



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Special Town Council Meeting
Electronically via Zoom
Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.



The special meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council held Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. electronically via Zoom and aired via Facebook Live.

Member Present: Mayor A. B. Cooper, III; Mayor Pro Tem Richard Johnson; Councilmembers: Harry Archer (via Zoom), MJ Forrest, Danny Navey, Austin Waters

Members Absent: None

Other Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Derek Taylor, Attorney (via Zoom); Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief; Morgan Gilbert, P&R and Communications Director; Channel 7 and Channel 12 News Reporters

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. The Clerk called roll, everyone was present in the boardroom, except Councilman Archer, who was present via Zoom.

Mayor Cooper stated this special meeting was called for the purpose of discussing and to potentially enact temporary changes to the Town's open alcohol container rules. The intent of any temporary rule changes is to allow bars in Atlantic Beach to more easily provide off-premise sales so that the employees of these establishments can get back to work while on-premise sales are prohibited by State orders.

Mayor Cooper explained the Town ordinance prohibits open containers on Town sidewalks, streets and parking lots. This amendment will assist businesses to sell beer and wine in their parking lots, with landlord permission. The businesses will have to remain within 100 feet of their business. The serving area will have to be roped off and monitored to ensure customers are not removing open containers from the area. Amplified music will be allowed, if it is terminated by 9:00pm. The businesses should still follow the state rules regarding wearing masks, mass gathering numbers, social distancing rules, and all ALE restrictions.

Rich Porter from the Tackle Box Tavern supports this amendment so he can get his employees back to work. This will help his business minimally, but it will help his employees more. They are hurting. He noted this is not a good business model, but he is willing to do what he can to help his staff.

John Thompson with the Tipsy Turtle Tavern feels everything should be open, if a person does not feel safe they do not have to attend. He agrees with everything Rich Porter said.

Council discussed when this should terminate and decided it should remain in place until state allows normal operation for bars and night clubs and the resolution should be amended to include the expiration date.

Councilman Archer made a motion *to recuse* Councilman Navey and Councilman Waters due to potential conflict of interest for operating a business in Town. Seconded by Councilman Forrest. Approved unanimously by roll call vote, 3-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson made a motion *to approve* Resolution 20-05-03: Resolution Providing for Temporary Exemptions from Town of Atlantic Beach Ordinances for the Consumption of Malt Beverages and Unfortified Wine as Well as the Possession of Open Containers of Malt Beverages and Unfortified Wine. Seconded by Councilman Forrest. Approved unanimously by roll call vote, 3-0. Motion carried.

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 2:20pm.

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

ATTEST:

(seal)



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor

Katrina Tyer
 Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk