



**Fort Mill Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

**Council Chambers  
112 Confederate Street  
Fort Mill, SC 29715**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Pro Tem Helms, Councilman Moody, Councilman Garrison and Councilman Hudgins was present. Mayor Savage, Councilwoman Cook and Councilman Wolfe were absent.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

Councilman Moody provided the invocation.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the February 14, 2022, Town Council Meeting

Councilman Moody made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022, meeting. SECONDED by Councilman Garrison. Passed 4-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Pursuant to Section 2-46 of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Fort Mill, any citizen of the Town may appear before council for the purpose of providing public comments on any municipal matter (except personnel matters). Those who wish to speak must sign in outside of Council Chambers prior to the start of the meeting. Citizens will be given 3 minutes each to speak.**

No one signed up for Public Comment.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Presentation #1**

**Plans for 2022 Main Street Jams**

Mr. Steve Tolson came back before Council to see if they were in approval of the presented dates for future Main Street Jams. All the Council members present were in approval of the event dates given.

**OLD BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Old Business Item #1**

**Second Reading:** An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2021-28 so as to update the fee schedule for Parks and Recreation

Mr. Brown Simpson stated that there were no changes since First Reading of this ordinance. He also stated that the changes would go into effect on March 7<sup>th</sup>, giving staff enough time to get everything posted online.

Councilman Garrison made a MOTION to approve an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2021-28 so as to update the fee schedule for Parks and Recreation. **SECONDED** by Councilman Moody. Passed 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

**New Business Item #1**

Consideration of policy pertaining to Unclaimed Property

Chantay Bouler, Finance Director, stated that the Town was notified in September 2021 that it had been selected to participate in an audit by the SC State Treasurer's Office, Unclaimed Property Division. The Unclaimed Property law is found at Title 27 - Chapter 18 - SC Unclaimed Property. In Summary, the State is the custodian of funds/property owed to others that has been issued/designated by the entity (the Town) but never claimed. In Fort Mill's case the property was in the form of accounts payable checks.

Fort Mill released \$15,180.71 classified as outstanding/stale-dated checks for utility deposits, court refunds, services rendered by vendors which dated back to 2016. The Town does not have a formal policy in place. So that we fully comply with the requirements of the law, a policy is attached for your consideration.

Councilman Hudgins made a MOTION to adopt the policy pertaining to Unclaimed Property. **SECONDED** by Councilman Moody. Passed 4-0.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

**Information/Discussion Item #1**

Tom Hall Corridor District

Ms. Karagounis told council that in 2007, with the creation of the Tom Hall Corridor Overlay, car washes, repair garages, and tire retail and repair facilities were prohibited in the overlay. In 2011 the ordinance was amended to modify the existing language in the ordinance to provide an exception that would allow for the expansion of auto repair garages and tire repair facilities, provided they were in existence before the adoption of the THCD overlay district, and that any such facilities must observe the following conditions: that if a repair garage was lawfully in existence prior to the establishment of the THCD overlay, and if such facility has continued to operate without interruption since that date, then the owner or operator of any such facility may be permitted to expand his existing facility under the following conditions: 1) where feasible, a suitable landscaped buffer or fence shall be used to screen the facility from neighboring residential uses; 2) any outdoor storage and/or holding areas shall be screened from public view by a suitable fence and 2 appropriate landscaped buffer; and 3) the overnight storage of vehicles shall be prohibited, unless such vehicles are located inside the facility or within any enclosed and properly screened storage area. Currently, repair garages and tire retail and repair facilities are prohibited; except for those that existed before the overlay district. Car washes, permitted by right in the HC district, are prohibited in the THCD. The matter is whether to remove car washes from the list of prohibited uses or allow such facilities as conditional uses within the THCD overlay and establish such conditions.

Ms. Karagounis answered questions from the council members and stated that she would be bringing this discussion item back to council since there were three members absent.

### Information/Discussion Item #2

#### Temporary Signs

Penelope Karagounis explained to the council members that due to an increase in development and marketing opportunities staff has seen an influx in promotional temporary signage within the Town limits. Many of these signs are illegal under the current zoning ordinance but a need to strengthen the code to make it more concise regarding the problem areas was identified by staff. These areas primarily include subdivision directional signs along with other temporary promotional signs.

Ms. Karagounis answered questions from the council members and stated that she would be bringing this discussion item back to council since there were three members absent.

### Information/Discussion Item #3

#### Trail Master Plan

Ms. Karagounis stated that in 2020, a resolution to support the amending of the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for the Town of Fort Mill was approved by Town Council. This amendment added another segment of trails to provide more options for trails in the Town. This started the discussion to have a comprehensive Master Plan for trails in the Town of Fort Mill. A couple of months after the resolution, COVID-19 disturbed our livelihood, but we learned the importance of being able to connect with nature and get outside to preserve our quality of life. Therefore, the Town of Fort Mill is committed to start the process of the Master Plan for Trails. The Fort Mill Master Plan for trails will serve as a living document that will be updated as new opportunities become available. The goal of this project is to connect existing trails with future destinations such as the downtown area, identify other locations for establishment of new trails, and prioritize segments for trail construction based on feasibility and opportunity. We recognize that bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure should be an integral part of the community. Discussion Our objectives for the Trail Master Plan are:

- To establish a vision for the future of trails within the Town of Fort Mill
- To develop an implementation plan that puts us on the path toward reality on realizing the vision
- To study up to two to three corridors more intensely for construction feasibility and design for short term construction consideration

Our Process for the Trail Master Plan:

1. Finalize an RFP based upon conversation tonight
2. Select a consultant
3. Establish a trail master plan committee that will be the primary lead in meetings / discussions of the plan creation
4. Review the existing conditions, talk to the community stakeholders, review applicable plans in place, determine important points in town, etc.
5. Verify the vision
6. Identify and map a future network of trails that connects with the vision, with up to two “prioritized segments” identified for further study
7. Complete feasibility studies for up to two corridors to put us in a position to be able to move forward with construction in the short term
8. Establish plans / guidelines for:
  - a. Overall design considerations
  - b. Possible funding opportunities and strategies
  - c. Long term maintenance needs / requirements / costs
  - d. Marketing / Branding

Ms. Karagounis answered questions from the council members and stated that she would be bringing this discussion item back to council since there were three members absent.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Please Note: Council may take action on Executive Session Items listed on the agenda when they come back into Public Session.**

There were no Executive Session items.

## **ADJOURN**

Councilman Hudgins made a MOTION to adjourn. SECONDED by Councilman Garrison. Passed 4-0.

Being no more business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

**The following press was notified of the meeting by email or fax in accordance of the Freedom of Information Act: The Herald; CN2; WRHI, WSOC and WBTV. The agenda was also posted on the board outside of the entrance to Town Hall the required length of time and on the Town website.**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

*Virginia C. Burgess*

*Virginia C. Burgess, CCC  
Town Clerk*

Approved by Council: March 14, 2022

*The Town of Fort Mill is committed to assuring accessibility with reasonable accommodation, of Town services and facilities for all individuals, in compliance with federal law. Please contact the Town Manager's Office at 803-547-2116 if you need assistance.*