



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Planning Retreat
Carteret Community College Civic Center Conference Room
Smith Building - Morehead City, NC
Friday, January 24, 2020



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Friday, January 24, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at the Carteret Community College Civic Center Conference Room, Morehead City, North Carolina.

Members Present: Mayor A. B. Cooper, III; Mayor Pro Tem Richard Johnson; Councilmembers: MJ Forrest, Danny Navey, Austin Waters

Members Absent: Councilmember Harry Archer

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

Councilmember Navey made a motion *to approve* the Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Waters. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

Councilmember Waters made a motion *to excuse* Councilmember Archer due to sickness. Seconded by Councilmember Navey. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

Introduction and Review of Strategic Planning Goals

Mayor Cooper reviewed the plan for I-42 and discussed the population increase and travel issues the creation of I-40 caused for Wilmington. He acknowledged the goals set by Council at the 2018 retreat that have been completed. He wants to complete a Strategic Plan and suggests reviewing it quarterly during a work session. Council needs to establish a Vision Statement, Key Focus Areas and Specific Initiatives.

Vision Statements

Vision statements were submitted by each Councilmember and each had the same common themes of family friendly, good governance, citizens, environment and business community. Atlantic Beach is not just for the people that live here.

There was discussion on regulation and enforcement of home and business appearance and maintenance. Council feels enforcement of this would have a huge impact and could be accomplished without spending a lot of money.

Council really wants to get citizens more involved. We have some participation now, but things are not citizen driven. Council needs to reach out to citizens and encourage more involvement.

Break 9:30am
Resume 9:42am

Mayor Cooper is going to draft a Vision Statement and circulate it for the board to review and comment. He polled Council to understand what area of focus they think is most important to Atlantic Beach for the coming years. Councilmember Waters would like to implement policy to control development, especially on the Causeway. Councilmember Forrest wants to ensure sustainability of the beach during summer and businesses and restaurants in the winter. Mayor Cooper thinks appearance is important and buildings need to match our environment. Councilmember Navey wants to focus on recreation first and control development second. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson thinks the foundation layer is environmental (beach, clean water and recreation). Mr. Walker noted that sustaining infrastructure should be considered foremost.

Citizens Surveys and Key Focus Areas

Mayor Cooper reviewed the results from the last survey to ensure Council's focus is still the same. There was discussion about ensuring the budget numbers reflect the survey results, especially for Public Safety and Parks and Recreation.

The Key Focus Areas from the survey were discussed.

- 1) Parks and Recreation Entertainment
- 2) Smart Development – A better name for this area might be Quality Redevelopment
- 3) Fiscal Development – Mayor Pro Tem Johnson considers this organizational excellence. He would like to see all Public Works Staff wear logo uniforms and to see more promo and good gesture media posts pertaining to staff.
- 4) Town Appearance – Mayor Pro Tem Johnson sees appearance as its own category. Smart redevelopment and maintenance of Town appearance, such as street signs.
- 5) Local Business Development - We need to strive to keep businesses open year round.
- 6) Environmental stewardship

Regional planning should be included as a focus area. Atlantic Beach can benefit from recreational options in other towns.

There was discussion of starting a business/hospitality association to mutually support and advertise for each other. Also displaying a billboard into town, “Make Atlantic Beach your home, you don’t have to leave”

Initiatives for 2020

5 year Capital Plan

Mr. Walker reviewed the accomplishments since last year’s retreat and discussed debt service and the effect the new public safety facility will have.

Lunch break 11:57am
Resume 12:40pm

Review and Recap

Mayor Cooper recapped the discussions prior to lunch.

Stormwater Sampling Program 2019 Results

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson gave an overview of the Recreational Water Committee and their findings and activities the past few years.

Dr. Rachel Noble from the UNC School of Government explained the sampling procedure and what bacteria levels prompt beach closures.

The recreational water sampling sites were 120 Brooks Street, 203 Shore Drive, Weir on Old Causeway, 126 Pond Drive, Boat Ramp at Barefoot Chandler, Bogue Shore Boat Ramp, Croatan Mobile Boat Ramp and the Boat Ramp at Al Williams. She identified the sites of storm drains and package treatment plants and discussed their possible effect on the sampling.

Conclusions from the testing were as follows:

- Two sites, that are mostly enclosed, Croatan Mobile Boat Ramp and the Boat Ramp at Al Williams, have serious fecal contamination problems as indicated by FIB concentrations and quantification of human fecal contamination
- Conducting additional sound-side water quality monitoring has true value in terms of prioritizing mitigation efforts
- Continuing to monitor the locations on the soundside over time, can be used to 1) identify hot spots, and 2) understand if fixes have been successful
- This project highlights an excellent Town-Academic Partnership that continues to build valuable momentum

Dr. Noble suggests community education. She would like to further test the animal contamination aspect and determine if the source is from birds or domestic animals. She would like to compare land and water samples. She will provide quotes for further sampling.

Break 1:55pm
Resume 2:00pm

Town Council Meeting Policies and Procedures

Council discussed and agreed to keep the work sessions at 2:00pm to better accommodate everyone's schedule. Mayor Cooper is a member of the Coastal Resources Commission and some of the work session dates conflict with that meeting schedule.

In the past year no one has spoken during the second public comment so that item will be removed. Council wants to stream the meetings online, maybe through Facebook. The Clerk will update the Council Procedures for approval later.

AB Causeway District Planning Considerations

Council discussed the setback and septic issues along the Causeway. The question before Council is if they want to promote commercial business on the Causeway and how to accomplish it with the septic issues. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson wants to see options for potentially providing sewer through a package treatment facility to the Causeway to promote business development. Mayor Cooper will research options.

Regional Planning and Partnerships

- a. Impact of I-42
- b. County, Regional & State Board Participation

Council should speak to towns that were affected by I-40 and learn from them. We should provide more information to the public on the transportation plan. Council was encouraged to attend County Committee meetings, such as dredging.

Lightening Round – Quick Discussions of Specific Issues

- a. Recycling Containers and Garbage Can Replacement
- b. Coyote Procedures
- c. Summer Parking Program
- d. Building Material Standards
- e. Property Maintenance Standards
- f. More Formal Role for Appearance Committee

Council did not have time to discuss the Lightening Round topics, the will be added to the February work session agenda.

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

Councilmember Navey made a motion *to enter* Closed Session. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried. The time was 3:08pm.

Council went to into closed session following a recess at 3:10pm. The Council and the Town Manager discussed multiple personnel issues.

At 4:25pm, Councilmember Navey made a motion to exit closed session and adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Waters and passed 4-0.

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 4:25pm.

These minutes were approved at the March 23, 2020 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

ATTEST:

(seal)


Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH


B. Cooper, III - Mayor