



**Atlantic Beach Town Council**  
**Special Meeting – Planning Retreat**  
Atlantic Beach Double Tree by Hilton - Atlantic Beach, NC  
**Thursday, January 12, 2017**

A Special Meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 8:45 a.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton, Atlantic Beach, NC.

**Members Present:** Mayor Cooper; Mayor Pro Tem Navey; Councilmembers: Harry Archer, Ann Batt, Eddie Briley, John Rivers

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyler, Town Clerk; Mike Shutak, Reporter for Carteret News Times; Rich Porter, Planning Board member

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 8:52am. Meeting was delayed due to Powerpoint issues.

Councilmember Archer made a motion *to approve* the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Batt. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

### **1. Review of Current and Future Projects**

#### **Circle Projects**

Fred Bunn is progressing with the Marriott Hotel plans. Councilmember Briley discussed parking and public concerns over no longer being able to use the dirt lot. Mayor Cooper stated we are working with Mr. Bunn to add any spaces we can.

Staff will continue planning the Beach Music Festival and will redesign the layout as needed to accommodate the stage area. We will continue to have Movie Nights at the Circle also.

#### **Parking Program**

Mr. Walker will firm up the parking details with Mr. Bunn when he submits the Marriott construction plan. We will lose 100 of the spaces Mr. Bunn has been letting the Town use. We are considering using the Town Hall parking lot and the Public Works building area (which will be vacant by May) for additional spaces. We are also considering extending the paid parking time from 5:00pm until 6-6:30pm since it is still daylight and busy during this time.

#### **Causeway Entry Sign**

We are considering placement of a sign at the foot of the bridge, near the bridge abutment entrance. It will serve as a welcome to Atlantic Beach. We do not think DOT will approve a sign completely crossing the Causeway, so we are considering a 20 foot archway. Council discussed ideas for the text of the sign, ideas ranged from serious to catchy and fun. WELCOME TO THE BEACH; WELCOME TO ATLANTIC BEACH; IT'S TIME TO RELAX; RELAX, YOU'RE AT THE BEACH; WELCOME TO ISLAND TIME; SPLASH, PLAY, RELAX. Former Councilmember Poillon had suggested a sign that simply said, "AHHHHH".

Councilmember Archer feels it would be great to include citizens in the wording, perhaps with a contest on Facebook.

Councilmember Briley discussed location of the sign, he would like to see it placed back a few feet to direct people's eyes from the old Showboat Motel on the left rather than right at the bridge. He remembers one of the major requests in the 2011 survey was cleaning up the Causeway entrance.

#### **New Citizen Survey**

The last big picture survey was conducted in 2011. Since then Council has addressed the major concern of citizens, which was providing things to do. We have provided that with the Park.

It was the consensus of Council to possibly conduct a survey in 2018, after the Park is completely finished.

Overall Council receives positive comments from the public. Citizens are very pleased with the drainage projects throughout Town.

## **2. Boardwalk Revival Design & Funding**

Mayor Cooper provided examples of the boardwalks built in Carolina Beach and Myrtle Beach. Mayor Cooper feels we have the opportunity to build a really great boardwalk, something special. He suggests seeking design proposals so we can get a variety of ideas. This is an opportunity to incorporate all of the Town areas in the upgrades (the CAMA beach access, Circle Point and flag pole area). In addition to fund raising efforts, we will seek PARTF and Federal funding.

Council discussed multiple ideas such as spray stations for cooling off, beach balls for seats, shaded seating areas, a welcome arch near Davis Beachwear, and additional restroom facilities.

Councilmember Rivers addressed the issue of firepits at the Circle beach again. CAMA restrictions won't allow us to use concrete pits. It was the consensus of Council to see if metal pits would be allowed by CAMA.

**Break 10:03**

**Resume 10:15**

## **3. Staggered Terms Discussion**

Council discussed the implementation of staggered terms. It was the consensus of Council to cancel the January 23, 2017 public hearing on the proposed ordinance amending the Charter to change the terms of office. Council would like to see this issue on the next Citizen Survey.

## **4. Review of Capital Projects & Funding Sources**

Town Park – Phase II, Concession Building and Restrooms: We are ready to begin construction for Spring completion.

Raleigh Avenue Beach Access: We are prepared to take bids for this project in February. Staff will be building pedestrian access at the Henderson Blvd. vehicular access.

Dredging: We will dredge the Triple S Channel this season, it will require a major CAMA permit.

SCADA: We will present funding options for the SCADA project at the February work session.

## **5. Council Comments**

Mayor Pro Tem Navey has never seen employees work like they do in Atlantic Beach. It is a tribute to great leadership.

Councilmember Rivers and Briley would like to see festivals at the park, such as a Bluegrass festival in the Fall.

Councilmember Briley feels the resurrection of the King Mackerel Tournament will be a success. The group is meeting and is proceeding with plans for an October 2018 tournament.

Mayor Cooper addressed recent concerns from 8½ Marina residents over a request filed with the Division of Marine Fisheries by Samuel Boyd of Morehead City to lease three contiguous areas, approximately 4.85 acres, 4.83 acres and 4.49 acres, of water bottom and water column in Bogue Sound for oyster beds. Several Councilmembers have been contacted by citizens requesting the Town's support in opposing placement of these beds in front of 8½ Marina.

Councilmember Briley made a motion for Mr. Walker *to attend* the January 18, 2017 public hearing at DMF to express the Town's concerns and *to file* an official request to continue the public hearing to allow time to file a written response. Seconded by Councilmember Batt. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

**Break for lunch 11:37pm**

**6. Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)**

- a. Staff Performance Review - Council Only**
- b. Staff Performance Review - Council and Town Manager Only**

Councilmember Briley made the motion *to enter* closed session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Batt. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried. The time was 1:00 p.m.

Council reviewed the survey results from Council and the 360 Degree Review survey results from the Town staff and discussed the Town Manager's performance during the prior year.

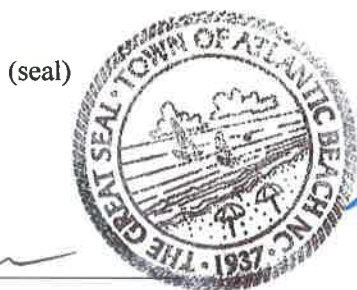
Following this discussion, the Council asked the Town Manager to join the closed session at 2:03 p.m. Council reviewed his performance over the past year.

Council agreed a pay increase and a lump-sum bonus payment to 401-K would be provided.

Councilmember Briley made a motion *to exit* the Closed Session and adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Rivers. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

There being no further action taken or business before Council, the Council adjourned. The time was 2:13 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the February 27, 2016 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

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A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor

ATTEST:

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Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk