



**MINUTES**  
**Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**125 W Fort Macon Road and**  
**Electronically via Zoom**  
**Wednesday, April 12, 2023 – 2:00pm**



The regularly scheduled work session of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 2:00pm 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, Councilmember (via Zoom at 2:03pm)

**Others Present:** John O'Daniel, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Sabrina Simpson, Admin Services Director; Sarah Currie, Finance Director; Jeff Harvey, Police Chief; Jennifer Ansell, Planning Director; Morgan Gilbert, Parks and Rec Director; Mike Simpson, Fire Chief; Lindsay Allen, Public Services Admin

### **CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. Councilmember Navey made a motion *to approve* the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Baker. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

Councilmember Dean made a motion *to excuse* Councilmember Starling due to a work event. Seconded by Councilmember Baker. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

### **FY23-24 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Manager John O'Daniel provided a handout listing the goals compiled from the Council retreat. He is asking Council to review and provide any changes.

Councilmember Navey asked about a time frame for replacement or demo of the park play equipment that is in dangerous shape. Councilmember Baker asked about providing inflatables or temporary play equipment for the summer. The current plan is to apply mulch and some additional picnic tables until a more permanent solution can be made.

The main projects for Council to prioritize and consider funding options are the Boardwalk Revitalization, Bridge Abutment enhancement, upgrades to the Moonlight Bay Boat Ramp, West Bogue Sound Drive boat ramp, Park play equipment, and major drainage projects for Fairview St and Bayview Blvd.

Council prefers staff to identify the depth of the water around the abutment and the location of the channel so a small pier can be designed instead of a floating dock or a kayak launch. We need to confirm with NCDOT what they consider a permanent structure, since not allowed per the Easement.

O'Daniel worked with the Sea Turtle Group and Duke Energy to install different lighting changing the color and brightness.

There was discussion on the beach and waterway fund and ways to increase the fund for future use.

There was discussion on repair or replacement options for the numerous benches throughout town from the 1990s bench project and the expense to maintain the aging benches.

Council would like the property maintenance code updated so it can be enforced. CodeWright provided a quote of \$10,000 to prepare an update. Council feels staff can prepare an update for review by the boards.

Mayor Pro Tem Waters and Councilmember Navey requested road repairs on Mobile Drive.

Councilmember Dean asked Police Chief Harvey about the status of their monitoring speeding on town streets. Chief Harvey stated they have continued to monitor traffic on Old Causeway and Bayview Blvd and determined there is not a large speeding

problem, just a few cars and they have increased patrol of the areas.

There are minimal changes this year from the current budget, but Council needs to identify their short-term focus versus their long-term focus and determine what revenue sources they want to use. Council needs to decide if they want to fund a code enforcement officer and if they want to continue with the public safety cleaning service. Also, to determine the amount of fund balance they are comfortable with.

O'Daniel proposed that additional discussion on the proposed budget and the boardwalk project, funding, pending grants and schedule be continued until later this week.

It was the consensus of Council to continue this meeting until Monday, April 24 at 4:00pm, prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting, to consider prioritizing projects and funding sources, increase in parking fee, increase in property tax, increase in mini golf fee, staff COLA and/or Merit, and capital purchases and advise the town manager how to proceed.

Council asked staff to provide a comparison of other Town's proposed COLA and Merit increases and a listing of other town's fund balance/percentage.

**MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood recessed. The time was 4:14pm.

These minutes were approved at the May 22, 2023 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

ATTEST:

(seal)

  
Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk



  
A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor