



MINUTES
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Meeting
125 W Fort Macon Road and
Electronically via Zoom
Monday, December 18, 2023 – 6:00pm



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, December 18, 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; Sarah Currie, Finance Director; Sabrina Simpson, Admin Services Director; Marc Schulze, Public Works Director; Mike Simpson, Fire Chief; Jennifer Ansell, Planning Director; Morgan Gilbert, Parks and Rec Director; Betty Odham, Tax Collector

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 AGENDAS

Mayor Pro Tem Waters made a motion *to amend* the agenda by removing approval of the New Bern Ave Beach Access retaining wall and possible issuance of a refund for further discussion at the January 9 work session. Seconded by Councilmember Baker. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Financial Report
- b) Tax Collection Report
- c) Tax Releases and Refunds Report
- d) Notice of Surplus Sale (1 police vehicle)
- e) Approval of change orders totaling \$36,222.97 with Fire Connections, Inc and the corresponding budget amendment #12 in relation to building and outfitting new ladder truck.
- f) Certification of 2023 Election Results
- g) Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes: 9/13/23; 9/13/23CS; 9/25/23; 10/11/23; 10/11/23CS; 10/23/23

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

RESOLUTION 23-12-01: RESOLUTION IN MEMORY AND RECOGNITION OF FORMER FIRE CHIEF JAMES "JIMMY" LEONARD

Mayor Cooper read the resolution aloud and provided remembrances of Former Chief Leonard and explained this is a big loss for the Atlantic Beach community.

Councilmember Starling made a motion *to approve* Resolution 23-12-01: Resolution in Memory and Recognition of Former Fire Chief James "Jimmy" Leonard. Seconded by Councilmember Baker. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 23-12-02: RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND AWARDING SERVICE BADGE AND SIDEARM TO POLICE CHIEF JEFF HARVEY

Chief Harvey is not present. Mayor Cooper reminded everyone his last day is January 5.

Mayor Pro Tem Waters made a motion *to approve* Resolution 23-12-02: Resolution of Appreciation and Awarding Service Badge and Sidearm to Police Chief Harvey. Seconded by Councilmember Navey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 23-12-01: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18 OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR ZONING DISTRICT AND RELATED ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

Council briefly discussed the questions brought up during the public hearing regarding parking and sidewalks, especially in COR-1. It was the consensus that the concerns from the public hearing had been addressed.

Councilmember Navey made a motion *to approve* Ordinance 23-12-01: Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 of the Unified Development Ordinance to Revise the Requirements within the Commercial Corridor Zoning District and Related Zoning Map, effective July 1, 2024 and that the amendment is consistent with the Town's adopted Land Use Plan. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Waters. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

~~**NEW BERN AVENUE BEACH ACCESS RETENTION WALL DECISION TO PROCEED AND/OR ISSUE A REFUND**~~

Mayor Cooper gave his parting words. He stated he never intended to run for Mayor in 2007, but his dad encouraged him to so he could give back to the town he cares so much about. He loves Atlantic Beach and knows we can make it better, and that is what we have done. He is excited to see what the town, the Mayor, Council, and department heads do next.

Adjourn 6:14pm
Resume 6:16pm

**** 5 MINUTE RECESS ****

NEWLY SEATED BOARD 2024-2025

OATHS OF OFFICE

Judge James D. "Lew" Llewellyn administered oaths of office to newly elected Councilmembers Austin Waters, Harry Archer, III, Joey Dean, Joseph Starling, and Renea Baker as a group. Then after saying a few words, Judge James D. "Lew" Llewellyn administered an oath of office to newly elected Mayor Claude "Danny" Navey.

Mayor Navey called the meeting to order at 6:27pm

SELECTION and OATH FOR MAYOR PRO TEMPORE 2024-25

Mayor Navey stated in the past the board has appointed the council member who received the most votes as Mayor Pro Tem, which again this year was Austin Waters.

Councilmember Archer made a motion *to appoint* Austin Waters to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Seconded by Councilmember Starling. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

Judge James D. "Lew" Llewellyn administered the Mayor Pro Tem oath of office to Austin Waters.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) 2024 Schedule of Meetings
- b) **RESOLUTION 23-12-04:** Resolution Designating Bank Depositories and Authorizing Signatures for Bank Depositories
- c) Appointment/Re-Appointment of Planning Board members for a 6-month term

Mayor Navey reminded everyone the work sessions are being moved to the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00am. He also reviewed the planning board re-appointments.

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

5. RESOLUTION 23-12-03: Recognition of Mayor A. B. Cooper, III for Dedicated Service

Mayor Navey read the resolution for former Mayor Cooper and presented him with a plaque of appreciation for his years of service from 2007-2023. Mayor Cooper will be missed.

Mayor Pro Tem Waters made a motion *to approve* Resolution 23-12-03: Resolution for Recognition of Mayor A. B. Cooper, III for Dedicated Service. Seconded by Councilmember Dean. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Sonny Davis' son-in-law of Captain Stacy spoke on his behalf. He is very concerned about the proposed Causeway plan and use of the right-of-way and the parking implications it will have at Captain Stacy and the adjacent marina. He hopes he still has plenty of parking ability.

Mayor Navey confirmed the amendments do not affect parking or take away any spaces. Parking in the state right-of-way is not affected as long as the state continues to allow it.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

He congratulated everyone and reminded everyone to attend the mandatory School of Government ethics training.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Baker thanked Trace for making the transition to something new so easy and enjoyable for her. She appreciates all that Council did in welcoming her. She looks forward to serving.

Mayor Pro Tem Waters is the most senior council member now that Danny has taken the seat as mayor. It has been a pleasure working with Trace and thanks him on behalf of the town. We have had great leadership. He looks forward to working with the new council. He and Danny are great friends, they hunt, fish, and party together.

Councilmember Archer has recently sat through a lot of board meetings. Trace has done a great job running a great town. He is humbled and honored to be here and work with this council and doing his best. He recently went through orientation and is still thinking about how well this town runs.

Councilmember Dean said it has been a pleasure working with Trace. He remembers his orientation talks about two things: we are not always going to agree, but when there is conflict we still function as a team afterward, and once a decision is made, it is a decision and we own it as a team. He is genuinely gifted at holding the podium and keeping passions where they need to be. He has enjoyed working with everyone.

Councilmember Starling called Trace earlier and expressed his appreciation for sixteen years of working together as a staff member and Council. He thanked Trace's family for their sacrifice and for supporting him during his time as Mayor.

Mayor Navey thanked all of Council. They are great people to work with. It is easy to spot a well-run business when you first walk in. One of his first goals as a Councilmember was to establish a Beach Music Festival and staff made it happen. Now 10 years later, it is a benchmark. He pledges to citizens to always keep what is best for Atlantic Beach in any decision; to support Council and work together; to support staff and provide resources to do their job. 50 years ago in the military, he took an oath to protect and serve and that pledge is still here today. He really appreciates the attendance here tonight. He looks forward to working with Council and staff to make Atlantic Beach the best place to live and work on the coast.

ADJOURN

There being no further action taken or business before Council the meeting stood adjourned. The time was 6:54pm.

These minutes were approved at the January 22, 2024 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

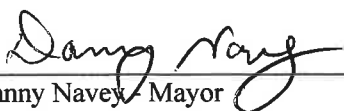
ATTEST:


Katrina Tyer - Town Clerk

(seal)



TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH



Danny Navey, Mayor