



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Work Session Meeting
125 W Fort Macon Road and
Electronically via Zoom
Wednesday, May 11, 2022



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, 125 West Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

Members Present: Mayor A. B. Cooper, III; Mayor Pro Tem Austin Waters; Councilmembers: Renea Baker, Joey Dean, Danny Navey

Members Absent: Joseph Starling

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Michael Simpson, Fire Chief; Sabrina Simpson, Admin Services Director; Morgan Gilbert, Recreation Director; Michelle Eitner, Planning Director; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Baker made a motion *to approve* the agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilmember Dean. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Morgan Gilbert, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided a summary of the May 21, 2022 Beach Music Festival. This year \$46,000 was collected in sponsorships (both cash and in-kind) from 64 sponsors. The Beach Music Week of events is still a success, especially the Wednesday night Business After Hours at the Double Tree Hilton, with Jim Quick and Coastline performing this year.

The past few years we have offered nine movies, every Friday in June, July and August. This year we are offering six movies designed around a family night with the movie, bounce houses, crafts and Kettle Corn popped on site at the Town Park.

Instead of the previous foam parties at the Town Park that were hard on the grass, we are offering four water/dance parties.

The July 4th celebration will include live music at the Circle from 7-9, firepits and smores' sales, and the fireworks at 9pm.

PROPOSED 4-WAY STOP SIGNS: COTTAGE DISTRICT

Jeff Harvey, Police Chief, presented the locations of the proposed 4-way stop signs. Over the past several years the Police Department has been approached by various citizens about converting all of our surface-street intersections to four-way stops. After observation, this will ensure the safety of the driving and walking/biking public. The following streets are the primary locations that would be affected: East Bogue Blvd. and Beaufort Ave.; East Bogue Blvd and Greenville Ave.; East Bogue Blvd and Wilson Ave.; East Terminal Blvd. and Beaufort Ave.; East Atlantic Blvd. and Wilson Ave.; West Terminal Blvd. and South Raleigh Ave; West Terminal Blvd. and South Kinston Ave.

It was the consensus to proceed with approval at the May 23, 2022 Council meeting. Marc Schulze was directed to trim shrubbery that is blocking sight access at the intersections.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SHARED COST WITH COUNTY

David Walker, Town Manager, presented a request from Morehead City to share costs for School Resource Officers. Based on students in Atlantic Beach, who attend schools in Morehead City, our cost to share after the two-share grant they received is about \$13,846 over two years. This is based on 66 students who reside in Atlantic Beach.

Mayor Cooper thinks this is the good neighborly thing to do. Councilmember Baker wants to know how many SROs there are currently. She supports SROs and thinks their presence is valuable. She has questions as to how these extra positions are dedicated to schools

It was the consensus for Mr. Walker to inquire what the change is in the current SRO program and the number of officers. It was also the consensus to contribute after review of the additional information and for this item to be on the next Council agenda.

FY22-23 DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Walker reviewed the proposed \$9,835,668 budget. The budget maintains the 20 cent/\$100 property tax rate. The town's tax base grew by 1%. There is a 23% increase in health care cost, totaling \$123,000. There is no plan for additional employees. The budget proposes an 8.5% two phase COLA salary increase in July and December. Also, to fund \$20 per pay period to match employee contributions to FSA/HAS accounts, not to exceed \$530 per year. A Public Hearing and proposed approval are scheduled for May 23.

ROUNDTABLE COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Baker asked if the fees we are charging are comparable to other towns on the island, to understand if there was any room to increase any fees to create funds. She also wanted to confirm all of the department heads needs were met.

Mayor Cooper asked for Mr. Walker to inquire what other towns are proposing as their COLA.

Councilmember Navey requested information on the water system and the proposed costs. Marc will give report next month.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

DISCUSSION OF CIR DISTRICT BOUNDARY AND RESIDENTIAL USE SETBACKS IN CIR DISTRICT

Mayor Pro Tem Waters is requesting information regarding Circle zoning. He thinks the areas around the Circle should be reviewed for the zero setback rules if Atlantic Beach is trying to control density. We are not trying to discourage growth, but need to consider setbacks for residential areas. There was discussion on ways to amend the ordinance with suggestions to determine setback by use type and how to meet parking requirements. Staff will work on a proposed amendment for review.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 3:18pm.

These minutes were approved at the June 27, 2022 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

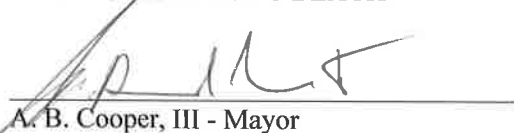
TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

ATTEST:

(seal)

Katrina Iyer - Town Clerk




A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor