



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
125 W Fort Macon Road and
Electronically via Zoom
Wednesday, August 9, 2023 – 2:00pm



The regularly scheduled work session meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Wednesday, August 9, 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; Joseph Starling

Members Absent: None

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; Harry Archer, III; Josh Johnson, Stroud Engineering

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. Mayor Cooper noted that since Engineer Josh Johnson was present, they should hear his item first, moving Item #6 to #1.

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

PETITION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF THE NEW BERN BEACH ACCESS RIGHT-OF-WAY

Josh Johnson, Stroud Engineering has filed a petition on behalf of Stephen Hill Trustee, 100 Club Colony Drive, to close a portion of the New Bern Beach Access. The house was built in 1940, prior to the Unified Development Ordinance. The lot is nonconforming, and the septic is installed in the right-of-way. The Hills purchased the property in 2011 and sodded the septic area and have maintained the area since. They recently raised the house and completed extreme modifications. The intent of this request for closure is to bring the existing nonconforming lot into code. The request does not impede the Town or the public's use of the access. Josh stated a portion of the house is also constructed in the setback. The recent installation of the driveway with pavers now causes the property to not meet impervious surface requirements, they need 189 additional square feet. The initial plan was submitted proposed a 37% impervious surface but after construction, they are over the maximum of 40%. The property owner had conflicting information on the initial plan due to a retaining wall and confusing surveys.

Mayor Cooper explained it is unusual for the Town to give town property away and suggested the property owner request an encroachment agreement for the septic or to request a variance. Councilmember Starling thinks giving away town property would set a dangerous precedence.

Councilmember Dean stepped out for phone call at 2:09pm and returned at 2:11pm.
Councilmember Dean stepped out for phone call at 2:12pm and returned at 2:16pm.

It was the consensus of Council not to close a portion of the beach access and that it was best for the applicant to seek a variance from the Board of Adjustment.

REVIEW OF 2023 BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL AND DISCUSSION OF THE 10TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN 2024

Council reviewed the weekly events and the festival. It would be good to see what can be added to the pub crawl to make it a better experience and one that does not lose money, including advertising the businesses and their specials more. Since the shuttles this year cost more than we collected in ticket sales, see if we could coordinate the event without the shuttle experience. Since the sponsorship level amounts have not been increased in several years, they suggested keeping the \$250 basic level but increasing the higher levels with the platinum sponsorship at \$7,500. We can provide more perks with the increase. The current band and music lineup has been great. The Business After Hours is a well-attended event, we need to ensure the venue manages the food and bar service adequately. This year we can offer a poster packet that will include a copy of the past 10 posters.

EMPLOYEE SURVEY REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

John reviewed some of the survey results and asked for direction from Council on any items they wanted to address. Mayor Cooper acknowledged the Town has always strived to offer competitive benefits. Some additional benefits can be offered to employees without an extreme cost to the town, but that the employee sees as valuable such as additional vacation time or a floating vacation day for their birthday.

It was the consensus to hear the Police and Fire Chief's request for additional staffing in the next budget discussions at the retreat.

REVIEW OF AB BRANDING MERCHANDISE

John and Morgan provided samples of items staff are proposing ordering to be sold to the public. Council approved the purchase of Columbia PFG shirts with the AB logo and considering some Tamiami-styled ones, hats with the AB logo, do not include North Carolina due to size, white RTIC cups with the blue AB logo, navy RTIC cups with embossed silver AB logo, and standard white 3x5 flag with the blue logo rather than a smaller boat flag.

MINI-GOLF DISCOUNTED RATE DISCUSSION

Due to the upcoming Bow Wow Tournament at the Town Park, there was discussion if the Town should have a policy and offer a discounted rate for non-profits' use of the mini golf course.

It was the consent of Council to offer the following discounted rates: 30-49 players = \$5.50; 50-99 players = \$5.00; and 100+ = \$4.50. Approval and a Budget Amendment will be on the next consent agenda.

TOWN MANAGER UPDATES

The NCSU contract for the Natural Learning Center has been signed and returned to NCSU so they can begin work. The Big Rock Grant application was submitted. We have met with NCDOT and are awaiting a start date for the main intersection construction to begin. National Night Out was a great event with great attendance. The new fire truck is expected by Christmas.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Waters inquired about the status of the Redbird sewer project. Mayor Cooper stated the Redbird attorney is not responding to the Town, but the permit paperwork has been submitted to the Utilities Commission, they have 180 days to respond. John was instructed to reach out to Redbird for an update.

Councilmember Navey asked why lights were not installed on the crosswalk at Island Beach and Racquet Club. John was instructed to work with NCDOT on adding flashing lights.

Councilmember Baker inquired about the status of the CAMA permit and installation of rock for the KMT wheelchair trailer. Marc acknowledged we have the CAMA Permit and will start installing the rock on Monday.

Attorney Taylor has not heard back from FMB's attorney regarding the purchase of Circle lots.

It was the consensus the September 5 Planning Board meeting should be a joint meeting beginning at 5:00pm with Council for further discussion on the proposed Causeway amendments. Staff can meet with engineers and developers to discuss their concerns further and present examples of how the proposed parking and setbacks will affect lots.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood recessed. The time was 3:36pm.

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

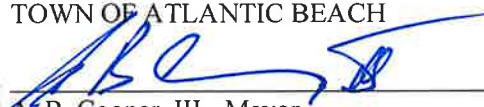
ATTEST:

(seal)


Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH


A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor