



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
125 W Fort Macon Road and
Electronically via Zoom
Monday, June 27, 2022



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, June 27, 2022 at 6:00 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, Joseph Starling

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Derek Taylor, Town Attorney; Sabrina Simpson, Finance Director; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Elisabeth Webster, Planner; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief; Michael Simpson, Fire Chief

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. Mayor Cooper recognized Vada Palma, Vice Chair for Board of Adjustment and former Councilmember.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Starling made a motion *to amend* the Agenda to add Item #8 Discussion of the timing of staff COLA raises.

Mayor Pro Tem Waters made a motion *to approve* the agendas as prepared. Seconded by Councilmember Baker. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Finance Report
- b) Budget Transfers FY21-22
- c) Budget Amendments FY21-22
- d) Budget Amendments FY22-23 (Fire Truck Purchase and Salary Classification Schedule)
- e) Tax Collection Report
- f) Tax Releases and Refunds Report
- g) Surplus Equipment Sales -June 2022
- h) Appointment of Betty Odham as Tax Collector per NCGS 105-349 effective July 1, 2022
- i) Approval of First Bank loan proposal for the Purchase of a New Ladder Truck for \$1,200,000 at 3.35%, 15 years
- j) Approval of Contract with UNC Chapel Hill Institute of Marine Sciences for Recreational Water Fecal Contamination Testing (\$18,000)
- k) Minutes: 4/5/22Joint; 4/19/22WS; 4/25/22; 5/11/22WS; and 5/26/22

Councilmember Navey made a motion *to approve* the Consent Agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilmember Dean. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

John Nix, 100 North Shore Drive. He is a Surveyor and worked on a site plan on Old Causeway. That area has always been a 100-foot right-of-way, he is asking Council to reduce the right-of-way to sixty feet. When he did the site plan a few months ago, the property owners had to obtain an Encroachment Agreement on an existing 25-year old septic. He sees this as a way to eliminate the problem and increase the tax base by obtaining twenty feet on both sides of the road.

Mayor Cooper understands it is the right-of-way is this wide because it used to be the Causeway. He asked Attorney Taylor to do a memo for the procedure involved for a possible amendment and for public works to identify any utility lines.

Andrea Meli, 121 Bayview Blvd. Her problem is the stormwater abatement on her street. In 2021, she had emails with Michelle who stated an engineer had been obtained. She is curious the status of the project.

Mayor Cooper stated the engineers have been working on this project for a while and it is a difficult project to design. The engineer's idea is to use several small weirs rather than larger ones, but we will need some easements and permits. This project is for rain water not tidal water.

She is very concerned and disappointed on the amount of speeding on her street. When they became permanent residents in 2018, the speed was 25mph and she does not think this is known by drivers. She met with Chief Harvey in 2018 and they stepped up enforcement. Later she conversed with former Councilmember Forrest and after that a digital speed sign was installed. She wants to know how Council can help with the speeding. She has stopped people herself. She does not know if a speed study or speed bumps are the solution.

Mayor Cooper asked Chief Harvey to move the digital speed sign to the area near her house. He discussed the speed table idea we tried on Ocean Ridge and stated Council will look into this and asked the town manager to ask other towns about speed tables and the cost. Maybe we could do a test site. We do not need a signed petition now, but do want to ensure this is something all of the neighbors want.

Chris Fuller, 103 Oak Forrest Rd. He is a new homeowner in area and wants to comment on boardwalk design. He spends a lot of his time on the beach surfing and most everyone he has talked with is upset about the proposed design. He is a developer and noise control expert and is familiar with the professional side of a development like this. He is a professor of engineering at Virginia Tech and is familiar with new trendy things that do not survive. This hightech architecture will not survive the elements and will deteriorate very quick. Maintenance is important and seems to be a problem already based on what he sees at the bathhouse. He discussed the diamond structure, said it is too high. People want a more heritage style. He does not see anything on the design plan but three words that say noise barriers will be installed. There is nothing to prevent noise or traffic.

Mayor Cooper explained if the contract is approved tonight, the design team will have public meetings to obtain input and review the over 1,000 online comments. The schematic that has been presented is not the final design.

APPOINTMENT and RE-APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBERS/ALTERNATES

Mayor Pro Tem Waters made a motion *to re-appoint* Michael Bosse and Bradley Jones to the Board of Adjustment with terms expiring June 30, 2025. Seconded by Councilmember Navey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

Due to the number of vacant seats, Councilmembers made the following nominations: Councilmember Starling to appoint Michael Mortali; Councilmember Dean to appoint Bonnie Pitts; Mayor Pro Tem Waters to appoint Kathy McGehee; Councilmember Baker to appoint Tony Engrasia.

Councilmember Baker made a motion *to appoint* Tony Engrasia and Michael Mortali to the Board of Adjustment as Alternates, with a term expiring June 30, 2023 and *to appoint* Kathy McGehee and Bonnie Pitts to the Board of Adjustment as Alternates with a term expiring June 30, 2025. Seconded by Councilmember Navey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 22-06-01: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COST-SHARE WITH NON-STATE DOLLARS FOR DREDGING PROJECTS

Councilmember Navey stated this is an ongoing grant with the State using fees collected from boat registration. The Beach Commission recently approved a similar resolution supporting cost sharing. If approved by the State will be receive a one to four match, instead of the current one to three match.

Mayor Pro Tem Waters made a motion *to approve* Resolution 22-06-01: Resolution in Support of Cost-Share with Non-State Dollars for Dredging Projects. Seconded by Councilmember Dean. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF THE TIMING OF STAFF COLA RAISES

The approved budget allowed for a 6% COLA in July and 2.5% in December. Councilmember Starling would like to see the entire 8.5% given to staff on July 1, rather than splitting it up. Inflation and gas prices have gotten worse than expected when we started discussing the budget. Councilmember Dean supports this also as long as it is not fiscally irresponsible. The expected cost difference is \$37,000.

Councilmember Starling made a motion *to reaffirm* approval of the Amended FY22-23 Salary Classification Schedule as listed in the Consent Agenda to implemet the entire 8.5% COLA effective July 1 instead of splitting it between July and December. Seconded by Councilmember Navey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

None.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Review and Approval of Contract for Boardwalk Project

Mayor Cooper explained the process for the boardwalk design. The designers plan to come in July and meet with Circle property owners and citizens. The contract reads they will finalize design in September so it can be put out for bid. We are eager to get started on Phase 1 because the current boardwalk is so deteriorated.

Mayor Pro Tem Waters wanted to confirm this phase would not affect the current land acquisition we are seeking. Mayor Cooper announced we did receive the invitation to submit our CAMA application.

Councilmember Starling made a motion *to approve* the contract with Oakley Collier Architects, PA and KUTONOTUK Design Architects and *to create* the Circle Boardwalk Renovation Fund and *to complete* a budget amendment to transfer \$174,307 from Beach/Channel/Access Fund to Circle Boardwalk Renovation Fund using part of previously dedicated nourishment allotment. Seconded by Councilmember Navey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

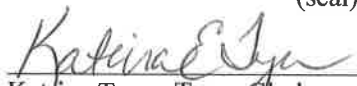
ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 6:59pm.

These minutes were approved at the July 25, 2022 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

ATTEST:

(seal)

Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk




A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor