

**APPROVED 5/10/2021**

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BEAUFORT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

*Due to the State of North Carolina's Declaration of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and per NCGS § 166A-19.24, the Town of Beaufort Board of Commissioners conducted a remote meeting using the Zoom application. Members of the Board of Commissioners participated in the meeting remotely.*

The Town of Beaufort Board of Commissioners met remotely for a regular meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Everette Newton presiding  
Mayor Pro Tempore Charles McDonald  
Commissioner Ann Carter  
Commissioner John Hagle  
Commissioner Sharon Harker  
Commissioner Marianna Hollinshed

Others Present: Town Manager John Day and Town Clerk and Assistant to the Town Manager Allen Coleman (All other staff members will be identified appropriately below)

Mayor Newton asked Town Clerk Allen Coleman to open the meeting to the public and provide public comment instructions.

Mayor Newton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and asked Town Clerk Allen Coleman to call the roll.  
Roll Call ensued.

**[AGENDA APPROVAL]**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hagle to approval the agenda as presented.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

**[PUBLIC COMMENTS]**

NONE

**[MANAGER'S REPORT]**

Manager Day said at this point everyone should be aware of the recent County Commissioners' discussions on sales tax distribution methods. He said the Board of County Commissioners received a request from some of the towns in the County to change the sales tax distribution from an ad valorem method, which is based on tax levy, and use instead a per capita method.

Manager Day said based on the latest numbers, if the sales tax distribution method changed to a per capita calculation, the Town of Beaufort would lose about 566,000. a year. He said in order to make up for that lose, a tax increase of 5.37 cents would be required. He said that is a significant increase and this issue was affecting many other towns in Carteret County.

Manager said last week the Board of County Commissioners voted to retain the ad valorem method of distribution, however, they have decided to discuss this matter again at their schedule March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. He said the County Commissioners would be hearing from two sets of speakers representing different positions of the various towns.

Manager Day said this was a very important issue for Beaufort and should the County Commissioners chose to change the method of distribution, that would negatively affect the Town causing property tax increases to cover the gap.

Manager Day said staff had been consumed with working on the items for the Commissioners Annual Retreat and the five-year financial plan. He said those items are not something that is usually ready until late April, but he was trying to push things up a great deal to allow the Board more time for discussion.

Manager Day said the numbers that will be presented to the Board at the retreat are in draft format and they will likely change before the recommended budget appears in May.

Commissioner Carter asked if the communities that were in favor of the sales tax distribution change were from the western part of the County.

Manager Day said yes.

Commissioner Carter asked if those Towns would gain that much from the change.

Manager Day said yes, there are significant gains. He said a listing was sent to the Board describing the impacts of the change.

Manager Day said some of the Towns would receive very small amounts, but asked the Board to remember, the current method is based on property tax levy and some of those towns do not have large property tax basis, plus their tax rates are low. He said the system that we have in place now, the larger the tax bases the higher the percentage rates.

Mayor Pro-Tempore McDonald asked if Manager Day had any ideas or inside thoughts on how the County Commissioners would vote on this change.

Manager Day said he was hesitant to speculate how the County Commissioners would vote.

Commissioner Hagle asked if Town Hall was ready to be opened.

Manager Day said the rails were installed and then removed because they had to be partially fabricated in place and then would need to be powder coated. He said the anticipated date from install and reopening was within the next two weeks.

## **[ITEMS OF CONSENT]**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hagle to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

## **VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

### **1. FY21 Audit Contract**

The Board voted to approve a three-year audit contract with Martin Starnes and Associates.

### **2. Minutes**

The Board voted to approve the draft minutes from the January 25 Virtual Work Session and February 8 Virtual Regular meeting of the Board of Town Commissioners as submitted by the Town Clerk.

**[PUBLIC HEARING]****1. Request to Rezone 502 Cedar Street from TR to CS-MU – Case No. 21-03**

The Board received the Planning Board/staff recommendation and conducted a public hearing on the rezoning request to add continuity to the 500 block of Cedar Street regarding the zoning of Mixed Use.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the January 19th meeting the Planning Board requested that staff submit a rezoning request for this parcel to add continuity to the 500 block of Cedar Street regarding the zoning of Mixed Use. Per the Planning Boards request staff is submitting 502 Cedar Street for rezoning from TR to CSMU.

At their February 15, 2021 meeting the Planning Board recommended unanimously to rezone 502 Cedar Street from TR to CS-MU.

Kyle Garner, Director of Planning and Inspections, presented the following PowerPoint presentation:

Slide #1



Case No.  
21-03  
Rezoning from TR to  
CS-MU

Slide #2

**Property Information**

**Request:** Rezone one lot totaling 15,143 sq. ft. from TR to CS-MU

**Applicant:** Town of Beaufort

**Location**            502 Cedar Street.

**Number of Properties**    1 Parcel

**Total Area**            .35 Acres Total (based on GIS data)

**Public Notice Information**

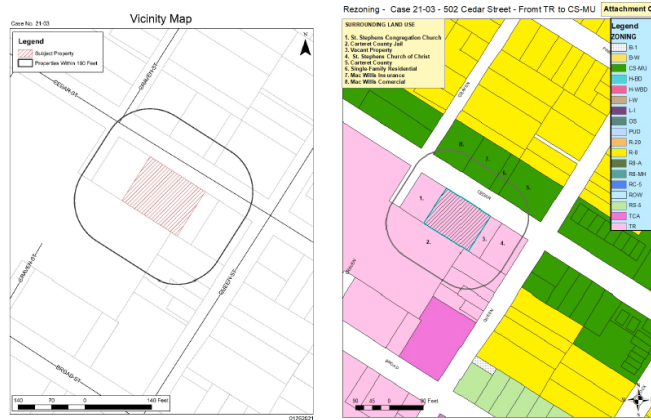
In accordance with NCGS 160A-384 and the **Town of Beaufort Land Development Ordinance**, **Public Notice** was provided via

**8** - Letters Mailed to property owners included in rezoning area and those within 100 feet.

**Legal Advertisement** – Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> & March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Slide #3

**Proposed Area for Rezoning**



Slide #4

**Project Facts**

- This site use to be part of the Congregational Church Property and was used as a school and seminary in the Mid 1800's. In recent years it has been a Bar-B-Que restaurant, Habitat for Humanity Outlet and most recently a Bail Bond office.
- At the January 2021 meeting staff was requested by the Planning Board to bring this property to public hear for a rezoning to CS-MU to make the 500 block zoning consistent.
- This rezoning **is** consistent with the 2006 CAMA Land Use Plan which specifically addresses the redevelopment of Cedar Street to Mixed Uses. This means an amendment to the CAMA **is not** needed.
- Town has been working with NCDOT to improve the infrastructure under Cedar Street to include elements of the Small Area Plan.

<b>Requested Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct Public Hearing to:</li> <li>• Approve the request; Deny the request; or Recommend a more restrictive zoning district.</li> <li>• Provide a consistency statement addressing the requested zoning amendment and the future land use plan.</li> </ul>
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Slide #5

**Consistency Statement**

The Planning Board must provide a consistency statement to the Board of Commissioners to support the request, recommend a more restrictive zoning classification, or deny the request as it relates to the surrounding land use development pattern and its relationship to the CAMA Land Use Plan.

In accordance with NCGS § 160A-383, the consistency statement must include one of the following:

- A statement recommending approval of the zoning amendment and describing its consistency with the CAMA Core Land Use Plan
- A statement recommending denial of the zoning amendment and describing its inconsistency with the CAMA Core Land Use Plan
- A statement recommending approval of the zoning amendment containing the following:
  - Declaration that the approval is also deemed an amendment to the CAMA Core Land Use Plan
  - An explanation of the change in conditions the board took into consideration when recommending approval

Consistency statement must **explain why** the action taken is reasonable and in the public interest

Commissioner Hagle said this property was also used by the BHA thrift store for a long time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollinshed to open the public hearing.  
Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Town Clerk Allen Coleman said no members of the public had signed up to speak on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollinshed to close the public hearing.  
Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

**2. Request to Rezone 823 West Beaufort Road from R-8 to B1 – Case No. 21-04**

The Board received the Planning Board/staff recommendation and conducted a public hearing on the request to rezone 823 West Beaufort Road from R-8 residential to B-1 General Business District.

**BACKGROUND:**

Janine Facciola is requesting to rezone 823 West Beaufort Road from R-8 Residential to B-1 General Business District. The Planning Board reviewed the request at the February 15, 2021 meeting and found the request consistent with the CAMA Future Land Use Map. 5/5 members present unanimously recommended approval of the request.

Kate Allen, Town Planner, presented the following PowerPoint presentation:

Slide #1

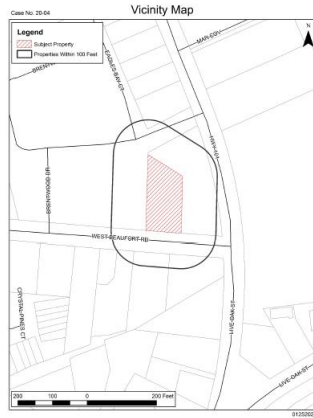


Case No. 21-04  
Request to Rezone  
823 West Beaufort Road from R-8 to B-1

Slide #2  
Public Notice

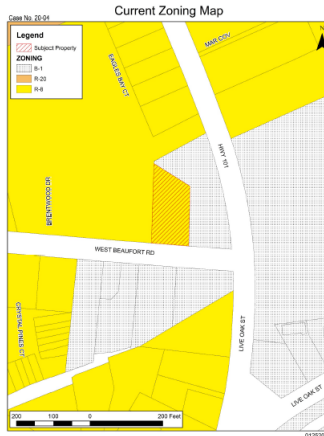


Legal Ad: Carteret News Times, February 24, 2021 & March 3, 2021  
Notice Letters: Mailed February 25, 2021  
Sign Posted: February 26, 2021



Slide #3  
Request & Property Information

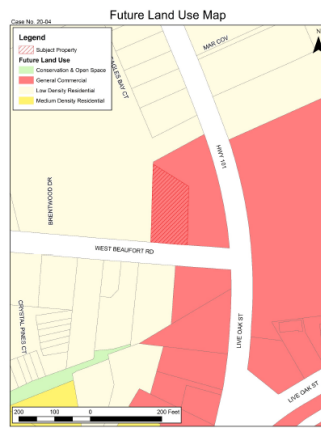
Property Information – 823 West Beaufort Road	
Current Zoning	R-8 Residential
Current Use	Residential
Lot Size	0.474 acres or 20,647.44 sq ft
Lot Dimensions	Front 100 ft.
	Side (west) 222 ft.
	Side (east) 167 ft.
	Rear 116 ft.
Request	Rezoned to B-1 General Business
Conforming Status	
Use	Conforming
Lot	Conforming
Structure(s)	Appear to be Conforming
Adjoining Land Use & Zoning	
North	R-8; Residential
South	B-1; Commercial
East	B-1; Commercial
West	R-8; Residential



Slide #4  
Future Land Use Classification & Planning Board Review

- The Future Land Use Map identifies the subject property as General Commercial
- If approved, the rezoning would not require an amendment to the CAMA Core Land Use Plan Future Land Use Map

The **Planning Board** reviewed the request at the February 15, 2021 meeting. The Board voted unanimously to **recommend approval** of the requested rezoning, as it found the request to be consistent with the CAMA Core Land Use Plan Future Land Use Map.



A motion was made by Commissioner Hollinshead to open the public hearing.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Town Clerk Allen Coleman said no members of the public had signed up to speak on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hagle to close the public hearing.  
Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

**3. Request to Rezone 1001 Cedar Street from R-8 to CS-MU – Case No. 21-02**

The Board received Planning Board/staff recommendation and conducted a public hearing on the request to rezone 1001 Cedar Street from R-8 Residential to CS-MU Cedar Street Mixed Use District.

**BACKGROUND:**

Property owner, Bradley Cummins, is requesting to rezone 1001 Cedar Street from R-8 Residential to CS-MU Cedar Street Mixed Use District. The Planning Board reviewed the request at the February 15, 2021 meeting and found the request consistent with the CAMA Future Land Use Map. 5/5 members in attendance unanimously recommended approval of the request.

Kate Allen, Town Planner, presented the following PowerPoint presentation:

Slide #1



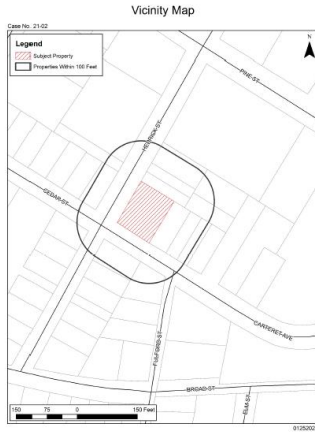
Case No. 21-02  
Request to Rezone  
1001 Cedar Street from R-8 to CS-MU

## Slide #2

### Public Notice



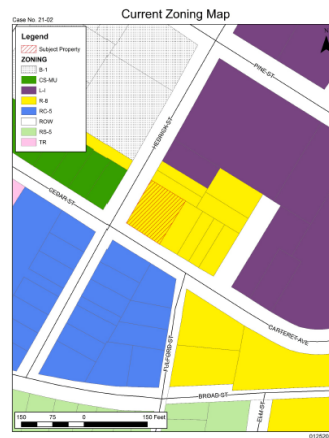
Legal Ad: Carteret News Times, February 24, 2021 & March 3, 2021  
 Notice Letters: Mailed February 25, 2021  
 Sign Posted: February 26, 2021



## Slide #3

### Request & Property Information

Property Information – 1001 Cedar Street	
Current Zoning	R-8 Residential
Current Use	Residential
Lot Size	0.244 acres or 10,645 ft <sup>2</sup>
Lot Dimensions	Front (Cedar) 97.88 ft.
	Side (Hedrick) 107.53 ft.
	Side 108.21 ft.
	Rear 99.67 ft.
Request	Rezone to CS-MU
Conforming Status	
Use	Conforming
Lot	Conforming
Structure(s)	Ex. Non-Conforming
Adjoining Land Use & Zoning	
North	R-8 & L-I Residential
South	RC-5 Residential
East	R-8 & L-I Residential
West	CS-MU Residential

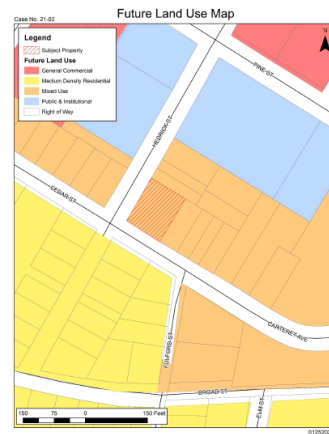


## Slide #4

### Future Land Use Classification

- The Future Land Use Map identifies the subject property as Mixed Use
- If approved, the rezoning would not require an amendment to the CAMA Core Land Use Plan Future Land Use Map

The Planning Board reviewed the request at the February 15, 2021 meeting. The Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the requested rezoning, as it found the request to be consistent with the CAMA Core Land Use Plan Future Land Use Map.



Commissioner Hollinshed asked if staff had received any feedback from adjoining landowners since this is an insertion here.

Kate Allen said no, she had not received any phone calls.

Commissioner Hagle said North Hedrick along Cedar was rezoned to Cedar Street mixed use, but to the east of this property it was still zoned residential. He said if there was any discussion on the Planning Board about the boundary between Cedar Street mixed use and the residential area that is in this area.

Commissioner Hagle said the rezoning makes use amidst other things besides residential.

Kate Allen said no, not in this case.

Commissioner Hagle asked if from a professional planner standpoint, if this was something to be considered or at least under discussion about the terms of a boundary between those kinds of two zones since they are somewhat different.

Kate Allen said the two zones are designed to be fairly compatible as this would be considered a transitional district, if you will.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollinshed to open the public hearing.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

#### **VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Town Clerk Allen Coleman said no members of the public had signed up to speak on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harker to close the public hearing.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

#### **VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hagle to place all three public hearing items above on the March 22, 2021 work session agenda.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

#### **VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

### **[ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION]**

#### **1. Sewer Allocation Request – 803 Deerfield Drive, Beaufort, NC (Deerfield Shores Subdivision)**

The Board considered the Sewer Allocation Request for property located at 803 Deerfield Drive, subject to the payment of the reservation fee.

Greg Meshaw, Town Engineer, presented the following information:

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Mr. Herbert Ridgeway IV of Raleigh, NC has formally requested that 360 gallons per day (gpd) of sewer capacity be reserved for 803 Deerfield Drive in the Deerfield Shores subdivision. This

parcel is not among the 30 properties which the Town accepted as customers upon transfer of the collection system by the Deerfield Shores Utility Company, Inc. As such, granting of the requested allocation must be by the Board of Commissioners.

It is understood from Mr. Ridgeway that he and his wife purchased the parcel during late November. It is also understood that they are currently working with a design firm to develop plans for a house to be built on the parcel. Since the plans are in-process the Ridgeways are not ready to build the house. Nonetheless, the Ridgeways desire to reserve allocation so that it will be in place when they are ready to connect to the Town's collection system especially since the parcel is reportedly unsuitable for an onsite septic tank system.

A request for reservation of sewer capacity for future use is deemed a Level 4 priority by the Town's Wastewater Allocation Policy. If approved, a non-refundable reservation fee equivalent to twenty percent of the applicable sewer system development fee must be paid. Additionally, Priority Level 4 projects have twenty-four months to receive all approvals, certifications, and/or permits to begin construction. Otherwise, the allocation reverts to the Town, provided that the Board of Commissioners does not grant an extension.

Commissioner Carter asked how many applications has the Town received since this process started.

Greg Meshaw said this one plus the next one tonight makes a total of three. He said he received a phone call for somebody else who may be interested in a sewer allocation.

Mayor Pro-Tempore McDonald asked if the Town would have enough allocation availability to handle the additional application requests.

Greg Meshaw said yes.

Mayor Pro-Tempore McDonald asked if this would be the maximum available.

Greg Meshaw said no, currently we have enough reservation for approximately 11 more houses.

Commissioner Hollinshed asked if an explanation and purpose of the reservation fee could be given to remind the public what exactly this is.

Greg Meshaw said the reservation fee is a fee that an individual would have to pay to reserve sewer when you're not yet ready to build. He said the Town wanted to ensure there is capacity in place for the next two years so that hopefully we can be ready to go.

Commissioner Hollinshed said the Town is under no obligation to extend the reservation passed the two-year mark. She said since this option is becoming popular it is important to note there are safeguards in place to prevent the Town from reaching capacity and over allocation.

Greg Meshaw said yes, that is why the Board approved a policy with a two-year reservation cut-off so individuals would not tie up capacity for ad infinitum, that could be used by others who are ready to go.

Commissioner Hagle said this policy was designed to be a two-year use or lose it type arrangement.

Greg Meshaw said that was correct, unless the Board chooses to extend the range.

Commissioner Hagle said he appreciated the strong policy that was in place. He said others may step forward and use the capacity we have and once the Town reaches capacity that was it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hagle to approve the sewer allocation request to reserve 360 gallons per day (gpd) of sewer capacity for 803 Deerfield Drive in the Deerfield Shores subdivision.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS****2. Sewer Allocation Request – 504 Island Drive, Beaufort, NC (Deerfield Shores Subdivision)**

The Board considered the Sewer Allocation Request for property located at 504 Island Drive, subject to the payment of the reservation fee.

**BACKGROUND:**

Mr. Harold A. Booth of Beaufort, NC has formally requested that 360 gallons per day (gpd) of sewer capacity be reserved for 504 Island Drive in the Deerfield Shores subdivision. This parcel is not among the 30 properties which the Town accepted as customers upon transfer of the collection system by the Deerfield Shores Utility Company, Inc. to the Town. As such, granting of the requested allocation must be by the Board of Commissioners.

There is no existing structure on the parcel. Town staff also understands that Mr. Booth does not currently have plans to construct a residence on the parcel. Nonetheless, Mr. Booth desires to reserve allocation so that it will be in place when he or another future owner is ready to connect to the Town's collection system.

A request for reservation of sewer capacity for future use is deemed by the Town's Wastewater Allocation Policy to be a Level 4 priority when considering allocation requests. If approved, a nonrefundable reservation fee equivalent to twenty percent of the applicable sewer system development fee must be paid. Additionally, Priority Level 4 projects have twenty-four months to receive all approvals, certifications, and/or permits to begin construction. Otherwise, the allocation reverts to the Town, provided that the Board of Commissioners does not grant an extension.

Commissioner Carter asked if the individual was prepping this land for sale.

Greg Meshaw said that was likely the possibility.

Mayor Pro-Tempore McDonald asked the reason for the difference in 380 gallons and 360 gallons.

Greg Meshaw said both requests were for 360 gallons.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hagle to approve the sewer allocation request to reserve 360 gallons per day (gpd) of sewer capacity for 504 Island Drive in the Deerfield Shores Subdivision.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS****3. Appointments to Volunteer Advisory Board and Commission Positions**

The Board reviewed applications received for the vacant positions on the various Town's Volunteer Advisory Boards and Commissions and voted to appoint five individuals for three-year terms.

**BACKGROUND:**

One major way residents can have a positive impact on the future of the Town of Beaufort is volunteering to serve on various Town advisory boards and commissions. As of January 31, 2021, four vacancies existed for the following:

- Board of Adjustments – 2 positions

- Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) – 2 positions
- Planning Board – 1 position

Active recruitment for the four vacant positions began in January, 2021 with an application deadline of Monday, February 15, 2021. In an effort to increase public participation and awareness, Town staff used the Carteret County News Times, Facebook, and the Sunshine List to advertisement the position vacancies and to encourage a diverse group of applicants.

As of Monday, February 15, 2021, twelve applications were received, and they are:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Board of Adjustments</b>	<b>Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)</b>	<b>Planning Board</b>
Barry Evans	X		X
Becky Bowler		X	X
Bradley Cummings	X	X	X
Bradley Hedrick		X	
Catherine Reeve	X		
<b>Heather Poling (Incumbent)</b>		X	
Howard Paul			X
Ian Huckabee		X	
Jared Penland		X	X
John Flowers		X	
Phillip Coe		X	X
<b>Ralph Merrill (Incumbent)</b>			X

Of the four vacant positions, two individuals are seeking re-appointment for a three-year term, expiring on January 2024.

Each applicant's submitted application is included as part of this agenda item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harker to open nominations for the primary position on the Board of Adjustments.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

#### **VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Commissioner Carter nominated Catherine Reeve.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hagle to close nominations for the primary position on the Board of Adjustments.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

#### **VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Mayor Newton asked the Board to consider voting to appoint Catherine Reeve to the primary position on the Board of Adjustments.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Harker to open nominations for the alternate position on the Board of Adjustments.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Commissioner Carter nominated Barry Evans.

Commissioner Hollinshed nominated Barry Evans.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hagle to close nominations for the alternate position on the Board of Adjustments.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Mayor Newton asked the Board to consider voting to appoint Barry Evans to the alternate position on the Board of Adjustments.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Harker to open nominations for the first vacant position on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Commissioner Hagle nominated John Flowers.

Commissioner Hollinshed nominated John Flowers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carter to close nominations for the first vacant position on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Mayor Newton asked the Board to consider voting to appoint John Flowers to the first vacant position on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).

Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Harker to open nominations for the second position on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Commissioner Hagle nominated Bradley Cummins.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carter to close nominations for the second position on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Mayor Newton asked the Board to consider voting to appoint Bradley Cummins to the second position on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Harker to open nominations for the position on the Planning Board.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Commissioner Hagle nominated Ralph Merrill.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harker to close nominations for position on the Planning Board.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

Mayor Newton asked the Board to consider voting to re-appoint Ralph Merrill to the position on the Planning Board.

Mayor Newton call each Commissioner by name (roll call).  
Roll call ensued.

**VOTE: UNANMIOUS**

**[MAYOR/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS]**

Commissioner Hollinshed said she would like to thank everyone who applied for the various positions as it was nice to have a large group of applicants to chose from.

Commissioner Hollinshed said that four Commissioners attended an evaluating the manager and Board performance session at the School of Government. She asked the manager's evaluation item be placed on the next work session's agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Hollinshed said today was International Women's Day so all women should celebrate that and remember the many women who paved the way to give us the right to vote and do other things.

Commissioner Hagle said on March 8, 1884, capping two days of testimony in Congress, Susan B. Anthony appeared before the House Judiciary Committee on this date in 1884, arguing in favor of granting women the right to vote. He said a day earlier, Anthony had testified before the Senate Select Committee on Women's Suffrage, but Anthony would not see quick action by either the House or the Senate. He said it would take Congress another 35 years to finally approve the idea, as the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granting women the right to vote would not be ratified before the states until 1920, 14 years after Anthony died.

Commissioner Hagle said that was just a little bit of history. He said this date was very important to him as he had a lot of great women in his life including his wife, his mother, two grandmothers, his sister, and his aunts. He said they all meant a lot to him in his life and helped him to be who he was today.

Commissioner Hagle said an article in the national newspaper last week revealed that last year, even during the pandemic, accident rates were higher and particularly traffic accident deaths were much higher. He said the highest third quarter in 2020 since 2008 and some of the possible causes according to this article was high speed, not wearing seat belts, and distracted driving. He said focus should be on your driving.

Commissioner Harker said thank you to Allen for casting a wide net for applicants for our volunteer board, because it seemed to have worked and really paid off. She said she wanted to thank the many applicants that have actually put their name out there to be on our many volunteer boards and to not give up; keep your name out there and congratulations to those that were able to make it.

Commissioner Harker said since 1987, the month of March has been declared annually by President Proclamation as Women's History Month in the United States and is dedicated to reflecting on the numerous but often overlooked contributions of women such as Abigail Adams, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and many more. She said thank you to the many women that have paved the way for other women like herself to make significant contributions to our society.

Mayor Newton said March 1st was a big day in Carteret County and in Beaufort. He said on March the 1st, for the first time since October 9th, Carteret County COVID-19 numbers were below 100. He said as of last Friday, there were 54, today they're at 61. He said please don't stop using your social distancing, your masks, and your hygiene measures that we know have been successful. He said we're getting closer, but still we have a lot of work to do and he was just thrilled to hear and see people that are getting their vaccinations there.

Mayor Newton said in addition March 1<sup>st</sup> was also a big day because the Beaufort Commissioners approved up to 30 million dollars in infrastructure repairs. He said this is a lot of hard work from the town staff, with Greg leading the way to get these loans and grants to fix our infrastructure.

Mayor Newton said he deeply appreciated the commissioners, their passion for making these repairs, and the professionalism of our town staff to find a way to fix this infrastructure, because not only is this about fixing the stormwater, the sewer, the water pipes, which will fix the potholes, but it will also help us clean up our waterways, which is always a great thing.

## **[ADJOURN]**

A motion was made by Commissioner Harker to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Newton called the roll.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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Everette "Rett" Newton  
Mayor

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Allen Coleman  
Town Clerk