



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
1010 West Fort Macon Road, Unit 17 and
Electronically via Zoom
Monday, July 26, 2021



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, July 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, 1010 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 at 6:12pm), MJ Forrest, Danny Navey, Austin Waters

Members Present Absent: None

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Derek Taylor, Town Attorney; Michelle Eitner, Planning Director; Jason Hutchinson, Police Major; Michael Simpson, Fire Chief; Marc Schulze, Public Works Director; Leghe Gerald, Water Supervisor; Sabrina Simpson, Admin Services Director; Julian Griffie, Planner; Mike Shutak, Carteret News Times via Zoom; Planning Board member Joey Dean; Joey Starling via Zoom; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Councilman Forrest led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson made a motion *to approve* the agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilman Waters. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Finance Report
- b) Budget Amendment
- c) Tax Collection Report
- d) Tax Releases and Refunds Report
- e) Tax Collection FY20-21 Annual Report
- f) Order to Collect Taxes
- g) **Resolution 21-07-01:** Resolution of Sympathy to the Family of Joseph "Joe" Simpson
- h) Ratification of all actions taken by Council during prior electronic meetings (pursuant to Resolution 20-03-03)
- i) Approval of Body Camera Grant Application with NC Criminal Justice for the Police Department
- j) Approval of Groundwater Management Associates' Proposal for retrofitting the water treatment plant for the addition of an ammonia feed system to accomplish disinfection by chloramination
- k) Minutes: 6/1/21Joint; 6/10/21WS; 6/28/21

Mayor Cooper offered condolences to Chief Simpson on the passing of his father, also Chief Simpson. He said he did not know Joe, but felt like he did after attending the funeral service.

He also noted, the budget amendment is for a change order at the new public safety facility allowing for trex boards instead of lumber and a low voltage package for electronics and security.

Councilman Navey made a motion *to approve* the consent agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilman Forrest. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Phill Hursey, via Zoom, 219 West Terminal Blvd, asked if Council had thought about continuous sidewalks.

Mayor Cooper responded that we have a multi-year plan to add to our sidewalks. Three new sections of sidewalk are planned in the immediate future including Old Causeway and both sides of Fort Macon Road

Councilman Archer joined the meeting at 6:12pm via Zoom, he was late due to technical difficulties.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Adoption of Land Use Plan

Planning Director Michelle Eitner advised that the draft Atlantic Beach CAMA Land Use Plan has been deemed complete by the Division of Coastal Management after review by other state and federal agencies and is now ready for local adoption. This is largely procedural, as only technical changes were made since the last time Council reviewed and gave preliminary approval. The draft plan is approximately 140 pages and organized with goals and desires in the beginning and technical details at the end. The vision statement is compiled of Council goals and public outreach input.

Councilman Waters made a motion *to enter* public hearing. Seconded by Councilman Forrest. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

No comments in person or via Zoom.

Councilman Navey made a motion *to exit* public hearing. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

Councilman Waters made a motion *to approve* **Resolution 21-07-02** Resolution Adopting the Atlantic Beach CAMA Land Use Plan as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Approved unanimously by verbal vote, 5-0. Motion carried.

East Doubletree Beach Access CAMA Grant Application

Michelle explained that the Town has been invited to submit a final application for the CAMA Public Beach and Waterfront Access grant program to rebuild the DoubleTree East Public Beach Access. This grant program requires that a public hearing be held prior to approval of commitment of funds by the governing board. The Town plans to replace the current access by constructing a handicap-accessible wooden walkway in place of the existing stairs. The renovations will include trex-type materials for the deckboards and handrails, which has been used on all recent beach access structures for longer-lasting use and ease of maintenance. This is the Town's last beach access structure that is not handicap-accessible.

The grant request is for \$73,288 or 50% of the \$146,576 project cost, whichever is less. Municipalities are only required to provide 25% match for these types of projects, but our projects are more competitive by providing a greater portion of the project cost (50%).

Councilman Forrest made a motion *to enter* public hearing. Seconded by Councilman Navey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

No comments in person or via Zoom. One public comment from Patsy Bagnal was emailed in prior to the meeting in support of matching funds stating she strongly supports the town providing matching funds to improve the eastern public beach access at Doubletree. For us older folks this access could use a lot of work and is a little hazardous. Thanks for considering this.

Councilman Waters made a motion *to exit* public hearing. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson made a motion *to approve* **Resolution 21-07-03**: Resolution of Commitment of Funds Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program. Seconded by Councilman Navey. Approved unanimously by verbal vote, 5-0. Motion carried.

BACKGROUND ON SHARED MICRO-MOBILITY (E-SCOOTER) OPERATIONS

Presentation by Planner Julian Griffie and open discussion brought out that it may be better for the vendor to work with a company that would do weekly rentals, instead of having these stationed around town, at least until we have a well marked bikeway. He reviewed the option to construct a curtailed ordinance/set of regulations. The scooter trend is shifting to smaller, tourism-oriented markets. There was discussion from Council on the market that would use these, safety and how they would be used. Councilman Waters does not want to see them on the sidewalks, so using geofencing to keep them off of Hwy 58 would be good. It was the consensus to ask the owner to develop a pilot program to determine what works and address some of the concerns.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Walker added that Doubletree Hilton staff and management has been very cooperative in working with the Town to renovate the accesses and giving the necessary easements.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Cooper discussed the draft Rules of Procedure for Town Council. There are not a lot of changes, mainly just codifying procedures already in use. The draft allows the Mayor to call in and out of public hearings, rather than having to vote. The proposed draft will be reviewed by Attorney Taylor before it comes to Council.

Councilman Navey attended the Beach Commission meeting and learned the room tax revenue is tremendously higher than in the past.

Councilman Archer regrets he cannot physically be at the meeting tonight.

Mayor Cooper jokes that as Chairman of the Tourism board, he takes credit for the high tourism numbers.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 6:56pm.

These minutes were approved at the August 23, 2021 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

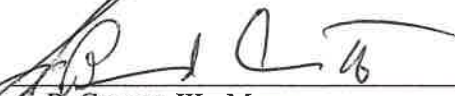
TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

ATTEST:

(seal)


Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk




A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor