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray asked why the same project is in both the funded and unfunded categories.

Director Hoffman said the project is in both categories because the total cost of the project is $2 million, but only $1 million was funded in this fiscal year and the remaining part of the project will be completed in next fiscal year.

Town Manager Vosburg asked Assistant Town Manager, Marty Stone, to talk about projects that have increased costs recently.

Assistant Town Manager Stone spoke on the most recent project which was estimated at $450,000 and is now in at $1 million. He said that construction costs are extremely high, far above what they were a decade ago.

Councilmember Zegerman asked if it was possible to bring some of the projects in house.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that is a construction item and some projects could be done by staff, like a small water line extension but projects like grading a site could not be done in house.

Councilmember Zegerman said that things that are being done repetitively may be worth hiring for that skill and renting the equipment.

Councilmember Gantt said this plan and planning through 2040 will help decide these types of things.

Town Manager Vosburg asked staff to discuss concerns regarding the interplay of the model where there is an operational need that isn't associated with the project and isn't reflected in this model.

Mr. Carter said there are operational needs that aren't associated with the projects that aren't reflected such as staffing a new building, for example the new school being built. He said that when projects start, the money is issued for the facility and it takes 18-36 months to build, this money is in two budget years. He said it can fund what Council wants it to fund, but it is not the intent. He said that the model does not include operational costs, but it could at Council's direction. He said the model is primarily focused on debt service but is now being expanded to incorporate the City's existing pay-go funding which is approximately $7 million annually, which brings both debt and pay-go together allowing the decisions about whether to fund projects through debt or pay-go to be evaluated together rather than separate processes in the future.

Councilmember Gantt asked what Cary's situation was with new generation needs, and GO bonds, two of which failed on the ballot, and what lessons can be learned.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked if that was more of a political question.

Town Manager Vosburg said it was partly political and partly mechanical, with the volume of what they asked for possibly intimidating voters, it was a big ask of $500 million.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said that the model being used seemed the appropriate one from the departmental standpoint because in 5 to 10 years if a new Council comes in and changes the priority list then money is reshuffled and that delays projects, which will cost more. He said this model seems to create a longer form of stability and ease of planning, giving the ability to maintain a good picture of how much the cost will be and how stable the cost will be.

Councilmember Gantt asked if the recommendation was to spread out the projects and plan out further.

Mr. Carter said yes, this is what the tool helps you do.

Councilmember Gantt asked how much was on the General Government Capital Model.

Mr. Carter said it has pay go and debt and it's about $7 million.

[SLIDE 7]

Town Manager Vosburg asked what the next steps are.

Director Hoffman said that next steps are in December and will get Council highlights on project submissions from this year and will bring the results from the resident budget priority survey as well as staff scoring. She said Council will take that information and the project prioritization survey and Council will have all of the information to prioritize projects for February's budget meetings where discussions will be had with placement of projects more realistically.

Town Manager Vosburg said that Googling other communities in the area will show that they haven't done what Apex is doing in taking financial planning to this level. He thanked Council.

Councilmember Zegerman said that he likes this model because of the steady state baseline investment that staff can plan for or count on.

[SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATES]

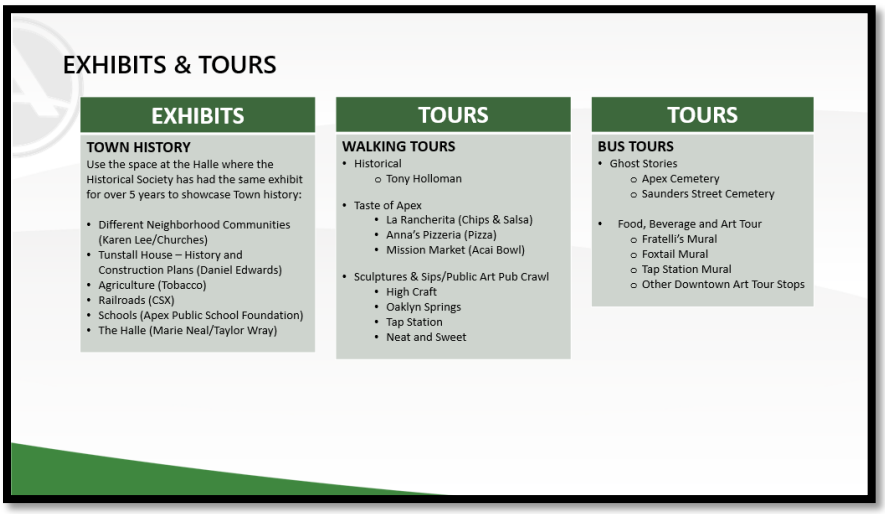
Lisa Raschke, Special Events Manager, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department gave the following presentation:

[SLIDE 1]

[SLIDE 2]

[SLIDE 3]

[SLIDE 4]



[SLIDE 5]

Councilmember Zegerman asked why Apex is doing events like ghost tours instead of businesses and the community and how does the events become more permanent instead of one-off events that people can do on their own.

Ms. Raschke said that the dinner and movie series is something to look into seriously because it is something that a lot of different municipalities are currently doing and the art museum does it. She said that she likes the idea of self-guided tours but wants to make sure they are being used. She gave a list of ideas for events and how the public can engage staff but these events she highlighted she isn't sure that businesses would do.

Town Manager Vosburg said currently businesses aren't involved and there is a void, but it doesn't mean that they won't get involved. He said that if Apex does the logistics of an event that asked businesses to partner that may be a better way to get them engaged. He said that the presentation shows where there is a lack for capital to invest, but there are spaces that aren't utilized 100% that could be possibly used.

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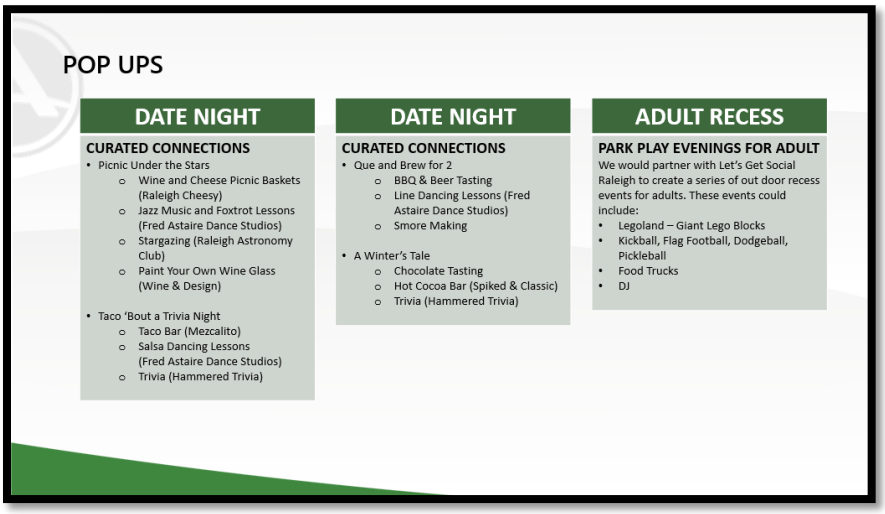

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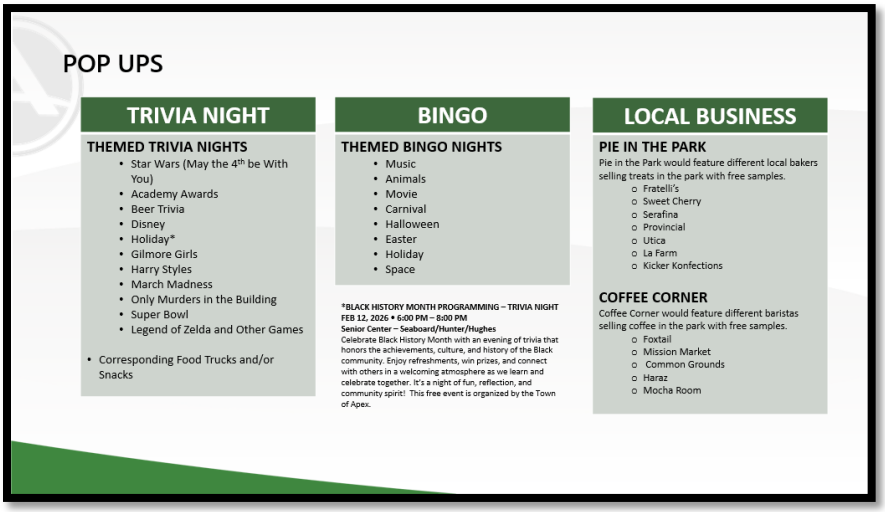

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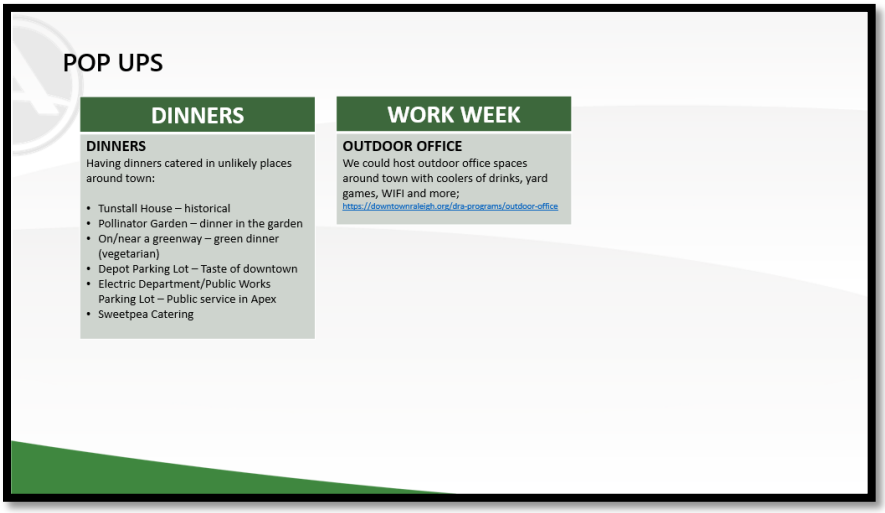

Councilmember Gantt asked what the plan looks like as to the town's involvement.

Ms. Raschke said it depends on the fact that there isn't a lot of space for different activities and the idea is to use Apex's space and bring in different groups and businesses in town and surrounding areas to draw people to Apex with small businesses downtown and beyond. She said this had not been done before so it is unsure on how this will be done.

Town Manager Vosburg said in the beginning it will be a heavy lift for Apex in the interim but then they can partner with businesses or others.

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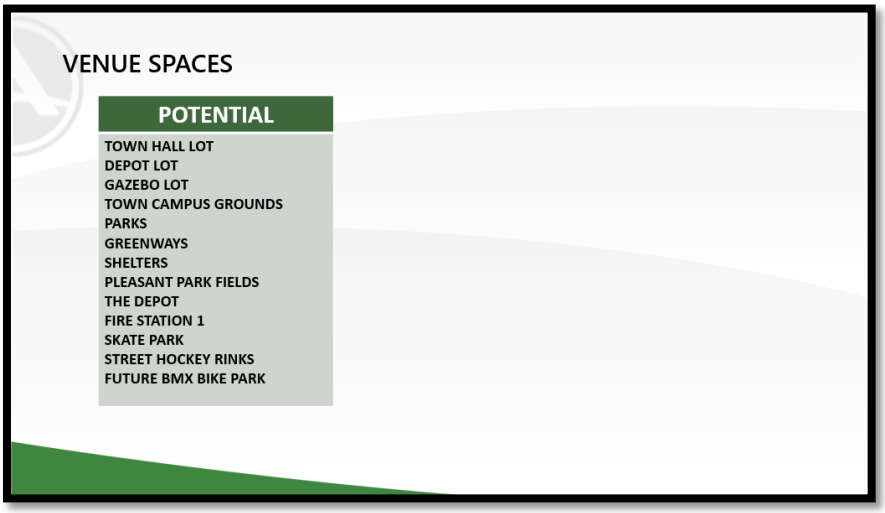
[SLIDE 13]

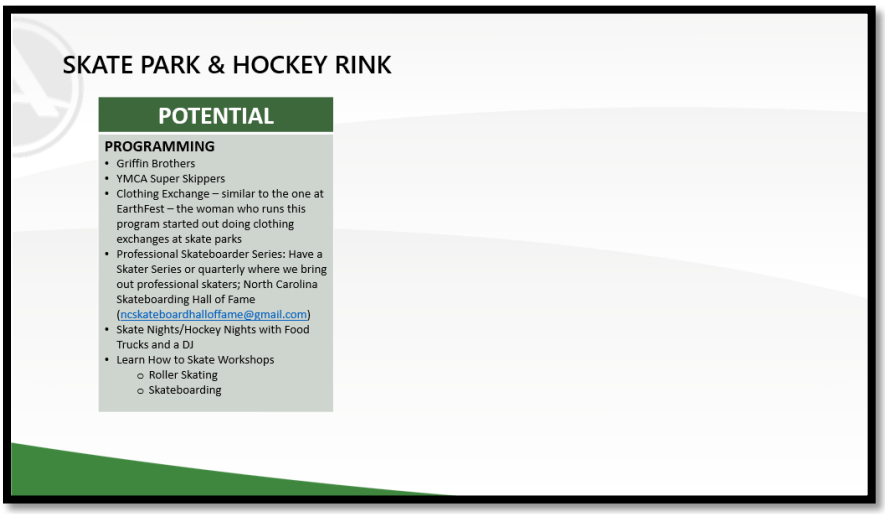


Councilmember Gantt said recent discussions by State Representatives about the possibility of realignment of hospitality tax to be based on population growth could result in additional funding and the projects should be ready to submit.

Ms. Raschke said that these events should keep expanding and look forward. She is currently trying to build things now with the resources that are available, and that could be multifunctional.

Councilmember Gantt said that he agreed and next November will be the time that the funding may come to the municipalities if the law is passed.

[SLIDE 14]



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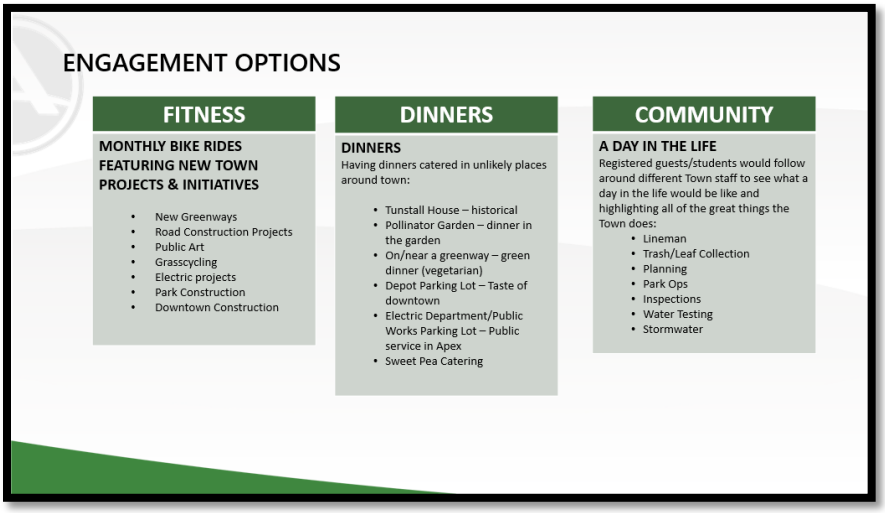

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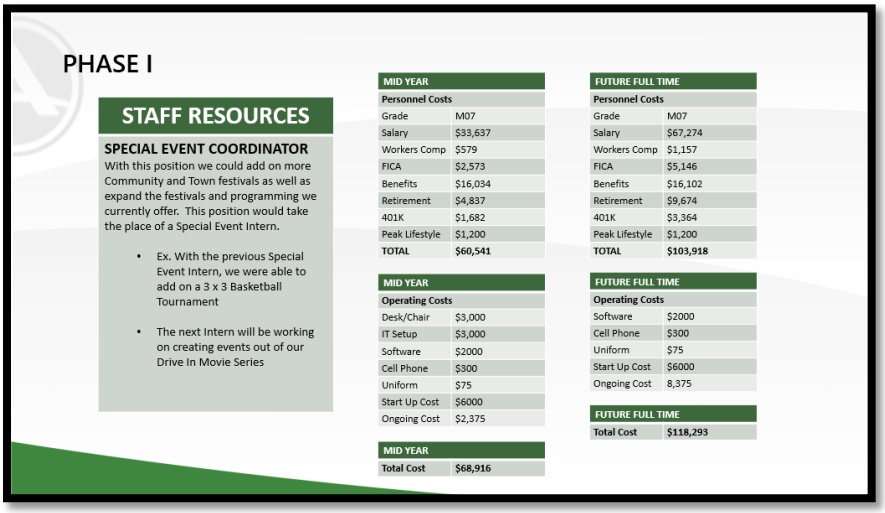
[SLIDE 20]



PHASE I

STAFF RESOURCES

SPECIAL EVENT COORDINATOR

With this position we could add on more Community and Town festivals as well as expand the festivals and programming we currently offer. This position would take the place of a Special Event Intern.

- Ex. With the previous Special Event Intern, we were able to add on a 3 x 3 Basketball Tournament
- The next Intern will be working on creating events out of our Drive In Movie Series

MID YEAR	
Personnel Costs	
Grade	M07
Salary	$33,637
Workers Comp	$579
FICA	$2,573
Benefits	$16,034
Retirement	$4,837
401K	$1,682
Peak Lifestyle	$1,200
TOTAL	**$60,541**

MID YEAR	
Operating Costs	
Desk/Chair	$3,000
IT Setup	$3,000
Software	$2000
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$75
Start Up Cost	$6000
Ongoing Cost	$2,375

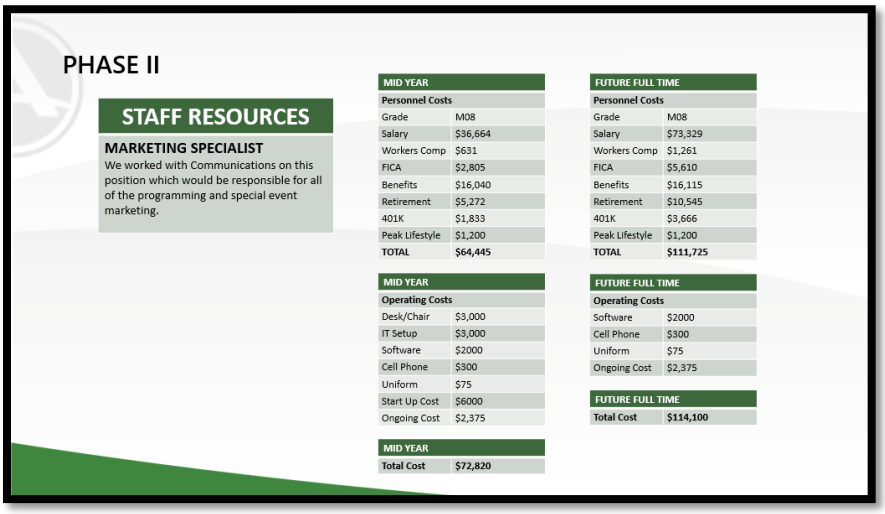
MID YEAR	
Total Cost	**$68,916**

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Personnel Costs	
Grade	M07
Salary	$67,274
Workers Comp	$1,157
FICA	$5,146
Benefits	$16,102
Retirement	$9,674
401K	$3,364
Peak Lifestyle	$1,200
TOTAL	**$103,918**

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Operating Costs	
Software	$2000
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$75
Start Up Cost	$6000
Ongoing Cost	8,375

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Total Cost	**$118,293**

[SLIDE 21]



PHASE II

STAFF RESOURCES

MARKETING SPECIALIST

We worked with Communications on this position which would be responsible for all of the programming and special event marketing.

