



Town of Southern Shores

5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949

Phone 252-261-2394 / Fax 252-255-0876

info@southernshores-nc.gov

www.southernshores-nc.gov

6

7

8 Meeting Minutes

9 Pitts Center – 5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC

10 Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026

11 Time: 10:00 a.m.

12 Attendance

13 Present:

14 - Mayor Morey

15 - Mayor Pro Tem Neal

16 - Council Member Sherlock

17 - Council Member Batenic

18 - Council Member Neilson

19

20 Call to Order

21 Mayor Morey called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

22 The Council and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of
23 Silence.

24 Amendments to / Approval of Agenda

25 Mayor Morey requested an amendment to the agenda to remove item number 6, the
26 Public Hearing ZTA-25-06, as requested by the applicant due to clarifications needed.

27 **Motion** to amend the agenda as described was made by Council Member Batenic,
28 seconded by Council Member Sherlock. Motion carried unanimously.

29 Consent Agenda

30 The consent agenda included minutes from the previous meeting and the service
31 contract amendment for Ocean Rescue. The service contract amendment with
32 Sandski, LLC would extend services through the end of the 2026 beach season (July-
33 October 2026) with an additional cost of \$39,540.83 per month totaling \$158,163.32,
34 which will be accounted for in the FY 2027 budget.

35 Council Member Sherlock confirmed that the amendment had no impact on the current
36 budget.

37 Town Manager Ogburn confirmed the amendment had no impact on the current year
38 budget but would for the FY2027 budget.

39 **Motion** to approve the consent agenda was made by Council Member Neilson,
40 seconded by Council Member Sherlock. Motion carried unanimously.

41 **Presentations**

42 Southern Shores Fire Department Staff & Fire Auxiliary Board Members Introductions

43 Fire Chief Limbacher introduced members of the Fire Auxiliary Board. Present were
44 Eddie Hayman (Chairman and retired Hampstead Police Lieutenant), Fred Schmidt
45 (Vice Chair), Maylon White (who previously ran North Carolina aquariums before
46 retiring), and Randy Browning (from Martins Point, who had joined the board six months
47 ago). Chief Limbacher particularly commended Eddie Hayman and Maylon White for
48 their extensive work during the department's transition and for rewriting many of the
49 bylaws.

50 Chief Limbacher then introduced the four new fire captains:

- 51 ● Matt Jones - Holds a degree in criminal justice from Elizabeth City State
52 University with certifications including North Carolina firefighter, hazardous
53 materials technician, qualified North Carolina fire instructor, and advanced EMT.
54 He played football at Elizabeth City University and coaches football at John A.
55 Holmes.
- 56 ● Dakota Sawyer - Grew up in Camden, North Carolina and gained firefighting
57 experience with the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland
58 Security. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in emergency management with a
59 focus on fire investigations at Southern and Columbia University.
- 60 ● Daniel Wottawa- Born and raised in New York, he joined the fire service in 2014
61 and previously served with Currituck Fire and EMS.
- 62 ● Lawson Marsh - Started as a junior firefighter at age 16 in Ahoskie, NC. He
63 worked at Corolla Beach Rescue for seven years, with the last three as head
64 supervisor. He graduated from East Carolina University with a bachelor's degree
65 in construction management and runs his own construction business when not
66 on shift with the fire department. He lives in Southern Shores and previously
67 volunteered with the department.

68 Town Clerk Sheila Kane administered the oath of office to the four captains.

69 Chief Limbacher expressed appreciation for how well the captains had been working
70 together during the transitional phase and their willingness to address unforeseen
71 issues.

72 A250 Initiative-Katelin Kight, Dare County

73 Council Member Neilson introduced Katelin Kight, Assistant Public Information Director
74 for Dare County, whom he had been working with on the A250 committee. He
75 commended her organizational skills, clear communication, and documentation
76 abilities.

77 Ms. Kight explained that the DARE A250 committee represents multiple organizations
78 collaborating to coordinate county-wide celebrations of America's 250th birthday
79 through July 2026 and beyond. The committee includes representatives from Dare
80 County, all municipalities, Dare County Schools, National Park Service, Outer Banks
81 Visitors Bureau, and various nonprofits and museums.

82 Key initiatives include:

- 83 ● The DARE A250 website (darea250.org) where visitors can subscribe to a
84 monthly newsletter
- 85 ● The DARE A250 Passport Program featuring 13 historic locations throughout
86 Dare County, including a Southern Shores flat top home
- 87 ● The DARE A250 Fair on April 18th at Wright Brothers Memorial
- 88 ● The Kelly St. Patrick's Day Parade in March, which will have a DARE A250 theme

89 Ms. Kight showed a video highlighting the passport program, which allows visitors to
90 scan QR codes at 13 historic sites across the county. Participants can earn certificates
91 based on how many locations they visit, with the program running through November
92 18, 2026.

93 The DARE A250 Fair will be a free event featuring live music, family-friendly activities,
94 historical storytelling, vendors, and a patriotic show. The committee is seeking
95 volunteers and encourages submission of DARE A250-themed events through their
96 website.

97 Council Member Batenic asked if rental companies would be provided with this
98 information for visitors, and Ms. Kight confirmed they plan to distribute email banners,
99 rack cards, and flyers to visitor centers, coffee shops, and restaurants.

100 **Staff Reports**

101 Deputy Town Manager / Planning Director

102 Deputy Town Manager/Planning Director Haskett reported that the planning
103 department issued 37 permits in December (5 zoning permits, 15 building permits, and
104 17 trade permits), collecting \$12,200.35 in fees.

105 The Planning Board will meet on January 21st (Wednesday due to the holiday) at 5:00
106 PM in the Pitt Center to reconsider the Southern Shores Civic Association ZTA that was
107 removed from today's agenda and potentially consider a ZTA regarding wastewater
108 treatment plants if finalized before the meeting.

109 Police Chief

110 Police Chief Kole presented the December 2025 report, which included 1,510 calls for
111 service, 20 reported incidents, 10 criminal arrests totaling 21 charges, 76 traffic stops
112 resulting in 22 written citations and 49 warning citations, zero ordinance violations, and
113 2 reportable motor vehicle accidents.

114 Chief Kole mentioned that the department is developing a webpage about License Plate
115 Readers (LPRs) that will include the department's policy, state statutes, locations,

116 budget information, and examples of their usefulness. He noted they are awaiting the
117 final Memorandum of Understanding from the State Bureau of Investigation.

118 Council Member Batenic expressed concerns about e-bikes, particularly youth riders
119 ignoring traffic rules, and asked if the state legislature was working on regulations.
120 Chief Kole stated that the North Carolina Police Chiefs Association has been pushing
121 for legislation, but it has stalled. He noted that the department has planned bicycle
122 rodeos for the summer that will include e-bike education and a helmet giveaway.

123 Chief Kole shared a concerning story about a chase involving an intoxicated rider on an
124 electric bike traveling at extensive speeds on South Dogwood Trail. Mayor Morey and
125 council members agreed that education and parental accountability are crucial
126 components of addressing this issue.

127 Fire Chief

128 Fire Chief Limbacher reported 66 total calls for December 2025, including 46 EMS calls,
129 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 victim removed from stalled elevator, 1 hazardous
130 condition, 1 arcing/shorted wire, 1 beach wheelchair delivery, 3 smoke detector
131 services, 2 public service calls, 2 cover up/standby calls, 4 dispatches canceled en
132 route, and 4 fire alarms. He noted this was the department's highest call volume year
133 ever.

134 Chief Limbacher mentioned that the Santa ride on December 20th was well-attended,
135 particularly at the pavilion at the marina. Council Member Neilson commended Chief
136 Limbacher and the department for the successful event, noting the participation from
137 various community organizations.

138 Town Manager

139 Town Manager Ogburn presented the second quarter financial report, acknowledging
140 Finance Officer Bonnie Swain for compiling the data. Highlights included:

- 141 ● Receipt of a \$5,000 grant for a new mobile message trailer
- 142 ● Hiring of the fourth fire captain
- 143 ● Transfer of the fire station from fire real estate incorporated to the town
- 144 ● Work on the North Island Resilient Coastal Communities Program
- 145 ● Positive progress on the entry corridor
- 146 ● Receipt of beach nourishment survey results
- 147 ● \$220,000 grant from the Tourist Bureau for multi-use path repairs on NC 12
- 148 ● Progress on the East Dogwood Trail road rework project, with bids opening
149 Friday, January 9th
- 150 ● Cemetery improvements, with irrigation installation beginning

151 For the second quarter, the town collected approximately \$5 million in revenue (largely
152 from ad valorem taxes, occupancy tax, sales tax, and land transfer tax) while expenses
153 were just over \$2 million. The town has collected about 62% of its budgeted revenues
154 for the year.

155 Town Manager Ogburn also presented a beach nourishment update, highlighting that
156 the most recent survey shows a net gain of approximately 333,000 cubic yards between
157 November 2022 and November 2025 surveys, representing a 32% increase in the
158 volume of sand originally added. The project is performing well, with an actual gain of
159 4.3 cubic yards per foot per year versus the projected loss of 3 cubic yards per foot per
160 year.

161 Regarding financing, Town Manager Ogburn noted that the town borrowed \$5.5 million
162 for the \$11 million project, with \$4.3 million from the county and the remainder from
163 grants. The town will make its last payment on December 15, 2026, and will have \$1.8
164 million in reserve to start the next project.

165 For future planning, Coastal Protection Engineering of North Carolina (CPE) will be
166 submitting proposals for 2026 monitoring and for plans/specifications for a potential
167 2027 project. Monitoring will be done in May with updated information available by
168 June/July. Bids for a potential new project would occur in August/September timeframe,
169 at which point the town would need to decide whether to proceed.

170 Council members discussed county participation, MSD rates, and the coordination
171 required between the four towns for any future project.

172 Town Attorney

173 Town Attorney Hornthal did not provide a report.

174

175 **General Public Comment**

176 No members of the public requested to speak.

177

178 **Old Business**

179 Consideration of Extension of Citizen Ban

180 Town Attorney Hornthal explained that a special meeting was held on February 5, 2025,
181 to consider extending a temporary emergency ban of Anthony Mina from town property.
182 Mr. Mina was given notice and an opportunity to be heard but did not appear, instead
183 submitting a statement in opposition. The Town Council voted unanimously to extend
184 the ban for one year and provided Mr. Mina the opportunity to request a review after one
185 year, which he has not done. The current ban expires on February 4, 2026.

186 Council members discussed the duration of a potential extension, with Council
187 Member Sherlock suggesting a longer period such as three years due to the resources
188 devoted to the matter and Mr. Mina's lack of interest in having the ban lifted. Mayor Pro
189 Tem Neal advocated maintaining the one-year review period.

190 **Motion** to continue the current ban from all town property for Mr. Mina until his
191 request for review, not sooner than February 4, 2027, was made by Mayor Morey,
192 seconded by Council Member Batenic. Motion carried unanimously.

193

194 **[Clerk's Note: The special meeting in 2025 was held on February 4, 2025]**

195 **New Business**-none

196

197 **Council Business**

198 Mayor Morey announced the next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3,
199 2026, at 10:00 AM. She also announced she will be holding a Mayor's Chat on Tuesday,
200 February 17, 2026, at 4:30 PM.

201 Mayor Pro Tem Neal announced that the Entry Corridor Enhancement Committee will
202 have a rehearsal on January 14th at 9:00 AM at the Pitt Center to prepare for a potential
203 presentation to a joint meeting of the planning board, council, and citizens on January
204 27th at 5:30 PM regarding their phase 1 report. He also mentioned the upcoming DARE
205 Housing Foundation meeting on January 20th.

206 Council Member Sherlock reported on her participation in the Albemarle Rural Planning
207 Organization and ongoing work on cemetery improvements.

208 Council Member Batenic reported that the Tourism Board's December meeting
209 indicated occupancy was down due to economic uncertainty, weather, and media
210 coverage of coastal erosion. The board is focusing on marketing efforts to show the
211 Outer Banks is "safe and sound" and hoping the A250 initiative will bring more visitors.

212 Council Member Neilson referenced his work on the A250 committee and Current TV,
213 noting that Current TV is encouraging towns to produce videos rather than purchase
214 equipment with LDPI grants.

215

216 **Adjourn**

217 Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Batenic. Motion carried
218 unanimously.

219

220 ATTEST:

Respectfully submitted,

221

222

223

224 _____
Elizabeth Morey, Mayor

225 _____
Sheila Kane, Town Clerk

226

227