



SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Training Rooms A and B at Apex Town Hall, 73 Hunter Street

Council and Administration

Mayor: Jacques K. Gilbert | Mayor Pro Tem: Nicole L. Dozier

Council Members: Brett D. Gantt; Audra M. Killingsworth; Cheryl F. Stallings; Terry Mahaffey

Town Manager: Drew Havens | Assistant Town Managers: Shawn Purvis and Marty Stone

Town Clerk: Donna B. Hosch, MMC | Town Attorney: Laurie L. Hohe

In attendance were Mayor Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole L. Dozier, and Council Members Brett D. Gantt, Audra M. Killingsworth, Cheryl F. Stallings, and Terry Mahaffey. Also in attendance were Town Manager Drew Havens, Assistant Town Managers Shawn Purvis and Marty Stone, Town Clerk Donna B. Hosch, Town Attorney Laurie L. Hohe, Senior Transportation Engineer Russell Dalton, Long Range Planning Manager Shannon Cox, Planning and Community Development Director Dianne Khin, Public Works & Transportation Director Jose Martinez, Sustainability Program Coordinator Megan Pendell, and Sustainability Analyst Valeria Mera.

Several interested citizens were also in attendance.

COMMENCEMENT

Mayor Gilbert called the Work Session to order.

Staff outlined the main reasons DOT is having funding issues. Talked about was COVID relief funding and what it is scheduled to go towards. Council stated funding is still available that has not been dispersed.

DOT has stated that any projects not under construction will be delayed. Staff stated those projects for Apex which will be delayed. We have two projects ready to bid, but DOT will not let us move forward with these. We offered to defer our return, but DOT rejected this offer. We have three projects ready for construction authorization, but they will also be delayed.

Staff stated we are approaching the next application schedule. Explained was the time frame it takes from submittal of projects to the awarding of funds. We have successfully pursued LAPP funding for Town projects, and staff outlined those projects.

Responding to Council, staff talked about alternative funding sources. There is some funding for transit and greenways, but not for sidewalks. Staff talked about how bus route start dates would be affected if we can't build bus stops. Staff talked about projects using funding reserves and what projects we do have some funding for. Explained was that we can move forward with the bidding of projects, but we would not receive federal funds for these.

Staff stated the funding picture is changing regularly, and there is a monthly regional meeting with DOT from which we receive updates. Most municipalities don't have funding to move forward with projects on their own. Conversation ensued about bidding projects now which would come in lower than if we wait and don't get federal funding in the end.

Staff stated that bus ridership has declined across the county. It could decline even more if there is not a COVID vaccine by April of 2021. Staff talked about projects that we could possibly do today with possible lower pricing and the risks in doing so. Explained was how it would be costly to separate out the different aspects of a project. Staff stated we plan to keep working to move projects forward. We could bid out a particular project just to see what the cost would be, but it would not be advisable to do so for several projects.

Council stated he doesn't want to do nothing this year. Moving now would be a good way to get things done cheap, as prices will skyrocket in the future. Staff stated we do have projects that are not federally funded. The Chatham Street sidewalk project would be a good one to continue on with.

Consensus of Council was to keep moving forward with current projects and reporting back to Council with updates.

There was brief conversation about the Peakway bridge, its delays, and possible ways that we could move forward with this.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Donna B. Hosch, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor