



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
1010 West Fort Macon Road, Unit 17 and
Electronically via Zoom
Thursday, February 3, 2022

The special meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, 1010 West Fort Macon Road, Unit 17, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

Members Present: Mayor AB Cooper; Mayor Pro Tem Austin Waters; Councilmembers: Fred Joey Dean, Danny Navey, Joseph Starling

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Betty Odham, Secretary; Derek Taylor, Town Attorney; Michael Simpson, Fire Chief; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Mike Shutak, Carteret News Times; Richard Porter, former Councilman; Eddie Briley, BOA Chairman; Curt Winbourne, Planning Board Vice Chairman; Vada Palma, Board of Adjustment Vice Chairman

CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

DISCUSSION AND VOTE by BALLOT TO FILL THE VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

Mayor Cooper reviewed the procedure for the appointment to fill the seat vacated by the passing of Harry Archer. The process will begin with a nomination and ballot method. With this method, the first step should be a nomination of all eight candidates that will be considered for appointment tonight. After the nomination, there will be a second for all eight candidates. Ballots will then be passed out to all Council. Council will check their ballot for the candidate they wish to nominate. Ballots will then be returned to the Secretary for counting. Secretary will then announce the total votes for each candidate. If any one candidate gets three votes, the process stops there. If no candidate received three votes, we go to balloting round two. In round two, all names that did not receive votes in the first round will be removed from the ballot and each Councilman will vote for the remaining. Ballots will again be submitted to the Secretary for counting. Secretary will announce again the total votes for each candidate. If a candidate gets three votes in round two, again the process stops there. If no candidates get three votes in round two, then we move on to round three. Round three will be reserved for the two highest vote candidates plus any that amounted in a tie. We will again go through the ballot process with ballots returned to the secretary for totaling. Secretary will announce the total votes for each candidate remaining. If any candidate still does not get three votes, we will then go to a motion and vote procedure. The Mayor cannot break a tie in the ballot method. Mayor Cooper wanted to clarify the order in which Council could nominate candidates if we get to this point. The fairest way possible to do this is by the order being determined by the number of votes each Councilman received in the last election. In that case, Mayor Pro Tem Waters would make the first motion for nomination, it would need a second and three votes to pass. If there is a tie, Mayor Cooper can break the tie.

Attorney Taylor recommended a motion be made to accept the policy discussed tonight. Mayor Pro Tem Waters made a motion *to accept* the policy as presented. A second was made by Councilman Navey. Vote was unanimous 4-0. Motion Carried.

A motion *to nominate* the following individuals to be appointed to the seat vacated by the passing of Councilman Harry Archer: Renea Baker, Phillip Hursey, Bradley Jones, Kathy McGehee, John Nix, Richard Porter, Lib Sheppard, Scott Williams, was made by Councilman Dean. The second was made by Councilman Starling. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion Carried.

Round one ballots distributed. Votes were as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Waters - Renea Baker; Councilman Starling - Renea Baker; Councilman Navey - Renea Baker; Councilman Dean - Richard Porter. Renea Baker received a total of three votes. Richard Porter received a total of one vote.

A motion *to appoint* Renea Baker to the vacant seat on the Atlantic Beach Town Council was made by Councilman Navey. A second was made by Councilman Starling. Vote was unanimous 4-0. Motion Carried.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Cooper administered the Oath of Office to newly nominated Councilwoman Renea Baker.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SMALL AREA PLAN FOR COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR DISTRICT

Mayor Cooper provided an update on the small area plan for the commercial corridor district. An RFP was sent out by the Planning Department for consulting firms to help draft zoning regulations for the Causeway. These plans include information such as setbacks, architectural standards and building heights. The firm that is chosen will also be drafting the ordinances for the UDO. Copies of the finalist's plans are included in the agenda packet. Mayor Cooper recommended the finalist present their proposal to Council at their retreat. Michelle will send the RFP to all Councilmembers after the meeting tonight.

Council discussed the date of their retreat. Originally the date was set for March 10, but due to scheduling the date should be changed to March 9, 2022. All work-sessions will be changed from the current schedule which is the second Thursday of the month to the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager noted the moving date to the new Public Safety Building is now on the schedule for March 10th-11th. We will reopen to the public on March 14th.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Congratulations to Renea and welcome to Council.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 6:28 p.m.

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

These minutes were prepared by Betty Odham.

ATTEST:

Katrina E. Tyer
Katrina Tyer-Town Clerk

(seal)



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

A. B. Cooper, III
A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor