

CAROLINA BEACH

Regular Town Council Minutes
Tuesday, September 25, 2018 @ 6:30 PM
Council Chambers
1121 N. Lake Park Boulevard
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

ASSEMBLY

The Town of Carolina Beach Regular Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 6:30 PM 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, Town Clerk Kim Ward, and Town Attorney Noel Fox

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER WITH INVOCATION BY MAYOR BENSON FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- a. This meeting was the rescheduled meeting from September 11, 2018 that was postponed due to Hurricane Florence.

2. ADOPT THE AGENDA

ACTION: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion: Joe Benson

Vote: UNANIMOUS

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Mayor Benson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**
The following items were approved:
Reimbursement request/application to the New Hanover TDA Board in the amount of \$ 178,651.09.
Appointment of Patrick Boykin to the MPO Committee.
Budget transfers and amendments as presented by the Finance Director.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. Special Event - Surf Dog Experience

Jay Carrillo, Ocean Event USA, LLC, briefed Council on the proposed Surf Dog Experience Event. This event is presented by "Baha Bow Wow Pet Salon". This is a one day event where surfers and non surfers, register their dogs to surf the shore break. JMCM (for profit organization) will provide

surfboards for non surfers. They are expecting around 120 participants.

ACTION: Motion to approve the Surf Dog Experience event with a date to be determined in 2019.

Motion: Joe Benson

Vote: UNANIMOUS

b. Special Event - St Paul's Food Truck Rodeo

Brenda Butler presented the request for St. Paul's to close off Third Street for their Food Truck Rodeo.

ACTION: Motion to approve closing Third Street for the Food Truck Rodeo on Saturday, November 11th.

Motion: Steve Shuttleworth

Vote: UNANIMOUS

c. Request from Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce for additional funding from ROT Funds

Greg Reynolds presented a request for additional funding for \$5,825.00 to cover the World Premier (The Rat Pack Movie), and the Boardwalk Blast Special Edition. They will be testing new eco-friendly fireworks.

ACTION: Motion to approve \$5,825.00.

Motion: Joe Benson

Vote: UNANIMOUS

d. Special Events September & October

Brenda Butler presented the events that will be rescheduled from September and the events scheduled for October.

e. Manager's Update

Michael Cramer gave an update on the following projects:

- Lake Dredge - Bids were supposed to be published September 17th but due to Hurricane Florence, we were not able to publish it. The re-publish date is October 8th. That is when it will go out for bid. The Town has been playing phone tag with the Coast Guard on the temporary easement. The hope is to have a project on the ground by December.
- The marina has project has taken a hit as well. The pile driving should take place between October 1-5. The dredging should be October 8-19. Building platforms should be October 22-November 2. Installing docks November 5-14
- Beach Nourishment has been postponed and they have not set the new date for bidding.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Richard Cecelski 941 Carolina Sands Drive asked Council consider the long term impact that the decision on the fence will make. He also mentioned the water quality at the marina. He feels that most of the water has been filtered by the time it reaches the marina especially with the full moon. The water may look dirty but it is just swamp water. Hog waste is decomposed long before it gets to Lock and Dam #1.

Amy Webster with Pop's restaraunt and Laurie from The Dive expressed concern that they had to move their food truck from in front of The Dive and they feel that there was an exception for the Food Truck Rodeo and wished they could be given an exception given the situation of the storm.

Mr. Cramer explained that there was not an exception for the Rodeo. They were following the ordinance.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Public Hearing for Harper Ave Streetscape

Johnathan Kimley Horn presented the recommended streetscape plan for Harper Avenue.

Mayor Benson made a motion to open the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Patricia Jones 612 Carolina Beach Avenue North said that she is in favor of the new plan and would love to see the speed limit reduced to 25 mph.

Mayor Benson made a motion to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: Motion to move forward with Harper Avenue Streetscape Plan as presented by Kimley-Horn.

Motion: Steve Shuttleworth

Vote: UNANIMOUS

- b. Public Hearing on Greenway Fencing Options

Jerry Haire presented the Greenway Fencing Options.

Mayor Benson made a motion to open the public hearing.

Patricia Jones 612 Carolina Beach Avenue North said that she is not in favor of spending \$239,000. There are other projects that the Town could use that money for. She asked that Council come up with a name for the trail.

Brad Hale 1416 Spot Lane would like to see the Town stay with the aluminum fence.

Deb LeCompte Charlotte Avenue said she is not in favor of putting a lot of money into a fence on property that the Town leases.

Patrick Boykin 702 Elton Avenue is in favor of the aluminum fence. He stated that the Solid Waste issue has not been fixed but finds it interesting that the Town can find the money for fencing upgrades.

David Coefield 1615 Spot Lane commented on the uniformity of the fence. He is in favor of the ornamental fence because of the lifetime warranty. His second choice is the black coated chain link.

Melanie Coefield 1615 Spot Lane said the black fence looks much better than the aluminum. She encouraged Council to think long term and uniformity.

Phil Roth 933 Carolina Sands Drive feels that a black fence will blend in well and you will not see it as much as the aluminum.

Jay Healy 701 Charlotte said that he is in favor of black chain link.

Heather Arnold 921 Carolina Sands Drive is not in favor of barbed wire.

Richard Cecelski said he is in favor of anything but barbed wire. He feels that the leases with MOTSU will be long term.

Jackie Ponzoni 1201 Canal Drive said she supports the black fence.

Mayor Benson made a motion to close the public hearing.

Council Member Garza said he was in favor of keeping what is currently approved. He feels the money could be used on other projects.

Council Member Shuttleworth reviewed the history on the process and said he is in favor of the black fence.

Council Member Pierce said she was never in favor of barbed wire. She would like to use the black fence.

MPT Bridges said that he is in favor of the black fence.

Mayor Benson stated that he gave Mr. Cramer an order to issue a stop order on the fence when he realized they were putting up barbed wire.

ACTION: Motion to approve the 8 foot, Class B 2-B fence for an additional cost of approximately \$176,123 for the Island Greenway and move forward with a budget amendment.

Motion: Steve Shuttleworth

Vote: UNANIMOUS

c. Public Hearing to Consider Reducing the Speed Limit on Cape Fear Boulevard to 25 mph

Michael Cramer presented a request to reduce the speed limit on Harper Avenue and Cape Fear Boulevard from 35 mph to 25 mph.

Mayor Benson made a motion to open the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Fred Grady 608 Cape Fear Boulevard said he is in favor of reducing the speed limit.

Deb LeCompte said that she is in favor of reducing the speed limit.

Patricia Jones said she requested years ago to have a sign coming onto the island saying welcome to a bicycle/pedestrian friendly beach.

Dorene Stanley 1201 St. Joseph Street said she is in favor of reducing the speed limit. She is also in favor of the signage at the start of the island.

Mayor Benson made a motion to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Pierce asked about the status of the signage she has been requesting.

Mr. Cramer said that he had been working on it before the storm came along.

Council Member Pierce asked about the billboard

Mr. Cramer said that it costs \$1,300 a month to advertise on billboard in front of Food Lion.

Council Member Garza stated that he is in favor of the 25 mph speed limit.

ACTION: Motion to approve Ordinance 18-1092 reducing the speed limit to 25 mph on Harper Avenue and Cape Fear Boulevard.

Motion: Steve Shuttleworth

Vote: UNANIMOUS

d. Public Hearing to Consider Closing a 15 foot Alley

Noel Fox presented the request to close the 15 foot alley owned by the Town of Carolina Beach that would be deeded to the Carolina Beach Presbyterian church.

On August 14, 2018, Council approved Resolution 18-2185 declaring the intent to close a 15 foot alley currently owned by the Town, located between two properties owned by the Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church (Parcel # R08813-008-001-000 and R08814-001-010-000). This Resolution was published in the Island Gazette on August 15, 22, 29, and September 5, 2018. A copy of Resolution 18-2185 was mailed certified to each owner of the abutting properties. Signs were posted in two locations along the alley in accordance to NCGS 160A-299.

Mayor Benson made a motion to open the public hearing.

No one spoke.

Mayor Benson made a motion to close the public hearing.

ACTION: Motion to approve Ordinance 18-1090 closing the 15 foot alley owned by the Town of Carolina Beach and amend the plat to be recorded.

Motion: Steve Shuttleworth

Vote: UNANIMOUS

7. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- a. Consider adopting resolution #18-2192 for purchase of a Street Sweeper

Mr. Cramer presented a request to purchase a street sweeper and sell the current one.

Council Member Pierce asked if the money from the sale of the current sweeper would be applied in full to the loan of the new sweeper.

Mr. Cramer replied that it could be put into fund balance or applied to the new loan.

Council Member Pierce requested that the money be applied to the loan.

ACTION: Motion to approve Resolution 18-2192 with the understanding that the proceeds from the current sweeper will be applied toward the new loan.

Motion: Tom Bridges

Vote: UNANIMOUS

- b. Appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission

ACTION: Motion to appoint John Ittu to serve an unexpired term that will expire on 6/30/2019.

Motion: Joe Benson

Vote: UNANIMOUS

8. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Council Member Pierce asked when recycling would be picked up.

Mr. Cramer replied, next week.

MPT Bridges said the Island Cottage is taking donations and giving away clothes for free.

Council Member Garza said he would like to see figures for the Harper Avenue Project.

Mr. Cramer said he could give a swag but there are a lot of variables.

Council Member Garza suggested that the duties of the EOC should be explained to residents. Some residents felt that Council was making the decisions during the storm such as curfews, bridge closures, etc. Most people don't understand Council's role during emergency events.

MPT Bridges stated that the community looked out for everyone. He feels that Carolina Beach was lucky and reminded everyone to take these storms seriously.

Mayor Benson asked for update on the proposed new grocery stores (Harris Teeter and Publix).

Ms. Fox said that she is working on examining the proposed record. The process has begun.

Mr. Cramer added that the demolition of property permit was issued just before storm. They are trying to finalize bids for demo. The Town has received plans for the building permit and they are currently being reviewed.

Mayor Benson asked for an update on the Hamlet Avenue restroom project.

Mr. Cramer stated that they have not received the shipment due to storm.

Council Member Garza said that he is disappointed that MPT Bridges did not post anything on Facebook while he was away during the storm.

MPT Bridges said he posted some but he couldn't pass along information that he didn't have.

9. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Closed Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter in Accordance to NCGS 143.318-11(a)(6)

Mayor Benson made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance to NCGS 143.318-11(a)(6).

Mayor Benson made a motion to return to open session at 10:30 pm.

Mayor Benson made a motion to terminate the employment contract with Michael B. Cramer effective immediately. Motion passed 4 to 1 with MPT Bridges voting no.

Mayor Benson made a motion to appoint the Assistant Town Manager Ed Parvin as Interim Manager. Motion carried unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Motion: Joe Benson

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Approved on November 13, 2018.

Recorded by: Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk