

CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Workshop

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 - 9:00 AM

Fire Department 9 South Dow Road, Carolina Beach, NC



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor LeAnn Pierce

Mayor Pro Tem Jay Healy

Council Member Lynn Barbee

Council Member JoDan Garza

Council Member Steve Shuttleworth

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley

Finance Director Debbie Hall

Mark Meyer, Public Utilities Director

Brian Stanberry, Public Works Director

Eric Jelinski, Parks and Rec Director

Assistant Town Manager Ed Parvin

Town Clerk Kim Ward

Sheila Nicholson, Administrative Assistant

Jeremy Hardison, Planning Director

Alan Griffin, Fire Chief

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Oakley mentioned that he is requesting a 2% COLA and up to a 3% Merit. Shuttleworth reminded Council that any increase in an employee's salary stays with the employee and increases the budget every year.

Council discussed the idea of the Municipal Service District tax. All Council seemed to be in favor of moving forward with the tax. Staff is proposing Option 3 as shown for a total property value of \$136,275,600.

Mr. Parvin reviewed the department organization charts.

Debbie Hall presented the debt service. \$103,000 of debt is maturing this year. The burial of the power lines at the boardwalk and the fire boat. They will be replacing this debt payment with two new pieces of fire apparatus.

Mr. Parvin reviewed the non-departmental budget, legislative, clerk, executive, HR, marina, and parking.

Council Member Shuttleworth asked for a 30,000-foot view on what is going on with the relations with MOTSU and what Mike McIntyre is working on.

Mr. Oakley said he feels the Town may eventually be allowed more use of the property, but it will still have restrictions.

Mayor Pierce said she would like to see the expansion of Mike Chappell Park.

Council Member Shuttleworth said that he would like to add a community garden and that he had been requesting that for years.

Mayor Pierce said that she is attending a meeting next week with the County and the City of Wilmington to discuss a quarter cent sales tax. She said she is not in favor of the increase unless she understands how Carolina Beach will get the tax back. Mrs. Hall added that the tax is currently based on ad valorem.

Mayor Pierce asked about the \$10,000 for time keeping training in the Human Resource budget. Staff explained that it included the software, maintenance, and training.

Mayor Pierce said that she would rather see the budget after it has been cut and not before cuts have been made.

Council Member Shuttleworth discussed the re-valuation and the effect it will have on revenue. He feels that property owners should pay the increased tax amount because their property value increased.

Council Member Barbee said that he relies on the manager to manage the expenses. He doesn't feel the Town is wasting money. He would like to see things start moving forward again. There are projects that need to get started.

Council Member Shuttleworth said that his focus is on infrastructure.

Council Member Shuttleworth asked where we can find more revenue. He mentioned that parking seems to be the best source to create more revenue.

Council discussed rules such as dogs on the boardwalk and smoking on the beach. They asked staff to get with Noel on any changes staff is proposing.

Mr. Parvin reviewed the marina budget and suggested Council consider adding a backup staff member for the current full-time harbor master. Revenues are down at the marina right now because of construction. Council Member Barbee would like to see more transient slips.

Mr. Parvin said that there are still issues with parking, but they are working together with Reef.

Council Member Barbee said that the Surfside lot is a mess. There are too many signs and you cannot figure out how to pay. He feels that it may be more beneficial to have that property redeveloped.

Mayor Pierce made a motion to go into closed session to discuss an attorney/client matter in accordance to 143.318.11(a)(3). The matters being discussed include:

- 18 CVS 3151 Town of Carolina Beach vs. Carolina Freeman LLC
- 18 CVS 3152 Town of Carolina Beach vs. B&F Enterprises LLC
- 18 CVS 3153 Town of Carolina Beach vs. DRDK LLC
- 18 CVS 3154 Town of Carolina Beach vs. Freeman Beach LLC
- 18 CVS 3155 Town of Carolina Beach vs. Winnie Futch Heirs

Mayor Pierce made a motion to return to open session stating that no action was taken during closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeremy Hardison presented the budget proposal for the Planning Department.

Mark Meyer presented the budget for public utilities.

Council Member Garza said he would like to see the same expenditures spreadsheet at the May 11, 2021 Council meeting.

Council Member Barbee would like to see an overview slide on the large buckets of expenditures like personnel and capital.

MPT Healy asked Mrs. Hall to send out the information on revenue neutral numbers.

Council Member Garza said that training seemed to be a big interest amongst staff. He suggested that management overly take care of staff. He asked that the Town do small things such as bringing in a food truck to show employee appreciation.

Mayor Pierce said she is interested in moving forward with the beach ranger position. Mr. Oakley said that he is meeting with the fire chief tomorrow to discuss this position falling under ocean rescue and will look into funding it with ROT funds.

Council Member Barbee said he feels that Council wants this position to be more enforcement than education.

Council briefly discussed the mission of committees.

Mayor Pierce made a motion to adjourn at 2:00 p.m.