



Morrisville Town Council

Business Session

May 28, 2013

Pre-Meeting Events

Open House McCrimmon Transit Small Area Plan, 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

1. Call to order

Mayor Holcombe called the Town Council Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Also present for the meeting were Mayor Pro-Tem Liz Johnson and Council Members Steve Rao, Steve Diehl, Margaret Broadwell, Michael Schlink and Mark Stohlman. Present staff included Frank Gray/Town Attorney, Tony Chiotakis/Interim Town Manager and Senior Director of Community Services, Diana Davis/Town Clerk, Tim Gauss/Senior Director of Development Services, Julia Ketchum/Senior Director of Business Management, Rich Coppola/Town Engineer, Ben Hitchings/Planning Director, Stacy Wachtel/Staff Accountant, Jerry Allen/Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director, Blake Mills/Public Works Director, Benjamin Howell/Transportation Planner and Lauri Shedlick, Human Resources Manager.

2. Invocation by Town Attorney Frank Gray

Frank Gray, Town Attorney said a prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood in participation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Holcombe called for any conflicts of interest on agenda items to be stated at this time.

Council Member Rao noted that he had invited a data manager that worked with the City of Raleigh to speak on his discussion item tonight. *Council Member Rao* stated that he had no relationship with the company in the Open Data Discussion Item.

ACTION: *Council Member Diehl* made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

5. Adoption of Minutes

- April 4

ACTION: *Council Member Broadwell* made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

- April 5

ACTION: *Council Member Broadwell* made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. *Council Member Rao* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

- April 7

ACTION: *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. *Council Member Diehl* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

- April 8

ACTION: *Council Member Broadwell* made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

- April 16

ACTION: *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. *Council Member Diehl* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

- April 23

ACTION: *Council Member Diehl* made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. *Council Member Schlink* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

- April 30

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson noted her absence during this meeting as this was a meeting called while she was already out of town.

ACTION: *Council Member Broadwell* made a motion to adopt the minutes with the noted change. *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

6. Presentations

- **Quarterly Transportation Update**

Staff provided an [update presentation](#) on the Town's Transportation Matters. There was legislation being considered to change the transportation funding formula going through the house and the senate. The proposed House legislation allows for funding of some regional transportation projects within the NCDOT division the project is located within. The proposed Senate legislation requires all the transportation funding to be within the division. Under the Senate version there is no state funding of bike/ped projects. The House including STDPA funding for rural transportation projects; whereas, the Senate did not. The Powell Bill funds were expected to decrease over the next three years and then increases, but that was based on estimated gas tax revenue. A financial cap was placed on federal funding of different types of projects as well.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked about the Church Street Sidewalk project. *Staff* noted that it was currently estimated to be completed in the fall of 2014.

Council Member Diehl noted that municipalities were going to come out of this session with less financial support for transportation than previously existed. It would be wise to build revenue to offset that situation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated that the NCDOT would be the entity creating the funding formula and criteria for transportation projects. *Staff* concurred and noted that there was a work group that would be submitting a report to the legislature by August 15, 2013.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked about any news on municipal matching for grants. *Staff* noted that there were some suggestions in the legislation including roadway safety and economic conditions. There would be required criteria and a quantitative process outlined for NCDOT to develop State Transportation Improvement Plans. The final criteria were still under review.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated that it would be good to send a letter from Council to the Secretary of Transportation at a minimum and maybe the legislation as well.

Council Member Broadwell stated that using caution and remaining informed by staff is what was important right now and then asked about the funds for the Church Street Project. *Staff* noted that the Town Manager's recommended budget includes funding for the project, including easement acquisition funds.

Council Member Stohlman asked about the new net fuel tax proceeds, which was currently 1.5 cents. Staff noted that it was 1.75 cents that was distributed out to all municipalities. There was an estimated Powell Bill funds for the next five years and that could be used in a formula. The bottom line was that it would be a lot more than it was now. Municipalities would be held harmless. So there would be a reduction in the next three years as mentioned, and then an attempt to make up that difference in the following years. Once the formula becomes percentage based, the proceeds would be more in flux.

Council Member Schlink asked about the connection to Hopson Road. Staff noted that the townhomes in Durham along what will be the new Church Street were slated as commercial/office and that was changed to residential after the plans for the Church Street realignment. .

Council Member Schlink asked about the Morrisville Parkway extension being connected to that road, which could cause more traffic. *Staff* noted that connection of Morrisville Parkway past NC 55 would occur.

Mayor Holcombe noted that a comment was made about not getting the Town's fair share from CAMPO. However, the Town was doing well with CAMPO, receiving partial funding for a number of submitted projects. To address Council Member Stohlman, the gas tax was roughly 36 cents to 38 cents and of that 1.75 cents of that was distributed. The new formula would have 10.4% of the net proceeds going to municipalities.

Staff concurred, again noting that the hold harmless of the distribution assumes there will be no cap on the gas tax. If that cap remained, the Powell Bill distribution may decrease. It depends on how North Carolinian's use tax. Currently, without the cap, the funding would increase after the initial three years. The percentage is harder to predict than the set amount currently in place.

7. Public Input/Public Hearing Sessions

[2013-048](#) McCrimmon Transit Small Area Plan (Public Input)

Mayor Holcombe opened the public input session at 7:09 pm.

Armando Tovar, RDU Airport Authority, stated that this was the official land use document for the McCrimmon Road area that would also be incorporated into the UDO. It was unclear whether development items would be approved administratively if they met Council requirements or if they would be handled traditionally. That should be clarified.

Mayor Holcombe closed the public input session at 7:12 pm.

[2013-062](#) FY2014 Annual Operating Budget and CIP (Public Hearing)

Mayor Holcombe opened the public hearing at 7:12 pm.

Vicki Scroggins-Johnson, resident, noted that the number one priority was transportation. Most main roads in Morrisville are owned and maintained by the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT). Other municipalities are funding maintenance of these roads, but Morrisville does not have the funds to do this. Locally Administrative Programs (LAPP) could be participated in and they match at 80% to help cover these costs. Funds should be allocated in the amount of \$120,000 annually. This would send a strong message about the roads in Morrisville; that the Town was committed and willing to assist.

TJ Cawley, resident, stated that Council Members were elected to lead and decide; to create a better Morrisville. A vision should be crafted with staff and not just a one year budget that was reactive. It was encouraging to consider setting aside a portion of the ad valorem revenue for roads, but it was not enough to address the challenge of the aging roadways. Gather information, decide and implement is best for the Town, not just for electoral gain. Address Morrisville's immediate needs, plan for anticipated needs and decide which longer term projects would benefit the entire Town. After that, decide on the revenue necessary and actions needed to achieve that revenue.

Stephanie Embry, resident, Terraces at Town Hall Commons Homeowners Association Group Speaker, stated that there were 70 residents in her neighborhood, some there for a decade and some new. The HOA likes the base budget and recommended budget options. The expanded services were appreciated and more were desired. The priorities were public safety, including expanding the Fire Department and replacing equipment. They would like to see the Police Department expanded. One way to assist in that area is to have pro-active community policing and more staff. The new administrative position for the Police Department was supported.

The development directorate has fourteen staff plus management. The HOA believes that to really allow for review and protection of current homeowners, planners and inspectors should have more time. The community has to deal with going back and making requests for information, for example why the street lights are different than what is shown on the plan. Staff is willing to help and always helpful, but staff is just stretched too thin. Homeowners should not have to spend time and funds after the fact. Funds for services and personnel would help.

Capital outlay should continue to be funded, especially parks and recreation. The RTP Park should be fully funded, the Church Street walkway as well. There were other smaller projects that would make an immediate and positive impact. The IT upgrades were also supported. The priorities set by the Council and staff were liked and supported.

Speaking for herself, she stated that the development was changing. Morrisville had limited space and the

legislators were limiting local revenue collection. With these limited options, there needed to be caution with having too much residential development. There needed to be a balance so that homeowners are not picking up the entire tax burden.

ACTION: *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* made a motion to continue the public hearing until June 11, 2013. *Council Member Rao* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

8. Public Address

TJ Cawley, resident, noted interest in hearing about the smart cities, open data discussion item later tonight. It was also noted that it would be helpful for Council Members, in the interest of transparency, to note how they intend to vote prior to final action on items to give time for people to discuss their position.

9a. FY2014 Annual Operating Budget and CIP Council Discussion

Staff did note that there was a tax increase included with the proposed budget in relation to the 2012 NC 54 bond project. Staff was recommending rounding up from 36.65 cents to 37 cents as well as the addition of 2 cents for the bond project for a total in taxes of 39 cents per \$100 dollars in value.

Council Member Schlink stated he was not in favor of rounding up.

Mayor Holcombe asked how much the partial cent amounted to. *Staff* stated it was about \$127,000.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson indicated that she supported the incremental increase as long as the funds from rounding up went to transportation, which was the number one issue in the Town of Morrisville.

Council Member Schlink noted he was also in favor of road improvements, but the Town should find the funds elsewhere.

Mayor Holcombe asked what could be cut from the proposed budget to make those funds available.

CM Schlink stated that employee pay could be cut; the State employees haven't had an increase in four or five years.

Council Member Stohlman noted that the Chamber should receive some additional annual funding. Not the amount (\$44,000) listed as unfunded, but a partial amount. They had been doing good work and implemented some helpful programs as well as a new website. Also, it should be noted that the Town was fronting funds for the Morrisville Parkway traffic signal that would be reimbursed in 2015 or 2016.

Council Member Stohlman noted and asked about the \$200,000 in discretionary funds. *Staff* noted that historically they were not spent. This year there was a software upgrade starting in the Police Dept. Another piece would be forthcoming in 2014 with an additional associated cost at that time. There was about \$15,000 left and that was associated with the sequestered funds not spent.

Council Member Stohlman noted that there was \$150,000 scheduled for FY 2014 and it was typically not spent.

Council Member Stohlman stated that the rounding for the tax rate needed to be further discussed. *Staff* again noted the rounding to 37 cents and then the two cent increase associated with the 2014 bond program.

Council Member Broadwell noted that Council Member Schlink had already pointed out the two different pieces associated with the proposed tax increase, the two cents related to the bond sale and the rest of the partial cent to bring it to a whole number was separate. The partial cent is a very small tax increase, which was supported to bring the total to a whole number. It is a very few dollars over an entire year. Still it will help out with roads and other needs and not impact the citizenry too much. Regarding the Chamber, there was a predetermined amount of growth for funding of economic development. They were provided an additional \$20,000 to use for specific economic development including developing a web site. Since that \$20,000 was invested in 2013, there was a tremendous amount of activity that looks promising for the Town of Morrisville. We should continue that effort, with some additional funding, but not an additional \$20,000. Whatever is set aside should include requirements to be met. Also, LAPP funding was very important to be able to qualify for grants. Council can always do a budget adjustment, but it was best to have some funds already available as well. There was support for both new proposed positions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson noted support for the rounding up to 37 cents for the tax rate. In the past, during revaluation years, the Council approved a tax rate that was below revenue neutral. This was equivalent to a tax decrease and it has affected the level of service ever since that time. LAPP funding should be incorporated and it was good to hear the public's input.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated support for renegotiating the contract with the Chamber but was not in favor of arbitrary increasing payments. Any funding increase needs to be negotiated and tied to benchmarks or identifiable outcomes. More discussion was necessary.

Council Member Diehl noted that the spending increase this year amounted to 8%, whereas it had been 12% last year. Overall this was a good budget. Council Members should not promote reducing merit increases. Any decrease in pay should come from the Council's pay and health care coverage first. Also, the Chamber focused on commercial development versus residential, small business or retail, so additional funds should be carefully considered. More single family residential was supported. Another matter was putting more funds into roads. Citizens are asking for more, not less.

Council Member Rao spoke in support of the funds for the Chamber to support economic development noting all the work they had done recently with the \$20,000 supplied. Merit pay for staff was supported. Disaster recovery should be more carefully considered. It was a very strategic and important investment. If not this year than within the next five years it should be funded.

Staff noted that there is some back-up and continuity in place, but it is a priority to provide a deeper level.

Mayor Holcombe stated that Council direction was provided to staff on budget development at the annual retreat. The Council goals were listed in the budget document. If there was going to be different direction provided, that should be done earlier in the process. Transit and transportation were the most important matters and LAPP needed to be funded. Vicki Scroggins Johnson made some excellent points, especially when she noted that if there was a focus on putting aside \$120,000 annually, in five years there would be available matching funds for \$3 million worth of projects. Council previously asked staff to concentrate on a sense of place. The PRCAC passed a resolution supporting completion of the parks and recreation bond project as soon as practical. Design was slated for 2016 and construction was slated for 2017. It would be good to see that timeline accelerated by one year. It should be considered if it was feasible to do that with an additional penny on the tax rate in 2015 and an additional penny in 2016. Other options should be considered as well. Council clearly heard the request for this project to be done sooner and they also heard from voters. They should be listed to and this should be done if possible.

Council Consensus was to increase Chamber funding for economic development with Council Members Rao, Stohlman, Broadwell and Schlink in favor.

Staff asked for an amount or if staff should determine an amount. After further discussion by Council, staff indicated that they could adjust the base amount and then continue with the current increase. Staff would move forward with the proposed budget and bring back the Town's contract with the Chamber for discussion and action.

Mayor Holcombe called for a short recess from 8:30 pm to 8:34 pm.

Mayor Holcombe asked for Council input on moving the park bond project forward by at least a year. A clear consensus was not reached, but staff noted it was under review to see if it was possible with the current bond program.

Final direction was for an increase in LAPP funding and chamber funding of economic development. There was also further input needed for the Budget Department position and review of merit pay.

Council Consensus was not to reconsider merit pay at this time.

9b. Action Items – Old Business

[2013-061](#) Budget Ordinance Amendment (BOA) Barbee Road and Fiona Circle Paving and Sidewalk Project (Discussed during Administrative Reports Previously)

Staff noted that this was housekeeping and brought the reported funding to the actual expenditure levels.

ACTION: *Council Member Diehl* made a motion to approve. *Council Member Rao* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

[2013-049](#) Intent to Amend the Town Charter

MOTION: *Council Member Diehl* made a motion to approve. *Council Member Stohlman* seconded the motion.

Council Member Broadwell noted that there was a long public hearing, several emails and a lot of input from citizens. Some of the public comments were not factual and there was no chance to address those at a Council Meeting. It would be good to have a different forum to be able to interact with citizens. There was alleged confusion at the polls. There was definitely confusion on this Amendment process. There were other options than just all at-large Council seats that have not been vetted. There was not enough interaction and education of the different options to change the Town Charter. A voter referendum was also not favored. There has not been enough discussion to move forward on the next ballot in November. Changing the Town Charter was serious and citizens should be more informed. Even though it was not, this consideration had the perception of being political maneuvering to the public. That was negative for the Council.

Council Member Diehl stated that citizens were clear that they wanted all at-large Council Members. Those most involved community leaders spoke out. Since the current system is wrong, Council should make the right choice and change it before the upcoming election. The buck should not be passed to a referendum. Five years ago, others and he others spoke at a Council Meeting about a similar issue. Council Members that were out of touch with what residents wanted were not re-elected during the following the following

election.

Council Member Rao noted appreciation for those that spoke out. This was an emotional matter for some, but a policy decision. Some think Morrisville is solely a district system. That was not true. Morrisville had a hybrid system with all at-large elections, but also candidates that are required to live in districts. The issue was the policy behind the residency requirements for candidates running for office. Not having district requirement would allow more candidates. One reason in favor of the district requirement was to ensure the majority did not come from one neighborhood. Currently, there were three Council Members from one district and there could be five Council Members from one district. Under the all at-large scenario all the seats could be from one district. The other reason was to ensure geographical representation from different regions. Every Town Council Member represents all the citizens in Morrisville.