MID YEAR	
Personnel Costs	
Grade	M08
Salary	$36,664
Workers Comp	$631
FICA	$2,805
Benefits	$16,040
Retirement	$5,272
401K	$1,833
Peak Lifestyle	$1,200
TOTAL	**$64,445**

MID YEAR	
Operating Costs	
Desk/Chair	$3,000
IT Setup	$3,000
Software	$2000
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$75
Start Up Cost	$6000
Ongoing Cost	$2,375

MID YEAR	
Total Cost	**$72,820**

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Personnel Costs	
Grade	M08
Salary	$73,329
Workers Comp	$1,261
FICA	$5,610
Benefits	$16,115
Retirement	$10,545
401K	$3,666
Peak Lifestyle	$1,200
TOTAL	**$111,725**

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Operating Costs	
Software	$2000
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$75
Ongoing Cost	$2,375

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Total Cost	**$114,100**

[SLIDE 22]

PHASE II

STAFF RESOURCES

PROGRAM SPECIALIST
With this position we could add on the Popup, Movie, and Exhibit programming, as well expanding upon and supplementing our current programming.

MID YEAR	
Personnel Costs	
Grade	M08
Salary	$36,664
Workers Comp	$631
FICA	$2,805
Benefits	$16,040
Retirement	$5,272
401K	$1,833
Peak Lifestyle	$1,200
TOTAL	**$64,445**

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Personnel Costs	
Grade	M08
Salary	$73,329
Workers Comp	$1,261
FICA	$5,610
Benefits	$16,115
Retirement	$10,545
401K	$3,666
Peak Lifestyle	$1,200
TOTAL	**$111,725**

MID YEAR	
Operating Costs	
Desk/Chair	$3,000
IT Setup	$3,000
Software	$2000
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$75
Start Up Cost	$6000
Ongoing Cost	$2,375

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Operating Costs	
Software	$2000
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$75
Ongoing Cost	$2,375

MID YEAR	
Total Cost	**$72,820**

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Total Cost	**$114,100**

[SLIDE 23]

PHASE II

STAFF RESOURCES

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
With this position we could add on and extend the proposed programming.

MID YEAR	
Personnel Costs	
Grade	M07
Salary	$33,637
Workers Comp	$579
FICA	$2,573
Benefits	$16,034
Retirement	$4,837
401K	$1,682
Peak Lifestyle	$1,200
TOTAL	**$$60,541**

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Personnel Costs	
Grade	M07
Salary	$67,274
Workers Comp	$1,157
FICA	$5,146
Benefits	$16,102
Retirement	$9,674
401K	$3,364
Peak Lifestyle	$1,200
TOTAL	**$103,918**

MID YEAR	
Operating Costs	
Desk/Chair	$3,000
IT Setup	$3,000
Software	$2000
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$75
Start Up Cost	$6000
Ongoing Cost	$2,375

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Operating Costs	
Software	$2000
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$75
Ongoing Cost	8,375

MID YEAR	
Total Cost	**$68,916**

FUTURE FULL TIME	
Total Cost	**$106,293**

[SLIDE 24]

PHASE II

STAFF RESOURCES

30 HOUR PARK ATTENDANT
We worked with Park Operations to determine what operations resources we would need for this additional programming.

FUTURE FT I	
Personnel Costs	
Salary	$27,000
Workers Comp	$464
FICA	$2,066
Benefits	$12,029
Retirement	$3,883
401K	$1,350
Peak Lifestyle	$900
TOTAL	**$47,691**

FUTURE FT II	
Personnel Costs	
Salary	$27,000
Workers Comp	$464
FICA	$2,066
Benefits	$12,029
Retirement	$3,883
401K	$1,350
Peak Lifestyle	$900
TOTAL	**$47,691**

FUTURE FT I	
Operating Costs	
Vehicle Start Up Costs	$65,000
Vehicle Ongoing Costs	$67,050
Software	$1,500
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$250
TOTAL	**$67,050**

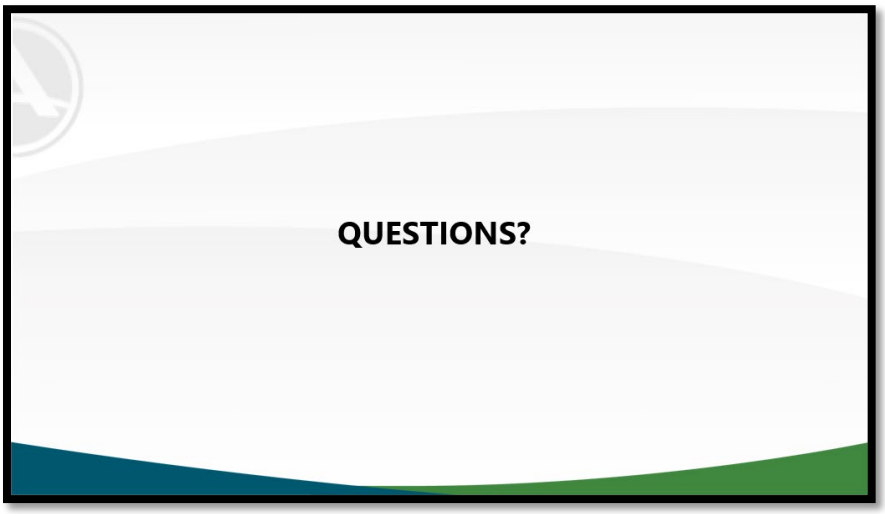
FUTURE FT II	
Operating Costs	
Software	$1,500
Cell Phone	$300
Uniform	$250
TOTAL	**$2,050**

FUTURE FT I	
Total Cost	**$179,741**

FUTURE FT II	
Total Cost	**$49,741**

FUTURE FT I & II	
Total Cost	**$229,483**

[SLIDE 25]



Town Manager Vosburg recognized Craig Setzer, Director of Parks and Recreation and Assistant Town Manager John, as this has been a collaborative effort today and wanted to give them an opportunity to speak.

Director Setzer said that this is part of the master plan and there are spaces in the park that aren't used to capacity, but ball fields and gyms are packed all the time. He said there is a little space at the Senior Center typically at night. He said that this is an opportunity to embrace the entertainment in Apex but it should be a private public combination and they are stretched from a special events perspective.

Ms. Raschke said that she has been working with Nora Skinner and has talked with the Environmental Food Symposium and they want to come to Apex, making this a Triangle event.

Councilmember Gantt asked if there were programs that had been considered similar to Launch Apex that focus specifically on supporting service-based small businesses to utilize resources.

Ms. Raschke said that a lot of other towns have that and businesses are already meeting and doing this and Apex is in a transitional period currently. She is not aware of a lot of forums or ways that businesses are getting together. She said the avenues for businesses to come together and create things like this may not be available, but it's also a private piece.

Director Setzer said that there are communities that have rivers, oceans and lakes which will draw the community in, Apex has a railroad and this falls on Apex to draw people in and the events that are offered are one way to draw people in.

Councilmember Zegerman appreciated the creativity. He said that it would be interesting to see the short-term plan. He said they should look at events that were sustained with public private partnerships and with the full intent to transition to private overtime. He would like to see more details over the year or so.

Ms. Raschke said that most events in the presentation could be done if there was a Special Events Coordinator, there is already a plan in place and this could be done quick. She

said that the events listed in the New Special Events slide could be done now if there was one more staff person.

Mayor Gilbert asked how the plan may include different communities and how they will evolve over 20 or 40 years. He also asked if public safety staffing costs were factored into the planning process.

Ms. Raschke said that other than the festivals most of that work is with Special Events and Parks and Recreation and she gave some examples of events that would not need public safety.

Director Setzer said that parking facilities need to be increased to help with additional events.

Mayor Gilbert asked if there was another option besides bluegrass for music.

Ms. Raschke said yes, there were bands that play music just for children and many other options. She said that if they start doing events the downtown businesses may get more involved and partner with Apex to support these events.

Councilmember Gantt asked if there could be a survey to see what the community's interests are and what may be missing in Apex.

Ms. Raschke said that there was an unofficial survey with the Cultural Advisory groups but there could be a more formal survey to help inspire people to see what they would like to see in Apex.

Assistant Town Manager John said it would be good to take this from the Master Plan and recap it in the survey for what the community would like to see in Apex.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray asked if there was a survey of the facilities that are available and the likelihood of them being able to support an event.

Ms. Raschke said there are different ideas, Sue Helton Park would not be a good location for a large event but Salem Pond Park might be and this is where the details would come in to determine more location options.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said it would be a benefit to understand what will be needed for personnel anticipated and locations available for budgeting purposes. He supports this idea but would want more information.

Ms. Raschke said that they were taking a phased approach and would need another staff member either way for what events are being held currently. She said that this would not be done all at once, and once Phase I was complete then that would be assessed to move to Phase II.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said that with small events, like the Candidate Forum, there were 2 Police Officers there, and how that impacted the Police Department's operations is a question to have since there is a cost associated with these events.

