



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
125 W Fort Macon Road and
Electronically via Zoom
Monday, July 24, 2023 – 6:00pm



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, July 24, 2023 at 6:00pm 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, Joseph Starling

Members Absent: None

Others Present: John O'Daniel, Town Manager; Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk; Derek Taylor, Town Attorney; Sabrina Simpson, Admin Services Director; Marc Schulze, Public Works Director; Mike Simpson, Fire Chief; Planning Director Jennifer Ansell; Sarah Currie, Finance Director; Morgan Gilbert, Parks & Rec Director; Officers Abe Lazarus and Erica Alvarado; Brad Rich available via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Navey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Baker made a motion *to remove* the Public Hearing from tonight's agenda and schedule for the August 28 meeting. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Waters. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

Councilmember Starling made a motion *to approve* the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Dean. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Finance Report
- b) Budget Amendments
- c) Tax Collection Report
- d) Tax Releases and Refunds Report
- e) Tax Collection FY22-23 Annual Report
- f) Order to Collect Taxes
- g) Annual Progress Report on Implementation of the 2020 Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Councilmember Navey made a motion *to approve* the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Waters. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

None, in person or online via Zoom

2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PRESENTATION

Caitlin Sabadish, Director of Elections, wants to make sure voters know what to expect at the November 7 election. The deadline to register to vote is October 15, but you can register and vote at the same time at any of the early voting sites. A photo ID is required for this election, including a copy if you are voting by absentee ballot. If someone does not have a Photo ID, they can complete an exemption form for reasonable impediments. For voters that are 65 or older, if they had a valid NC driver's license or identification ID at 65 years old, it will be valid indefinitely for the purposes of voting identification. Atlantic Beach has approximately 1500 registered voters, with about 20% voting.

ABC BOARD REVENUE PRESENTATION

Jack Askew, General Manager of Carteret County ABC Commission is requesting to retain a higher percentage of funds so they will have a larger operating balance and more spending power for capital and repairs. Currently, the ABC Board is allowed to keep 11% and they are asking to keep 20% to build up their cash flow. Unlike municipalities, they do not have reserve funds, they only have the operating balance. This will end up decreasing the amount available for distribution to the County and

municipalities by nearly \$300,000, half of which would be borne by the County and the rest split among the municipalities based on their percentage of sales versus an equal division to each of the six municipalities. Carteret County is in the top ten for sales in the state. The Newport store, built in 1980, is getting ready to be renovated. He feels the decrease in our distributions may last for a couple of years but could be offset by the increase in alcohol revenue. He does not have an estimate of the Town's loss, but possibly \$30,000 or so using their auditor's rough estimates.

The County Manager reached out to the town managers to get their feedback. It is a County Commissioner's decision, but he wanted the Town's input and support. Mayor Cooper advised Council that if they have any questions or comments to pass them on to the Town Manager so they can be addressed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON CAUSEWAY SMALL AREA PLAN/COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR TEXT AMENDMENTS

The public hearing was advertised once prior to the Planning Board requesting additional time for review.

Councilmember Danny Navey made a motion *to schedule* the Public Hearing on Causeway Small Area Plan/Commercial Corridor (COR) Text Amendments for August 28, 2023 at 6:00pm. Seconded by Councilmember Starling. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF DRAFT BIG ROCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR PARK PLAYGROUND

John wanted Council to review the application and give feedback prior to submittal.

Councilmember Danny Navey made a motion *to authorize* staff to submit the Big Rock Grant Application as presented prior to the August 4th deadline to request \$100,000 in funding assistance to be paired with our \$55,000 contribution to fully fund the \$155,000 proposed Beach Safety Themed Playground project. Seconded by Councilmember Starling. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION OF TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN NCSU NLI DESIGN CONTRACT AND APPROVAL OF RELATED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Waters made a motion *to authorize* Town Manager to execute all necessary documents to contract with NCSU Natural Learning Initiative for Schematic Design work for an Intergenerational Nature Play Area in Atlantic Beach Town Park and approve related budget amendment #2 to use GF Fund Balance to fund the project. Seconded by Councilmember Navey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF STREET PAVING PROJECT AWARDING A CONTRACT TO THOMAS SIMPSON CONSTRUCTION in the amount of \$25,650 and approval of related Budget Amendment

John stated we have \$230,000 in Powell Bill funds, but do not have a large project at this time so we sought bids for several smaller problem areas.

A lady in the audience requested Swindell Lane be looked at for the paving project. Mayor Cooper asked staff to put that on the running list for review at the next Council retreat and hopefully establish a large paying project.

Councilmember Baker made a motion *to authorize* Town Manager to execute all necessary documents to contract with Thomas Simpson Construction for \$25,650 to complete the paving project as bid and presented and approve related budget amendment #3 to use Powell Bill Fund transfer to General Fund to fund the project. Seconded by Councilmember Dean. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

The two Police vehicles budgeted and ordered for this year have been delivered.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Cooper talked to the audience about the intent of the Commercial Corridor proposed amendments, which include the Causeway and a portion of Fort Macon Road east and west of the main intersection. These proposed amendments' primary purpose is to protect the character of the Commercial Causeway district. The amendments will be discussed again by the

Planning Board on August 8, then based on the Planning Board's recommendations, Council will hold a public hearing on August 28 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURN


There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 6:40pm.

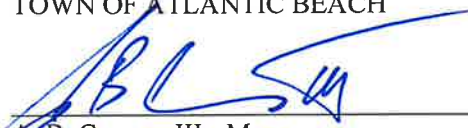
These minutes were approved at the September 25, 2023 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

ATTEST:

(seal)


Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk


A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor

