

CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 - 6:00 PM

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



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barbee called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, followed by the invocation by Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte and Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Mayor Lynn Barbee

Mayor Pro Tem Deb LeCompte

Council Member Jay Healy

Council Member Wayne Rouse

Council Member Vince Losito

ALSO PRESENT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley

Deputy Town Manager Ed Parvin

Finance Director Debbie Hall

Town Clerk Kim Ward

Town Attorney Noel Fox

ADOPT THE AGENDA

ACTION: Motion to adopt the agenda

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Rouse, Council Member Losito

Motion passed unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Budget Amendments/Transfers
2. Approve Kure Beach and NC Aquarium Sewer Rates
3. Set a Public Hearing for April 14, 2026, to Consider a Text Amendment to Amend Article 3 of the UDO to Allow Retail as an Accessory Use for Hotels and Motels in the MF District
Applicant: Max Sussman
4. Set a Public Hearing for April 14, 2026, to Consider a Text Amendment to UDO Articles 2, 3, and 7 for Ordinance Clarification and Consistency with State Statutes
Applicant: Town of Carolina Beach
5. Set Public Hearing for April 14, 2026, to Receive Public Input on the FY26/27 Budget
6. Approve Contract for Auditing Service for Period Ending 6/30/26
7. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Motion to adopt the consent agenda

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Rouse, Council Member Losito

Motion passed unanimously

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

8. Events Update by Tim Murphy

Community Services Manager Tim Murphy reviewed upcoming events:

- Steve Haydu St. Patrick's Lo Tide Run – March 14 at the Gazebo
- Walk of Fame Ceremony – March 15 at Lake Park
- Skate Dog – March 21 at Mike Chappell Park Skate Park
- American Red Cross Blood Drive – March 31 at Rec Center
- Nollie's Street Style Skate Jam – April 4 at Pelican Lane
- Blessing of the Fleet – April 15 at the Marina
- Wings Over Carolina Beach Airplane Show – April 25 on the beach strand (practice flight on April 24)

Mr. Murphy announced the completion of the 2026 music schedule, which includes an all-women AC/DC cover band. He also informed Council of a film permit for Monday, with filming at Havana's and a private parking lot near the Boardwalk area, which may cause some traffic delays in the evening.

9. Manager's Update

Mr. Oakley reviewed the budget FY 2026-27 schedule:

- Council strategic planning/budget retreat – January 29-30
- Budget open house – February 11
- Public hearing for community input – April 14
- Budget workshop – April 28
- Budget open house – May 5
- Review revenue and expense projections and public hearing for community input – May 12
- Budget message presented to Council – May 26
- Budget public hearing and adoption – June 9

Mr. Oakley gave an update on various projects:

- Fuquay-Varina Interbasin Transfer: Based on a resolution Council previously passed, Cape Fear Council of Governments (COG) requested that Mr. Oakley or Mayor Barbee be authorized to sign future documents or letters opposing the proposed measure to transfer 6 million gallons per day from the Cape Fear River Basin to the Neuse River Basin.

ACTION: Motion to allow the Mayor or Town Manager to sign any documentation for the COG regarding the Fuquay-Varina matter

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Rouse, Council Member Losito

Motion passed unanimously

- Project updates
 - Mobi-mats: The Town is ordering three accessible vinyl mats to be placed at the Clam Shell Lane, Seahorse Lane, and Seagull Lane beach accesses as a test to see community response.
 - Boardwalk bathroom: Completion is expected by mid-April.
 - Lake Park pump house: Completion is expected by mid-April. It is designed to blend in while housing three large pumps and generators in a raised, flood-resistant structure.
 - Lake Park bathroom: Installation is complete, and the facility will be able to open after flood door delivery.
 - 1810 Canal Drive access: The project is awaiting the paving contractor. The work will be done when the heavy equipment is removed.

Council Member Healy inquired about landscaping around the Lake Park bathroom, which Mr. Oakley confirmed would be installed.

Council Member Healy also asked about striping of Lake Park Boulevard. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said she noticed it had started today. Mr. Oakley said Police Chief Vic Ward had contacted N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) officials in Raleigh to expedite the situation. He added that the new traffic light will be activated once striping is complete and will have a standard 30-day flashing test period.

Council Member Rouse pointed out that the Mobi-mats are significantly less expensive than wooden beach access structures. Mayor Barbee said the key will be determining how much maintenance it will take to keep them cleaned off.

Mayor Barbee asked about the Saint Joseph Street project. Mr. Oakley said construction remains planned for fall, pending acquisition of construction easements. Council Member Healy noted ongoing issues with residents removing surveyor flags.

Mayor Barbee commended staff responsiveness to SeeClickFix reports, noting there is typically an initial response within hours of reporting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe MacPherson of 104 Carolina Sands Drive requested that neighborhood businesses receive the same parking privileges as Central Business District (CBD) establishments, citing the need for employee parking due to limited street parking availability. Mayor Barbee asked Mr. Oakley to research the request and provide an analysis of pros and cons to Council.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

10. SENC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption

The purpose of the Southeastern North Carolina Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is to reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards. The plan includes Brunswick County, New Hanover County, Onslow County, and Pender County. The plan meets Federal and State requirements, maintains the Town's eligibility for Federal mitigation funding, and strengthens regional coordination across jurisdictions.

The plan documents sustained efforts to incorporate hazard mitigation principles and practices into routine governmental activities and functions. It recommends specific actions to minimize vulnerability to hazards and protect residents. The plan is a living document to be updated every five years to maintain eligibility for Federal mitigation and public assistance funding. Through routine annual progress tracking, the goals from this plan are integrated into Town policies and land-use planning.

Mr. Parvin presented the details. He said regional nature of the plan allows for greater collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions and added that key focus areas include stormwater and drainage improvements, raising flood-prone structures, and the 65% impervious limit in the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

Mr. Parvin said new priorities include stormwater system capacity upgrades, resiliency grants, and mapping assessment of water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure, adding that the current draft plan is available through the County's website.

ACTION: Motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-2347 to adopt the 2026 Southeastern North Carolina Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Rouse, Council Member Losito

Motion passed unanimously

11. Create Revenue Bond Series 2026 Capital Projects

These budget ordinances will create capital project budgets for the Revenue Bond Series 2026 approved by the Local Government Commission (LGC) on February 4, 2026. The bonds were sold on February 12, and the funds will be placed into a construction fund administered by U.S. Bank on March 4, 2026.

Mr. Oakley reported on the successful bond sale, which he and Ms. Hall watched live. He said the bonds sold quickly with strong performance, resulting in lower debt service than originally planned. Mr. Oakley requested Council approval for seven capital projects funded by the bond proceeds, including water treatment, stormwater improvements, street sweeper, force main, and other infrastructure projects. He confirmed these were the same projects previously discussed with no changes to the list.

ACTION: Motion to approve budget Ordinance No. 26-1277 through 26-1283 for Revenue Bond Series 2026 approved by the LGC on February 4, 2026

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Rouse, Council Member Losito

Motion passed unanimously

CLOSED SESSION

- 12. Closed Session

Mayor Barbee said this item has been removed, noting he should have mentioned this during agenda adoption.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Barbee thanked staff for their visible preparation work around downtown for the upcoming season. He noted that Saturday had been exceptionally busy for March, according to local businesses.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 6:20 PM.