



Atlantic Beach Town Council
Special Meeting – Planning Retreat
Carteret Community College Civic Center Conference Room
Smith Building - Morehead City, NC
Thursday, January 24, 2019

Members Present: Mayor Cooper; Mayor Pro Tem Porter; Councilmembers: Harry Archer, Rich Johnson, Danny Navey and Austin Waters

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Mike Shutak, Carteret News Times

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 8:18am.

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

PART ONE - LONG RANGE PLANNING

- a) Review of Prior Year's Planning
- b) Procedure for Town of AB Strategic Planning
- c) Need for island-wide or county-wide coordination

Understanding that Hurricane Florence delayed a lot of projects Council had listed in their 2018 Goals and Objectives, Council was still able to accomplish majority of the goals. Mayor Cooper led group discussion on long range planning for the Town and the need to develop a Strategic Plan. There was discussion on DOT's plan for construction of Interstate 42 and how it will affect growth of Atlantic Beach and all of Carteret County.

Mayor Pro Tem Porter attended a DOT meeting earlier this week and briefed Council on discussions regarding construction of Interstate 42 and the bypasses around Havelock and James City as well as plans for broadband cable.

There was discussion on how Wrightsville Beach developed and grew after construction of Interstate 40 in 1990. It was the consensus that councilmembers should speak with their representatives and learn what they feel were mistakes and positives.

Break 9:50 am
Resume 10:04 am

Long Range Capital Expenditure Planning

Mr. Walker discussed the possibility increasing the stormwater fee temporarily in order to go ahead and complete the pending stormwater projects. There is a possibility of FEMA funds to pay for stormwater projects.

Cullipher Engineering is working on a plan to add additional parking at the Circle beach area and the Henderson Beach access. We need to consider additional parking for bicycles and golf carts at the public beach accesses.

Break 11:05 am
Resume. 11:09 am

PART TWO - CURRENT AND NEAR TERM INITIAITVES

Recreation and Events

- a) 2019 Event Planning
- b) Park Expansion – Waterslide, etc.
- c) Recreation & Events Committee

Morgan Kerns, Director of Recreation, Communication and Special Events was present to review upcoming events she is working on. For April, she has an Easter Egg Drop event planned. We will continue with Summer Music at the Park on Thursdays, but at a later time due to the heat. She is still working on an "AB Camp" program providing half day events for children, transportation is the biggest obstacle. She is looking at the Town Park for location of a dog park and dog events,

maybe starting with pop-up dog parks throughout town to gauge interest. She is still working to formulate the Recreation Committee and will touch base with interested citizens.

There was a large exchange of ideas to further expand the Beach Music Festival into beach music week: incorporate the Jolly Knave reunion event; local bars have a DJ shag music night; local restaurants offering a discount with a festival card; chef/DJ dinner event; pub crawl throughout AB; shag contest; shag demo at the Town Park; have line dancers at the Business After Hours event offering free lessons; find a business to sponsor a band in a parking area offering free music.

There was conversation on adding a waterslide at the Town Park, estimated to cost \$350,000 and would require a new changing/bathroom facility.

Causeway Planning

- a) Alta Corridor Plan
- b) Potential Next Steps

We have been communicating with Alta, a firm specializing in corridor and transportation planning. The firm will conduct a single day charrette, a program where the designer meets with the public and business owners and a Master Plan is developed within a day.

With all of the properties currently for sale on the Causeway, there was discussion on amending the UDO to restrict and regulate residential development in that zone. Making improvements to the infrastructure and improving public parking will be smart planning for the future.

Break for lunch at 12:19 pm. Council remained in the conference room and casually conversed.
Resume 12:47 pm.

Stormwater & Water Quality

- a) Active project update
- b) West end update
- c) Recreational Water Quality Committee Recommendation

Councilmember Johnson provided a report of the eight meetings the committee conducted over the past year. They had a wide range of informative guest speakers and developed a list of actions they would like Council to support. He will request the board to approve these actions at the next board meeting.

Boardwalk Revitalization

- a) Presentation of RFP Contents

Mayor Cooper will compile a competition brief which will include history, existing conditions, citizen wants, and town needs for the boardwalk revitalization. This will provide us with the opportunity for a wide variety of ideas at a lower cost. The project will then be put out for bid.

