

CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 6:00 PM

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



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte pointed out a Centennial Committee project in Council Chambers that features pictures of all the Town's Mayors over the years. It is sponsored by the family of former Mayor Dennis Barbour.

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 Joe Benson
Council Member Mike Hoffer

ALSO PRESENT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley
Finance Director Debbie Hall
Town Clerk Kim Ward
Town Attorney Noel Fox

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Mayor Barbee said there will be a presentation from Make-A-Wish and a closed session added to 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 Benson, Council Member Hoffer

Motion passed unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Set a Public Hearing for _____ or Soon After to Consider a Special Use Permit Modification at 401 Marina Street in the Marina Business District (MB-1) for Additional Boat Slips
Applicant: CBYC, LLC
2. Set a Public Hearing for April 8, 2025, to Receive Public Input on the FY 25/26 Budget
3. Budget Amendments/Transfers

4. Amend Capital Project Fund for Lake Pumphouse SERDRF Grant Ordinance 25-1252
5. Award the Bid for the Carolina Beach Lake Pump House #1 & 2 Replacement Project Resolution 25-2325
6. Approval of a Reimbursement Resolution 25-2324 for Revenue Bond Series 2025
7. Approve Contract for Auditing Service for Period Ending 6/30/25
8. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Barbee said item 1 has been removed from the consent agenda because the date has not yet been set.

ACTION: Motion to approve the consent agenda

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

9. Events Update

Mr. Oakley reviewed upcoming events:

- Blood Drive – March 12 at the Rec Center
- Lo Tide Run – March 15 beginning at Lake Park (new route this year) with Beer Garden to follow at The Silver Dollar
- Neon Bike Brigade (benefits Ocean Cure) – March 29 at Kindred
- Skate Dog – April 12 at CB Skate Park
- Smart Art Kids Mural Walk (presented by Island Women) – April 13, April 27, and May 4 beginning at the Boardwalk (check the Centennial Facebook page for more information about all Centennial events)

10. Bike/Ped Committee Presentation

Nicole Kohler with the Bike/Ped Committee gave a presentation on the need for bicycle racks throughout the community and gave some recommended solutions for increasing bicycle parking options. Mayor Barbee asked the Bike/Ped Committee to reach out to businesses about allocating space for bicycle racks and giving them a low-cost option for implementing them. Staff will also discuss this during the upcoming budget season.

11. Make-A-Wish Presentation

Janis Netherland with Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina gave a presentation detailing the organization's mission and activities. She invited Council to get involved and support the group through volunteering and donating, including attending or creating fundraising events.

12. Manager's Update

Mr. Oakley reviewed the budget FY 25/26 schedule:

- Council strategic planning sessions – February 20-21
- Public hearing for non-profit requests – March 11
- Public hearing for community input – April 8
- Budget workshop – April 22
- Budget workshop (if necessary) – May 6
- Budget open house – May 6
- Budget message presented to Council – May 27
- Budget adoption – June 10

Mr. Oakley gave an update on various projects:

- Staff will reduce camping sites on Freeman Park where the dunes have grown up to the drive aisle. Staff will assess the situation during the summer so they can evaluate camping options for after Labor Day.
- The portable restrooms on the North End are enclosed by dunes and will have to be relocated back to where the others are on the South End, so there will now be 8 restrooms all together.
- Seasonal preparation is underway, including lights, banners, trash cans, and sunshades.
- The Boardwalk bathroom project will be paused during the season and resume after Labor Day. Staff is getting some of the materials now to hold down prices and will be looking for places to store them. A portable restroom facility that will connect to water and sewer should be installed next week, and staff is still looking for locations for a couple additional accessible restroom facilities.
- The Lake Park bathroom project is moving forward. The designer has proposed a design, and the Town will get a cost estimate next week.
- The Ocean Boulevard sidewalk project is on schedule, despite a late start due to some delays.
- Street paving should start in April.

Mayor Barbee praised all the work involved in getting the Weeks Lot area ready for the Centennial kickoff ceremony, including paving, landscaping, and restrooms. Mr. Oakley said Public Works staff worked up until the last minute.

Council Member Healy said the Town needs to find a way to show off the whale float that will be featured in the NC Azalea Festival Parade in April. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said the Centennial Committee is working on that.

Community Development Director Jeremy Hardison reported the following recent developments:

- There have been 63 permits issued for renovation/repair/additions, etc., 7 new construction permits, and 26 certificates of occupancy.
- Amusement rides will arrive in mid-April, and there is a meeting scheduled for early April to discuss setup.
- The Town issued 10 beach vending permits this year. Among the grantees was Vinny Doria, who had previously spoken to Council about vendors receiving permits and not using them.

- The Town issued 2 permits for the 4x4 area of Freeman Park. There has not been as much interest in these since the pinch point has occurred.
- The Town issued 3 beach services permits for renting chairs and umbrellas.
- There are 3 demolitions scheduled for single-family homes: 413 Raleigh Avenue, 513 Atlanta Avenue, and 300 Florida Avenue.
- Hometown Barber Shop will open at 1009 North Lake Park Boulevard, and Latella Gelato at 11 Boardwalk #110 is under new ownership.

Council Member Benson asked about checking logbooks for beach vendors to be sure they are using their permits. Mr. Hardison said vendors were told to be prepared to show them upon renewal.

Mr. Hardison reported the following upcoming meetings:

- Planning and Zoning Commission March 13: Special Use Permit modification for 401 Marina Street
- Board of Adjustment March 17: variance for 7 Sailfish Lane
- Council April 8: text amendment for Carolina Beach Inn at 210 Harper Avenue for commercial parking in the right-of-way
- Planning and Zoning Commission April 10: Conditional Zoning for a bar at Surf's Up Mini Golf at 1360 Bridge Barrier Road and a water-oriented uses text amendment
- Board of Adjustment April 22: Oceana appeal

Mayor Barbee thanked Mr. Hardison for his presentation at the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maureen Lewis of 1407 Croaker Lane praised Senior Project Manager Paula Kempton and her team for ensuring contractors working on the Ocean Boulevard sidewalk project are courteous by cleaning up before they leave each day. She said she is thankful for the addition of the sidewalk but has concerns about e-bikes and thinks people should walk them on sidewalks. Ms. Lewis encouraged e-bike riders to use South Carolina Avenue or North Carolina Avenue instead so pedestrians may primarily use the Ocean Boulevard sidewalk. She also said the Centennial Committee is meeting with Parks & Recreation staff to figure out how to best showcase the whale float after it is featured in the NC Azalea Festival Parade.

Erika Robertson of Lanier Landing Court thanked Project Manager Ben Meister for transparency and communication regarding the Saint Joseph Street multi-use path. She asked that the Town ensure resident safety on this path by enforcing the speed limit.

Stephanie Young of 111 Florida Avenue spoke about the Periwinkle Public Beach Access and advocated for it to open soon. She said she does not feel that it needs more sand but instead should be smoothed out to level the elevation.

Jonathan Atkins, who owns properties on the North End, said he has seen people in the Periwinkle Public Beach Access area going in the dunes. He said this situation is a bad look for the beach and can cause rental properties in the area to receive bad reviews.

Mr. Oakley said there is a plan to try to get the access usable, and he will speak to the Operations Department for details.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. Public Hearing on Non-Profit Funding Requests

Non-profit representatives presented their requests for funding for 25/26 fiscal year. Mr. Oakley will review the requests and make recommendations to Council during the budget process.

ACTION: Motion to open the public hearing

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

Yelena Howell with Cape Fear Civil War Round Table gave details about the group's plans for an interpretive Civil War Trails sign, which would serve to educate the public about sites of Civil War significance. She said they are seeking \$3,500 for initial placement of a sign that will be professionally designed to national standards and added that the group plans to pay the annual maintenance fee of \$300.

Dr. Chris Fonvielle with Cape Fear Civil War Round Table said the group wants to put the sign somewhere in the Carolina Beach State Park and highlighted the significance of the site.

Bill Jayne with Cape Fear Civil War Round Table said it's important that people today learn about their roots to understand their history. He said history tourism is big business, and this sign can help the Town be part of that.

Jim DeGilio with the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce detailed the organization's request for \$35,000 in room occupancy tax (ROT) funds to support ongoing work. He said this is the same amount the group received last year, and he presented 2025 strategic planning goals, 2024 accomplishments, and 2025 events.

Mayor Barbee asked if the Chamber plans to host a political candidates forum again this year. Mr. DeGilio said yes, and the location may possibly change to St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

No one else requested to speak.

ACTION: Motion to close the public hearing

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

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

14. Consider Adopting a Traffic-Calming Policy

The intent of adopting a traffic-calming policy is to outline the process by which the Town will address citizen concerns regarding traffic speeds on local streets. This process is designed to use verified data and community support to install effective traffic-calming measures that align with Town codes, long-range plans, and health, safety, and general welfare. Recommendations for traffic-calming devices shall meet Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and NC Department of Transportation (DOT) policies. Yield or stop signs shall not be used as traffic-calming devices. Any proposed yield or stop sign shall go through the text amendment process for review.

Mr. Hardison presented the details, including the steps for requesting a traffic-calming device:

- Application
- Community support: 80% of the interested property owners with a property line adjacent to the subject right-of-way must sign the petition
- Technical Review Committee (TRC) review of traffic volumes, speeds, and accident history
- Develop project plan by assessing problems and needs, evaluating alternates, and proposing a plan (may include recommendations or measures other than physical or constructed devices)

He also reviewed the decision process:

1. Staff will prepare a cost estimate for the proposed traffic-calming project
2. Present traffic-calming options to Council for consideration
3. Citizens' requests to have the traffic-calming device removed will follow the same process used to request a traffic-calming measure

Traffic-calming solutions shall not be installed on any primary emergency or truck route.

Council Member Benson questioned who would be counted as adjacent property owners. Mr. Hardison said anyone living on the right-of-way adjacent to the road would be counted as part of the 80% because it is assumed they would all be traveling on that road.

Mayor Barbee said if a street is bisected by a thoroughfare, perhaps just one side of the road would need to be counted as part of the 80%. He proposed considering the policy as presented and making changes if needed.

Mr. Oakley said Council may adopt the policy now, and staff can take a closer look at what should be considered a dividing line for longer roads that are bisected by a thoroughfare.

Mayor Barbee said this is a policy and not an ordinance, so the wording does not have to be exact now.

ACTION: Motion of approval to adopt a traffic-calming policy to outline the process by which the Town of Carolina Beach will address citizen concerns regarding traffic speeds on local streets

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

15. Official Naming of Centennial Park

The open area on the south side of the marina has been referred to as Centennial Park. Council will consider officially naming the park, which has previously been unnamed.

ACTION: Motion to name the new park at the marina on Carl Winner Drive Centennial Park
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte
Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Benson, Council Member Hoffer
Motion passed unanimously

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Hoffer said there will be a beautification project for NC Arbor Day on March 21 at the Lake Park entrance closest to the elementary school.

Council Member Benson mentioned the possibility of putting a fountain on the east side of Lake Park and getting private donations to contribute toward it. He also asked about the jet blasting project and if it was still going to happen. Ms. Hall said Stormwater System Manager Daniel Keating sent out a request for proposals and is waiting to receive them. She said the Town is going to try to get Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for this. Mr. Oakley said the Town also applied for a grant to have GIS mapping of the stormwater system.

Council Member Healy reiterated that he would like to see the whale float out and about.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte asked if the Town was planning to host a State of the Town event this year. Mr. DeGilio with the Chamber said yes, this will be a Chamber event. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte also asked for the status of the crosswalk replacement on Dow Road at Harper Avenue. Mr. Oakley said he needs to get with DOT about this. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said the CB Trash Walkers group is starting back up tomorrow.

Mayor Barbee said the Town is still seeking an easement for the proposed stoplight at Winner Avenue, and although there are issues with some of the properties in that area, he hopes it will happen. He also said he was overwhelmed at the response to the Centennial kickoff ceremony and gala, and he thanked the community and people who made the events happen.

CLOSED SESSION

16. Closed Session – Attorney/Client

ACTION: Motion to go into closed session to discuss an attorney/client matter in accordance with NCGS 143.318.11(a)(3); the matter being discussed is 23 CVS 3744 Carolina Beach Land Holdings, LLC, vs. Town of Carolina Beach
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

Mayor Barbee called the meeting back to order and said Council took no action during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.