



Minutes
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council – Work Session
Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 2:00pm



A regularly scheduled work session of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Thursday, March 12, 2020 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 Johnson; Councilmembers: Harry Archer, M.J. Forrest (arrived at 2:06pm), 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; Marc Schulze, Public Works Director; Mike Simpson, Fire Chief; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief; Mike Shutak, Carteret News Times

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Archer made a motion *to approve* the agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilmember Navey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

SPRING RECREATION PROGRAM & PROPOSED LITTER BINS AT BEACH ACCESSES

The St. Pawtricks event planned for Saturday has been cancelled due to CORV-19. As of now, we are still hoping the Easter event will go as planned.

Morgan has been working on a Beach Litter Program, modeled after a successful one in Atlantic Beach, Florida. The program will consist of purchasing baskets and signage at an estimated cost of \$903. She has been working with Rachel from Crystal Coast Waterkeeper to learn about the *Marine Debris Tracker* mobile app, which is a joint initiative between the NOAA Marine Debris Program and the Southeast Atlantic Marine Debris Initiative (SEA-MDI), out of the University of Georgia College of Engineering. Rachel was present to explain how her group uses data entered into the app by citizens picking up litter to identify hotspots and the main source of litter. They have had good results, especially with teens and preteens. Council openly discussed some of the pros and cons to this program, but overall think it is a good idea. The biggest con was people using the baskets for other things or not returning them.

ESTABLISH PERIMETER PARKING HOURS LIMITS FOR CIRCLE FOR 2020 SEASON

Mayor Cooper and Chief Harvey polled the business owners on the Circle to determine what they preferred for parking on the outer perimeter spaces along West Drive and Atlantic Drive. The owners were mixed between free for 30 minutes and paid 1 hour only. It was the consensus of Council to allow 30 Minute Free Parking ONLY, then the vehicle must move.

BUDGET OVERVIEW/COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FY20-21

Mr. Walker noted the big consideration for the budget this year is the tax rate, the levy is already estimated \$53,000 less this year. He reviewed the current debt and state shared revenues. The budget will be proposed at the next work session.

BEACH SAFETY CO-ORDINATION WITH BOGUE BANKS TOWN

Mayor Cooper met with other beach mayors and they all agree the entire beach strand should be consistent and using the international standards. He suggests putting an ordinance in effect allowing us to close the beach when double red flags are flying. Emerald Isle implemented theirs a few years ago and Pine Knoll Shores is now.

A citizen has been in contact with Mayor Cooper and Chief Simpson promoting her campaign Float Don't Fight to help educate and prevent rip current drownings. It was the consensus of Council to work with her and help promote her campaign.

There was lengthy conversation regarding numbering the beach mile markers and how it can be tied into GPS and 911. It was the consensus to have the poles installed and ready for signage.

PUBLIC ADMIN FACILITY REVIEW AND UPDATE

Per Mayor Pro Tem Johnson's request, Mayor Cooper provided a history of the past years planning for a new public administration building. It has been determined the current facility was not worth renovating. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson is requesting other options for a town hall location, such as renovating an existing building in town. He wants to ensure all the options are explored to justify the expense.

Mr. Walker has been meeting with bankers and gathering financial information. He is recommending the town use a Construction Manager at Risk. A sub-committee of councilmembers should be created to participate in the interviews.

It was the consensus Mayor Cooper and Mr. Walker will provide other location options and options for building in stages. Councilmember Forrest would like to see the project proceed, the town has spent enough time on this.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.


ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 4:37pm.

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