Appearance and Placemaking Improvements

- a) Review committee recommendations
- b) Prioritize next steps

Mayor Cooper would like the beach volleyball nets to be reconfigured to add more nets, this should be able to be accomplished by running the nets north and south instead of east and west.

We need to look at ways to keep sand from building up on the boardwalk. Installing sand fencing like in the past is an option.

Mayor Pro Tem Porter would like the Town to educate via Facebook and Ocean Breeze as the plans for the boardwalk remodeling progress so the public understands what areas the Town owns.

There has been an increased issue with refuse and recycling roll out carts being left on the side of the road after service. They are unsightly and cause a hazard when they are blown over or in the street. It was the consensus to review amending the ordinance to require removal of the carts and educating citizens in the weekly Ocean Breeze.

Councilmember Archer is going to take the lead on establishing a Garden Club.

The planning department needs to follow up with businesses that were damaged from the hurricane to ensure they are working on repairs. After lengthy discussion about code enforcement on residential and commercial properties, it was the consensus to hire part time administrative staff to issue permits so current staff can work on enforcement. It was also the consensus to continue seeking to hire a building inspector, even if a part time position to assist the county.

It was the consensus of the board to encourage all staff to assist and/or report to the appropriate department any violations or areas in need of appearance improvements.

Beach Nourishment

Council discussed the need for nourishment west of the Circle beach. A possible sand tax will be discussed during budget preparations.

Break 2:42 pm

Resume 2:52 pm

PART THREE – ‘LIGHTENING ROUND’ VARIOUS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Sidewalks on Hwy 58 between Causeway and New Bern

It was instructed to pursue conversations with NCDOT to improve the existing sidewalks that are currently angled along West Fort Macon Road. The sidewalk project connecting the eastern end of Town from Tar Landing to the walking trail at Fort Macon State Park will begin construction soon.

Review of Building Inspections Arrangement, impact on enforcement

This was discussed earlier.

Planning Board & BOA consolidation

If Council does not want to consider consolidating the boards at this time other options are: consider retaining an outside attorney to attend the meetings, they would not be a board member, therefore could advise the petitioner; hire a professional chairman, who would not be an Atlantic Beach citizen, therefore not have an opinion on the cases. The Town Charter will need to be amended to allow a non-resident. We will poll the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board members to see how they feel about combining the boards and/or serving on both boards.

Councilmember Archer opposes consolidating the boards. He feels more training is needed instead. We can easily seek SOG training or attend other town's board meetings.

It was the consensus for the Planning Department to provide the SOG information and blog that explains the burden variance applicants need to meet with the application paperwork.

Circle Parking

There was discussion to consider limited parking along the parallel spaces on West Drive to accommodate the businesses. They will be paid spaces, no longer free for 30 minutes.

Re-entry pass policy

Mayor Cooper discussed if the Town should consider different level of re-entry passes. This would allow certain businesses access across the bridge before others. An example would be restaurants and Captain Stacy Fishing Center who both would need to maintain generators to save their food and bait, etc. It was the consensus of Council to leave the policy as it is now, the business owners know how to get in contact with the Mayor and Council if they need emergency access to the island.

Trash on beach strand

The Police Dept. recently purchased a new gator. This will allow them to actively enforce the tents, trash, leash law etc. on the beach strand. It was the consensus of Council to tighten up on enforcement of litter and cleaning up behind your pet. We can advertise that message on the digital sign at the Circle. We can also put a notice in the Ocean Breeze that the Town doesn't want to ban smoking, but we may have to if people do not start helping to clean up.

Budget document format

Councilmember Johnson would like to see some changes to the budget format, detailing department expenses, listing all revenue on a single page and more executive summaries. He would also like to see a comprehensive review of staff job description and salary compiled.

Council Meeting procedure review

Councilmember Archer wants to engage people to stay for the entire council meeting, not just leave after a hot topic. He wants to add a second public comment period to the end at the meeting so people have the opportunity to comment on what happened during the meeting.

Staff will look into the Rules regarding the necessity of a motion to open and close a Public Hearing. If it is not necessary, the Mayor can simply open and close the public hearing.

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 4:24 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the February 25, 2019 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

(seal)



[Handwritten signature]
A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor

ATTEST:

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Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk