



CAROLINA BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES • JULY 26, 2016

Council Chambers **Workshop** **9:00 AM**

1121 N. LAKE PARK BLVD.
CAROLINA BEACH, NC 28428

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wilcox called the meeting to order.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dan Wilcox	Mayor	Present	
LeAnn Pierce	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Shuttleworth	Council Member	Present	
Tom Bridges	Council Member	Present	
Gary Doetsch	Council Member	Present	
Michael Cramer	Town Manager	Present	
Ed Parvin	Assistant Town Manager	Present	
Debbie Hall	Finance Director	Present	
Kim Ward	Town Clerk	Present	

II. AGENDA ITEMS

a. Phase B Sidewalks

(Requested by Michael Cramer, Town Manager's Office)

Michael Cramer reviewed sidewalk issues in Phase B and public concerns. Phase B currently has sidewalks from Fourth Street on both sides to Lake Park and to extend existing sidewalks up to Fifth Street on both sides. They will not extend to Dow Road. Project phases have been broken up into two categories, underground infrastructure (water, sewer and stormwater) and above ground infrastructure (design structure - sidewalks, landscaping, removal of trees in town's right-of-way, driveway aprons). The manager compiled comments from residents at the public hearings which were presented to council at the January 26th meeting. The contract was awarded based on doing the best to meet the needs of the public as well as staying on course. There was little public participation up to this point. July 7th was the pre-construction meeting and to show the public final plans. For the most part everything in the 400 block of the streets in red are anticipated to have connecting sidewalks from Fifth Street down to Fourth Street connectors to existing sidewalks. Phases C, D and E will all run through the same type of process. Phase B is oldest section of town. Existing sidewalks will have to be removed to replace underground infrastructure and replaced with 5 foot sidewalks which is NCDOT standard for pedestrian and ADA accessibility, etc. There is no grant funding. Everything we do now helps us in the future if we want to get additional grant funds for any pedestrian or ADA access. Intersection revamps will require ADA ramps whether there are sidewalks or not as well as new or additional driveway aprons. New sidewalks, 15 segments in that area which comprises 1/3 of sidewalk project, includes the 400 block of Monroe Avenue, Charlotte Avenue, Hamlet, Fayetteville and the 200 and 300 block of Atlanta and missing connectors. Sidewalks (including removal and replacement or new, grading, driveway cuts/aprons, ADA ramps etc.) comprise approximately 10% of project cost. The project does not put sidewalks on the

opposite side of Third, Fourth and Fifth, only on one side. Sidewalks on both sides of the street pertain to streets going east to west. TAP funds - leftover NCDOT funds used basically for intersection improvements or ADA ramp requirements which they can lose if not used. We can potentially put in for some of those funds through a grant. Removal of trees and landscaping in town right-of-way to eliminate maintenance issue in replacement of sidewalks/underground infrastructure - total of about 90 trees and bushes in right-of-way, 21 outside of construction limits, 16 can be transplanted, a total of 53 to be removed for the project. Parking - on street parking will remain available for Atlanta, Fayetteville, Hamlet, Charlotte, Raleigh and Monroe Avenues and 3rd, 4th and 5th Streets. Additional driveway aprons will be installed where none exist. Council can make changes as they desire.

Kevin Kesler, 317 Hamlet Avenue - concerned about trees, shrubs and sidewalks in the area. Recommended signage on the streets regarding project and include website.

Nancy Stout, 210 North 4th Street - asked about decision to place sidewalks on both sides of the street on some streets. There is a flooding problem on the 200 and 300 block of south Fourth Street on the west side and the 400 block of Fayetteville from Fourth to Fifth Street. (Brought pictures)

Becky Underwood, 410 Charlotte Avenue - brought petition with 235 signatures against sidewalks in all phases. She feels parking on the street is a safety issue.

Jeffrey Desantis, 306 Raleigh Avenue - spoke about commercial/tourist traffic in the neighborhood; would like to petition the town to make the east end of Raleigh Avenue a cul-de-sac to eliminate traffic; and possible removal of the large live oak tree on property line.

Tom Jennings, 415 Charlotte Avenue - spoke against the sidewalks. He asked about setback for sidewalks and right-of-way and also has a concern for the trees.

George Acker, 404 Sumter Avenue - asked about expense and what is net expense; solely using easement space.

John Hilker, 405 Fayetteville Avenue - concerned about sidewalks, flooding.

Beth Cleaveland, 418 Hamlet Avenue - spoke against new sidewalks, removal of landscaping, increasing parking.

Beth Stynchula, 505 Raleigh Avenue - spoke about bad links on town website and the confusion, driveway cuts, lighting.

Harriette Hilton, 312 Atlanta Avenue - spoke about greenway as path for children to take to school; against sidewalk on her side of the road; maintenance of town property; change of ambience.

Jamie Lookingbill, 309 Hamlet Avenue - concerned about drainage/flooding.

Sean Redding, 414 Fayetteville Avenue - spoke against new sidewalks.

Barry Fesler, 105 Lewis Avenue - asked about costs and increased taxes.

Council Member Doetsch recommended to the manager that staff look at those residents who have historically significant trees that may be removed, replacing

them elsewhere if possible.

MPT Pierce recommended residents notify the manager of any flooding or tree issues before construction starts.

Michael Cramer recommended bringing issue back at the August council meeting at which time council would need to make some decisions to be able to continue to move forward with the construction project - whether or not we repair and replace, whether or not we add new sidewalks or where.

MPT Pierce asked about staff contacting residents who specifically asked about trees before next meeting.

Council agreed.

b. Through Street and Stop Sign Regulations

(Requested by Michael Cramer, Town Manager's Office)

Michael Cramer gave overview of stop sign analysis, requests for stop signs and review of ordinance requirements (Sec. 16-10). Ordinance lists all locations for stop signs and identifies all through streets. This information was used to create a map of stop signs and through streets showing any anomalies for the entire community. Currently through streets tend to be north/south vs the original plan by COG which shows through streets going east/west in Wilmington Beach. One street is an anomaly which is Tennessee, the area of most complaints and where the stop signs should be. Five intersections were installed backwards, stopping traffic in the wrong direction. Staff solution is to adjust the code to read through streets are your primaries and all stop signs stop traffic on those intersections, at intersection of two through streets or a through street and a highway stop signs may be erected at all or any of either of the approaches of those streets. Documentation includes list of all stop sign locations. Staff would like to correct the five intersections by either putting them as four way stops or changing them to the appropriate through street stops and leaving the rest alone.

Council agreed with changes, staff will bring it back to the next meeting.

Mora, 104 Tennessee Avenue, thanked council/manager for fixing the issue.

c. Lake Park Crosswalks

(Requested by Michael Cramer, Town Manager's Office)

Michael Cramer - We have existing markings and signage at six intersections but low compliance. Locations at Hamlet and Atlanta have crosswalks with sidewalks which are in the Phase B project. Others are located at Carolina Sands, Tennessee, Ocean and Alabama. It is an enforcement and visibility issue. Solution - lighted crosswalk warning systems. NCDOT is amenable to systems if the town paid for it. Signs are solar powered. In the Phase B project we are looking to reconfigure the Atlanta intersection. Police have an educational and enforcement program, Watch For Me, for the public to motivate awareness. Hamlet and Lake Park, in Phase B, put crosswalks at all four legs of intersection, stop signs stay, add new flashing signals with pedestrian signals.

Council Member Doetsch mentioned the last two parking spaces heading north on Lake Park causes visibility issues. You may want to eliminate those two spaces.

Michael Cramer - We will look at taking away those parking spaces to improve visibility, we will also look at the big tree on the corner. We spoke to DOT about the

four way intersection at Lake Park and Atlanta. This location is on a curve and it is extremely dangerous. We suggested closing Atlanta on the east side so it is only a 3 leg intersection. You wouldn't be closing the street, you would just block access from Lake Park.

Mayor Wilcox recommended directional signage (lake area parking) at Lake Park and Fayetteville to turn there and come back into the parking lot.

Council Member Shuttleworth mentioned that it is very difficult to turn into Woody Hewett from Lake Park. He feels that it will impact the parking area.

The crosswalk at Carolina Sands is not really at the intersection. We would look at putting flashing signs on either side of that crosswalk. Same thing on Tennessee, Ocean and Alabama. Resources could come from TAP funds, otherwise costs of about \$40,000 could come from the parking revenue. Council agreed to move forward. Manager will bring a budget adjustment to the next meeting and then try it out. Temporary markings can be used.

Patrick Boykin, 712 Glen Avenue, If you don't do the LED signage and crosswalks at Lake Park and Atlanta, you need to look at putting in a street light. You can't see pedestrians at night.

d. Stormwater Regulation Discussion

(Requested by Michael Cramer, Town Manager's Office)

Item will be presented at next workshop due to time constraints.

III. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Kimberlee Ward
Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk

8.9.2016
Date Approved