



Minutes
Town Council Meeting Agenda
Town Boardroom
1010 West Fort Macon Road, Unit 17 and
Electronically Via Zoom
Thursday, April 8, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.



A regularly scheduled work session of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, 1010 West Fort Macon Road, Unit 17, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina and electronically via Zoom.

Members Present: Mayor A. B. Cooper, III; Mayor Pro Tem Richard Johnson; Councilmembers: Harry Archer, M.J. Forrest, Danny Navey and Austin Waters

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Sabrina Simpson, Finance Director; Marc Schulze, Public Works Director; Michelle Shreve, Planning Director; Morgan Gilbert, Parks and Rec Director; Leghe Gerald, Water Supervisor; Bobby Partusch, Asst. Public Works Director

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING AT THE APRIL 26, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING ON ZTA-21-3 – ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT - COR SIDE SETBACK

Michelle Eitner reviewed the citizen-initiated text amendment proposing to allow 5 foot side setbacks for single-family detached and duplex residential uses in the Commercial Corridor (COR) zoning district, primarily the Causeway. On April 6, the Planning Board unanimously recommended this to Council for approval.

Councilman Forrest made a motion *to call for a public hearing* on Zoning Text Amendment for COR Side Setback at the April 26, 2021 Council meeting. Seconded by Councilman Waters. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Leghe Gerald, Bobby Partusch and Marc Schulze of the Public Works department provided an overview of current projects:

- **West End Stormwater Project:** Leghe stated this project is a little behind, as expected, due to weather and the depth of the piping. It will progress faster as the depth of the piping decreases.
- **West End Drainage Ditch Clean Out:** Bobby stated this project was awarded to Progreen again and they are currently removing all of the vegetation they can to increase water flow. They cannot remove soil due to it being a state protected stream. He reminded Council this project was initially a mosquito control project; we have easements to access the properties. A lot of the property owners have installed their own pipes to aid in the drainage. There was discussion about the pipes the property owners installed and the concern of property damage.
- **Water System Chloramines Project:** Leghe stated they hope to have a result by June. We are having to change from using chlorine to chloramines to meet state standards. A notice was sent out in the last water bill notifying customers of the TTHM violation.
- **Dredging Project:** Marc stated this project is on schedule. The state may require a post dredging report this year to support the grant funds. At the request of the dredging committee, the Police Department will mark the channel leading out of Hoop Pole Creek with buoys again. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson inquired about the Moonlight Dr. boat ramp being hard to access at low tide. Marc reminded the board the policy in the past has been to just do the channels, not the canals. Before when canals were dredged, property owners complained of their bulkheads breaking down because of it.
- **Proposed Street Paving Project:** Bobby noted staff completed a bid opening April 19. Ten streets have been identified as having bad areas, with Bayview Blvd. being the worst with approximately 12 spots in need of repair. He explained the different types of paving we are seeking and explained a lot of the issues are related to stormwater.

Mayor Cooper would like to see the paving project incorporate minor stormwater solutions, especially on Bayview Blvd.

- **Tree Planting at Town Park:** Marc stated we are continuing to try to find a tree that will grow on the hill and provide shade, screening and a noise barrier. We contacted four vendors and have not found a good recommendation. In 2016 we planted 35 red cedars, they all died; in 2018 we installed palm trees. They all died from the cold winter and storms. The only suggestion we have is to plant *Elaeagnus* shrubbery, which could take 10 years to mature. After discussion on the amount of money and effort already spent to try and establish trees on the hill, Mayor Cooper stated he will notify the adjacent property owners and advise we are going to continue with the wax myrtles and see if they mature sufficiently. If not, the only option we have is to install a fence which will probably not be pleasing.

FY21-22 DRAFT BUDGET STATUS SUMMARY

Mr. Walker presented a draft of the FY21/22 budget, which is still a work in progress as we await final tax levies from the County and final estimates of State Shared Revenues. We will submit a final proposed budget on April 30 to be reviewed at the May 13 work session. The public hearing is scheduled for May 24. The proposed \$8,977,590 budget provides the following:

- Provides a Two Cent Tax Increase to Pay the increased Debt Service for Public Safety/Admin Building
- Provides for 15% increases in Flood, Liability, and Worker Comp Coverages: \$28,000
- Maintains Current NCLM Health Insurance Program with a 3% increase: \$15,500
- Maintains Current Level of Townwide Services
- Maintains Current Number of Employees: 56
- Allocates 1.5 cents of tax rate to Beach Fund (\$273,000)
- Continues the Dredging Program, Beach Access Program, and Storm Water Projects
- Utilizes FEMA Reimbursement for Capital/Equipment/Vehicles (\$440,000)
- Does not Include the Pending American Funds (\$440,000): rules to be received
- Provides a 2% Salary Increase for Employees
- Provides 1.5% Merit Reserve

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked to explain the total increase of the salary and merit increase. Mayor Cooper reviewed the discussion Council had at October 2020 meeting regarding loan options for the new Public Safety Complex and potential 1.5 cent tax increase to cover the increase in debt service.

After discussions, it was requested Mr. Walker present the budget at 1.5% increase at the next meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson is not opposed to the 2% increase if it incorporates planning for additional larger projects. Currently there are not any big ticket projects planned that are not already included in the proposed budget. Mayor Cooper presented a spreadsheet of estimated costs for upcoming projects.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Cooper is glad to have Harry back. Councilman Archer commented he is glad to see everyone in person.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 3:25pm.

These minutes were approved at the May 24, 2021 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.


ATTEST:

(seal)


Katina Tyer - Town Clerk



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH


A.B. Cooper, III - Mayor