

CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Workshop

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - 9:00 AM

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



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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Employee Recognition

Parks & Recreation Director Eric Jelinski recognized Recreation Supervisor Erin Whitman for 15 years with the Parks & Recreation Department.

Public Works Director Brian Stanberry recognized General Maintenance Worker Rick Icenhower for 20 years with the Public Works Department. Mr. Stanberry also recognized new Public Works Manager Tony Millage.

Police Chief Vic Ward recognized Sgt. Colby Edens for 10 years with the Police Department.

2. Resolution from the North Carolina League of Municipalities Recognizing Kenny Lewis for His Years of Service in Municipal Government

Council recognized former longtime employee Kenny Lewis for receiving a resolution from the North Carolina League of Municipalities for his years in municipal government. He retired last year after more than 38 years with the Town.

3. Presentation by Post 129 Commander Tiffany Bryan Regarding a Sign for Veterans Island

American Legion Post 129 Commander Tiffany Bryan requested permission to install a sign made by a local veteran at Lake Park's Veterans Island. She said they would like to dedicate the sign on Memorial Day.

ACTION: Motion to approve the installation of the sign provided by Post 129 on Veterans Island at Lake Park

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Benson, Council Member Hoffer

Motion passed unanimously

4. Presentation by the Carolina Beach Mural Project on the Boardwalk/Centennial Mural

Maureen Lewis, President of the Carolina Beach Mural Project, gave a presentation on plans for a Boardwalk/Centennial mural. They are requesting to add lights and paint a mural in an alley on the Boardwalk. The mural, Kite's Eye View, will be 125 feet long by 16 feet wide with expected completion by May 1. The artist will be Nico Amortegui of Charlotte.

ACTION: Motion to approve the Boardwalk mural as presented by Ms. Lewis

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Benson, Council Member Hoffer

Motion passed unanimously

5. Beautification Committee Update

Cindy Dunn, Chairman of the Town's Beautification Committee, gave an update on the group's projects and goals. She also presented ideas for a welcome sign at the Town's entrance, including showing examples in various styles from communities including Ocean Isle Beach, Leland, Wrightsville Beach, Calabash, Atlantic Beach, Wilmington, North Myrtle Beach, SC, Georgetown, SC, St. Augustine, FL, and Port Lavaca, TX. Ms. Dunn said costs and styles vary dramatically, and room occupancy tax funds may be a possibility for funding.

Mayor Barbee said Mr. Oakley will need to determine how a welcome sign would fit into the budget.

Council Member Healy said first impressions are important, so he thinks the Town should have a nice gateway sign.

6. Recognition for Becoming a Tree City USA

Planning Fellow Josh Jensen gave a presentation on the Town being named a 2023 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. He presented the sign and flag that were awarded to the Town.

7. Discussion of Events for Little Pink Houses of Hope

Council Member Benson recently attended the volunteers meeting for Little Pink Houses of Hope and gave an update on the schedule of activities and requests from the Town. The group's retreat week here is April 14-21 and will support 15 families. They are seeking 20 parking passes and permission to reserve the Recreation Center April 17 5:00-8:00 PM.

ACTION: Motion to approve the issuance of 20 weekly parking passes from April 14-21 to the 15 families and handful of volunteers as well as use of the Recreation Center on April 17 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM

Motion made by Council Member Benson

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Benson, Council Member Hoffer

Motion passed unanimously

8. Mid-Year Financial Update

Ms. Hall gave a mid-year financial update. She reviewed figures for property tax collections, sales and use tax, room occupancy tax, general fund revenue collections, general fund debt service, and utility fund debt service.

The projected fund balance for the current fiscal year is 50%; the fund balance was 47% for the last fiscal year. Mayor Barbee thanked staff for the hard work in reaching this target.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Hoffer said Mr. Oakley is waiting to receive changes from Kimley-Horn regarding the 2025 Lake Park Boulevard paving project.

Council Member Benson said there is a pre-construction meeting this week for the Ocean Boulevard project. He asked about progress on the marina project, and Mr. Oakley said completion is a few weeks away. Council Member Benson said the Operations Advisory Committee is checking the line of sight at each Town intersection and creating a list to either give to staff or report them on SeeClickFix.

Council Member Healy said he wants staff to start putting together a digital annual report that highlights projects, budget information, etc. He said this will help with the Town's public relations efforts.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte highlighted the following upcoming events:

- March 2 – Monthly pancake breakfast fundraiser at the Senior Center, which will feature Coffee with a Cop and a visit from The Cat in the Hat reading "Green Eggs and Ham"
- March 6 – The CB Trash Walkers group begins meeting again Wednesday mornings at HopLite or the Boardwalk
- March 13 – American Red Cross blood drive at the Recreation Center
- April 26 – Realtors Give Back Arbor Day plantings event using pollinators

Mayor Barbee said he will give a State of the Town address at the May 28 workshop. He also said recent reports of surrounding municipalities' struggles with the impacts of growth are a reminder that the Town is in good shape going into budget season, and he thanked staff for making this happen.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.