

CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Workshop Minutes
Tuesday, January 22, 2019 @ 9:00 AM
Council Chambers
1121 N. Lake Park Boulevard
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

ASSEMBLY

The Town of Carolina Beach Town Council Workshop was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 9:00 AM at Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Benson, Mayor Pro Tem Tom Bridges, Council Member LeAnn Pierce, Council Member Steve Shuttleworth, and Council Member JoDan Garza

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Town Manager Michael Cramer, Assistant Town Manager Ed Parvin, Finance Director Debbie Hall, and Town Clerk Kim Ward

1. MAYOR BENSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:00 AM

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Update from the Canal Drive Flood Committee

Dale Walters, Chairman of the Canal Drive Flooding Committee presented their ideas and requests to move forward with the flood mitigation efforts for the Canal Drive.

1. Traffic Circulation Ordinance

The Town has already committed extensive resources to address nuisance traffic on Canal Drive during flood conditions, with Town Operations taking the lead on operating the existing drop gates and setting up advisory barricades and traffic control signage during tidal and storm events. What has been missing is an enforcement vehicle for police back-up when drivers ignore the traffic advisories and when drivers create wakes or splash salt water over parked cars and landscaping.

The Committee worked with Chief Spivey to craft an enforceable ordinance which is now ready for Town Council consideration. There is a DRAFT copy in the briefing package and the final version is currently under review by the TRC. This will come to Council in February.

Salient features of the proposed Ordinance:

It is a Town-wide Ordinance providing for discretionary citation enforcement for flood conditions throughout the Town, not just to the periodic tidal flooding on Canal Drive.

Officer discretion was of paramount concern in drafting up the recommended citation capacity with the objective of not restricting reasonable, cautious, resident traffic from utilizing the roads when it is safe to do so.

The recommended fine ladder provides a maximum of \$500 for egregious violations, \$250 for moving or tampering with the physical facilities and a typical citation figure of \$50 for driving around the barricades or creating nuisance wakes and splashes.

An important feature of the proposed Ordinance is that: "Any person may file an affidavit and present items of evidentiary value to the Carolina Beach Police Department complaining of a violation of this section in accordance with Town Code". This provision provides for non-confrontational citizen participation in enforcement during tidal and storm water events when police personnel are not immediately available

Secondary to enforceability, the Committee looked at various routing alternatives and existing notification signs and field set up facilities for restriction of flood traffic.

The existing set up has been very well thought out. The Committee is recommending minor changes to set up and more effecting notification signage:

The current field set-up calls for barrel barricades down the center of Canal Drive, uncovering of the side street flip signs, and placement of M-3 portable barricades at strategic locations. The Committee is recommending that the barrel barricades be limited to driving hazard locations only, and not throughout the entire flood area. Reason? Set up takes a lot of labor and, drivers are confused by the barrels and routinely ignore them by driving on the dry side of the street anyway.

The Committee is recommending removal of the flip sign for the same reason; they take labor to open and close and most of them are left open after the tidal flooding which further confuses drivers and pedestrians.

The Committee is recommending revised signage:

Notification clearly identifies that Canal Drive is closed. Notice of the enforcement elements of the Ordinance are provided. Alternate routing is clearly identified. Colors are consistent with other specialty advisory signs provided by the Town at beach locations and parking lots.

Proposed locations. These are the same as existing with the exception of an added barricade at Delaware Street and a high water location proposed at the east end of Carl Winner during extreme wind and tide conditions that cause tidal basin overflow.

To assist with current field operations, the new water surface monitoring station will be utilized to provide automated telephone alerts to Operations personnel when flooding is expected on Canal and again when the high water conditions subside.

2. Water Surface Monitoring Station Progress

The water surface monitoring station is being installed this week and should be operational, with the data stream available to the public on the State FINMAN website. The station includes real-time water surface elevation, a rain gauge, a barometer, and an anemometer. It will be coordinated with the existing tidal monitoring stations in Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach and all data will be included in the state-wide emergency and flood management data base.

The DRAFT bulkhead survey and tidal vulnerability study for Myrtle Grove Sound is going to be submitted to Town staff this week. The Committee has requested to be included in the draft review and comment process. The end product will provide 1 year, 2 year, 5 year etc. risk projections, a full horizontal and vertical survey of existing tidal flood and erosion prevention facilities between the Marina at the south and Joyner Marina at the north.

This monitoring system and the accompanying reports will greatly assist the Town in addressing the tidal flooding particulars that will be outlined today in Topic 4, Bulkhead Ordinance.

3. Master Plan Drainage Initiative

The Committee has taken on two initiatives, both of which are limited to researching available grant and loan vehicles for flood issues in the Town.

Initiative #1: The Committee is recommending that Town Council consider development of a Master Plan Drainage plan. This engineering document would address flood basins and storm water management throughout the entire Town. Master Plan Drainage studies are structured to provide overall engineering analysis and design criteria for the Town's storm water management as a whole, providing proposed open channel and closed pipe sizes, retention facility sizes and locations and other planning tools that complement existing Subdivision and building ordinances.

The storm water management challenges identified in such a study are intended to address both Capital Improvement Projects such as the reconstruction of Canal Drive and Carolina Beach Avenue North and the impact of infill development and redevelopment projects.

Initiative #2: The Committee is recommending that Town Council consider researching grant and loan options that may be available to private properties and land owners who may be required to participate in implementation of tidal water protective structures anticipated by the proposed adoption of a viable high water control Ordinance.

4. Bulkhead Ordinance

The drafting of the currently proposed ordinance was the prime task assigned to the Committee. Time was, and is, of the essence in providing a working ordinance for use in conjunction with construction of the water, sewer and local flood control pumps for the North End CIP project.

There are only two practical solutions available for tidal flood protection; elevate the island as a whole, or, build a perimeter flood control barrier. As the island has already been developed, the infill option is not available, however, over 90% of the developed frontage on Myrtle Grove Sound along Canal Drive and Florida Street are already equipped with privately constructed tide water erosion and inundation prevention facilities, chiefly vertical bulkheads. Hence the working title of

“Bulkhead Ordinance” for the working draft. The DRAFT was submitted for staff review last August.

As currently written, efforts focus on three principal areas:

Minimum top elevation for existing and future tide and flood control measures;

Individual lot grading and compliance with the provisions of Title Five of FEMA guidelines regarding imported fill in tidal flood zones, and;

Minimum requirements for hydraulic design and storm water conveyance for projects and facilities that drain into Myrtle Grove Sound.

Internal review by the Town’s Attorney identified two elements included in the Ordinance that will likely require enabling legislation from the State of North Carolina in order to implement:

The minimum elevation required for a tidal erosion and flood barricade that is intended for incorporation into a publicly managed flood prevention barricade and pump system, and;

The time certain requirement to bring private tidal flooding prevention facilities into compliance with the height and maintenance provisions of the proposed Ordinance.

The Committee is requesting direction from Town Council on the desirability of structuring an approach to secure the requisite enabling legislation.

There are pressing elements contributing to the flood conditions at the North End that can be addressed through existing Town development ordinances. Chief among these is the regulation of grading and fill import that materially alters the existing cross lot drainage and storm water conveyance realities of the North End. This is also the case with regard to infill construction along portions of Dow Road.

At last Thursday’s Committee meeting, the grading and imported fill portion of the proposed Ordinance was extracted from the tidal flood provisions and referred to the TRC for consideration. The Committee has asked to be included in the process for addressing the issues associated with mass import and cross drainage and will be drafting summary recommendations for Town Council which will be coordinated with staff and submitted through the Town Manager’s office.

b. Canal Drive and Carolina Beach Avenue North Project Discussion

Jerry Haire gave an update on the Canal Drive/Carolina Beach Avenue North Project Timeline:

The next steps include:

Identify storm water management options.

Identify options for burying powerlines.

Public education on options and recommendations.

Continue to refine engineering plans and project specific work scopes based on report recommendations.

Pursue grant funding from a variety of sources.

Contract to complete the work.

Mr. Haire also reviewed some potential funding options for these projects.

- c. Fire Chief Alan Griffin will lead a budget discussion on debt services

Chief Alan Griffin presented his 10 year master plan for vehicle replacement. He mentioned that the lifeguard F250 and two four-wheelers will need to be replaced this year. Council asked if there were any vehicles scheduled to come off line this year that could go to the lifeguards. Chief Griffin said he would work with Ops and Police to see if there is a truck in the fleet that would serve this purpose.

Chief Griffin also discussed some of his staffing concerns. They applied for the Assist a Firefighter Grant but were denied. The call volume has continued to increase. They ran 993 calls in 2018. He is requesting to use the money that the Town committed to match and hire 4 part-time employees or create 3 full time positions for an additional \$50,000 per year.

Council Member Shuttleworth asked if calls are seasonal.

Chief Griffin said that you have a lot calls on the beach in the summer and most of the major structure fires seem to be in the winter.

Council Member Shuttleworth asked what Chief Griffin recommended out of the two options presented.

Chief Griffin said cost wise it would be cheaper to hire part-time but he would recommend hiring three full time for scheduling and efficiency purposes. This would put four firefighters on each 24 hour shift.

- d. Budget Discussion

Ed Parvin presented a request to approve Budget Ordinance 19-1103 to amend the general fund budget for Hurricane Florence for an additional \$331,000. This brings the total to \$1,201,000.

Council Member Shuttleworth asked about the permit fees for Publix and the project on Cape Fear Boulevard. He stated he didn't see those numbers in the budget. He asked for a specific dollar amount of these permit fees and if they are going into the general fund. He asked that Mr. Parvin present those numbers in his February manager's update.

Council Member Shuttleworth requested a financial report from the Finance Director to be presented at the February 26th workshop.

Mayor Benson made a motion to approve Ordinance 19-1103 approving an additional \$331,000 for Hurricane Florence.

Mr. Parvin presented a request to approve Ordinance 19-1104 for an appropriation for a MERT trailer for \$28,825.

Council Member Shuttleworth made a motion to approve Ordinance 19-1104 creating a budget appropriation for the MERT trailer purchase in the amount of \$28,825. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Council Liaison Committee Updates

Council Member Garza- The Land Use Plan meeting went well and had a good turn out. They now have their website up and running. Open house is Feb 6th 4-7 pm. The online survey for residents will be open for three weeks.

Parks and Rec is still bouncing back from storm with roof repairs. Their new security cameras are working well. They have a Valentines Day dance coming up in February.

The Freeman Park Committee discussed removing ash barrels and having fire pit at the campsites. They are still working on the stencils for pack it in pack it out. Pick up your shit was the number one vote for the theme. Everyone on the committee seemed to like that because it keeps the theme of Carolina Beach. It covers two things, trash and dog poo. Another idea was a mouth that says feed me your garbage. Once they get that nailed down and the stencils figured out, they will paint all the trash cans on the beach strand from Alabama to the north end. A Honda Civic got stuck on Freeman Park because no one was at the booth. The meetings are now once a month versus once a quarter.

MPT Bridges - The Operations Committee is working with Gigi identifying poles that have lights and those that don't have functioning lights. They will be put into CitiWorks with the ID number. They are also designing a flyer about having separate irrigation meters. It's a state law. They will receive a price break if they have a separate meter.

Mayor Benson - The Canal Drive Flood Committee is doing a great job. Wednesday is the Harbor Commission's quarterly meeting. They will be looking at a suggested resolution that will be brought to Council in February. They will also discuss the fuel point on the west side of the marina as well as security cameras. There will be another executive meeting on the 29th with the Joint Land Use Committee. Hopefully they will discuss what the next lease will look like with MOSTU.

Council Member Pierce- The Police Advisory Committee is attending the first Citizens Academy on March 6th for 6 Wed nights. They will review the local police department and the Judicial system. The next academy will be in the fall.

The Bike/Ped Committee meeting was postponed to next Monday.

Council Member Pierce and Jerry Haire will be meeting with DOT this Thursday to look at crosswalks that they are having issues with.

Council Member Pierce and Mayor Benson serve on the TDA and they have asked them to postpone theirs asks for bike rack and kiosks until March.

Most of Council will be in Raleigh for the Town and State Dinner on February 20th.

Council Member Shuttleworth- The Towns application to the MPO for the multi-use path on Clarendon was the only application they received for the grant.

The Beach, Ports and Waterway Commission has been working hard to secure long term funding for beach nourishment. 950,000 cubic yards of sand on Carolina Beach starting Jan 28.

MAC meets this afternoon to look at the budget for next year.

The Underground Power Line Committee had a great turn out for their first meeting last night. They have a great group with experienced specialists on the committee. They will be meeting monthly.

Council Member Shuttleworth mentioned that he will not be at the February Council meeting. He has been invited to speak at a conference regarding lessons learned from Hurricane Florence.

3. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Council Member Garza asked Mr. Parvin if he had discussed painting/decorating the power poles in town with Duke Energy.

Mr. Parvin said that he did discuss that with them and they were not in favor of that due to the fact that they have to inspect the poles and they feel it would impact their ability to do their inspections.

Council Member Garza asked about grass on greenway and if it will be maintained.

Brian Stanberry replied that NC STATE is doing samples to see what it needs to survive.

Council Member Garza stated that the Spartanburg Avenue area of the greenway seems unsafe. He also reminded staff about the tree that is obstructing the view at Cape Fear and Charlotte. If you are heading north from Atlanta, it blocks the view.

Mr. Stanberry said he would look at the line of sight.

Council Member Garza said that he attended the Chamber event and several people asked to see more street art in town.

Council Member Garza asked fire department if they would change their variable message sign occasionally to put out safety messages.

Chief Griffin said the sign was 100% grant funded for fire prevention messages but they also use it for ocean safety.

Council Member Pierce mentioned that the Bike/Ped discussed signage. She asked about using the billboard at the Food Lion Shopping Center. She asked if the town has to pay to use it. She would like to utilize it to put safety messages on it.

Mayor Benson said that he will be sending a request for information to Mr. Parvin this afternoon for his Town Hall meeting tonight at 6:30 at the American Legion.

Council Member Garza said there will be a memorial for Danny Swinson Wednesday night at the Lazy Pirate.

4. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Mayor Benson made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m . Motion carried unanimously.

Adopted at a regular meeting on February 12, 2019.

Recorded by Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk