**CAROLINA BEACH**

Regular Town Council Minutes

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

Council Chambers

1121 N. Lake Park Boulevard

Carolina Beach, NC 28428

**ASSEMBLY**

The Town of Carolina Beach Regular Town Council meeting was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 6:30 PM at Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Mayor LeAnn Pierce, Mayor Pro Tem Jay Healy, Council Member Lynn Barbee, Council Member JoDan Garza

ABSENT: Council Member Steve Shuttleworth

..

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Town Manager Ed Parvin, Town Clerk Kim Ward, and Town Attorney Noel Fox

**1. MAYOR PIERCE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER WITH INVOCATION BY PASTOR JONATHAN BOWLING OF CAROLINA BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. ADOPT THE AGENDA**

**ACTION**: Motion to adopt the agenda

Motion: Mayor Pierce

Vote: UNANIMOUS

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were included on the consent agenda:

a. Consider Setting a Public Hearing for March 10, 2020 to Hear Funding Requests from Non-Profits - General Fund

b. Consider Setting a Public Hearing for March 10, 2020 to Hear a CUP: 1230 LPBN - Business PUD - Bryant Real Estate

c. Consider Setting a Public Hearing for March 10, 2020 to Hear a CUP: 1012 LPBS - Business PUD - Ralph Roof

d. Approve NCDOT Ordinances 20-1132, 20-1133, and 20-1134 to reduce the speed limit on South Lake Park Blvd.

e. Approve contract for Auditing Service with Bernard Robinson and company for the fiscal year period ending June 30, 2020.

f. Approve Meeting Minutes January 9, 2020 Special Meeting, January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting, and January 14, 2020 Special Meeting.

g. Budget amendments and transfers as presented by the Finance Director.

**ACTION**: Motion to adopt the consent agenda

Motion: Mayor Pierce

Vote: UNANIMOUS

**4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

a. 2020 Census Update from Town Representative Joe Benson

Mr. Benson gave details on the upcoming decennial count. The process will begin with a notification card that arrives in the mail by mid-March. The official 2020 Census website will go live on March 23. Residents may be counted in one of four ways: mail back the card, phone, online, or via Census workers going door-to-door beginning in May to canvass non-respondents. He also went over key points and common questions, including the importance of an accurate count because the official population number determines federal legislative representation and funding, efforts to include the homeless population in the count, and community outreach efforts.

Mayor Pierce thanked Mr. Benson for staying on the Census committee after his term as Mayor ended.

Council Member Garza stressed the need for everyone to be counted so the Town gets as much federal funding as possible for projects in a growing population.

Mayor Pro Tem Healy asked how many federal workers would be canvassing. Mr. Benson said he did not know but would find out.

Council Member Barbee asked how the Census workers would be identified. Mr. Benson said they would be clearly marked.

Mayor Pierce asked Mr. Parvin to get Census messaging ready for the Town billboard. She also said outreach events to assist people would be beneficial.

Council Member Garza asked that any information going on the billboard also go on the Town website and Facebook page.

Mr. Benson said he could be available for events and come back with more information at the next Council meeting if necessary.

b. Events Update

Tim Murphy, Recreation Programs Superintendent/Community Events Coordinator, reported that upcoming events include a Valentine’s Day dance at the Recreation Center on February 15 and the Steve Haydu St. Patrick’s Lo Tide Run on March 14.

John Rivenbark from Set Up Events asked the Council to approve the Carolina Beach Double Sprint Triathlon on June 13. The Events Committee had concerns over the closing of roads and traffic impact and recommended denying the event on that date. Alternate dates in May were suggested, but Mr. Rivenbark said this was not ideal because the ocean water temperatures are still cool, lifeguards do not officially start working for the Town until Memorial Day weekend, and school is still in session, which might keep out-of-town families from staying and spending money in the Town all weekend.

Mayor Pierce asked for details of the road closures. Mr. Rivenbark said a large portion of Dow Road would be closed from 6:30-8:30 a.m., and intermittent traffic stops would take place during those hours on Lake Park Boulevard near Carolina Beach Lake Park as participants cross the road.

Police Chief Chris Spivey said he has concerns about the June date because the peak season seems to come earlier every year and the Town has outgrown what it can shut down for any given amount of time.

Mayor Pro Tem Healy said he understood the reasoning for not wanting to do the race in May. He agreed that it is good for the economy and said he supported the proposed June date.

Council Member Garza said the Town has had a good relationship with the event’s organizers for the past 18 years, so he is willing to work with them on the proposed June date.

Council Member Barbee said he was also open to allowing the event to take place on June 13 due to its good track record over the years.

Mayor Pierce said she is fine with allowing the race to take place on June 13 if Mr. Parvin and Chief Spivey can work out the details. She also announced that Mr. Murphy is the new Town staff member handling events.

c. Manager’s Update

Mr. Parvin’s report included updates on the following:

* A checklist of changes to local ordinances discussed at the last budget retreat
* An update on efforts with Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU), including a tour for new Council members on February 21, news of installation support having a new headquarters this fall, and the announcement that MOTSU has approved the Town’s route forward with finalizing environmental cleanup for the leased areas
* Parking improvements, including the completion of new signs on Town lots, striping, and additional spaces on street ends near the ocean for golf carts and bicycle racks

Council Member Barbee asked for an update on the Hamlet project. Mr. Parvin said the old bathroom building has been demolished, but construction of the new facility would be delayed until the fall so the parking lot can remain open during the summer. The Town will set up a temporary bathroom facility and showers.

Council Member Garza praised Mr. Parvin for his behind-the-scenes leadership and ability to step in for the Town when needed.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin Fritzinger of 1319 Canal Drive said he wanted to give his monthly talk about what appears to be mostly abandoned sailboats and other watercraft in the harbor. He said the problem continues with boats blowing around during a recent windstorm and coming close to private docks. Mr. Fritzinger said he has not seen any progress on the issue. Mayor Pierce asked Mr. Parvin for an update. Mr. Parvin said the Town is working with the State on an ordinance to ensure the Town has enabling authority to take action on abandoned boats in the harbor. He stressed the importance of a strong ordinance that would allow for enforcement by the Town and said while the Town is moving forward, work remains. Mr. Fritzinger also asked when the kayak ramp would be open. Mr. Parvin said the floating dock at Sandpiper Lane was damaged during Hurricane Dorian but that repairs had recently been finalized and it has reopened.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

a. Public Hearing to Consider Funding Requests from Non-Profit Organizations out of the Room Occupancy Tax Fund

**ACTION**: Motion to open the public hearing

Motion: Mayor Pierce

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Dan Wilcox of Pleasure Island Revitalization Association and Carolina Beach Downtown Initiative gave details on those organizations’ request for $33,000 in room occupancy tax funds. This money would go toward events such as the summer music and fireworks series and bingo nights. This will be the 13th year these groups have been putting on these activities. Mayor Pierce encouraged both new and longtime residents to volunteer with these efforts.

Greg Reynolds of the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce outlined his organization’s request for $108,400 in room occupancy tax funds. This would go toward summer fireworks displays, including the expanded one on July 3, outdoor movies, event support, and the Wilmington Sharks Pleasure Island Day. He announced that the Chamber would be adding two new events to its lineup this year: Taste of Pleasure Island and Bark in the Park. Mr. Reynolds asked Council for a verbal commitment because of contracts that need to be signed. Mayor Pierce explained to the public that these requests are formally voted on during budget time, but she gave Mr. Reynolds the green light to move forward and thanked him for the Chamber’s work.

**ACTION**: Motion to close the public hearing

Motion: Mayor Pierce

Vote: UNANIMOUS

**7. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

a. Watershed Plan

Tracy Skrabal of the North Carolina Coastal Federation gave a presentation about Carolina Beach watershed restoration planning. She outlined the benefits of and process for developing a watershed restoration plan. Ms. Skrabal said planning started a year ago, and the plan is now in the final stages. She added that the grant ends in March and that the next step is for the Town to approve the plan and send it to the state for them to also approve. Ms. Skrabal said the main focus of this effort is water quality in shellfish, swimming, and boating waters. She said the solution is to reduce the overall volume of stormwater runoff by focusing on the watershed as a whole. Ms. Skrabal also explained challenges, goals, objectives, actions, and action strategies. The goal is to send the plan to the state in two weeks for review. Mayor Pierce asked if Council needed to vote on it. Planning Director Jeremy Hardison said Council should adopt the plan if members are comfortable with it so the Town can move toward the main goal of formalizing everything so the funding can be granted. Council Member Garza said this effort was a good stepping stone and he wanted to push forward.

**ACTION**: Motion to approve the plan as presented

Motion: Council Member Garza

Vote: UNANIMOUS

b. Discussion on a Feasibility Study for a 50-Year Periodic Nourishment Extension

Mr. Parvin said Town staff and Council members recently met with the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss a possible extension to the 50-year agreement to renourish the beach, which has ended. The Town has been working on a 15-year extension to keep federal funding, but $3 million is available to create another 50-year plan. The Town will need to start from scratch to define the scope and other necessary elements. Mayor Pierce said this was an important effort because the Town is the first of the beach towns to reach the end of 50-year period, and the outcome will become an example for others.

**ACTION**: Motion to move forward with the study with the Army Corps of Engineers and oversee the following meetings as needed

Motion: Mayor Pierce

Vote: UNANIMOUS

**8. NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Barbee asked if the Town had ever used an outside consultant to make a projection of the fund balance. Mr. Parvin said there had been a financial consultant that built a model for the Town to plan how they will move forward, and that model can show how to build the fund balance. Council Member Barbee said he thought an outside, unbiased perspective would be beneficial.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

a. Closed Session to Discuss a Real Estate Matter

**ACTION**: Motion to go into a closed session to discuss a real estate matter in accordance to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5). The property being discussed is located at 316 Cape Fear Boulevard, Carolina Beach, for the purpose of parking.

Motion: Mayor Pierce

Vote: UNANIMOUS

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Mayor Pierce made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk