



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
1010 West Fort Macon Road, Unit 17 and
Electronically via Zoom
Monday, January 24, 2022



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, January 24, 2022 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 Austin Waters; Councilmembers: Joey Dean, Danny Navey, Joseph Starling

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Derek Taylor, Town Attorney; Michael Simpson, Fire Chief; Sabrina Simpson, Admin Services Director; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief; Mike Shutak, Carteret News Times (via Zoom)

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Finance Report
- b) Budget Transfer
- c) Tax Collection Report
- d) Tax Releases and Refunds Report
- e) Utility Write-offs
- f) Notice of Surplus Sale of Equipment
- g) **Resolution 22-01-01:** Resolution Designating Bank Depositories and Authorizing Signatures for Bank Depositories
- h) **Resolution 22-01-02:** Resolution Setting an Unassigned Fund Balance Policy
- i) Acceptance of Proposal and Conditions for Debris Removal and Emergency Pumping Contracts Preparation/Selection Assistance with Johnson Environmental
- j) Approval of Donation of Used SCBA Compressor to Carteret Community College Fire and EMS Program
- k) Table Public Hearing indefinitely on Proposed UDO Text Amendment to allow one of the seven Planning Board members to be a real property owner that is not a full-time resident

Mayor Cooper gave new members time to ask any questions about the routine consent items and reviewed the annual debris contract. We are tabling the Planning Board item to hopefully discuss other items such as term length and expiration dates at the Council retreat. Councilman Navey made a motion *to approve* the Consent Agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilman Starling. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Marilee Reed, 1713 W Fort Macon Rd, Asbury Beach. Thanked Council for their dredging in the past and requests to consider dredging the Asbury canal with this year's dredging plan. The community has dredged the inside of the canal and would like to go further out with the town's help. Mayor Cooper and Councilman Navey advised they will let her know when the next dredging meeting is so she can attend while they discuss the needs and plan for the season.

No comments via Zoom.

PUBLIC HEARING AND RATIFICATION OF PURCHASE POLICY APPENDIX 4 – MINORITY BUSINESS OUTREACH PLAN (MBE)

Mayor Cooper opened the public hearing.

No comments in person or via Zoom.

Mayor Cooper closed the public hearing.

Councilman Navey made a motion *to re-affirm and ratify* the Purchasing a policy Appendix 4 - Minority Business Outreach Plan (MBE) as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Waters. Approved unanimously, 4-0. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

No items.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS - DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS AND THE PROCESS OF FILLING THE VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

Applications of interest were received from the following: Renea Baker, Terry Barbour, Phillip Hursey, Bradley Jones, Kathy McGehee, John Nix, Richard Porter, Elizabeth Sheppard, and Scott Williams. Terry Barbour later withdrew his application due to work conflicts. Councilmembers were encouraged to interview each applicant.

Mayor Cooper stated there is not a clear procedure to fill the vacant seat and proposed two different ways suggested by the School of Government: by a "nomination-and-ballot" approach through which multiple names are placed on a ballot to be voted on by the Council or by a "motion-and-vote" approach through which a single nominee is put forth for appointment. A non-voting Mayor, as we have, cannot break a tie in the nomination-and-ballot method, but the Mayor can break a tie in the motion-and-vote method.

Attorney Taylor commented their options are open and noted they could pull names out of a hat if they chose to, but they needed to settle on a process and timeline.

The process for selection of the new Councilmember was discussed and agreed upon to start with the nomination-and-ballot method. A motion will be made to nominate all of the applicants, except Terry Barbour who withdrew. All of the candidates' names will appear on the ballot. This method will be used for up to three rounds of voting, if multiple rounds are needed. If a candidate did not receive any votes, their name will be crossed off the ballot. If no applicant receives three votes in these first three rounds of voting the motion-and-vote method will be used.

Council agreed to call for a special meeting on Thursday, February 3 at 6:00pm and to cancel the scheduled February 10 worksession.

Mayor Cooper then asked Council what criteria is important to them to fill the vacant seat. Councilman Starling said he feels they should be knowledgeable in at least one major project that we have, such as stormwater, so they can hit the ground running. Councilman Navey would like experience working with a group of people, even if not politically or a committee. Mayor Pro Tem Waters feels both of those are a priority, but also seeks knowledgeable about the town and our history. He feels it's hard to maintain Atlantic Beach if you don't know the history and how it has progressed. Councilman Dean adopted a five category rating system of institutional knowledge of town history, technical experience, legal experience because of the statutory nature, tenure in Atlantic Beach, and professional readiness (are they a leader and able to speak with a reporter).

Mayor Cooper and all Councilmembers feel there is a great group of applicants to select from and even if they do not make Council, we have a great pool for our other committees and boards if they are willing to serve on them.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 6:38pm.

These minutes were approved at the February 28, 2022 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.


ATTEST:

(seal)

Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH


A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor