



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
Town Boardroom - 125 West Fort Macon Road and
Electronically via Zoom
Monday, July 27, 2020



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. electronically via Zoom and 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 (via Zoom); MJ Forrest, Danny Navey, Austin Waters

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Derek Taylor, Attorney (via Zoom); Jeff Harvey, Police Chief; Mike Simpson, Fire Chief; Julian Griffiee, Planner; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Leghe Gerald, Water System Superintendent; Morgan Gilbert, P&R Director; Sabrina Simpson, Admin Services Director; Mike Shutak (via Zoom)

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. The meeting was also broadcast as a Facebook Live feed.

CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The Clerk called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and able to be heard. Councilman Forrest led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Cooper noted comments would only be taken via Zoom, not Facebook.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDAS

Councilman Archer made a motion *to approve* the agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilman Waters. Approved unanimously by roll call vote, 5-0. Motion carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Financial Report
- b) Budget Amendments
- c) Budget Transfers
- d) Tax Collection Report
- e) Tax Releases Report
- f) Tax Collection FY19-20 Annual Report
- g) Order to Collect Taxes
- h) Approval Resolution 20-07-01: Resolution Amending Personnel Policy
- i) Approval of Resolution 20-07-02: Resolution Directing the Town Manager to Approve Tax Refunds under \$100
- j) Approval of Ordinance 20-07-01: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 5, Beach and Shore Regulations Article 1, In General to Regulate Swimming, Beach Access, etc. During Dangerous Conditions
- k) Town Park and Parking Program Revenue and Expense Summary
- l) Town Council Meeting Minutes: 5/14/20WS; 5/18/20; 5/28/20SM

Mayor Cooper reviewed the Consent Items, specifically the Amendment to the Beach and Shore Ordinance. Councilman Navey made a motion *to approve* the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Approved unanimously by roll call vote, 5-0. Motion carried.

5. CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Dr. Rob Jackson introduced himself as the new Superintendent of Carteret County Schools. He has been on the job for the last 3 weeks and is very impressed with the staff and people of Carteret county. He takes this position very seriously. Each 115 school systems were charged with how they want to handle their school year. Approved plan B scenario for all public schools in Carteret County. Each school will contact parents regarding their child's schedule.

6. REVIEW OF WATER TESTING by GMA

Marc Schulze, Public Works Director, explained that DBP are formed when chlorine comes in contact with organic material found in our ground water. All of our wells except one have high organic material. Water staff has had to increase the chlorine residuals to maintain the required residuals at the end of our lines. Other factors include contact time and temperature. Corrective measures include flushing and adjusting chlorine levels. Mr Schulze stated that we are not alone as Morehead City, Western Carteret, Newport, and Bogue Banks Water Corp are all facing these same issues.

Potential solutions are a reverse osmosis water plant and activated carbon filters, which are too expensive; tank mixers; flushing; and disinfectant change from chlorine to chloramines.

We have hired Dr. Spruill with GMA and are continuing with testing. We meet the state and federal water regulations but if we don't we have to give a 30-day notice to the public that the state standard has been exceeded.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE

Hobgood Architects and Thomas Construction (CM@R) reviewed the following: Status Update and Timeline, Design Update and Presentation, Discussion and Approval of Initial "Control Budget", Discussion and Approval of Subcontractor Prequalification Policy, and Budget Amendments for Certain Design Items.

He started by providing a timeline for construction with construction being completed February 2022. He then showed a video walkthrough of the proposed new building. There was discussion about the budget and now being a good time to bid out and get good prices. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked about the proposed metal building at the Fire Dept and the choice for PVC over other materials. He wants to know if all the change to materials to cut cost now will add maintenance issues and utility issues later. The CM&R explained he recommends all of the products proposed and would advise if he didn't because he warrants the product.

Mayor Cooper explained that the budget amendment needs to be approved tonight, mostly consisting of Hobgood Architects for services with pre-construction documents, Thomas Construction Group for CM@R pre-construction services, and Cullipher Group for engineering services for permitting and planning, and other cost that are not included in the construction budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson wants a clear number so he can explain it to the public; he wants the total.

Mayor Cooper explained that we are just approving the control budget, which is essentially saying we are still moving forward. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson's concern is there hasn't been any public input. He doesn't feel good approving something when he doesn't think the public knows they are going to spend \$7.8 million on a building or that they support it. He doesn't want to approve this tonight without confidence that the citizens know about this. He has repeatedly asked for other cheaper options and he wants to seek public input.

Councilman Archer said we have been working on this since 2010. We need a landmark in Atlantic Beach and he thinks this is the opportune time to build.

Councilman Forrest states if \$7.8 million is the number, then that is the number. He supports a public hearing because the \$5 million figure has been stated more than once for too long. He would feel more comfortable if we could tell the public just one more time.

Councilman Waters asked if the town could support this number without a tax increase. Walker confirmed the town is able to get financing for that amount and it may take a 1 cent tax increase to ensure continued services.

It was discussed to approve the budget amendment tonight so the ball can continue rolling, and bids can be submitted. We can still hold the public input meeting.

Councilman Archer made a motion *to approve* the budget amendment. Seconded by Councilman Navey. Mayor Cooper asked Councilman Archer to amend his motion to approve the budget amendment and include holding a public hearing in August. Councilman Archer declined to amend his motion. Approved by roll call vote, 3-2 with Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Councilman Forrest opposed. Motion carried.

Councilman Forrest made *a motion* to schedule a public comment period at 6:00 pm on August 13, 2020 to review the project. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Harry opposed scheduling the public comment period. Councilman Navey questioned what they were hoping to get out of it. Councilman Forrest said his intent is to give the public an opportunity to hear from Council and Hobgood as to the price increase in the project. Councilman Archer feels they have given the public all of the information multiple times at multiple public meetings and opportunity to speak on this project. Approved by roll call vote, 3-2 with Councilmen Archer and Navey opposed. Motion carried.

Councilman Archer made a motion *to approve* the Subcontractor Prequalification Policy which sums up the type of contractors that can bid on the project. Seconded by Councilman Waters. Approved unanimously by roll call vote, 5-0. Motion carried.

Councilman Waters made a motion *to approve* the control budget. Seconded by Councilman Navey. Approved by roll call vote, 3-2 with Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Councilman Forrest opposed. Motion carried.

8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr Walker stated the town has seen its best summer ever, even with impacts from COVID, at the Town park, with the paid parking program, and with water production.

9. MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 8:25pm.

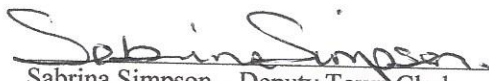
These minutes were approved at the September 28, 2020 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

ATTEST:



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH


A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor


Sabrina Simpson – Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes prepared by Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk.