

CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 @ 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
1121 N. Lake Park Boulevard
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

ASSEMBLY

A Special Meeting of the Town of Carolina Beach Town Council was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at 6:00 PM at Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Benson, Council Member LeAnn Pierce, Council Member Steve Shuttleworth, and Council Member JoDan Garza

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Bridges

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

1. MAYOR BENSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Parvin gave an overview of the Freeman Park recommendations discussed during the November 13 special meeting. Topics included pass sales and fees, points of sale, camping, hours of operation, and alcohol.

Mr. Parvin said Island Tackle could continue to be a good option for annual pass sales due to its longer hours than Town Hall and the new Lanier Parking office. He said the Town would need to replace the computers at this location, which would cost \$2,700, plus give up \$5 per pass due to the fee that the business charges the Town to sell the passes. There was previous discussion about passing the additional \$5 per pass fee to those buying the passes. Council Member Pierce asked Mr. Parvin if they had discussed this with Island Tackle. He said this had not yet been done. Council Member Garza asked what the computers do. Mr. Parvin said they enter all the information for the passes. Council Member Shuttleworth asked why there was a need for new computers. Mr. Parvin said the computers that have been used over the years are no longer operable. Council Member Shuttleworth said he was surprised to hear about the additional cost for computers associated with using the third-party vendor.

Mr. Parvin said other fees included in the price of an annual pass are \$2.15 for processing, paid by the consumer, and \$6 for a credit card transaction, paid by the Town. Council Member Pierce said she would like to see Island Tackle pass their \$5 fee to the consumer. Mr. Parvin said Town staff would move forward with this recommendation as well as purchasing new computers for the site. Council Member Shuttleworth said he was not aware that the Town was already paying the credit card transaction fee. He said he was concerned about the effect this has on actual revenue.

Council Member Shuttleworth said it is worth noting that this is the second year in a row that Town staff has recommended strongly that Council revise the hours of operation for Freeman

Park to allow for nighttime closure during certain times of the year and twice Council has overlooked those recommendations.

ACTION: Motion to approve changes to the Freeman Park ordinance.

Motion: Joe Benson

Vote: 3-1, with Council Member Shuttleworth opposing due to the hours of operation issue.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE 2020 PARKING SEASON

a. Scott Diggs and Tina Reid of Lanier Parking gave a presentation of 2019 revenue and expense figures as well as upcoming projects, including equipment updates, the parking office move, space additions, updated signage, and future parking trends.

Mayor Benson opened the floor for a 15-minute period of public comment.

Maggie Tallon of 511 Raleigh Avenue asked why there is no enforcement for large vehicles parking in spaces marked for compact cars.

Amy Hooker-Kidd of 618 Clarendon Avenue asked if Lanier Parking makes a profit from the sale of each Freeman Park pass. Mr. Parvin said no. She also asked Council to share updated projected revenue figures for the upcoming Freeman Park season as soon as they are available.

Tom, a resident of Wilmington, spoke about opening up access to Freeman Park beyond the pinch point as well as campsites.

Fred Grady of 608 Cape Fear Boulevard suggested raising rates for metered parking to add to revenue.

Mark from Canal Drive suggested having the Jeep event at Freeman Park four times per year instead of once to lessen the impact. Council Member Shuttleworth said the Town does not sanction events at Freeman Park, but he heard that particular event was not returning in 2020.

Dorrene Stanley said the traditional Jeep event had been canceled for 2020 due to the condition of Freeman Park but that there would be an event in May that would be spread out across the island.

Mayor Benson closed the floor to public comment.

3. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

a. Council Member Pierce asked Town staff to revisit plans for the Ocean Rescue project. She said she's not sure it's the best plan because it doesn't show an increase in restrooms for the public. Mr. Parvin said this issue is on the agenda for the November 26 workshop. Council Member Pierce and Council Member Shuttleworth also emphasized the need for connectivity between that area and the Boardwalk.

4. CLOSED SESSION

a. Closed Session to Discuss an Attorney/Client Matter

ACTION: Motion to go into closed session to discuss an attorney/client matter in accordance to

NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

The matters being discussed include:

TCB vs. Carolina Freeman LLC NHC 18 CVS 3151

TCB vs. B&F Enterprises LLC NHC 18 CVS 3152

TCB vs. DRDK LLC NHC 18 CVS 3153

TCB vs. Freeman Beach, LLC 18 CVS 3154

Motion: Joe Benson

Vote: UNANIMOUS

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Benson made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved 1/14/2020

Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk