



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
1010 West Fort Macon Road, Unit 17 and
Electronically via Zoom
Monday, August 23, 2021



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, August 23, 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 speaker phone at 6:05pm); Danny Navey, Austin Waters

Members Absent: Councilman MJ Forrest

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

CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilman Navey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Waters made a motion *to excuse* Councilman MJ Forrest due to being delayed by a hurricane in Boston. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 3-0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson made a motion *to approve* the agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilman Waters. Vote was unanimous, 3-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Finance Report
- b) Budget Amendments
- c) Tax Collection Report
- d) Tax Releases and Refunds Report
- e) Title VI Plan Annual Report
- f) Receipt of NCDEQ Engineering Plans and Specifications Approval Chemical Feed Ammonia Injection Facilities
- g) Receipt of Dedication and Deed of Easement between Atlantic Newport Hospitality and TOAB for DoubleTree East Beach Access
- h) **Resolution 21-08-01:** Resolution Opposing the United States Fish & Wildlife Service's Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat Unit NC-4 for the Red Knot Rufa.
- i) Minutes: 7/26/2021

Councilman Navey made a motion *to approve* the consent agenda as prepared. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Vote was unanimous, 3-0. Motion carried.

Councilman Archer joined the meeting by speakerphone at 6:05pm, as he unable to join via Zoom.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

No comments in person or via Zoom.

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

Planning Director Michelle Eitner gave presentations on the Town's stormwater initiatives and 2020 Census results regarding population and housing statistics.

STORMWATER INITIATIVES UPDATE

With more than \$2 million spent on over thirty drainage projects in the past decade, the Town has redirected thousands of gallons of stormwater off of public streets. Following direction of the Recreational Water Quality Committee's

recommendations, staff coordinated with the NC Coastal Federation to create a Watershed Restoration Plan. With two grant sources, the plan was expanded to address both stormwater quality (watershed restoration plan) as well as stormwater quantity (stormwater resilience plan). The Atlantic Beach Watershed Restoration & Stormwater Resilience Plan is a 173-page document that identifies the watersheds in town, primary pollutant & flooding sources (stormwater pollution), and offers solutions to mitigate these issues. While some of these Plan's suggestions are not feasible due to upcoming redevelopment plans or other barriers, recommendations for stormwater retention & infiltration on the Causeway will be the main focus of the Town's application for FEMA's BRIC grant this fall. Staff will work with the engineering consultant from the Plan (GPI, formerly LDSI) to identify the specifics of what that project will consist of.

POPULATION AND HOUSING STATISTICS:

The 2020 Census concluded Atlantic Beach has a population of 1,364 and 4,844 housing units.

RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY TESTING STATUS REPORT

Town Manager David Walker gave a presentation on the status of the Recreational Water Quality testing and results, advising Council that Town staff has pulled all samples that were required under the current contract term as of July 7, 2021. Samples were pulled from the five hot spots as determined by previous sample results. The five hot spots are: Spot #3- Weir on Old Causeway, Spot #4- Pond Drive, Spot #5- Boat ramp at Barefoot Chandler (211 AB Causeway - western side), Spot #7- Croatan Mobile Home Park boat ramp, and Spot #8- Al Williams boat ramp (300 AB Causeway – eastern side).

As requested by Dr. Noble's staff, all samples were taken at low tide on March 30, 2021; April 21, 2021; May 5, 2021; June 5, 2021; and July 7, 2021. The levels of bacteria have been tested by Noble's lab staff, however, the DNA qualifiers have not been run yet due to the lab's commitment with COVID testing.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Public Safety Admin Complex Status: the building is on schedule and on budget; of the \$7,162,224.96 contract, we have paid \$3,313,593.25 with \$3,848,631.71 remaining. There is a delay in the glass delivery. Thomas Construction's goal is for the Fire Department to move in during the Christmas holidays and during January and February demolish the existing Fire Department and pave before the Town Hall and Police Dept can move in. Mayor Cooper noted, the look of the new building will raise the public's perception and confidence in the Town staff and Fire Department.

Current Projects Status: Drainage and paving projects are on schedule.

Councilman Waters asked about the stormwater ponding on Fort Macon Road in front of 8 1/2 marina. Mr. Walker advised it is DOT's responsibility to clean out the drains and staff will contact DOT with a request.

FEMA Funded Capital Purchases Status

Item	Dept	FEMA Authorized	Ordered	Requested from NCEM	Date Reimb Requested from NCEM
Cat 4262 Backhoe loader Includes NC State Contract discount - 22% and Brezoni Pool Equipment Co. discount - 3.5%	Public Works	109,943.00	109,952.00	109,952.00	6/24/2021
Mobile Dual Frequency Radios (X-14) VHF & 7.600 MHz. Emerson Rated P25 Compliant Phase II TDMA for EOC communication equipment (ABPD)	Fire	55,107.50	55,107.50	55,107.50	5/21/2021
Recreational Boat Bayliner 2200 547 120 HP boat plus graphics	Fire	55,000.00	55,000.00	NOT YET RECD	
Ditch Witch Mini skid steer SK800 Includes attachments	Public Works	40,054.62	43,183.63	40,054.62	5/18/2021
2021 Ram 1500 SVT Truck Includes \$5800 in emergency lights, equipment, radios (ABPD Chief vehicle)	Police	42,293.00	25914 equip still to be ordered	NOT YET RECD	
2021 Dodge Charger Includes \$6800 in emergency lights, equipment, radios (ABPD patrol vehicle)	Police	33,441.00	25922 equip still to be ordered	NOT YET RECD	
Diesel mobile stormwater pump Includes \$2000 for hose	Public Works	30,765.50	40,000.00	NOT YET RECD	
Polaris XP 1000 Includes emergency lighting and color option; \$525 striping/decals (ABPD - enclosed atv for beach strand)	Police	27,560.87	27,650.00	NOT YET RECD	
Bobcat Utility Vehicle UV34XL Diesel	Public Works	15,542.50	15,571.65	15,543.00	4/20/2021
2021 Kawasaki Mule Pro Includes \$500 striping/decals (ABPD - atv for beach strand)	Police	14,339.63	16,527.22	14,339.63	6/22/2021
Phoenix Popper (mosquito sprayer) Phoenix 1500 - 45PH ULV machine with cab control	Public Works	11,250.00		NOT YET ORDERED	
2021 Freedom Enclosed 8.5 x 24 foot enclosed trailer Includes decals and striping (ABPD enclosed trailer housing lighting, generator, cones, target, replacement could also store UTVs and other equipment)	Police	7,745.00	10,997.00	NOT YET RECD	

Above items requested toward alternative projects: **442,843.02**
 Town pays cumulative average
 Available for alternative projects **442,654.76**

Requested Adjustment to Employee FY21-22 Salary Schedule

After reviewing the series of salary increases approved locally by several municipalities, the County, and consulting the NCLM salary schedules by position statewide, we feel the need to recommend a salary adjustment regarding Police and Fire to keep us competitive locally. These are in addition to those already contained in the budget. Police and Fire full time employees make up two thirds of our work force and \$3.2 million payroll. To keep us competitive, our budget can absorb a \$2,000 increase to all employees in all departments. This amount is approximately \$114,000 on a full calendar year or a 3.5% increase in payroll. Only one half that amount would be reflected in this FY budget. To allow for the spread of compression within departments, Mr. Walker recommends we increase the amount of our evaluations this fall from 1% level to 2%. A 2% increase for many police, fire and other departments equates to another \$1,000. This increase would cost about \$14,400 this budget year.

Councilman Navey made a motion *to approve* the amended FY2021-22 Salary Schedule as prepared. Seconded by Councilman Waters. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried. Councilman Archer gave his verbal vote of yes.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

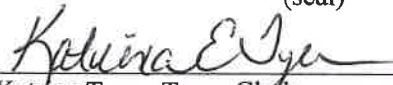
Mayor Cooper asked Attorney Taylor if he had reviewed the Rules of Procedure for Town Council and he stated that he had and did not see any significant changes other than ensuring the newly amended 160D rules were included. He noted the procedures are correct for the current virtual meeting rules.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 6:42pm.


These minutes were approved at the September 27, 2021 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

ATTEST:

(seal)

Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH


B. Cooper, III - Mayor