

# CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 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. 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

3. Events Update by Tim Murphy

Community Services Manager Tim Murphy said the Town has received four new event requests.

Paul Tully of Neapolitan presented a request to close a small portion of Saint Joseph Street during a block party event on April 11, with a rain date set for April 18. Mr. Murphy said the Events Committee had discussed the request and involved public safety and other entities, and the Town is good with it.

Mr. Tully described the event, which will involve four local businesses and offer bounce houses, face painting, ice cream, live music, and food trucks during a five-hour period. He said the street closure would help with the flow of the event and make it safer for those crossing. Mr. Tully said it would not impede Winner Avenue or entrances to any residences.

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the event as requested

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*

Jeff Bourk of Wilmington International Airport, who is also a Town resident, announced plans for two air shows: a “baby air show” April 24-26 with five to seven flying acts, followed by a larger air show with the Thunderbirds September 10-12, 2027. He said they hope to turn the air show into an annual event to bring people to the Town during the shoulder season.

Mr. Murphy suggested that Council take action on the request, even though the Town does not control the airspace. He clarified that Council should hold off on any vote related to the 2027 show because it will be much bigger and staff will bring forth more details in the future.

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the baby air show as presented

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*

Tony and Cassi Bellezza, the organizers of Anthony’s Way Walk for Kindness & ADHD in memory of their son, are proposing to hold this year’s event at Lake Park. Mr. Bellezza discussed the organization’s mission and services and said during the event they will ask everyone who attends to fill out an orange heart of kindness so they can create a board full of kind words and acts.

Council Member Healy offered his sympathy to the Bellezzas on the loss of their son and said he thinks what they are doing is fantastic, especially the orange hearts of kindness.

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the Carolina Beach Lake Walk on February 28 as presented

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*

Jim DeGilio of the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce said they are proposing to have their MusicFest over two Saturdays, one in June and one in October, to bookend the shoulder season.

Mr. Murphy said this request has gone through the Events Committee, and there are no concerns, adding that Police and Fire are on board.

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the MusicFest of 2026 in June and October as presented

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*

Mr. Murphy reviewed upcoming events:

- Skate Dog – March 21 at Mike Chappell Park Skate Park
- Neon Bike Brigade – March 7 at Kindred
- Lo Tide Run – March 14 at the Gazebo

Mr. Murphy released fireworks dates and noted that in addition to the three usual Friday exceptions to the regular Thursday schedule, there will be one additional Friday, June 5, to serve as a kickoff before MusicFest.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte noted that there are 16 fireworks shows planned for this season instead of 15.

Mr. Murphy said resurfacing of the pickleball and tennis courts has been delayed due to the threat of rain. He said the resurfacing company needs five consecutive days of favorable conditions to complete the project.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte asked Mr. DeGilio to return to the podium to discuss the special Friday fireworks show. He said this is the 40th year of the festival, so they are planning to look back at 1986 and possibly get an 80s band to play at the Gazebo that night.

#### 4. Presentation by the American Legion Regarding the “Be the One” Campaign

Pete Green, John Hacker, and Edie Ludgate representing the American Legion’s Be the One campaign gave a presentation about efforts to prevent veteran suicide. The campaign focuses on destigmatizing asking for help, identifying veterans in crisis, and connecting them to resources.

Mayor Barbee read Resolution No. 25-2345 supporting the American Legion’s Be the One project, which was adopted by Council.

#### 5. 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:

- Infrastructure revenue bonds: They will be going to market with projected savings of \$80,000 per year in interest.
- Project updates
  - Boardwalk bathroom: The contractor has requested a two-week extension due to recent bad weather. Completion is expected in mid-April.
  - Lake Park pump house: An extension request due to weather is also expected for this project.
  - Lake Park bathroom: This was set this week and should be operational very soon. The project will include landscaping and painting the doors.
  - 1810 Canal Drive access: Plans are still in the works to pave the lot and add a restroom facility. This is moving along and will be a nice addition for the summer.
- Email terminal: Following cybersecurity reviews and threat assessments, the Town has removed the public email terminal based on a suggestion from its IT provider. There were concerns about people being able to access private information for both the Town and citizens. This was discussed at Council's recent retreat, and Council agreed with the recommendation.
- Cybersecurity incidents: The Town is investigating two cybersecurity incidents with the assistance of the Police Department and some Federal authorities. As a result, the Town has enhanced its cybersecurity policies and taken other actions intended to reduce the risk of future incidents. The Town is pursuing reimbursement for financial loss as a result of these attacks and will distribute a press release with more details tomorrow.

Mayor Barbee said there will likely be some victim shaming, but he is very proud of the way staff stepped up to deal with this. He said he believes all concerns around the incidents have been fully remediated. Mr. Oakley said the Town is still pursuing every angle possible to get reimbursement.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mohamed Hassan requested a response to a previously submitted letter regarding his disapproval of three new Police positions. Mayor Barbee responded that he would find the letter, and Mr. Hassan offered to send another copy if needed.

Erika Robertson of Lanier Landing Court addressed the state of Saint Joseph Street, expressing concerns about the impact of the Greenway project along the route.

Michelle Alberda shared concerns about a proposed social district, including issues of trash management, maintaining the family-friendly atmosphere of the Boardwalk, policing, and underage drinking.

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **6. Social District Presentation and Discussion**

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said in the past she held a series of roundtables with the public and business owners on the Boardwalk about a proposed social district, which would allow patrons to carry alcoholic beverages in designated cups within specific boundaries. She said the responses were overwhelmingly in favor of a social district within the Town, but she wanted the Boardwalk business owners to drive the effort, which was not being done at that time. However, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said this changed in 2025 when Roger and Jenny Monk of The Tropical approached her about looking into a social district again.

Mr. Monk gave a presentation, which included statistics about social districts across North Carolina. He said he knows of 68 permanent social zones, with one of them being in a coastal town, but when trials are included the number may be as high as 81. He said the vision and purpose are to enhance the year-round economic vitality of the Boardwalk by allowing visitors to move seamlessly between retailers, restaurants, and attractions, adding that the proposal seeks to bridge the gap between lunch/dinner and late-night nightlife, encouraging foot traffic and longer visitor stays.

Mr. Monk said the operational logistics would include the following proposed regulations:

- Daily hours of operation from 10:00 AM to midnight
- Approved non-glass, specially labeled cups at a maximum size of 16 ounces featuring the “CB Boardwalk” logo
- Color-coding system to indicate business participation
- Maximum drink limits of one per person for spirits and two per person for beer/wine, and drinks must be discarded before leaving the district or entering a vehicle

He added that the proposed boundaries would be as follows:

- North border: Lake Park Boulevard, including establishments on the west side
- South border: Hamlet Avenue
- West border: Pelican Lane, extending to SeaWitch, Nollie’s, and Stoked
- East border: Boardwalk

Mr. Monk also went over strategic benefits of a social district, noting that all 68 permanent zones currently in operation went through a trial and none were rejected. In addition, he outlined a management and sanitation plan, which includes increased waste management, signage, and safety.

Mr. Monk suggested that trials could be done during the Lo Tide Run on March 14, the entire summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day, or Memorial Day weekend only.

Todd Luckadoo of Carolina Beach Grill & Bar said a social district would allow the restaurant to serve drinks in the grassy area in front of the restaurant while people play cornhole and otherwise enjoy the outdoors.

Tom Hayes of Havana's said during fireworks, the restaurant gets lots of requests for people who want to take their drinks with them to the Boardwalk, and they are disappointed when they learn they can't. He said he loves the souvenir cup idea because many people will keep it rather than discard it.

Mr. Monk discussed some of the other places where social districts have been successful, including Wilmington, Raleigh, Mebane, Monroe, and Manteo.

Mayor Barbee thanked them for the presentation and said he learned a lot but added that he has more questions than answers and isn't yet ready to form a positive or negative opinion of the idea.

Council Member Healy said he thinks a social district would be beneficial, especially during the shoulder season, but he believes this is a process with tonight being the starting point. He emphasized the need for caution and said initially the border should be tight. Council Member Healy said they need to take their time, even before getting to a trial, to make sure it's done correctly.

Council Member Losito said he agreed this should be done in a process-oriented, controlled environment and added that it's important to get critical mass of all the business owners on the Boardwalk and in the Central Business District (CBD). He said if only a handful of places are participating, then it will create mass confusion. Mr. Monk said in Raleigh, a minimum participation rate of about 65% or 70% was required for approval, and he thinks establishing a minimum threshold here would not be a bad idea.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said the process is important and suggested that staff help Council understand what must be done to have a trial.

Mayor Barbee suggested that staff research the process and requirements for establishing a social district and report back with details. Council gave consensus.

Council Member Rouse raised concerns about resources, including the need for more Police officers. He said he would like the Police Department to give feedback.

## 7. Sidewalk from Lake Park to Carolina Sands

Mr. Parvin gave an update on efforts to construct a sidewalk on the west side of South Lake Park Boulevard. The project cost has increased significantly, primarily due to stormwater requirements. The N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) originally committed \$183,000, but the Town contribution has increased from \$456,000 to potentially over \$1.2 million for the full project.

Mayor Barbee expressed frustration and said even getting from Lake Park to Spartanburg Avenue would be a huge improvement. He asked Mr. Parvin to come back with a figure for that so Council can

decide, and he also inquired about what is driving the cost. Mr. Parvin said stormwater design and getting permanent easements from property owners are the biggest challenges.

Council gave consensus for staff to determine what portion of the sidewalk could be completed with currently approved funding, with a focus on at least connecting Lake Park to Spartanburg Avenue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.