

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q.** When does the Town Council meet?
- A.** The Mayor and Council hold meetings normally at 7 p.m. on scheduled Wednesdays. The Council normally does not meet in July and August. See www.townofchapelhill.org/calendar for more.
- Q.** What are the terms of our Council Members?
- A.** Town Council Members are elected to four-year terms. Elections for these seats are staggered so that four members are elected at each biennial election in odd-numbered years.
- Q.** Do Council Members represent certain districts within the city?
- A.** No. Council Members are elected at-large and represent the entire Town.
- Q.** How is the Mayor selected?
- A.** Voters elect a Mayor every two years for a two-year term.
- Q.** Do Council candidates run for office as members of specific political parties?
- A.** No. Town Council elections are non-partisan.
- Q.** What constitutes a quorum of the Council?
- A.** A majority of the Members of the Council (five members) constitutes a quorum to do business.
- Q.** Do Council Members get paid?
- A.** Yes. The Mayor's annual salary is \$26,748, and a Council Member's \$16,495 per year. In addition, elected officials receive health insurance.

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PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021 BY:

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MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL



THE DUTIES AND GOALS OF YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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MAYOR

The Mayor presides at all meetings of the Town Council and votes on all issues before the Council. The Mayor is recognized as the official head of the Town by the courts and has the power to administer oaths. The mayor is the principal representative of the Council in relationships with the federal, state and other local governments. The Mayor's position has no veto over Council actions and no executive authority.

MAYOR PRO TEM

During the disability of the Mayor or while the Mayor is absent from the Town, the functions of the office are carried out by the Mayor Pro Tem. The mayor pro tem presides at all meetings of the Town Council in the absence of the mayor. A member of the Council serving as mayor pro tem votes on all matters, and is considered a member of the Council for all purposes (including the determination of whether a quorum is present.)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The primary mission of the Mayor and Council as the governing body of the Town is to adopt and provide for the execution of ordinances, rules and regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to protect health, life or property, or to promote the comfort, convenience, security, good order, better government, or the general welfare of the Town and its citizens. Council duties include:

- Setting the property tax rate and all fees, fines and penalties.
- Establishing the budget for Town operations and capital improvements.
- Appointing members to advisory boards, commissions, task forces and committees.
- Determining long range goals and objectives of the Town as embodied in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Appointing the Town Manager and Town Attorney.



STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals were developed by the Town Council for 2020-22 fiscal years. The goals are used to develop the Town's budget and allocate resources and staff time. They are displayed in every department throughout the Town organization to inform employees and residents. Learn more at www.townofchapelhill.org/councilgoals.

Environmental Stewardship

To mitigate effects of climate changes through management of Town resources, partnerships, and natural environment

- Reduce carbon footprint
- Improve local waterways and conserve biological ecosystems
- Invest in green infrastructure and build community resiliency

Economic and Financial Stewardship

To steward public assets and support a vibrant economy where there is opportunity for jobs and entrepreneurship that position Chapel Hill for the future

- Attract and retrain companies that create jobs in Chapel Hill
- Make Downtown Chapel Hill a destination with diverse options for work, live, and play
- Adopt a budget strategy that aligns Town revenues and expenses

Affordable Housing

To increase access to housing for individuals across a range of incomes, and to constantly strive for more equitable outcomes and opportunities for historically underserved populations

- Increase availability of affordable housing for all incomes
- Preserve existing affordable housing stock

Connected Community

To create a highly connected community where bicycling, walking, and transit are convenient, everyday choices for our neighborhoods, businesses, and public spaces

- Improve management of traffic flow during peak times of day and at problem intersections
- Increase connectivity between walking, bicycling, and multi-modal networks to reduce amount of driving needed to get around Chapel Hill

Vibrant & Inclusive Community

To enrich the lives of those who live, work, and visit Chapel Hill by building community and creating a place for everyone

- Create diverse opportunities for community to engage with the arts
- Improve connections and partnerships with historically disengaged and marginalized populations
- Preserve the history of Chapel Hill and embrace the future needs of the community

Safe Community

To preserve and protect life and property through the fair and effective delivery of Town services

- Invest in facilities and infrastructure that support public safety
- Maintain community safety using equitable policing practices
- Deliver Town services fairly and effectively

Collaborative & Innovative Organization

To continue to build a Town workforce that leads with collaboration and innovation to build a community where people thrive

- Increase collaboration, innovation, and learning
- Attract and retain diverse and talented employees
- Increase public transparency and information sharing