



Minutes
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
Monday, November 27, 2017



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, November 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, 125 West Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

Members Present: Mayor A. B. Cooper, III, Mayor Pro Tem Danny Navey; Councilmembers: Harry Archer, Ann Batt, Eddie Briley

Members Absent: John Rivers (excused at the end of the meeting)

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Derek Taylor, Town Attorney; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Sabrina Simpson, Administrative Service Director; Michelle Shreve, Planner; Arrington Moore, Events/Mgmt Asst; Marc Schulze, Public Works Director; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief

Council-elects: Rich Johnson, Rich Porter, Austin Waters; Fred Dean, Board of Adjustment Alternate

CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Mayor Pro Tem Navey led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDAS

Due to the Auditor delayed in traffic, Councilmember Archer made a motion *to rearrange* the order of the agenda with the Town Manager Report preceding the Auditor Report and *to approve* the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Briley. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Financial Report
- b) Budget Amendment
- c) Tax Collection Report
- d) Tax Refunds
- e) Tax Releases
- f) Surplus Sales
- g) Notice to Reschedule the December 18, 2017 Council meeting until December 11, 2017 at 6:00pm for Mayor and Council Oaths and Notice to Cancel December 14, 2017 Council work session
- h) Town Council Meeting Minutes: 7/20/17 CS; 10/19/17 WS; 10/23/17
- i) *Approve Mayor Trace Cooper to Beach Commission for another three years*

Mayor Pro Tem Navey made a motion *to amend* the Consent Agenda to endorse Mayor Trace Cooper serving another three year term on the Beach Commission and *to approve* the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Briley. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Cooper explained the Beach Commission is a county board he and Councilmember Archer currently serve on.

5. CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Joni Dennis, 117 New Bern Street and 611 Front Street, Beaufort

She wanted to advise that the New Bern Beach Access has a bright white light shining towards the beach that makes hard to see the walkway entrance. Also, some of the planks have lifted and people have tripped and fallen over them, especially at sunset when the light makes it hard to see. She recommends solar lights along the ramp for lighting.

She recalls at a previous meeting there was discussion to repair the playground area, but has not seen any progress. She asked about adding steps to get to the playground area, it is inaccessible without steps. Lastly, the Les and Sally Moore sign is missing from the access. She thanked the board and congratulated the ones retiring.

6. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Walker provided a re-cap of the projects and events accomplished in 2017 under the current Council.

