



# CAROLINA BEACH

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES • JUNE 28, 2016

Council Chambers

Workshop

6:00 PM

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

**I. CALL 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. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. MOTSU Discussion

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

Michael Cramer provided an update on MOTSU property improvements: Water storage (3M gallon water tank), water supply (3 wells and associated infrastructure) and water treatment plant with administrative offices. MOTSU denied requests at this time. They will be updating their land use plan for all bordering communities to Sunny Point. The process timeframe is unknown. We anticipate MOTSU will look at existing leases/licenses we have and their impacts on their property as well as what we're asking for during that process. Approval documents for the greenway have not been received as yet.

Council Member Shuttleworth said we need to understand what impact we're having on their mission and what our legal rights are.

Mayor Wilcox asked for a summary to discuss with our representatives. He will call David Rouser to find out when he might be in town next to meet with them and how he might help them. He would like to forward the summary to him.

Michael Cramer will put the information together and send to council.

b. Volunteer Fire Fighter Benefits

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

Michael Cramer said because of the Affordable Health Care Act we are no longer able to provide benefits to volunteer fire fighters in the same manner as established in 2000. He and the Human Resources Director Holly Brooks have been working on how to retain the benefit for our volunteer fire fighters and meet the regulations.

Holly Brooks said prior to the use of full-time fire fighters, volunteers were mostly

used to supplement a small staff. We currently have a much larger full-time staff (9), and 3 part-time staff members. Group health insurance was offered to volunteers in the later 1990's and early 2000. In the spring of 2000, the insurance companies no longer allowed volunteers to remain on the group insurance plans as they did not meet the definition of an employee. 26 specifically named members were made eligible for a reimbursement expense as long as they continued to meet the criteria of being an active member on the Volunteer Fire Fighter Association roster sent to Raleigh annually. Since then, the eligible will submit their documentation to us in the payroll department and they receive a cash reimbursement of actual expense incurred, securing other health insurance outside up to a limit of about \$1,700 a quarter. To remain eligible the firefighter had to remain a member of the Volunteer Fire Fighter Association and continue all the required training, work the necessary hours, and attend monthly meetings to stay on the official roster filed annually with the state. At this time, there are only 2 remaining members on this reimbursement program and 1 that is currently a full-time employee. That person retains eligibility for this benefit. This gives a total of 3 remaining personnel. Person A brings in documentation for insurance received through their spouse and they are reimbursed on a quarterly basis. Person B is enrolled in our group health plan with Blue Cross. Person C is currently a full-time employee with the town, not currently a volunteer due to being full-time, but has never broken his service or removed his name off the roster submitted to the state. There are a few concerns. Person A - The Affordable Care Act specifically states penalties to an employer for providing a stipend to an employee for the purpose of purchasing health insurance benefits outside of the employer's Group Health Plan. He has over 20 years of service as volunteer and would meet the definition for retirement and drawing a retirement medical benefit with us. Person B - Does not meet definition of an employee but has over 25 years of service as a volunteer. The definition we have as an employee eligible to participate in our health plan is a full or part-time, benefit budgeted, person working 30 or more hours per week. They do not meet that criteria nor are they an elected official or officially retired from the town and drawing a retirement benefit. Person C - Actively and continually employed and continues to accrue service credit towards our normal 20 year retirement benefit for health insurance offered by the Town. He has 17 years of combined service as a volunteer and full-time employee. Considerations and options were reviewed. The 3 personnel involved have all been met with, the situation fully discussed and they are aware of what is being proposed.

Michael Cramer - 1, possibly 2 are considering retirement soon and would be dropping off of the active retirement list. The other is a full-time employee with us and their service time came with them. Staff is suggesting that we need to move this small group of 3 to a longevity stipend type of a program until they get to that point where they retire off the system completely. Person C, full-time employee receiving benefits, suggesting we continue to add their service time and include that with their volunteer service time.

Council agreed to the use of a longevity stipend of \$1,700 to be included in the July consent agenda.

c. Capital Project Budget Review

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

Michael Cramer will be bringing 7 or 8 of capital project budget accounts to set up at the July council meeting that are related to the revenue bonds. The packet contains the budget resolutions for those bonds.

Gil DuBois reviewed the following projects including the timeline for construction,

public outreach:

- 1 - WWTP outfall project; date to proceed is pending; contract is for 180 days; want to start land structures prior to September 15th deadline to help expedite project; project will not impact residents or businesses.
- 2 - EQ basin project will start by August 1st depending on delivery of material; contract is for 180 days, contractor thinks 100; does not impact general public.
- 3 - Directional drill on Driftwood at the lake from the upper end of Driftwood on the east side, under Lake Park into the lake to be able to discharge water, if needed, during an emergency event to prevent flooding; scheduled to begin on September 15th; would like to go back and talk to homeowners on Driftwood to possibly start earlier; project would take about 5 days; will meet with contractor this Thursday and will bring something back and do notifications to the public regarding start date, duration and impact. Drill will be staged at end of Driftwood and would have to block that road.
- 4 - Directional drill on Birmingham from Third to end and tied in to a line that dumps into Henniker's Ditch; planned start date July 11th; 75 day project; staging behind lift station 5; started talking with residents today on project, will do extensive door hangers and work with residents in the area and will put out information on the website and public notification this week on the project. Mud sifters will give off a vibration/sound for about 3 or 4 days.
- 5 - Lake dredging, received final approval for permits; working on where to put the slurry/cleaning up of material; work is still pending.
- 6 - Well 15, drilled many years ago, trying to get it done in conjunction with the Greenway path as it is in same proximity.
- 7 - Phase B, infrastructure and streetscape; planned start date July 18th; will be doing a mailing tomorrow for a public workshop on July 7th between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm to all property owners in the Phase B area; press release tomorrow also; info and map on website; notified school principal; proposed to start on Atlanta and do that section first and be out by August 15th; lay down will be fenced with visual barrier; will be updating budget previously adopted using same project account used before to deposit funds from revenue bonds.

Council Member Shuttleworth would like ongoing updates on project savings.

The town manager recommended including the 7 budget ordinances in the consent agenda for the July council meeting.

- 8 - MOTSU, environmental work; moving \$137,000 from the water/sewer fund balance; wells/test digs for contaminants; red circle area closed due to fuel contaminants; wells monitoring of ground water for blue circle area for a 4 quarter period (first quarter completed); removal of contaminated surface soil.
- 9 - Water/sewer/stormwater capital projects; first two projects the funding carried over to the next fiscal year, last two projects the funding transferred from the water/sewer fund balance in consent agenda for July (St. Joseph Street, Wilson/Goldsboro, Lighthouse Drive, Lake Park sinkhole). Sinkhole repair to begin Monday night, July 11th, and finished Tuesday night.

d. Harbor Discussion

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

Ed Parvin presented an update on the staff/Harbor Commission recommendations for management of the marina and mooring field. Request to staff to provide general cost numbers for marina to include staff and town management vs management company. Timeline's for action were provided.

**III. ADJOURN**

Mayor Wilcox would like a discussion on the mooring field before next season. He also commented on the parking problem with the multi-use path on Cape Fear.

Michael Cramer said there are two properties with insufficient room for driveway cuts and staff is working with the property owners to fix the situation. Police department is also working with offenders.

Council Member Bridges received a good report from the Lewis family on the wedding house which has had just renters and no noise problems. There is an issue between South Carolina and Texas, on Lake Park Boulevard because of the high number of rentals there with the pickup of recycling and trash fallout. He also mentioned he witnessed a golf cart on Dow Road causing a traffic jam this week and wanted staff to review the rules and enforcement.

**Motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

Kimberlee Ward  
Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk

7-12-2016  
Date Approved