



Minutes
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council – Work Session
Thursday, August 8, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.



A regularly scheduled work session of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 10:00 a.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, Admin Services Director; Michelle Shreve, Planning Director; Morgan Gilbert, Parks and Rec Director; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief; Mike Simpson, Fire Chief

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and mentioned Curt Winbourne was in attendance requesting the board hear his request for a donation to the AB King Mackerel Tournament.

Councilmember Archer made a motion *to amend* the agenda to add Request for Donation to AB King Mackerel Tournament as agenda item number two. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

Review of Proposed Recreation Events

The Beach Music Festival pub crawl was a success with 220 participants. Morgan is proposing another pub crawl to be held the Thursday night prior to the Labor Day weekend, titled “Wine Down to Summer.” We had 220 participants for the Beach Music Festival pub crawl in May so for this event we will add a second shuttle.

In conjunction with Coldwell Banker Spectrum Properties, she would also like to hold a Barktober Fest event at the Town Park on September 28 combining a dog event and Octoberfest. In order to keep with the Octoberfest theme, she would like to offer beer from Crystal Coast Brewing. There was lengthy discussion about allowing alcohol at the town park. Mayor Pro Tem Porter feels the park is the right venue for the dog event, but may not be the environment for alcohol. Council needs to decide if they want to allow alcohol at the park for special events or keep it a kid space or a multi-age event space. Council discussed many options and parameters and directed Morgan to draft a policy for presentation at a future meeting.

Request for Donation to AB King Mackerel Tournament

Curt Winbourne, ABKMT Chair, and Kevin Knox presented their request. Curt noted that Councilmembers Navey and Waters are both on the board. Curt explained this is an investment for the Town and it gets the tournament started.

Mayor Cooper noted the Town’s donation in the past was not set up or intended to be an annual event. Again this year, he is going to submit the support application to the tourism board requesting their support.

Curt stated the tournament does its best not to use any Town resources or staff support, unlike the Town sponsored Beach Music Festival. Mayor Cooper noted that the Beach Music Festival is self-sufficient and pays for itself through sponsorships. This year’s donation goal to the fire department is a vehicle.

Kevin noted the tournament is included in Bojangles’ commercials. The recent sponsorship video has thousands of views and is a great marketing tool for Atlantic Beach. (the video was shown for the board).

Councilmember Navey feels the Town’s donation shows the Town’s support and gives incentive to the volunteers who are working year round on sponsors and promotions. Councilmember Archer supports the tournament and misses the old Hardees King Mack Tournament. Mayor Pro Tem Porter reminded the board that last year they discussed this was not going to be an annual donation. He supports the tournament and especially supports the good will and donations to the fire department from the event. Councilmember Johnson stated he was initially reluctant to fund this event with taxpayer money. He wondered if funding this event would prevent the Town from sponsoring/hosting other events. Now he feels this event gives back enough that it is worth sponsoring. There are more than 20 people in Town working on this events success and it is one of the few things so many citizens are passionate about and involved in.

There was discussion on establishing a policy for funding Town events. Councilmember Archer does not feel we need a policy, everything we do involves taxpayer money. Councilmember Johnson would like to see a policy for this and a model to drum up citizen involvement for all events.

Councilmember Archer made a motion *to approve* funding the AB King Mackerel Tournament in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Porter. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

Status of Beach Nourishment Project

There has always been effort to nourish the west end of Town, from the Circle to Doubletree. Since Hurricane Florence, nourishment has become more of an immediate issue. The County Beach Commission is ready to seek bids for nourishing all of Bogue Banks. Once the bids come in, the Town will need to react quickly to execute any contracts because the window for nourishment is limited.

Review of Proposed Options to Decrease Speed Limit on Causeway

With the recent Causeway Improvement Plan and the Appearance Committee there is a desire to decrease the speed coming into Atlantic Beach. Currently the speed on the bridge and the Causeway south to Moonlight Drive is 45mph. Council is presented with two options, reducing the speed on the bridge only or reducing all of the 45mph section to 35 mph.

Councilmember Archer thinks this will increase attraction to businesses and increase walking in area. Councilmember Navey feels there is currently a safety issue trying to exit the businesses on the Causeway. Councilmember Waters does not think a decrease in speed will be supported by the public.

It was the consensus that we pursue reducing the speed to 35mph on the bridge and the Causeway. Prior to passing the resolution at the next Council meeting, staff will inquire with NCDOT to ensure that the speed limit on the bridge can be reduced. Chief Harvey noted all the bridges in the county are posted 45mph.

Review of Causeway Improvement Plan

After months of review, we are have the final Causeway Corridor Improvement Plan from Alta. Council did not have any comments on the plan so we are ready to submit it the public and NCDOT for comment.

Review of Proposed Easements with FMB at the Grove and Call for a Public Hearing on August 26, 2019 at 6:00pm

Mr. Walker stated the State is requiring FMB to obtain an Easement for a 50 foot buffer around the perimeter of the drain field, this would release FMB and the Town from the existing land swap agreement at the Public works facility and the Town's name would be removed from the Waste Treatment Plant Permit and FMB would be the sole owner. Attorney Taylor has reviewed and approved the proposed agreements. Even though a public hearing is not required, Mr. Walker requests Council hold one for the best interest of the public.

Councilmember Archer made a motion *to amend* the agenda to add Request for Donation to AB King Mackerel Tournament as agenda item number two. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Porter made a motion *to schedule* a Public Hearing on the proposed Easements with FMB at the Grove for the August 26, 2019 Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Navey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

Recess 11:27

Resume 11:39

AB Public Safety & Admin Complex Plan Review

Hobgood Architects is presenting the design development plan. Landscaping and the location of mechanical units need to be decided on. The architects recommend the 50 ton unit, which Council agreed.

Mayor Pro Tem Porter stepped out at 12:08pm and returned at 12:10pm.

Ideally bidding documents would be ready by the end of the year, with construction starting in February.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the design development plan as presented and the architects continue working on the interior specifics as well as seek bids for landscaping design and fire suppression. The architects will prepare a Finance Estimate for the next meeting.

ADJOURN

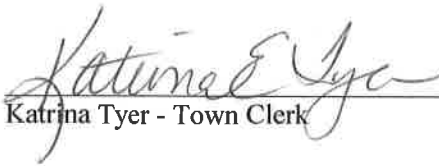
There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was ___ pm .

These minutes were approved at the September 23, 2019 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.


TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

ATTEST:

(seal)


Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk




B. Cooper, III - Mayor