It was understood that the way the districts were currently drawn did not make sense. Something can be done about that. There could be public input session and education following by consideration. Voter confusion was not understood. The ballot was clear and just like the Wake County Commissioner elections. Uncontested elections and ensuring qualified candidates can be addressed as there were contested elections during the last two election periods. Other towns the size of Morrisville do have all at-large seats, but they only have five seats and a non-voting Mayor. Morrisville changed from that election mode. The currently proposed Charter Amendment should not change without voter approval. The current system meets the needs of Morrisville and there are those that want this system. Moving forward now with this may create a perception of political motivation. More education and holding a voter referendum during a presidential election year would provide for the most input. Considering the pro's and con's and making the best decision for current and future residents was necessary.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson thanked all those that submitted their opinions, including those that spoke in favor of and those that spoke against this item. Councils consisting of different members have had this discussion before and it was important to have. Regardless of action tonight, discussion on this matter should not end. The fact that it comes up every few years meant something. The time has come to put this election process squarely in the hands of the voters. The Council should now be removed from the process of establishing arbitrary boundaries for districts that limit healthy competition. As elected officials, the public trusts that the Council will set fair policy and do what is in the best interest of the citizens of Morrisville. Over the years of involvement and all the discussions, it is concluded that it is in the best interest of the citizens' of Morrisville to have an all at-large election. The only concern was the reference by residents to the issue of the 2008 action, which was to not move to all at-large seats and to retain districts as they are today. Things were very different in 2008. There were different district boundaries, different citizens involved and now a very different looking electoral district map. The unanimous action did not really reflect the conflict Council had during discussions of that issue. The action tonight should include the difference of opinion, conflict and concern. The different election options are known by the public. They have ~~can~~ seen those options and have weighed in. This process needs to be handed over to the voters through an all at large election.

Council Member Stohlman thanked everyone for their input. The all at-large proposal offered a lot of benefits. The thought of reassessing the election mode was also positive looking at all the options, as well as reconsidering the current hybrid model. The current election mode was for an all at-large vote with district requirements of representatives. However, there was a larger chance of having six or more Council Members voted into office at one time under the all at-large system. With continued voter education and addressing some of the other concerns brought up, it may be realized Morrisville already has the best system and is ahead of the curve. What has not been addressed at length are some of the other available options including voter referendum. The North Carolina General Statutes allow five different modes of election. Morrisville has had the hybrid model for the last 20 years. The current model was reconfirmed as recently as 2011, but now those same people are considering taking a different path. If the Charter is

changed, it should be done right every so often and not every two years. Doing it right means more public input, maybe an open house or work shop. Changing the Charter should not be taken lightly or fast tracked. When considering saving the tobacco barns, at least five options were considered. More time was spent discussion Carrington Mill Boulevard and whether it should be two or four lanes. A single text amendment was discussed more. There have been two public forums concerning sustainability far ahead of a briefing to Council or a public hearing. Changing the Town Charter should not be given less consideration.

Council Member Schlink noted this was not an easy decision with an easy answer. Public input and viewpoints were considered and factored. In 2004, there was a voter referendum and the election mode changed from five votes to seven votes, with the Mayor voting. In 2008 and 2011 this was reconsidered and the current mode of election was retained. In 2008, the vote was unanimous that moving to an at-large mode of election was not the best option. The reason was that it would increase the likelihood that a 100% representation or a majority from one neighborhood or section of Town could occur causing more resident polarization. Currently, there were three Council Members from one neighborhood with only 150 homes.

He noted that he was the only Council Member that came from north of McCrimmon Drive, where roughly 3000 homes are located and 50% of the Town population resides. Recently he visited all four districts and spoke with 65 citizens and had 62 sign the petition to maintain the current system. The petition states that it is important to have the district seats because it ensures the diversity of ideas, perspectives and neighborhoods at the Town Council. Political science experts agree that more voter education is a practical first step in response to voter confusion, not changing the Town Charter. The same experts agree that Morrisville has no more or less voter confusion than occurs across Wake County. Most of that has to do with new voters, not the process. State elected officials are considering going to a combination hybrid system like Morrisville's, with district and at-large seats for the School Board Elections to be fair and more competitive instead of moving to an at-large system.

The public does not have a full understanding of the issues. This was not a problem that can be solved by hastily changing the Town Charter and considering only one solution. There should be an open forum with more education on the different options instead. Maybe not having the Mayor vote was a consideration. Other towns don't. It would be less political. There could be a different number of district and at-large seats or the districts could be redrawn.

Mayor Holcombe stated that she had the utmost confidence in citizens' understanding of the issue and was pleased with the number of voters who provided input. Most supported removing the residency requirement, a common sense change that would simplify the election process and reduce voter confusion. Parallels were drawn to the 2008 at-large discussion and included similar length of discussion and lack of voter referendum. Rationale for moving to an at-large system was to reduce voter confusion, simplify the process and create more transparency. The change would increase competition. Timing of a decision would always appear political; however, it is always the right time to fix an election process that is not working. There was no perfect solution for 2011 redistricting, hence district lines today that appear arbitrary. Council Member Schlink noted only one elected representative from Breckenridge. However, there is opportunity, but certainly no guarantee, for a total of five members to reside in Breckenridge. The 2011 District 1 election was a very close race, with one candidate residing in Breckenridge and one residing elsewhere. Others from the Breckenridge community had stood for election in other races and in previous elections. Changing to an at-large process did not deny residents of Breckenridge an opportunity to run for election. To the contrary, the process would provide more opportunities. Residents were again thanked for their input and again assured that there was complete confidence in their competence in understanding the issue. This should not be the last time this is discussed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked that Council Member Schlink share the petition with the rest of the Council.

It would have been nice to have that information ahead of time.

Council Member Schlink asked if it would change anyone's vote.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated that information should be shared in advance.

Council Member Rao reiterated that something of this significance should be taken to voters.

Mayor Holcombe asked about the decision in 2008 that was made without a vote.

Council Member Rao stated that it should be voted on by the public.

Council Member Diehl stated that the Council was clearly told by the public that they were elected to make the right and tough decisions. If that can't be done, then our job was not being done. There should be no fear to make the decision.

Council Member Rao stated that he was afraid to make decisions that don't reflect solid Town Policy reasons. There was a reason the current mode of election was in place. It did have challenges, but something can be done about the districts. A majority of Council Members from one area can be elected, and the likelihood of that should be a consideration. This change should not be made without considering that.

Council Member Diehl noted that the districts were redrawn in 2011 and there had to be a certain reasonably close percentage of residents living in each district. The current division was the best version that could be created following the 2010 census. It was a very technical and time consuming process that required use of whole census blocks. It had to be completed just before the 2011 election.

ACTION: The motion to amend the charter failed with three ayes (*Mayor Holcombe*, *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* and *Council Member Diehl*) and four nays (*Council Members Rao*, *Broadwell*, *Stohlman* and *Schlink*).

[2013-057](#) Resolution for Issuance of \$4,000,000 GO Bonds for Parks & Recreational Facilities

Mayor Holcombe read the resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2013-057 OF THE MORRISVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
PROVIDING FOR THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF \$4,000,000 GENERAL
OBLIGATION PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BONDS,
SERIES 2013**

ACTION: *Mayor Holcombe* made a motion to approve. *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* seconded the motion that passed unanimously (*Mayor Holcombe*, *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* and *Council Members Rao*, *Diehl*, *Broadwell*, *Stohlman* and *Schlink*).

[2013-059](#) Consider Advisory Committee Applicants

ACTION: *Council Member Diehl* made a motion to approve. *Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

ACTION: *Council Member Diehl* made a motion to approve. *Council Member Broadwell* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

9. Action Items – New Business

None

10. Consent Agenda

None

11. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None

12. Discussion

- **Smarter Cities and Open Data**

Council Member Rao stated that this item was software that provided a dashboard of data in real time. It could be used with different application and to predict matters. One example was transportation information that could provide vehicles per day. This Smarter City Data can provide analytics and up front information that can be available to citizens and create innovation and transparency.

Jason Hare, Open Data Manager and MSV resident for 13 years, demonstrated the software and noted that this allowed data to be presented in a way that a person that is not a subject matter expert could interpret. This would allow them to assume, digest and understand without analysis. It was not open government or documents, just open data.

Council Member Diehl noted that a lot of this data already existed on Morrisville’s website. The Town of Cary reviewed this software and seemed to be unable to justify the cost of supporting this kind of data. Raleigh paid \$50,000 towards an open data manager to do this in house.

Mr. Hare noted those funds were not for the manager, but towards the open data solution.

Council Member Broadwell stated that it would be good to continue discussion and know more about the subject matter.

Mayor Holcombe noted that there was already some open data on the Town’s website.

Council Member Stohlman concurred with continued discussion. *Council Members Schlink and Rao* also concurred.

Council Consensus was to continue discussion. The presenter’s time was appreciated.

13. For the Good of the Order

- Administrative Reports
 - **Potential Lease Option on Fire Station One Discussion**

Staff noted that there was a potential client that met the current restrictive requirements. It was a local church with no specific lease rates discussed at this time. The current rate was \$7-11 per square feet for leasing in the local area. Staff needed Council guidance on whether to peruse this lease option.

Council Consensus was to move forward. It was also noted that there needed to be assurance that the Town was not responsible for any upfitting or renovations.

ACTION: At 10:28 pm, Council consensus was to continue the meeting.

- **Committee Members**

Staff noted that the Town Manager had received a pointed email from a Committee Member. It may be time to send a reminder of what the expectations of Committee Members was, especially when discussing Town employees. Sometimes Committee Members may get caught up in a matter and it was concerning when they acknowledged that they were taking up Town staff time when they admitted really not needing to. The suggestion was to send them a letter and remind them that they are a representative of the Town and part of a public committee.

Mayor Holcombe asked if the letter would come from Council or staff. *Staff* noted that a letter would be forwarded to Council for consideration.

Council Member Broadwell stated that a letter should not go to one individual, but to every member. The email in question was from one person to another and it was uncertain how it was released to everyone.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated that it was Council's job to remind folks that they are held to a higher standard. Also, this was not an isolated incident by this individual. There was no opposition to creating a Code of Conduct for all Advisory Committee Members or even the Town Council.

Council Member Diehl noted that he was not in favor of a letter to all and that the person should just be dismissed. The person has been most disruptive to recent Committee meetings where appointed.

Council consensus was to write a letter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson thanked the Public Works Department, Police and Fire for the help with the recent public events.

• **Council Comments**

Council Member Diehl recognized Ben Hitchings for his recent work. He had attending Triangle J Core Meetings, working on the Main Street Project and the McCrimmon Small Area Plan. Council was proud of his effort.

Council Member Stohlman thanked the group for their assistance with his speaking at a press conference recently that covered the Jordan Lake Rules. There was a follow up event sponsored by Wake Up Wake County at Dougherty's this Thursday.

He noted his absence at the June 11th Council Meeting due to being out of Town.

Council Member Schlink noted that gun buyback item was closed. The requestor was of the same opinion that it was good to collaborate with other Towns if the opportunity arose. If that occurred, it could be put back on the discussion item list.

14. Announcements

- Next meetings
 - June 11, Town Council Briefing Session
 - June 25, Town Council Business Session

* For a full listing of events, please see the Town Calendar at www.townofmorrisville.org

15. Closed Session

ACTION: *Mayor Holcombe* made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney on attorney-client privileged information and pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11 (a) (5) (i) to consider/discuss property acquisition. *Council Member Diehl* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Mayor Holcombe called the closed session to order at 10:43 pm. Also in attendance were *Mayor Pro Tem Johnson*, and *Council Members Diehl, Rao, Broadwell, Stohlman and Schlink*. Also present were *Ben Hitchings, Planning Director; Tim Gauss, Senior Director; Tony Chiotakis, Acting Town Manager; and Frank Gray/Town Attorney*.

ACTION: *Council Member Diehl* made a motion to adjourn the closed session. *Council Member Rao* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Mayor Holcombe adjourned the closed session at 11:05 pm.

ACTION: *Mayor Holcombe* made a motion to accept \$1500 (plus recording fees and other associated costs) for the 0.06 acre lot located behind 205 Keybridge that is subject to any upset bids, recording and other associated costs. *Council Member Diehl* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

16. Adjournment

ACTION: *Council Member Diehl* made a motion to adjourn the business session. *Council Member Rao* seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Mayor Holcombe adjourned the business session at 11:06 pm.

Adopted this the 25 day of June, 2013.

J. S. Holcombe, Mayor

<SEAL>

Diana R. Davis, Town Clerk