

# CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Workshop

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 - 9:00 AM

Council Chambers, 1121 N. Lake Park Boulevard, Carolina Beach, NC



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## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barbee called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

### PRESENT

Mayor Lynn Barbee

Mayor Pro Tem Deb LeCompte

Council Member Jay Healy

Council Member Joe Benson

Council Member Mike Hoffer

### ALSO PRESENT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley

Assistant Town Manager Ed Parvin

Finance Director Debbie Hall

Town Clerk Kim Ward

Town Attorney Noel Fox

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Employee Recognition

Mr. Oakley recognized Human Resources Director Holly Brooks for 10 years of service with the Town.

2. Update on Abandoned, Derelict Vessels in the Town

Mr. Parvin gave an update on abandoned and derelict vessels in the Town. He said the Town has been growing the program over the past few years, including approving an additional Harbor Master position filled by Jarrett Anderson.

Mr. Parvin reviewed areas where issues are typically seen and said challenges exist due to limited enabling authority and difficulties coordinating resources for enforcement. He said the County is building a program and is aware of people moving vessels out of the Town's jurisdiction, which creates a problem because there is no enabling legislation to allow the Town to enforce ordinances in this area. Mr. Parvin said Brunswick County has been the most proactive in the State as far as putting an ordinance in place and putting enforcement resources behind it.

Mr. Parvin detailed the following prevalent code issues:

- Dangerous conditions
- Derelict vessels
- Abandoned vessels
- Pollution

Mayor Barbee asked about the boat sitting in Snow's Cut that hasn't moved in months, namely where sewage is going. Mr. Parvin said the vessel is in a no-discharge zone, but the State doesn't have an enforcement program, which is one of the challenges for the Town.

Council Member Healy asked who puts information into the required pump-out logs. Mr. Parvin said the boaters do it themselves, which is also a challenge for the Town.

Council Member Healy asked what needs to be done to get New Hanover County on the same level as Brunswick County. Mr. Parvin said the Town needs to educate County Commissioners and the Sheriff's Office on the importance of the program. Mayor Barbee said it would be helpful to have talking points from staff to help convey how the Town needs the County's help to solve this problem.

Ms. Fox said the County needs an ordinance that would allow it to enter into memoranda of understanding with partnering agencies such as the Town. She said counties had the enabling legislation long before municipalities, and such an ordinance would allow better partnerships and enforcement.

Mr. Parvin reviewed allowances for vessels in the Town harbor area and the administrative process for violations. He also detailed the following procedural issues:

- Finding the owner
- No identifying marks on a vessel
- Out-of-state vessel (difficult to get owner information)
- Notification process
- Issuing citations
- The "consecutive days" verbiage allows a hole in the code where a vessel can leave at 29 days and return shortly thereafter, allowing someone to basically live on board

Mr. Parvin said the following factors make up the recommended course of action:

- Enhanced resources/partnerships with County, State, Federal, and private organizations
- Public awareness
- Improved local ordinances

Sgt. Clayton Ludwick of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission thanked the Town and others for their help with trying to be proactive in this situation, which is getting worse throughout the County. He said his agency's hands are tied, and it's a long process to declare boats abandoned. Sgt. Ludwick encouraged the Town to keep pushing the County so the issue will work its way up to the State.

### 3. Committee Appointments

Council made the following committee appointments:

- Beautification – Stefanie Young
- Parks and Rec – Jeff Luttrell
- Police Advocacy – Jim Tollens
- Marketing – Christi Siegel
- Board of Adjustment – Wayne Rouse

Mayor Barbee said normal annual committee appointments are coming up at the May workshop, so he encouraged people to keep applying and attend meetings regardless of whether they are appointed.

#### 4. Department Budget Presentations

Department heads presented their big-ticket items requested in the 24/25 budget.

##### Administration (Mr. Oakley)

- Additional mooring balls in the harbor
- Salary study – they are running the numbers and trying to work them into the budget
- Audio/visual improvements for Council Chambers, conference room, and multi-purpose room

##### Police (Chief Vic Ward)

- Body cameras and tasers
- Enhancement of forensics lab and training
- Officer wellness – an officer has been tasked with managing this
- Upgrades to radio equipment
- Community Liaison Officer – still working through the logistics of this idea

##### Fire (Chief Alan Griffin)

- Airpack upgrades
- Squad 25 replacement
- Living quarters improvements
- Uniform enhancements
- Firefighter wage increase

##### Ocean Rescue (Chief Griffin)

- Lifeguard wage increase from \$15 to \$18 per hour to remain competitive with other agencies
- Fireboat – complete necessary improvements to Marine 21
- Additional automated external defibrillators (AEDs) – purchase 3 to replace old equipment

Chief Griffin said Ocean Rescue is a separate budget because it's funded by room occupancy tax (ROT) funds.

##### Public Utilities Water and Sewer (Director Mark Meyer)

- Lift station replacement #6 Lewis Drive
- New pickup truck
- Centennial logo painted on the water tower

- New generator for well #13
- Staff reorganization to add a superintendent position
- Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) meter replacement (bond)
- Wastewater treatment plant headworks (bond)
- Water expansion (phase I) – well 15H and filter
- Alabama Avenue and Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU) water tank (bond)

#### Public Works Environmental Powell Bill (Director Brian Stanberry)

- Broyhill can machine replacement
- Lake Park lighting completion – Harper Avenue
- Town entryway sign
- Replace F250 truck and box truck
- Town Hall and Police Department parking expansion
- Community building renovations
- Multi-purpose room chair replacement
- Senior Center roof
- 7th Street sidewalk connections
- Centennial banner
- 2025 phase of paving – 11 segments

#### Public Works Stormwater and Beach Maintenance (Mr. Stanberry)

- Stormwater improvements – development
- Henniker’s Ditch maintenance
- Stormwater design manual
- Stormwater 6th Street/Birmingham Avenue
- Stormwater and beach maintenance utility task vehicle (UTV) replacement
- Replace broom tractor
- Hamlet Avenue and Ocean Boulevard Hatteras ramp replacement
- Perkins can dumping replacement
- 1810 Canal Drive parking improvements
- Surfacing of Weeks, Alabama, and Tennessee lots

#### Parks & Recreation (Director Eric Jelinski)

- Park maintenance – replace UTV, pave Mike Chappell parking lot, improve picnic shelter at Lake Park, add playground mulch, and level the infields on the ball fields
- Recreation Center – new cardio equipment and floor scrubbing machine
- Community programs – enhance current programs
- Health and safety – Mike Chappell Park connectivity within the park, replace electrical boxes, repair tennis court surface, and expand the basketball court

#### Planning (Director Jeremy Hardison)

- Align department goals with Town Strategic Plan objectives
- Educate the public on what the Planning Department does and rebrand to the Community Development Department

Mr. Hardison reviewed strategic plan objectives and goals to achieve effective community development in the Town.

Mr. Oakley said the purpose of the rebranding is to reflect a more citizen-focused approach for both builders and residents.

Mayor Barbee said it would be helpful for a group such as the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce to develop a guide that gives instructions for how to open a business in the Town.

Council Member Healy said the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) update process is tedious and lengthy, and he thanked Mr. Hardison and the Planning and Zoning Commission for taking on this task. He said he loves the rebranding idea.

Mr. Oakley said this concludes the departmental budget presentations, so the budget workshop scheduled for April 30 will not be necessary. Mayor Barbee said today's presentations offered a good level of detail.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said Friday is Arbor Day, and Cape Fear Realtors, CB Trash Walkers, Friends of CB Parks & Greenways, and the Town Beautification Committee will be out doing projects around the Town. She also said fireworks will be starting soon, and the Centennial Committee will be added as one of the groups receiving funds from the 50/50 raffles.

Council Member Hoffer said today is the 5-year anniversary of the Greenway ribbon cutting, and there will be a beautification project on Friday to celebrate. He asked staff to speak with Goose Masters about not running off the goslings at the Lake before they are able to fly. Council Member Hoffer also asked staff to evaluate the intersections when paving streets and expressed concern about extending the lifespan of Town vehicles and equipment.

Council Member Benson asked about the status of the walkthrough around the Lake. Mr. Oakley said staff will be conducting this. Council Member Benson also inquired about the status of Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Oakley said the Town is still waiting to hear from the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT).

Mayor Barbee said he has received a lot of phone calls from the UDO Committee with concerns about Council's decision to change the ordinance for beer shops. He asked staff to bring back any issues that may have an adverse effect on the Town or result in unintended consequences.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM.