

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q.** When does the Town Council meet?
- A.** The Mayor and Council have regular business meetings normally at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of most months. Public hearings normally are held on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. The Council normally does not meet in July and August. See [www.townofchapelhill.org/calendar](http://www.townofchapelhill.org/calendar) for meeting locations.
- 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 \$24,524, and a Council Member's \$14,652 per year. In addition, elected officials receive health insurance.

## MAYOR & COUNCIL

[mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org)

**Pam Hemminger, Mayor**

405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
919-968-2714 • [phe mminger@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:phe mminger@townofchapelhill.org)  
@TOCHMayor Office

**Jessica Anderson, Mayor pro tem**

101 Eastridge Place, Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
919-391-0118 • [janderson@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:janderson@townofchapelhill.org)  
@Jess4Council

**Donna Bell, Council Member**

611 Craig St., Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
(h) 919-627-1504 • [dbell@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:dbell@townofchapelhill.org)  
@Donna\_Bell0

**Allen Buansi, Council Member**

305 Copperline Drive, #V, Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
919-275-2711 • [abuansi@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:abuansi@townofchapelhill.org)

**Hongbin Gu**

113 Parkridge Ave., Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
919-923-7912 • [hgu@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:hgu@townofchapelhill.org)  
@hongbin4council

**Nancy Oates, Council Member**

101 Windemere Crossing, Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
919-942-0964 • [noates@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:noates@townofchapelhill.org)  
@Oates4Council

**Michael Parker, Council Member**

601 W. Rosemary St., Unit 311, Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
919-883-2063 • [mparker@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:mparker@townofchapelhill.org)  
@MichaelParker1

**Rachel Schaevitz**

101 Braswell Court, Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
617-959-5556 • [rschaevitz@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:rschaevitz@townofchapelhill.org)  
@RachelforCH

**Karen Stegman**

2525 Buxton Court, Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
919-824-5197 • [kstegman@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:kstegman@townofchapelhill.org)  
Twitter: @Stegman4CH

[www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org)

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[publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org)

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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.



# GOALS OF THE COUNCIL

The following goals were developed by the Town Council for 2016-18 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](http://www.townofchapelhill.org/councilgoals).

## Create a Place for Everyone

- A. Adopt and support affordable housing programs, projects and policies that increase our diversity in income, race, age and lifestyle
- B. Increase internet access for families with school-age children and spark innovation with mutually defined goals
- C. Leverage partnerships to increase cultural arts opportunities to enhance civic engagement

defined by Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, other local governments and UNC



## Support Community Prosperity

- A. Increase the number of incubator and co-working spaces in downtown or in development corridors
- B. Focus resources to achieve economic development goals
- C. Develop a strategy for creating vocational classes and career development for youth with the school system, Durham Tech and other non-profit organizations



## Facilitate Getting Around

- A. Adopt a plan for financial sustainability for public transit in partnership with UNC-Chapel Hill, Carrboro, GoTriangle and Orange County
- B. Conduct a town-wide comprehensive traffic analysis
- C. Develop a holistic mobility plan



## Develop Good Places, New Spaces

- A. Sustain momentum in the Northside Neighborhood Initiative through continued support and partnership and implementation of the Northside and Pine Knolls Community Plan
- B. Continue focus on Rogers Road area planning and development
- C. Strategically invest in Downtown to attract and engage residents, students, visitors, workers, investors and businesses
- D. Initiate planning, funding and design for creative arts and social programming and space that connects people from different backgrounds
- E. Develop and approve strategies for increased energy efficiency in local development



## Nurture Our Community

- A. Enhance and focus development review process to achieve Council Goals and encourage diverse types of development
- B. Define and support clear, predictable code enforcement strategies to promote safety and accountability
- C. Initiate a residents' academy to improve civic understanding of how to share ideas and influence outcomes of Town government and increase diversity on the Towns boards and commission
- D. Enhance future Town services



## Grow Town, UNC and UNC Healthcare Collaboration

- A. Adopt strategy for leveraging community fiber and private ISP investment with UNC, UNC Health Care, Carrboro and local businesses to maximize access and speed for homes and businesses
- B. Seek strategies to address student housing demand that are consistent with mutual goals for connectivity, mobility and parking goals that prioritize student safety and protect neighborhoods
- C. Work collaboratively with the university and their master planning process to address mutual interests, including affordable housing, community health, Downtown investment, shared facilities, and innovation