Director Setzer said that costs can be built per event.

Ms. Raschke said that staffing numbers can be given for the events that she has presented and an estimate of cost. She gave some numbers based on size of events and said that she would get an estimate for Council.

Assistant Town Manager John noted that no matter what size the event is public safety should always be considered and those costs should be factored into the budget for the event.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said that not only public safety but also other departments that are involved need to be factored in.

Ms. Raschke said this is why these events should start slowly; the other piece is if there is alcohol. She said that they have done some research on how to have alcohol at the events and what that would entail.

Town Manager Vosburg said it sounded like there was general support for this concept and there are some events already being planned that can be accomplished with existing staff and they would continue planning for more robust events and what that would look like. He said this would be discussed further during budget discussions.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked if there was an ask for additional staff in Phase I.

Ms. Raschke said that they were asking for additional staff when Council is ready.

Councilmember Mahaffey said to hire the position now.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray asked if they were asking to hire staff immediately.

Councilmember Mahaffey said if the process is started now, it will take several months to bring on that person.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that there are a lot of good ideas and this was an awesome presentation. He said this is a heavy lift for a lot of people over a long period of time and the popup type events may be easier and these have been well received and have usually done well.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said that these are things that Council would need to see to justify the budget.

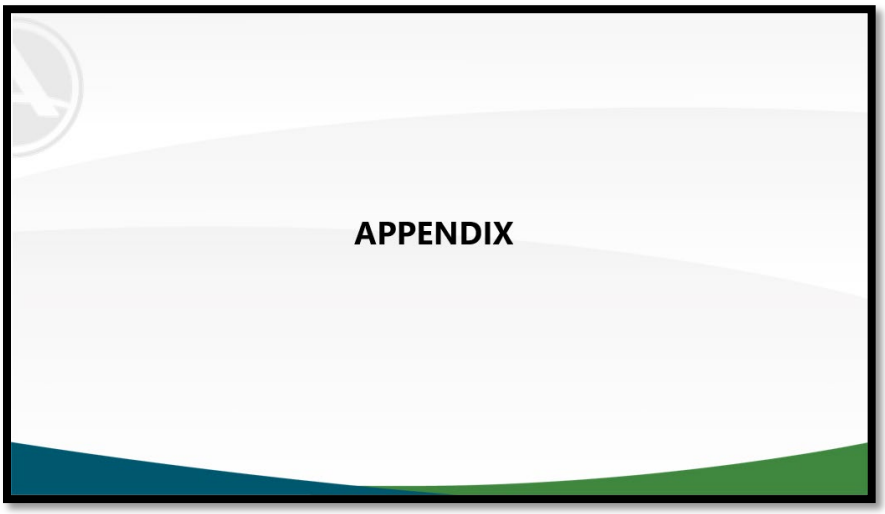
Town Manager Vosburg asked if Council was potentially open to a position sooner rather than later.

The consensus of Council was yes.

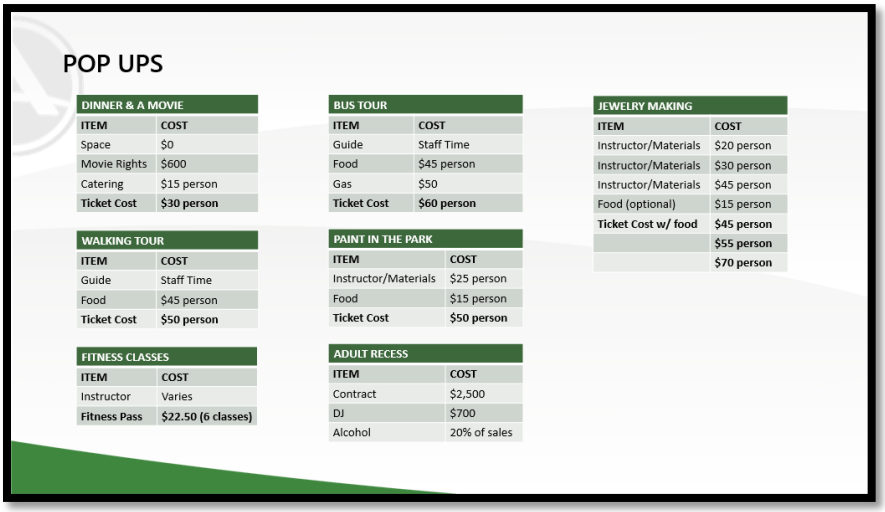
Councilmember Killingsworth said that it wasn't expected to be able to do these events without another staff member and the town should move forward with that.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that event attendance has grown significantly and the Town needs additional staffing support today and not just for future expansion, because current events are reaching capacity.

[SLIDE 26]



[SLIDE 27]



POP UPS

DINNER & A MOVIE	
ITEM	COST
Space	$0
Movie Rights	$600
Catering	$15 person
Ticket Cost	**$30 person**

WALKING TOUR	
ITEM	COST
Guide	Staff Time
Food	$45 person
Ticket Cost	**$50 person**

FITNESS CLASSES	
ITEM	COST
Instructor	Varies
Fitness Pass	**$22.50 (6 classes)**

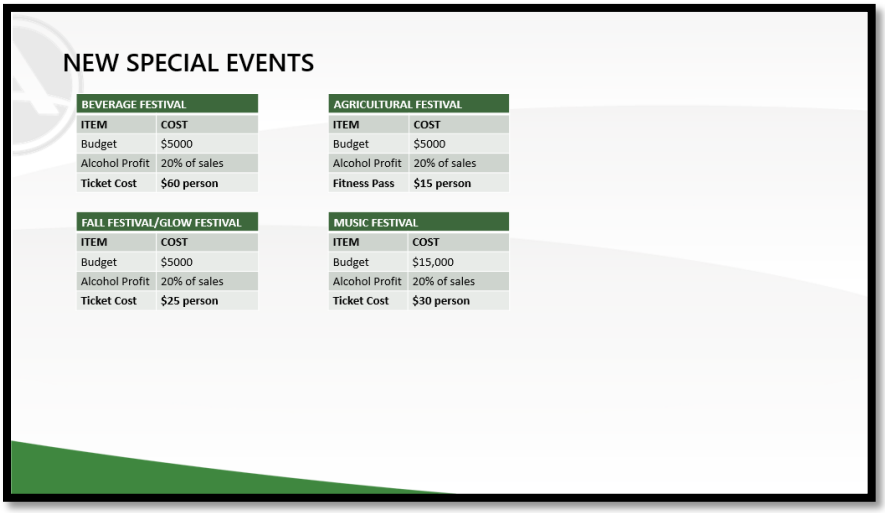
BUS TOUR	
ITEM	COST
Guide	Staff Time
Food	$45 person
Gas	$50
Ticket Cost	**$60 person**

PAINT IN THE PARK	
ITEM	COST
Instructor/Materials	$25 person
Food	$15 person
Ticket Cost	**$50 person**

ADULT RECESS	
ITEM	COST
Contract	$2,500
DJ	$700
Alcohol	20% of sales

JEWELRY MAKING	
ITEM	COST
Instructor/Materials	$20 person
Instructor/Materials	$30 person
Instructor/Materials	$45 person
Food (optional)	$15 person
Ticket Cost w/ food	**$45 person**
	$55 person
	$70 person

[SLIDE 28]



NEW SPECIAL EVENTS

BEVERAGE FESTIVAL	
ITEM	COST
Budget	$5000
Alcohol Profit	20% of sales
Ticket Cost	**$60 person**

FALL FESTIVAL/GLOW FESTIVAL	
ITEM	COST
Budget	$5000
Alcohol Profit	20% of sales
Ticket Cost	**$25 person**

AGRICULTURAL FESTIVAL	
ITEM	COST
Budget	$5000
Alcohol Profit	20% of sales
Fitness Pass	**$15 person**

MUSIC FESTIVAL	
ITEM	COST
Budget	$15,000
Alcohol Profit	20% of sales
Ticket Cost	**$30 person**

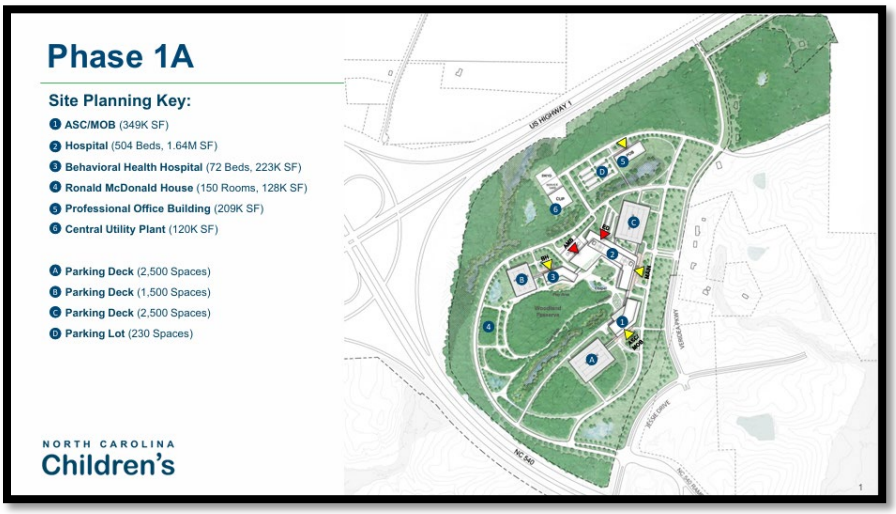
Mayor Gilbert left the meeting at **2:03 p.m.**

[NORTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL UPDATES]

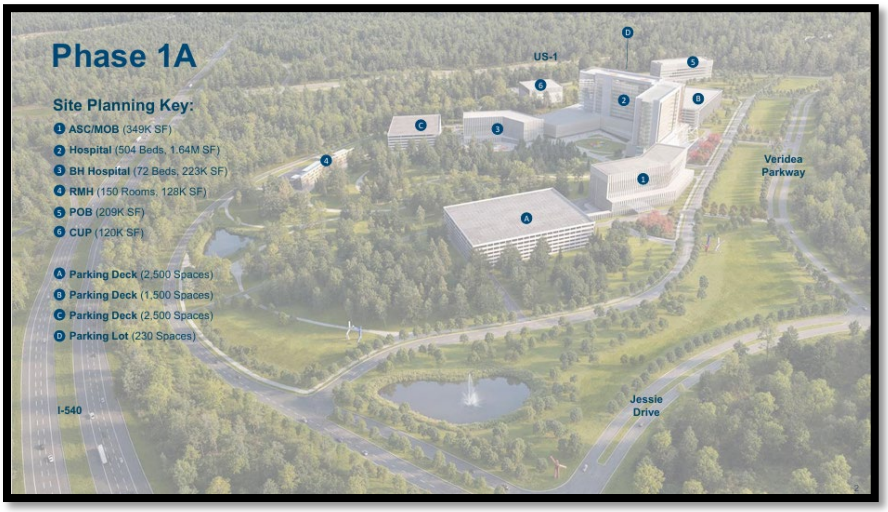
Town Manager Vosburg said that Assistant Town Manager Stone will be giving an update on North Carolina Children's hospital and where the project is at this time.

Marty Stone, Assistant Town Manager – Development and Operations Portfolio gave an overview of the progress with the NC Children's Hospital in the following presentation:

[SLIDE 1]



[SLIDE 2]



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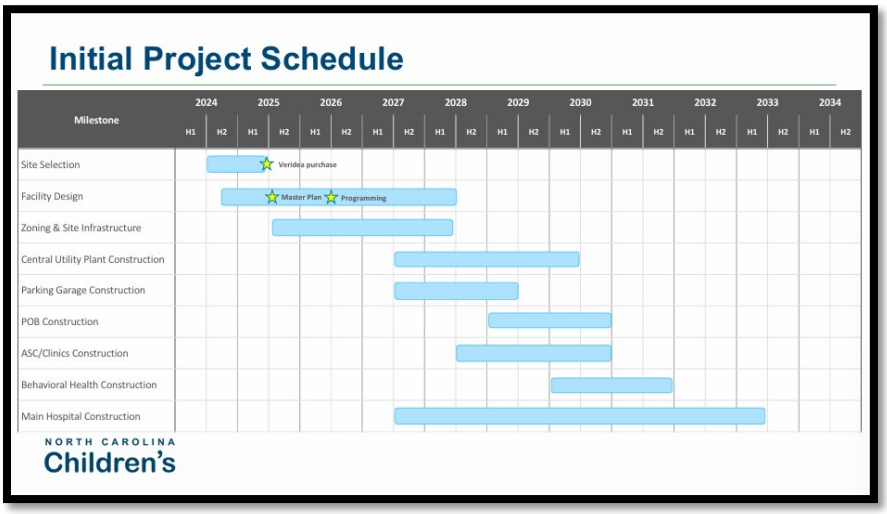


Councilmember Zegerman asked if there is a trench being dug, could there be a plan for the reverse to drop a second pipe in there so we don't have to dig a hole.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said the more direct route would probably be to use some of the corridor that will be used to get into the plant with the temporary line but the route that it would take to get the reused water back to the hospital would most likely be down on Dead End Prince Road but they would utilize anywhere they can.

Councilmember Zegerman said if there is an opportunity to trench and drop one line into the ground this is the suggestion.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that they were looking at all options. He said that they were in the process of hiring a staff member that should be on board on December 27th to help with the Big Basin project and other projects.

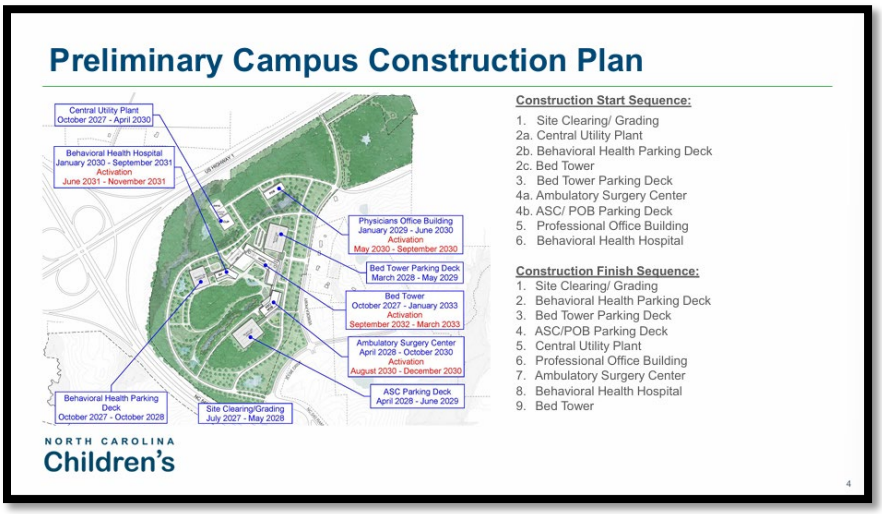
Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray asked if Apex would be providing power.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that is the plan.

Councilmember Zegerman asked if the physician's building will become operational before the main hospital.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that is his understanding.

[SLIDE 4]



[SLIDE 5]

Councilmember Gantt asked what the future choices that the Council would have with this project, for example transit or greenways other than what was done at the December 9th meeting with the rezoning.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that the transit would be talked about at the end of the presentation.

Town Manager Vosburg asked for a show of hands from the leadership team that this project would significantly impact your department in the future. He said that most of the hands are up so there will be multiple points from that perspective on staffing and decisions as it relates to stations and transit.

Councilmember Gantt asked if it would have an operational impact more than a policy choice.

Town Manager Vosburg said that it is true, it would also have a staffing and budgetary impact as well.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked what the effect on the operations of the rest of the town was.

Town Manager Vosburg said impacts are already being seen on staff and it is pulling resources, this is huge piece of growth.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said that it is a realistic expectation that there will be an increase in at least the major departments because this will absorb everyone's time, so being staffed is important.

Town Manager Vosburg said this is a great point and this Strategic Planning meeting specifically is to keep help with planning and the impact.

Councilmember Zegerman said that between now and 2033 they should start layering in the operational support and other support from the town.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked if any of these could be contracted, as opposed to hiring a full-time person which may take six months to get on board and then also leading to the possibility of being overstaffed in three years.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that with Veridia and other ongoing projects for development that this was the start of at least 10 to 15 years of solid work and it's going to change which departments are affected. He said that Water Resources have got plans and are working on those now for the Big Branch water and sewer needs.

Councilmember Zegerman asked what could be expected to have to layer into the various departments over the next couple of decades as some of these developments are coming.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that they are currently updating staffing plans which means that once the plans are finalized then the Master Space Plan Study that was just completed will be outdated.

Councilmember Zegerman said that multi story buildings should be planned.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that they are planning on multi story buildings, right now they are looking at possibly increasing the footprint by combining the warehouse with the fire station by adding a couple of bays and some other things.

Councilmember Killingsworth asked if there were any discussions about expanding down 55 for traffic in respect to Wake Tech, the school, and hospital that are coming.

Russell Dalton, Traffic Engineering Manager, said that the traffic study was just submitted but as an overall Master Plan for Veridia we do have some framework structure that is being followed and will be reviewed to make traffic recommendations for the opening site. He said that some portions of NC 55 widened, and the HL0007 DOT project is a major interchange intersection upgrade at Technology Drive, a four-lane connector of Forest Light Way up to Jesse Drive to Veridia Parkway and it will connect to 540 so that is given a lot of options for people locally to go north and not have to be on 55 to 540. He said that NC55 will continue to be very busy but there will be alternate routes to avoid this.

Councilmember Zegerman said that he had not heard how the bridge over US1 would be impacted and that he would like to see some bike lanes somewhere in this rendering especially on the north south corridor going into town along Veridia Parkway.

Councilmember Gantt asked could there be an interchange if it is far enough away from the 540 interchanges.

Mr. Dalton said that it would not be far enough away, but the Engineer that worked on Grace Christian and Seymour PUD did look at the regional model and the volume on Veridia Parkway and that road was downgraded from a four-lane to a three-lane road, the four-lane road only extends up to just south of US1 and transitions to a three lane road based on volumes of car, Perry Road is the major four lane road all the way up now.

Councilmember Gantt asked if Perry Road was in proximity to the 55 interchanges.

Mr. Dalton said it was actually a weaving section to 540.

Councilmember Gantt asked if it could be an in and out like on Wade Avenue.

Mr. Dalton said that it was not looked upon very favorably.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked if Jesse Drive for Phase II is under the CIP for the future or would it need private development.

Mr. Dalton said that there is a section of Jesse Drive both east and west of 55 that Veridia will not be building, they will build Forest Light Way but there will be a gap. He said that much of Phase II will be built by private development and it will be very expensive so this has been pushed out.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked if it was considered important for overall traffic to the site or is it more for 540.

Mr. Dalton said that for the overall network it's important for the future but not necessarily essential for this site.

Councilmember Gantt asked if the hospital has had discussions with Apex about the needs for hotels, restaurants and shops to the east they will want or need.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said they do not yet have numbers on that.

Assistant Director Amanda Bunce, Planning, said that they have not solidified their vision for what they want to do in West Village. She said that it may include hotels and restaurants.

Councilmember Gantt said that hospitals across the country presumably have amenities close by.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that RXR has stated that their vision has changed but have not provided what that vision is.

Councilmember Gantt said that planning was for them to do.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said yes that it would be up to RXR for the planning but they could have more units now than previously planned, but they haven't confirmed this.

Councilmember Gantt asked if there were any grade separated crossings at Jessie Drive, Veridia Parkway, and the hospital road.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that not that he was aware of.

Councilmember Zegerman asked if there could be a roundabout at Jesse Drive and Veridia parkway.

Councilmember Gantt said that it would be 5 lanes. He said that it would be a perfect place for a roundabout.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that they are still in the process of making decisions which also includes adding an extra wing to the hospital in a future plan.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked about having to hire 30 plus people across every single department for this massive project that's not yet taxable, and having to explain to the citizens that taxes will be raised three or four cents.

Councilmember Zegerman said that there may be revenue produced along with it even though it's not direct.

Councilmember Gantt said hopefully citizens will see how amazing and important this is for Apex, the region, and the state once it opens.

Town Manager Vosburg said their vision is already changing and the fact that they did this deal, they are going to make a lot of money as a result of this and Apex is already seeing the spin-off impact from the houses that they will sell in the area, and they may be more now than before.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said that it is understood what is happening and they can't continue to live in the past of how they think things are operating, this is a new steady state and it's a bigger steady state than Apex has ever had, and the personnel needs for each department isn't only driven by Veridia or other developments, Apex is at the point to consider the personnel impact.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that it may come a time when there are 35 staff members or more added to departments along with benefits and there will be costs associated with this.

Councilmember Zegerman said that the growth of the staff is typically directly correlated with tax income. In this case, that represents growth coming from other resources, like practitioners in the hospital not necessarily from the grounds that the hospital sits on and the surrounding services which is a more difficult story to articulate.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said it will come down to the Council articulating this and they are depending on the departments to explain why they need the extra staffing because they want to be good stewards of the tax dollar.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that they didn't want to get into a position where departments are understaffed.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that as construction starts there is a program available to provide help in finding help for staffing, but there hasn't been much success finding or accessing it.

Councilmember Gantt asked if they aren't trained properly.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that it more about the availability.

Councilmember Gantt asked if Holly Springs would let them borrow some people.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that the Children's Hospital in general is a project that's going to cost hundreds of millions, billions of investments from the State level and they don't want to be in a position where Apex is not able to handle the capacity at a certain point and then creating delays, costing the developers and the state millions.

Councilmember Zegerman said they have to think outside of the box, like contracting some of the pieces out.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that this should move forward in a timely manner but not rush things so there is no regret later.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that there is a bike plan in this but this is not the final plan, staff is working with greenway connectivity and bike paths to create connectivity.

Councilmember Gantt said that pedestrian items would be great here too.

[SLIDE 6]

[SLIDE 7]

[SLIDE 8]

[SLIDE 9]

[SLIDE 10]

[SLIDE 11]

[SLIDE 12]

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that they will be recommending at December 9th Council members remove from the transit plan the bus/rail station that is in the middle of the NCC property but it will be replaced with a mobility hub closer to 55.

Planning Director Dianne Khin said that staff are working closely with the RXR to get the SD plan language correct for the transportation plan but it is in very early stages and it will come to Council in December. She said the thought is that the bus transit center would allow enhanced transportation, and this would be worked out with the regional partners but it would not be complete this year.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that this was the number 1 of the conversation on how it would be addressed.

Councilmember Gantt asked where the hub may be located and if the hub would end the route and be the hospital and go through that hub as one cohesive route.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that it is believed that there will be connections.

Director Khin said that they are still working through the exact language.

Councilmember Gantt said that this is important to this development and they intend on using it.

Director Khin said that staff at large hospitals particularly use transit because the traffic is so difficult.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that RXR is very committed to bus transit within Veridia as a whole.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Ed Gray called for a recess at **2:36 p.m.**

Council reconvened the meeting at **2:53 p.m.**

[YEAR-IN-REVIEW ACTIVITY]

Town Manager Vosburg gave an update on Year-In-Reviews. He started celebrating successes over the last year and presented a video, then picked a few directors to talk about their top three to five successes over the last year.

Director John Mullis, Public Works, highlighted two of the four divisions which are Facilities and Fleet. He said that one issue was an IT server room at PD and Facilities jumped in to work with Communications coordinating with other departments, as they had to bring one unit down and replace another one. He said the coordination was a big event. The second success was working with Park Maintenance building improvements with addressing elevated humidity. The staff and contractors worked together to improve that situation. He said on the Fleet side they received the Geotab Innovation Award for excellence, which is not only a national award, it's an international award. He said that Geotab's the leading telematics provider and Fleet won in a Public Fleet small municipality category, which is huge. He said that the other success for Fleet is the development of Fleet policy, an AVL policy, which was presented to management for review. He said it will address a lot of important issues regarding the town's vehicle fleet.

Director Stacie Galloway, Communications, highlighted three projects that were successful this year. First was the Local Spot Campaign, and a strong public recognition at the farmer's market. The second was the Saunders Lock campaign which was a large undertaking and the third was internal support with work for Infor across the organization with the Communications team.

Director Erika Sacco, IT, highlighted contract negotiations and working with Budget, noting that $143,000 was saved. She then highlighted working with Spyglass to identify every old AT&T line. She thanked Councilmember Mahaffey for his push for smart cities; the Innovations team was created from that and now there is Security and Innovations teams and they created the parking app, and are working with some people in the community that do Parks apps. She said that the largest accomplishment is the ERP implementation which is still being rolled out. This was in partnership with many departments and a lot of work went into that.

Director Craig Setzer, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources, gave highlights of the successes for the past year for Parks and Recreation, there were 2 Street Hockey Rinks in Partnership with Carolina Hurricanes. Council adopted the pricing policy for program rental

fees and they are heading in the direction of a fee study for fee in lieu. He noted there was another picket fence at Jaycee Park at the softball field, and another cricket pitch was coming. He said that programming increases in athletics by 10%, Seniors increased by 22.22% and Specialized recreation increased by 17%. There was 54 Town and Community Special events completed this year, the current West Street site plan is in development in TRC, and the Hunter Street bike track public engagement has been started.

Director Dianne Khin, Planning, gave highlights for the year, including adoption of the Western Big Branch area plan and the associated changes to land use, transportation plan, the Apex Transportation prioritization Study, and all of the Public Outreach in the report for last fiscal year. She further highlighted the Apex Mobility Hub Study in Downtown Apex, creation of the Apex Coordination Team Act to increase collaboration on public outreach and engagement, and is planning an engagement expo for the community which is a large project and is projected for the winter of 2027.

Director Marla Newman, Community Development and Neighborhood Connections, gave highlights for the year, including onboarding of Ask Apex Town services specialist, updates to the Housing Plan and Affordable Housing Incentive Zoning Policy, and she thanked Council for the purchase of the 13 acres on View Street for staff to start looking at how they can be more active in providing more housing options in Apex.

Town Manager Vosburg thanked all that shared their highlights for the past year. He also thanked Council for allowing staff to do these types of sessions.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray spoke on behalf of Council and said that he has had the pleasure of working with great leaders. He said that it was important to recognize those who contribute to leadership, he presented a five-pointed star which is part of the military culture of coining, which he explained what that was to show that you were part of your unit and say "Hey, you're one of us". He gave one to Town Manager Vosburg and thanked him for his leadership and direction and focus for Apex. He presented one to Director Dianne Khin, saying that she gives up herself and she raises up other people, and thanked her for all that she does.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that she is so amazed at the people in this meeting that they make Apex great!

[INITIATIVES PRIORITIZATIONS ACTIVITY]

Randy Vosburg, Town Manager, presented the initiative list for the last two years and the current year for the Council to do a visual survey to see if the initiative has been accomplished or is well under way, or if the initiative hasn't been done, they will be coded to reflect the answers starting with Fiscal Year 23-24. He said there were about 30 initiatives on these lists and staff believed that about 10 are left to be completed.

Councilmember Gantt asked about the historic marker program, and said it didn't seem like that many had been done.

Director Khin said it is a reimbursement program which has now gone up to 100% from 50%. She said they have had people talk to them about it but not end up applying. She said that St. Mary's has an approval but they haven't put that up yet. She said that she may ask at the end of the year to use the funds for the Tunstall house or other Town locations if there are unused funds.

Councilmember Zegerman liked that idea.

Councilmember Gantt said that the town-initiated ones may be appropriate.

Town Manager Vosburg said it sounded like a good plan for the end of the year.

Director Khin said yes it would take a few months, so she would like to start that planning and have it ready in January to utilize the funding by the end of the year.

Town Manager Vosburg said that increasing elementary school's SRO's attempted to be done in recognizing that gap, there was a special project initiated and they engaged the School Board. He said it was felt that the School Board received it as SRO's being replaced with civilians, but the idea was the engage retired law enforcement professionals if a full-time SRO was unable to be funded. So, the options were that Town Council fund those SRO's or choose another staff as an alternative.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that she hadn't supported needing SROs in elementary schools, that it was about relationships that are fulfilled when you have an SRO that is able to rotate through the elementary schools. She said there are other sworn officer positions that need to be filled first, which is more important to the community rather than SRO officers being at an elementary school.

Councilmember Zegerman said he liked the alternate approach of retired law enforcement due to the Police Officers needed in the community.

Councilmember Gantt asked if Chief Johansen had any thoughts on this topic.