- **Old Causeway Drainage Project Completed:** Major flooding problems on Old Causeway are now history. The \$300,000 stormwater drainage project has been completed utilizing funds derived from stormwater fees and charges. Since 2010, the Town has completed over \$1.2 million in storm-water projects. Councilmember Briley commented on the impressive engineering of this project.
- **Dredging Project Grant:** The Town was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the DWQ for maintenance dredging along several access channels. The Town contributes \$50,000 annually with property tax funds collected on boats. Over 7,000 cubic yards of sand will be removed from six channels this season as approved by the Town's Dredging Committee.
- **Raleigh Ave Beach Access:** The Town was awarded a \$40,700 CAMA grant to construct a pedestrian walkway along the western side of the vehicle access.
- **East Glenn Street Beach Access:** This access was installed completely by Town staff.
- **Tom Doe Beach Access CAMA Grant:** The Town was awarded a \$56,600 CAMA grant for the Tom Doe Beach Access on Henderson Blvd. Once grant documents are processed and our contractor installs pilings, Public Works will begin constructing the 154-foot walkway, which will tie into the existing gazebo, and a seated viewing platform at the southern end overlooking the beach. This project should be completed by Memorial Day.
- **Surf Advisories:** This past summer season, the AB Fire Department installed a beach flag warning system at all 20 public beach accesses. Yellow or red flags were posted at these locations based on the conditions for that day, if no flags were flying it signified good swimming for that day. This flag system was in operation through Labor Day Weekend and will be in operation next Summer.
- **AB Beach Music Festival:** The Town held its 4th annual Beach Music Festival on May 20 with the largest crowd yet attending, estimated at 10,000. Next year's event is on Saturday, May 19.
- **Town Park Grand Opening:** The Town Park held its Grand Opening on Saturday, June 17, 2017. The \$1.6 million dollar seven-acre park was funded in part by a \$600,000 grant from Carteret County; a \$65,000 donation from the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament; a ten year \$125,000 branding rights agreement with Minges Bottling Group/Pepsi; and a combination of Town funds supplemented by citizens' donations and dedications throughout the Park. The Park includes an 18 hole mini-golf course, unique kid's splash pad facility, new concession stand with restroom facilities, youth playground areas, picnic facilities, basketball courts, skate park, and a 120 car parking lot.
- **Skate Park:** Members of the late Councilman Rick Poillon's family were present from out-of-state to join in the unveiling of a plaque placed at the skate park to commemorate Rick's efforts to make the park a reality. Rick's efforts secured the sponsorship from Minges Bottling Group to feature Mountain Dew and Rockstar products. The world class skateboard park, one of the largest in the state, currently boasts the deepest bowl on the east coast.
- **Partnership with the State:** Mayor Cooper welcomed and introduced Governor Cooper at a press conference at Fort Macon State Park on July 20, 2017 as the governor announced his opposition to Offshore Oil Drilling with the Initiative of "Protect Our Coast." Atlantic Beach adopted a resolution supporting the initiative along with numerous other coastal towns.
- **Citizen "Capt. Jim" awarded the Long Leaf Pine:** On July 24, Mayor Cooper and Council presented James "Capt. Jim" N. Willis, III with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. The Long Leaf Pine is awarded from the Governor's office to persons for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and which has made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina. Mayor Cooper stated, "Capt. Jim Willis has been part of the Atlantic Beach, literally, since the town was founded. I can think of no one more deserving of the honor of being inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Capt. Jim was the first native-born resident of Atlantic Beach. His parents were the first permanent residents of Atlantic Beach and his father served as the first Mayor for the Town, appointed in 1931.
- **Completion of new Public Services Facility:** The new Public Services building has been occupied by staff since the middle of summer. The \$800,000, 7,500 square foot building, located at 1400 West Fort Macon Road, houses eight offices, a conference room, a training room, and four vehicle service bays. The project opened debt free being financed from Town Reserves. It serves as headquarters for the public works personnel and the water utility operations.
- **UDO Update:** After many months of review, the updated UDO was approved by Council on October 23, 2017.
- **New Town Signage:** As part of the new branding program, new Beach Access signs were installed at each of our 20 beach accesses and blue street signs replaced the green signs. The "retired" green street name signs were sold from Town Hall for \$20 each with a huge success.
- **SCADA Project:** The Water Department recently switched over to a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system for gathering and analyzing real time data in the water system. This system is used to monitor all wells, pumps, and controls at the water plant. We completed a five year radio read AMR water meter replacement

program and the conversion of 2,500 meters in the system. The project substantially decreased our water billing loss from faulty meters and saves customers money by notifying of usage between billings. We also brought online our new 1-mgd water supply well located at the Town Park. This new well now adequately meets our peak water demand of over 2 million gallons a day during the summer season.

- **New Sidewalks on East Fort Macon:** The Public Works staff is continuing to install new sidewalks on the north side of East Fort Macon from the main intersection down to Brooks Street.
- **Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament:** The 2017 Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Saltwater Slam was a huge success! The local fishing team of Carolina Girl (Captain Gary Slaughter) was the winner of the first place \$10,000 grand prize with their 52.9 pound King Mackerel. An awards banquet was held at the Town Park on October 21. The Atlantic Beach Volunteer Fire Department was gifted a Kawasaki Mule to help with future beach rescues. It has been outfitted with emergency equipment and is already in service.
- **Christmas Parade:** Atlantic Beach lit up the night with the annual Christmas Parade that was held on Friday, December 1. After the parade families were invited to meet with Santa at the Fire Department.
- **Smoke on the Water Annual Bonfire:** Don't forget to mark your calendars for December 30, 2017 for the annual Atlantic Beach Bonfire on the beach!

7. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report: FY2016-17

Stuart Hill, CPA with Thompson, Scott, Price, Adams & Co, did not show for the presentation to Council due to traffic delays. A copy of the audit was previously provided to Council and available at Town Hall and on the website. The Local Government Commission approved the audit as submitted.

Councilmember Archer made a motion *to approve* the FY2016-17 Financial Report as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Batt. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

8. MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS ADJOURN

Councilmember Briley made a motion *to excuse* Councilmember Rivers from the meeting due to holiday travel. Seconded by Councilmember Batt. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Cooper announced the 2017 Christmas Parade Grand Marshal as Ann Batt. She has served multiple rolls in Town government, including the Board of Adjustment, Town Council and the Board of Elections Commission.

Mayor Cooper reminded everyone the new survey will be posted on the Town website on December 1 and encouraged everyone to take the survey.

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 6:42 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the December 11, 2017 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.


TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

ATTEST:

(seal)


Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk




A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor