



Minutes
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council – Work Session
Thursday, June 21, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.



A regularly scheduled work session of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 2:00 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 Richard Porter; Councilmembers: Harry Archer, Rich Johnson, Danny Navey and Austin Waters

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Sabrina Simpson, Administrative Service Director; Michelle Shreve, Planner; Haley Moccia, Planning Intern; Marc Schulze, Public Works Director; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief; Adam Snyder, Fire Chief
Mike Shutak, Carteret News-Times; Fred Dean, Board of Adjustment member

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

1. Review of Hurricane Re-entry Permit Policy

Per Council's request, staff reviewed our current Hurricane Re-entry policy and present an amendment modeled after Emerald Isle's recently updated policy. The proposed policy will eliminate some of the paperwork for staff.

Proposed changes include:

- No longer keeping a log of purchases by owner/business/parcel.
- No longer requiring an application – the owner, if they need additional permits, because they did not receive theirs at closing, it was lost or just want additional – as long as they are an owner or long term renter they will pay \$25 and get the permanent pass – no limit.
- Long-term renters will need to either have their landlord purchase a pass for them or provide a valid long-term lease or evidence proving they live here full-time – they pay \$25 and get pass.
- Allow businesses either in town or those who provide service in Town to purchase a pass for \$25. There is no longer a difference in the cost of residential or business pass – all \$25.

There was discussion about continuing to allow use of the re-entry passes as a parking pass at the Town's paid parking spaces and it was decided to continue.

It was the consensus to place the Updated Hurricane Re-Entry Pass Procedure on the June 24 Consent Agenda for approval.

2. Review of Beach Driving Permit Policy

Currently beach driving is permitted from October 1 thru March 15. The cost for a permit is \$50 for residents, \$75 for non-residents, and free to residents over age 65. Passes are sold to vehicle owners after showing proof of valid driver's license and registration of 4-wheel drive vehicle. Last season 120 passes were sold to residents (\$6,000), 289 were sold to non-residents (\$21,675) and 70 free passes were given to residents over age 65.

Mayor Pro Tem Porter has been approached about the policy and initially considered allowing all residents a free pass, but has since learned that people really enjoy beach driving for fishing and joyriding tends to get carried away. He does not want an increase in free passes to increase ruts in the sand and other dangers for beach walkers and visitors. He would like to hear how Emerald Isle manages their beach driving season. Mayor Cooper stated he would follow-up.

Councilmember Waters recommended leaving the policy as it is.

Councilmember Archer suggested requiring the purchaser to present a fishing pass or proof that they will be surf fishing to eliminate some of the joyriding.

Councilmember Navey thinks we should keep it the way it is. People plan their vacations specifically to come here and fish. Councilmember Johnson asked if there was a way to record vehicle plates that entered and exited the ramps. Chief Harvey explained how expensive that would be.

It was the consensus to leave the Beach Driving Permit Policy as it is for now.

3. Further Review of Golf Cart Use on Town Streets and Regulations

Chief Harvey reviewed the difference in golf carts and low speed vehicles again and presented his recommendations for permitting and required safety features. There are positives and negatives with allowing golf carts. He discussed in detail different areas in town that could benefit.

Mayor Pro Tem Porter feels we should consider citizens request and approve this.

Councilmember Navey reminded that we need to be prepared for negativity over ticketing and the dangers of underage usage that may follow if this is passed.

It was the consensus to hold a public hearing on golf cart usage to get the public's input.

4. Discussion on proposed water slide at Town Park

Mr. Walker presented the design and cost estimate (\$150,000 - \$200,000) for a waterslide at Town Park.

Councilmember Archer feels there are other things we should do at the park first, such as walking trails, concrete picnic tables and grills.

Councilmember Waters would like to see this proceed. He thinks it would be a great addition. All they hear is to provide more things for the kids.

Mayor Cooper thinks we should stick with our original plan for the park. After this season, apply for a PARTF grant, adding walking trails would help with the success of the grant.

Council agreed they would like additional figures on the cost for the pool, landing, fixtures, long-term maintenance, lifeguard and attendant cost and an estimate on the possible income.

5. Review of Architect's Request for Proposals for new Town Hall facility

Mr. Walker reviewed the proposed plan that has been in the works for seven years with various options, locations, and architects. Prior Councils finally settled on building a new police/fire/admin complex on the present Town Hall site; immediately south of the present structures. The current structures will be torn down after completion to allow for parking. No department would have to vacate the premise during construction.

We received the following quotes from architects and are now asking Council if they would like to proceed with interviews and drawing of plans. JFK Architecture - Greenville: \$375,266; Hobgood Architects - Raleigh: \$350,000; Stewart, Cooper, Newell Architects - Gastonia: \$523,600

It was the consensus to proceed with architect interviews.

6. Mayor Council Comments / Advisory to Staff

Councilmember Johnson noted that at the Recreational Water Committee meeting today, Dr. Rachel Noble (UNC Marine Institute) proposed a CAPSTONE study using 15 students to study water samples from Town canals. The study will be in the summer and fall and identify any problems. The Town would have to purchase the kits for approximately \$2,000 and the actual testing would be performed free by the students.

Mayor Pro Tem Porter has heard from citizens requesting a dog park and asked Council to consider it as an option.

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 3:37 pm.

These minutes were approved at the July 23, 2018 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

ATTEST:

(seal)
Katrina Tyer
Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

B. Cooper, III
B. Cooper, III - Mayor