Chief Johansen said that he would be supportive of either option. He said that there would be sworn staffing priorities in his opinion that would supercede the need to put cops in every elementary school and if it comes down to limited resources that is a decision that would have to be made. He is in support of alternative models but there were some shortcomings with some of those, so if this is direction that Council would like to see he would look at this.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that priority would be serving the community as a whole and not just dedicated to a school, especially when Apex is not getting reimbursed from the County or State level for elementary SROs.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said that this is a resource priority issue and it should come from the department and come back to Council with a proposal to see what can be done and recommend possible other options, such as a retiree.

Chief Johnsen said there is a plan to come in the next Public Safety Work Session to provide Council with an initial assessment for a potential reorganization of the existing assets of the Police Department and this would feed into that and there will be more discussion for what are the new assets or resources that may be necessary.

Town Manager Vosburg asked if anyone wanted to have discussions on even year elections, it is red on the board.

Councilmember Gantt said that he would like to see this happen but it may not be in full agreement with others and the Council can't change this without support.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that it was the agenda and was discussed with the lobbyist and State legislators and they were lukewarm to the idea, and it is too late for this year. He said it would have to be done the day after an election so adjustments could be made.

Councilmember Gantt asked if there were more municipalities on board with this, that is when the lobbyist would get it on the list, it would be more likely to happen.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that the conversations have been started and there needs to be education for people about it so the public would understand the benefits.

Town Clerk Coleman asked if even year elections should be tied to modifying at-large district and/or district seats, would this be together or those two things separate.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that it can be modified by the form of government at large without changing to even-year elections. He noted that at-large districts may make more sense as the Town grows close to 150,000 people.

Councilmember Gantt said that in theory doing this next year for 2028 would be the timeline to give all a chance to get settled into this.

Councilmember Mahaffey said there are different ways to do this, there could be an election where the term is three years instead of four years or if you want to save money, then it could be done and the reason is it saves $4 million a year. He went through the policy and constitutional reasons about terms once you get elected to a four-year term.

Town Clerk Coleman said that this was already on the legislative agenda and suggested that this be brought to the retreat in February to have a more robust conversation and move forward with the process then.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that Raleigh has made changes.

Councilmember Gantt asked if Cary had moved back.

Councilmember Mahaffey said no that Cary got rid of the run-off.

Councilmember Gantt said that for the meeting in February that there could be outreach to other clerks about how officials are feeling about this in Wake County to inform them.

Town Clerk Coleman said that outreach has started.

Town Manager Vosburg moved to the next red, which is the Adopt a Tree Preservation ordinance and increase Apex Tree Canopy. He asked Director Khin to speak about this.

Director Khin said that the first Environmental Programs Coordinator has been hired and is working diligently with the Environmental Advisory Board and the Mission of Tree CAP and Bee City, and in July she had a series of presentations and then there were issues getting a quorum. She said that there has been a presentation on the current Tree Ordinances and the next presentation will be on what other communities are doing to embrace other ordinances. There was a Special meeting this week with Trees and Triangles to discuss with the EAB about this, so this is being worked on but it's not quite there yet. She said the goal is to have this fiscal year to have some UDO amendments for Council.

Councilmember Gantt asked if County was planning to do a mid-decade update to their Tree Canopy study.

Director Khin said that not that she was aware, and that they had reached out with a spreadsheet to report tree planting activities, and so each year they put in Plant the Peak information and Earth Day planting.

Councilmember Gantt asked if Apex staff would be able to replicate that study for Apex.

Ms. Khin said no, that communities with robust Urban Foresty programs, which have more staff are able to do that but Apex relies on Phillip Barnes, and Nora Skinner's background is more of Horticultural, not arborist.

Town Manager Vosburg said next is Public Transit options to RTP and increase Transit Operation frequency. He said that there have been discussions with Katie Schwing and she is a genius on transit and there has been some progress.

Councilmember Gantt said that the Transit Plan 2035 update that is going to Campo has a lot more than just advocating for the local money, it has more regional routes in that plan, including the RTP route and increased frequency to Cary and one route that's directly to Raleigh. He said this is an increase in routes for Apex.

Town Manager Vosburg said that in the 2027 plan the 311 routes will be back and funded.

Director Khin said that Ms. Schwing will be doing a presentation on the regional routes that have or will be changing on October 28th, so this will be a chance to ask questions.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked if the routes would be a route on Sunday.

Town Manager Vosburg said that it may be still pending because of the other special service that matched it.

Director Khin said that Wake County was unable to provide the paratransit service on Sunday and there are options with Cary being explored.

Town Manager Vosburg asked if Council felt like the Transit initiative was still red.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that it is still being worked on and is being actively addressed.

Town Manager Vosburg changed it to green. He said the last red for 23-2024 is focused on improving bike ability. He asked Angela Reincke to comment on bike ability and greenway.

Ms. Reincke said that October 18th is the Great Trail Day celebration and she had done some inspections with the event coming. She said there have been logs on the trail but it doesn't stop riders. She said that it's a mile-plus extension. She said they are excited about Middle Creek because it fits the southern boundary with Holly Springs, and if you get to the Sunset to Lakemont segment, which is our first official segment, it has a big emblem carved into the surface. She talked about branding the greenways and connections and they are starting projects this year for all the gap-filling segments and for extending larger greenway segments to start to close those gaps and there is progress there.

Councilmember Gantt asked if the Salem Street greenway was still happening.

Mr. Dalton said that the scope of design is currently being completed.

Councilmember Zegerman said that his red for bike ability was not a reflection on the greenways and the expansion of that system, t but it is how do I get from A to B in town with safe crossings such as at 55 and then 64 and the busier roads.

Councilmember Gantt added that the Hunter Street Park biking is great. He asked if this would be done on every road with the state while they redo the pavement.

Mr. Dalton said that there were some challenges with newer guidance that has come from the Highway Department, with the major multi-lane roads it is no longer recommended for striped bike lanes, and they want barrier-separated bike lanes which is very difficult from a cost and functionality standpoint so this may be going towards off -road separated facilities next to the roadway, two-way cycle tracks or something similar versus the on-road bike lanes. He said they are trying on Hunter Street as that is one of Apex's streets because it is easier to do bike lanes. He said there will be further conversations as well about Veridia Parkway.

Councilmember Zegerman said that from Veridia these are kids that will go through this area and the bike lane stops, so it's important to try and fill in that connections.

Town Manager Vosburg left this bike ability initiative red. He then moved to 2024-25 initiatives and went through them for Council to rate as green or red. There were some discussions for clarification on some of the initiatives to decide if they were green or red. He asked if there were any discussions for the green initiatives and then the red initiatives.

Councilmember Gantt asked if there was another Cash Corporate-type development coming.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said land suitable for industrial use is at a premium in the area.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that for the Williams property it was an idea of putting a parklet there but the use is up for debate as to what the town needs at any point in time.

Councilmember Gantt asked if there should at least a plan for that property.

Councilmember Zegerman said that the direction here isn't just to build a parklet, but to figure out how to activate that space in a way that makes sense.

Councilmember Gantt said that if parking is what is wanted, it has 30 parking spaces.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that it shouldn't be rushed to program something there if it is not known what is needed.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that a parking lot for the festivals might be something for this to be used as.

Councilmember Gantt suggested looking at not just town hall but maybe other places that could be used downtown that could be used.

Director Setzer said that they could add that parcel for discussion.

Director Khin suggested that if there is going to be a stage, it may be better to be closer to the police station and make it more temporary, to have something there like music or any kind of amplified sound it would be close to the neighbors and having the extra space for extra parking and then have the activation closer. She said that it may be set up to make a lot of folks really unhappy to have a stage or an activity right there on this property.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that you could always have wine and paint, something chill.

Director Khin said that is what was done for the Downtown Festival because there can't be amplified right next to residential. She said that if it is an event focus then it may be good to keep it as parking.

Town Manager Vosburg said that the general goal is to hold on to this but if there is an opportunity that can be presented and it's tied to entertainment or something else, then this can be bought forward. He kept this initiative red. He asked if there were any other red initiatives that they wanted to discuss.

Councilmember Gantt asked how safe it is to cross at Humie Olive.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that there is a stop light there now.

Town Manager Vosburg said that he had not heard of any complaints.

Councilmember Zegerman said that there was signal crossing further down the street with access for crossing.

Councilmember Gantt said that intersection crossing signalized is better than a mid-block signalized crossing.

Town Manager Vosburg said that there were reported issues this week at Whistling Quail, which is not too far from there.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked if this idea had been explored and that it's not feasible or is there utilities on the way or something else.

Town Manager Vosburg asked for the pedestrian bridge piece.

Mr. Dalton said that it was expensive just for the tunnel option, with preliminary prices it was $4 mission for the tunnel itself and $8 million for tunnel road work involved and as for feasibility it would depend on how much money and the time it would take for this to happen. He said that there is also with concern is if students used it, there are intersection that can't be closed off and you can't force people to use a bridge, also most of the pedestrian traffic right now is coming down Evans Street where there is a signalized crossing coming downtown, so directing them to the midpoint and making sure they don't cross mid-block because they will have to walk extra distance to go up and over or down and under, there may not be a lot of value in it.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that with Apex High crossing across 64 there was concern that the students may run out into traffic or cross on the other side of the road where there was no signal or crosswalk, but the students are doing well staying within the crosswalk and following signs. She said if the students are given a safe place to cross that they will probably use it and the pedestrian bridge, yes, it is expensive, but it is probably the safest way to get people across and not interfere with traffic.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that priorities may change based on the options that are available, but if a kid gets hit tomorrow, then it may come back on them. He said that this should have been planned when the campus was first planned 10 or 11 years ago. He said that it could be added to the CIP to have it there.

Councilmember Zegerman said that there should be a feasibility study to categorize this given how tight the margins are. He said that at one-point staff mentioned that there was an issue for utilities and digging.

Town Manager Vosburg said that there could be more discussion among staff on this for brining at least a feasibility study and he left this initiative red. He then moved to Legacy Community, the last red for 24-2025'.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that it was unclear what this means, Legacy Community. She said there has been land purchases and Community Land Trust, and thinks that gets to the purpose of the item.

Town Manager Vosburg moved that initiative to green and moved to 2025-2026 initiatives. He read the initiatives and selected them to green or red depending on the discussion and clarifications of Council members. He said the first initiative Expand CART.

Chief Johansen said that the CART program still consists of a single house and a single clinician.

Councilmember Zegerman said this was an additional service for first responders and he didn't think this was done.

Chief Johansen said that the additional services for first responders with deployment of the inter-wellness program this year is done but as far from the expansion of the community facing CART programs that will likely be in front of Council.

Councilmember Gantt asked if this was for the community or the officers.

Chief Johansen said that it was for the community, it's the co-response model involving an officer in a crisis counsel.

Councilmember Killingsworth said it sounded like it was being worked on.

Town Manager Vosburg moved to the School Preservation, it was red. He went to the Smart Cities Technology initiative.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that this was actively being worked on.

Town Manager Vosburg set this initiative as green. He moved to the Plant the peak expansion to HOAs.

Councilmember Killingsworth asked if this initiative was a neighborhood improvement grant.

Councilmember Zegerman said that this initiative is for HOAs that are looking for additional support which is residence focus to allow HOA to apply for additional funding in their community that might be needed.

Director Khin said that Plant the Peak plan is Phil Barnes and electric. She asked if Plant the Peak is eligible for HOA now.

Director Galloway said she wasn't sure.

Councilmember Zegerman said that it doesn't matter where the tree is planted as long as the tree is plated and limiting Apex to residential property was not necessary.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said that today we have not had any issue getting rid of all the trees we had and all the money. The Town actually doubled it this past year on how we were doing it because of how we removed the contractor watering requirement and shifted responsibility to the owner receiving the tree.

Councilmember Zegerman said he attended the last EAB meeting where Trees for the Triangle was presenting and there is some partnering opportunities for Apex that would expand the program further.

Town Manager Vosburg said that if it was confirmed that this is has been opened up to the HOA, then it is green.

Director Khin said that they are really excited about the Peak being focused on native trees.

Councilmember Zegerman noted that the Trees for the Triangle is also focused on native trees.

Town Manager Vosburg moved to Alternative Road Design initiative and moved it to red. He then moved to CSX Switching Station.

Councilmember Zegerman said it seemed like there was some encouraging signs, and the US was catching up some as a country.

Councilmember Killingsworth asked if there were any updates on the CSX switching station.

Director Khin said that they had to pivot because CSX had a problem with the time it takes to go up the Durham line because they only go a few miles per hour and so the study pivoted and is looking at how to improve the lines because once the trains can go faster, they will be able to move the switching station further south.

Councilmember Zegerman said that it is the on-duty limits per the agreements with the unions.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that the trains have to be parked in town because the staff can't work the extra and it runs all weekend too.

Town Manager Vosburg asked if there was anything that the staff needed to be doing additional to help move this along. He moved the initiative to green.

Councilmember Zegerman said he doesn't think staff could do anything to help this right now.

Councilmember Killingsworth asked if they were putting the most ancient trains on this line.

Councilmember Zegerman said that typically there are two locomotives on this line, one was rebuilt about ten years ago and the other is an older model and the older engines require frequent maintenance and must stay running in the cold weather because they are designed to use water coolant that forces them to idle to maintain engines and brake systems.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that needs to be de-commissioned.

Councilmember Zegerman said even the newer trains have the same issues in the colder weather.

Councilmember Gantt asked if there was something that the town could do to help fix this.

Councilmember Zegerman said that he spoke with one of their engineers that builds these and it just isn't that simple. He said one of the complaints is the idling up and down of the trains.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that they park behind the Villages of Apex, which makes it so they can't sleep or think.

Town Manager Vosburg moved to the next initiative New Go Apex Route; it was moved to green. He went to the next initiative Protect and Encourage Mobile Home Developments, which was moved to yellow. He then moved to the last initiative Salem Street Pedestrian Zone options expand Streetscape.

Town Manager Vosburg asked if there were any of the greens to talk about.

Councilmember Gantt said that Councilmember Zegerman said that he would like to see the Transit Plan move faster.

Councilmember Zegerman said that there is a plan that is not moving very fast with some of the improvements not moving forward for three years and encouraged staff to be more aggressive to expand services.

Councilmember Gantt asked if there was a CIP item that could be added for next year for more money that could escalate it versus less money for the timeline shown for Route 2 in the Transit Plan.

Town Manager Vosburg said that there was discussion about prioritizing making it a 30-minute route versus the hour route over an hour, so instead of doing a second route.

Councilmember Zegerman said that it is not disagreeing with the order of this, it is the amount of time it takes to get from where we are today to what the plan calls for right now, but he would like the plan to happen faster, so the question is what needs to happen to make this happen faster.

Councilmember Gantt asked if it was $1 million over three years or $1.25 million for two years, if that was even possible.

Town Manager Vosburg asked if there were any other discussions on the red initiatives for the 25-26'.

Councilmember Killingsworth said that she would like to discuss the mobile home development initiative. She said that there should be a plan for mobile home parks that are sold out from under residents and then people don't have anywhere to go.

Director Newman said that there are funds on hand to help with any potential relocation costs. She said staff have been instructed to do some groundwork to see how plans were developed in Orange County with Chapel Hill and some other municipalities and see what role government played versus the community and then coordinate with advocates in Apex to provide them learning and help equip them to do something similar.

Councilmember Gantt added that there is one in Apex's planning jurisdiction but not in its municipality and it would be good if the County was involved in this too, for example the mobile home park by Felton Grove should be part of this.

Director Newman said that this is in the investigation phase right now and will start to tap into potential partners and advocates to see what kind of response there is to this concern.

Councilmember Killingsworth said it would be ideal to have a piece of property already that people could just move to but this is not currently in place.

Director Newman added that some mobile homes that are older may not survive a move so this is something else to consider. She said that there was a situation in Charlottesville, Virginia where the mobile home community was provided to Habitat which built homes where they were able to move as the homes became available which takes a lot of resources and collaboration from the model that was shown to staff. She said this is on their radar.

Town Manager Vosburg asked if there were any other discussions on the red initiatives.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked about the status of the Rosenwald School. He said that they were unable to find a partner to accept the school, the owner was willing to give it up but there wasn't anyone willing to relocate it. He said that they were trying to avoid Apex doing this which would include zoning and adding more parkland.

Assistant Town Manager John said there was conversation with staff regarding the new library location and they did not want to go into details about location and are interested in having more conversations at the beginning of the year about a potential location and they are working together to bring the group back together to see what this will look like. She said it was the Friendship Community Committee who gave a presentation and they would bring everybody together at the beginning of the year once that acquisition had taken place and they would be more open about the location but this will be a joint project between the County and the town.

Councilmember Gantt said that a joint project between the County and the town would be awesome.

Town Manager Vosburg asked for any other discussions for the red initiatives. He asked staff if there were any questions for Council about the red initiatives. He will bring the red initiatives back for the February retreat.

[SLIDE 1]

	FY 25-26	FY24-25	FY23-24
A Welcoming Community	Expand CART personnel service.	Expand Crisis/Social Worker (Mental Health Support) Program at APD.	Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program.
	Rosenwald School Preservation	Work with Wake County for 2nd library in Apex.	Enhance Historical Marker program (fully fund up to 5 requests per year). Add a focus on historically black communities and other landmarks.
	Increase SRO Program	Purchase Williams Property & Create Parklet.	Increase Elementary school SROs.
High Performing Government	Leader in smart cities technology	Modify Form of Government to include Council Districts/ at-large.	Even-year elections.
		Hire Lobbyist.	
Environmental Leadership	Plant the peak expansion to HOAs	Ordinance protecting tree canopy.	Free electric chargers everywhere.
		Expand Apex Cares (include energy efficient upgrades: kits & bigger ticket items).	Adopt a tree preservation ordinance to maintain & increase Apex tree canopy cover.
Economic Development		Implement regional & public private partnerships to advance Economic Development.	
Responsible Development	Alternative road designs	Pedestrian Bridge over Humie Olive by Friendship Campus.	Public transit options to RTP, increased transit operation frequency.
	CSX switching station relocation	Land Purchase- Affordable Housing/ Legacy Community.	Focus on improving bike-ability across Apex.
	New GoApex routes (2nd GoApex route)	NC55 Corridor Plan.	Opportunities to keep/create affordable housing options (i.e. mobile/tiny houses).
	Protect/encourage mobile home developments (support community orgs to support mobile home owners)		
	Salem St. Pedestrian zone options/expand Salem streetscapes plans		

[SLIDE 2]

	FY 25-26	FY24-25	FY23-24
A Welcoming Community	Expand CART personnel service.	Expand Crisis/Social Worker (Mental Health Support) Program at APD.	Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program.
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Environmental Leadership	Plant the peak expansion to HOAs	Ordinance protecting tree canopy.	Free electric chargers everywhere.
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	Protect/encourage mobile home developments (support community orgs to support mobile home owners)		
	Salem St. Pedestrian zone options/expand Salem streetscapes plans		

[SLIDE 3]

Priorities

[ADJOURNMENT]

Mayor Pro Tempore Gray adjourned the meeting at **4:23 p.m.**

Jacques K. Gilbert
Mayor

Allen Coleman, CMC, NCCCC
Town Clerk to the Apex Town Council
Submitted for approval by Town Clerk Allen Coleman and approved on _____.