



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2020



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, March 23, 2020 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 Richard Johnson; Councilmembers: MJ Forrest, Danny Navey, Austin Waters

Members Absent: Councilmember Harry Archer

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief; Nick Krebs, Planner; Mike Simpson, Fire Chief; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Morgan Gilbert, P&R Director; Sabrina Simpson, Admin Services Director; Mike Shutak.

Due to the Social Distance restrictions associated with the COVID-19 Virus, there was a limited amount of seating in the Boardroom for the meeting. Morgan was present to broadcast a Facebook Live feed.

CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Councilman Navey made a motion *to excuse* Councilman Archer due to medical reasons. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDAS

Councilman Waters made a motion *to amend* the agenda to add Item 7, Resolution 20-03-03: Resolution Authorizing Holding of Electronic Meetings. Seconded by Councilman Forrest. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Financial Report
- b) Budget Transfer
- c) Budget Amendment
- d) Tax Collection Report
- e) Tax Releases Report
- f) Tax Refund – Ingram Allen and Net Retail Partners
- g) **Resolution 20-03-01:** Resolution of Appreciation and Awarding Service Badge and Sidearm to Mark Reid
- h) 2020 Paid Parking Program
- i) Receipt of NCDOT Response to Request to Reduce the Speed Limit on the AB Bridge
- j) Call for a Public Hearing for UDO Amendments (5 proposed) on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:00pm in the Town Boardroom
- k) Town Council Meeting Minutes: 01/24/2020Retreat; 02/24/2020

Mayor Cooper reviewed the items for the audience and expressed appreciation for Mark Reid's service to the Town.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson made a motion *to approve* the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilman Navey. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

5. CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Vada Palma, 116 Island Quay Court. She thanked everyone for keeping the public informed during this pandemic, it helps to curb rumors. A few months ago, she spoke requesting that the ABC board not be allowed to cut down all of the live oaks on Cedar Street after their purchase of the adjacent property. She has noticed they have all been cut down. She is sure if the Beaufort horses were harmed, there would be backlash, but no one cares about the trees. She spoke to former Building Inspector Donna Turner and former Planning Board member Joe Tarascio regarding an old tree ordinance she recalled the Town having. She is asking the Town to consider implementing an ordinance like Pine Knoll Shores.

Mayor Cooper stated the Board and staff looked at the Town's ordinances during the original discussion and there is nothing in our ordinance to prevent removal of the trees. We will look into amending the ordinance for future cases.

FY20-21 Budget Requests

None.

Requested Donation to AB King Mack Tournament: \$10,000

Curt Winbourne, board member, is requesting Council approve a \$10,000 donation again this year to help fund the Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament. Last year the tournament had an outstanding year, with 110 boats registering. They have a lot of citizen participation. Organizers consider it a nice Atlantic Beach event, with a fishing tournament. They recently purchased a 4-wheeler for the Fire Dept and are prepared to purchase signage and flags for beach safety.

Councilman Forrest asked how much the tournament has on hand, Winbourne estimates almost \$40,000, with \$30,000 to be spent on the Fire Dept requests. The tournament would like to increase the prize money this year to demonstrate growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson has always supported the tournament and the amount of citizen involvement they have achieved, but with the tournament having \$40,000 in the bank and three years of donations, it is time to let them stand on their own. He did not see the donation as something that would continue annually. He would like the Town to hold this money for other events or for another group. He would also like to see Morgan use this as a model to achieve other events. He wants to continue supporting with in-kind.

Councilman Waters feels if Council takes the \$10,000 from the tournament this year, it is taking \$10,000 from the Fire Dept. He thinks the more the Town puts in it, the more support it shows. Without this donation, they cannot increase the prize money and further grow the event. Councilman Navey wanted to acknowledge all the hours the volunteers put into the event.

Winbourne noted the tournament is able to spend a lot on marketing and advertising, which helps promote Atlantic Beach. The tournament has been able to give the money back three times. This investment shows the volunteers they have the Town's support.

Councilman Forrest asked a couple questions on fund raising and organization for a comparison with the Town's Beach Music Festival, which is completely paid for by sponsorship. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson questioned Winbourne if he thought there would be a time the tournament would not ask for the Town's donation. He feels the tournament is still feeling good after last year's success and he does not want to lose moral by not having the Town's support.

Councilman Waters made a motion *to approve* a donation to the AB King Mack Tournament in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded by Councilman Navey. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Councilman Forrest opposed. Vote was 2-2. Mayor Cooper voted to break the tie by voting in favor of the donation.

6. Planning and Zoning Proposed Amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 Unified Development Ordinance, Article 5, Development Standards, Section 9, Design Standards

Nick Krebs reminded the board this item was continued from the February 24 meeting for further Planning Board review. The amendment applies to multi-family development, not townhouses. This was mostly suggested following the hurricane after so much debris was blown around. The Planning Board approved the proposed amendment.

There was discussion how this amendment applies to developments that change their distinction from condos to townhouses during development. Councilman Waters asked if any developers had commented, it was noted that one commented this would increase construction costs.

Councilman Navey made a motion *to open the public hearing*. Seconded by Councilman Waters. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

None.

Councilman Navey made a motion *to close the public hearing*. Seconded by Councilman Waters. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

Councilman Navey made a motion *to approve* Resolution 20-03-02: Resolution of Plan Consistency. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson made a motion *to approve* Ordinance 20-03-01: Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 Unified Development Ordinance, Article 5, Development Standards, Section 9, Design Standards. Seconded by Councilman Navey. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 20-03-03: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HOLDING OF ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

Attorney Taylor reviewed the proposed electronic meeting policy for use during a State of Emergency. The policy allows for public comment and interaction between board members. This will not apply to quasi-judicial meetings. The Town will use Zoom to conduct meetings electronically.

Councilman Forrest made a motion *to approve* Resolution 20-03-03: Authorizing Holding of Electronic Meetings. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mayor Cooper signed a Declaration today closing all public beach accesses, beach public parking and restroom facilities and the Town Park. Social gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited anywhere in Atlantic Beach and social distancing of at least six feet should be maintained during all gatherings and in all retail and other business environments. We are effectively trying to discourage people from coming to Town.

Councilman Forrest is concerned about using the word "closed" and wants to make sure we are enforcing it if we use that word. Councilman Waters wants to use the word closed.

Due to the virus, the budget work session scheduled for April has been postponed. This pandemic will have a big impact on our state shared revenues.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

None

10. MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Navey wanted to comment on the DOT response in the Consent Agenda regarding the speed limit change on the Causeway and bridge, we want to make sure we are heard on that issue.


ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 7:13pm.

These minutes were approved at the April 27, 2020 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

ATTEST:

(seal)


Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH


A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor