



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
125 W Fort Macon Road and
Electronically via Zoom
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – 2:00pm



The regularly scheduled work session of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Wednesday, May 10, 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: Joey Dean, Danny Navey; Joseph Starling

Members Absent: Renea Baker, Councilmember

Others Present: John O'Daniel, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Sabrina Simpson, Admin Services Director; Sarah Currie, Finance Director; 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 Mayor Pro Tem Waters. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

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

Presentation from NC State's Natural Learning Initiative for an Intergenerational Nature Play Area at the Town Park

Robin Moore, NCSU Professor, via Zoom, presented the plan for designing a natural play area at the Town Park. Their plans include upcycling products and protecting existing trees and plants and the environment. They will conduct site visits and community meetings for input. After they submit their design, the Town will need to hire an architect and design professional or engineer.

Council will discuss their proposal and other options such as hiring a landscape architect.

NC Level 2 Vehicle Charging Station Grant Award - Acceptance and Budget Amendment

The Town has been selected for a Level 2 Infrastructure Program rebate through the NC Phase 2 Volkswagen Mitigation Program. The Level 2 Public Access Program awards funds to install publicly accessible Level 2 electric vehicle charging infrastructure (not a fast-charging station). For government-owned property, when the charging infrastructure is accessible by the public, the maximum rebate is \$5,000 per charging port or 100% of the project cost, whichever is less. The Town has been awarded \$10,000. We received a quote from Carbon Day EV Charging for the installation and activation of one dual bollard (two plugs/parking spaces) for \$16,026.53. This includes 5 years of commercial cloud software access. The Town is responsible for costs exceeding \$10,000. When building the new public safety complex, the Town installed six raceways for future electric vehicle charging stations. An electrician would be required to connect the bollard to our existing infrastructure.

Councilmember Starling wants to know how the Town intends to keep these operational, and what are the maintenance costs. Are all the electric costs charged to the user or will a portion be on the Town's electric bill? Because of the grant, will they have to remain for public use, or can the Town use them if we purchase electric cars?

Councilmember Navey wants to know how universal these hookups are and who a citizen calls when a station is not working properly. Mayor Cooper explained there is usually a sign with a number to call for assistance, it would not be the Town.

Mayor Pro Tem Waters compares this to a gas station, the Town should not be thinking about getting into the gas business. He feels this is premature, we do not need to be jumping on the bandwagon.

Mayor Cooper noted there is a shortfall in what the public sector is providing, and we can provide that.

Mayor Pro Tem Waters made a motion *to longer pursue the grant*. Seconded by Councilmember Starlings. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried. Council thanked Jennifer for her time and efforts in applying for the grant.

FY23-24 Proposed Budget Review

John O'Daniel, Town Manager, presented the highlights of the proposed budget:

- Increase property taxes 1.5cent and collection rate est to 99.5% (\$315,729)
- Increase parking rates \$1 per hour (\$105,000)
- Increase debris/white goods fee (\$74,000)
- Increase misc. revenue estimates (\$17,000)
- Change from 6.5% COLA/Merit to a flat \$3,100 COLA (\$73,400)
- All departments have a decrease in expenses

The board discussed the need for property maintenance code changes, rather than paying a consultant, staff can pull samples from other towns. Once we have an updated code, we can hire someone to police it. They want to still work towards a solution for the Town Park play equipment. They asked the town manager to provide other towns' tax costs per month for comparison.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Navey spoke about the upcoming Beach Music Festival. Monday night he will be DJing at the Tackle Box Tavern; Tuesday Bill Mason is DJing at Memories; The Embers will be at The Cottage for Business After Hours on Wednesday; the Pub Crawl is on Thursday with 11 locations participating; and John Moore will Emcee during the Festival on Saturday. He cannot say enough good things about this event.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood recessed. The time was 2:54pm.

These minutes were approved at the June 26, 2023 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

ATTEST:

(seal)


Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk



A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor

