



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting 6:00 PM Monday, October 11, 2021 - Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Minutes

Call to Order

Mayor Newton called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Elizabeth Lewis, Town Clerk, called the roll.

PRESENT

Mayor Newton
Commissioner Carter
Commissioner Hagle
Commissioner Harker
Commissioner Hollinshed
Commissioner McDonald

Agenda Approval

Mayor Newton asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Hollinshed requested to add an additional item to the agenda regarding the Food and Wine Tent.

Mayor Newton suggested this item be added on the agenda as number six, under items for discussion and consideration.

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Voting Yes: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter

Presentations

1. Plastic Free by the Sea

Douglas Doubleday who resides at 114 Crystal Pines Court in Beaufort, gave the presentation.

Mr. Doubleday informed the audience he is a current member of The Croatan Group of the Sierra Club, which has recently developed a sub-group called, Plastic Free by the Sea. He referenced an article written by Mayor Newton in the Town's March 2021 newsletter that suggested a culture change was the answer to the trash on the streets and waterways. Mr. Doubleday said, Plastic Free by the Sea has a mission to help reduce the amount of single use plastics that are entering oceans, sounds and estuaries; as these plastic materials degrade into microplastics, which have unfortunately become pervasive throughout the world's oceans, sounds and rivers. He also shared that the average human consumption of these microplastics is equal to a credit card piece of plastic each week and can remain in the organs long-term. Mr. Doubleday said microplastics and microfibers have also been found in the sewage waters flowing into treatment plants, indicating humans are consuming measurable amounts of these materials. He shared that Rebecca Drohan, Waterkeeper of Coastal Carolina Riverwatch, received a grant from the state and has recently initiated a Water Quality for Fisheries Program (WQ4F), Water Quality for Fisheries Program (WQ4F), that among other actions will be measuring the amount of plastic in our local waters. Mr. Doubleday said they would like to work with the Town of Beaufort and other organizations and businesses, on an initiative to change the culture of single use plastics in our community and local area; we will expand our efforts as we gain credibility and corporation, much as we did during the "Don't Drill NC" program, that became so successful in Beaufort and across all of North Carolina. Mr. Doubleday ended his presentation with a video that summarized the worldwide single use plastic problem. He suggested one way to proceed in working together is for the Town to publish regular informational public service articles from, Plastic Free by the Sea, in the monthly newsletter. Another way could be for the town to recognize the growing number of local businesses obtaining OFE certifications, which stands for Ocean Friendly Establishment. On behalf of the group, Plastic Free by the Sea, Mr. Doubleday encouraged the Town and others to adopt OFE practices.

Mayor Newton asked if there were any questions or comments on the presentation.

Commissioner Hagle said it was a good presentation; it was a tough problem that has been around a long time, with a lot of pieces.

Commissioner Hollinshed said it was an interest of hers, but she did not have any comments.

Commissioner McDonald had no comments.

Commissioner Harker said it was a great presentation, littering and marine debris is definitely something that is preventable. Messaging is a good way to start, and she liked the idea of getting that information out to the citizens.

Commissioner Carter said good presentation, it is a problem, and they will try to help anyway they can.

Public Comment

Mayor Newton asked if there was anybody signed up for public comment.

There was one person; Harriet Altman, 103 Leonda Drive in Beaufort.

Ms. Altman said she was on the committee with Doug Doubleday. She thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity they had given him to present. She expressed her desire to have the Commissioners and Town partner with them in efforts to have a larger impact, working together. Ms. Altman said she had spoke with Mayor Newton before, and she knew that the Commissioners and many Beaufort residents were very concerned about our environment. She added that it would be great for Beaufort to be a Town known for their dedication in protecting waterways, wildlife and encouraging others to do so as well. She pointed out, the Town is growing expediently, and it is a critical time to set an example for what they stand for, by having a message to guide the visitors and influence people to change the culture of this issue.

Manager Report

Town Manager, John Day, reported the Town had hired 4 new employees since the last meeting. New employees are as follows: Elizabeth Lewis, Town Clerk; Cherelle Vann, Utility Building Specialist; Aaron Winn, Maintenance Technician; Brandon Ellison, Maintenance Technician.

Manager Day reported that the dredge did arrive from the Corp of Engineers and finished up the project at Bulkhead Channel on October 10, 2021.

Manager Day informed the group of a public meeting on October 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., regarding the Land Use Plan. He encouraged everyone who can participate to do so, as the Land Use Plan is very important, and reminded them the link to the meeting was on the Town's website, under the calendar section.

Mayor Newton asked if there were any questions or comments.

Commissioner Hagle had no comments.

Commissioner Hollinshed asked, in reference to the Manager's Report sent out the week prior, if there was any kind of schedule for the paving of the road by the property next to Food Lion.

Manager Day said the contract is valid, but they are waiting to hear from the contractor regarding a date they are going to start the job, hopefully it will be soon. He added this will be an opportunity for the road to be named by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Hollinshed also asked for clarification between the CAMA Land Use Plan and the LDO, as many people think they are one in the same.

Manager Day responded by explaining currently the Town has a Land Development Ordinance that is going to be replaced by something called a Unified Development Ordinance, which takes all those ordinances that have to do with the way land is developed, the Subdivision Ordinance for example, and compiles it together in one place. Those are the regulatory documents that explain zoning, setbacks, and other details regarding development. The CAMA Land Use Plan itself is an overall guiding document, it has some aspirational elements to it, as things that are hoped to be achieved in upcoming years. It states the hopes of the land use plan, what the Town will end up looking like in the upcoming years; this one will also include a resilience section. Manager Day added the Town did receive a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality, so there can be a focus on resilience as it relates to the environment.

Commissioner Hollinshed asked if somebody would explain this again at the beginning of the public meeting.

Manager Day said absolutely, he would make sure that happens.

Commissioner McDonald had no comments.

Commissioner Harker had no comments.

Commissioner Carter had no comments.

Items of Consent

1. Minutes

Rachel Johnson, Deputy Clerk, informed the Mayor and Commissioners that the agenda included minutes from the September 13th and 27th meetings, as well as the June 14th and 28th meetings. Ms. Johnson said the September dates needed to be removed from the items of consent.

Mayor Newton asked if there was a motion to approve the items of consent.

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to approve the items of consent.

Voting Yes: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter

Items for Discussion and Consideration

1. COVID Numbers in Carteret County, Mask Ordinance Discussion, Returning to In-Person Meetings, Employee Emergency Medical Leave Check-In

Mayor Newton reported that currently Carteret County had 179 active COVID cases, an active positivity rate of 8.8% and 12 hospitalizations; North Carolina's active positivity rate was 7.75%

Mayor Newton suggested the best method to discuss returning to in-person meetings would be going down the roster to hear from each Commissioner.

Commissioner Hagle said he would like to establish a date to return to in-person meetings, as many other organizations have already returned. He suggested they establish protocol to ensure everyone who attends is safe. He said he really felt it was time to set a target date to return to in-person meetings and suggested the hybrid option be available as well.

Mayor Newton reminded the Commissioners that the Board of Education has set a 5% active positivity rate as the benchmark for dropping their mask mandate.

Commissioner Hagle said he would still like to establish a target date; guidelines of social distancing can be followed.

Manager Day informed the group that he contacted the group that is going to be setting up the Train Depot for the hybrid meetings, he has not heard back from them regarding a setup date but will pass that information along as soon as he is made aware.

Commissioner Hollinshed said she would like to see the target go to November and keep an eye on the numbers. She added that the 5% also includes a large portion of ages 12 and under that cannot be vaccinated. She said she would like to work towards a target and the remote option. Commissioner Hollinshed also added she would like to see the Town wide mask mandate removed or examined. She added she thinks mask are very effective and those who choice to wear one will, but those who do not are causing some issues with businesses.

Mayor Newton said he would circle back to the mask mandate topic after they finished discussing in-person meetings.

Commissioner McDonald said he went along with discussing it at November's meeting.

Commissioner Harker said she thought they needed to start discussing getting back to into face-to-face meetings, but she pointed out this would be translated down to some of the volunteer boards. She said they needed to come up with a plan because some of the boards would be talking about topics where there would be a lot of people that will want to gather; it would be hard to accommodate the larger groups some of these subjects will bring.

Commissioner Carter said while she agrees that getting back is something to aspire to, there is still an active rate of about 7-8%; which is still pretty high. She said they were not getting a great deal of cooperation with the mask mandate, but they needed to look carefully before leaping, as winter is coming, and a lot of people are going to be inside which could possibly increase the rate. She added they needed to be careful getting back into open meetings.

Mayor Newton said they would certainly discuss this again at the October Work Session, and moved on to discuss the Employee Emergency Medical Leave Check-In.

Commissioner Hagle said he still agrees that the leave should only apply to the people who are vaccinated.

Commissioner Hollinshed said she agrees, those who are vaccinated can participate.

Commissioner McDonald said yes.

Commissioner Harker said she thought they should keep it in place and asked Manager Day if this being in place had acted as an incentive for anyone to take the vaccine and if so, have we made it available for the staff that want to take it.

Manager Day said he had one employee who said he would have taken the vaccine had he known this was in place, even though the information was made available to all employees. He added he thought it was a good thing to continue, because he knows there are several people who have gotten the vaccine since it was put in place.

Commissioner Carter said to leave it in place because she thought they needed to do everything possible to keep their people safe.

Mayor Newton moved to the Mask Ordinance Discussion.

Commissioner Hagle said he agreed with Commissioner Hollinshed, some people are wearing the mask, some are not, depending on where you go. He said he was neutral on the topic and could go either way.

Commissioner Hollinshed said she thought it should be examined at the work session, as mentioned the flu season is coming soon and the mask do protect from airborne particles. She added she wore one and that it was her choice, to protect the people she is around.

Commissioner McDonald said because they are making decisions about the mask mandate, they should be the first to follow the rules in place.

Commissioner Harker said she thought they should lift the mandate; she was fine with putting the mandate in at the time, when there were more triggers, and the transmission rate was at 16% with a tremendous amount of deaths. She added those numbers have cut in half and the deaths have reduced from the time the mandate was put into place. She said personal responsibility is going to have to take place at this point in time. She also stated that people are beginning to wear their mask appropriately and those who do not wish to do so, that is by their choice, but at this point the mandate is not going to yield the results in which we think it should, causing more divide than it is compliance.

Commissioner Carter said she would have to agree with Commissioner Harker, and at this point she would recommend taking away the mandate.

Mayor Newton said there was a consensus to repeal the mask mandate and asked for a motion in that effect.

Commissioner Hagle made the motion to repeal the mask mandate and added their should be a date established.

Commissioner Carter and Commissioner Harker both responded with immediately.

Commissioner Hagle amended the motion to include, repeal of the mask mandate, effective immediately.

Voting Yes: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter

2. Traffic Calming Turner & Broad Streets

Sam Bell, Assistant Town Engineer, explained how increased traffic and the wearing down of existing pedestrian crossings presented a potential problem at Turner & Broad Street. Mr. Bell offered two options for the traffic calming at the intersection. These options were a raised crosswalk, or a four-way stop. Similar in both options were: remarking the four crossings, providing warning signs incoming traffic and rumble strips. Mr. Bell also mentioned the option of relocating the driveway that exits on Broad Street, into the

courthouse area. He said these combined elements will help increase pedestrian visibility as well as slowing incoming traffic, creating a safer area.

Mayor Newton thanked Mr. Bell for the presentation and asked the Commissioners if there were any questions or comments.

Commissioner Hagle said he did not like the four-way stop because traffic will back up in front of the courthouse, causing a potential problem. He said that he did like the marked crosswalks, and he thought the bump outs would help greatly. He added that he didn't particularly like the raised crosswalks, but it was probably the best option to slow traffic down, unless they wanted to try it with just the marked crosswalks and bump outs. Between the two options, the raised crosswalk was his choice.

Commissioner Hollinshed said she liked the raised crosswalk, not the four-way stop. She said she wondered if the plan was depended on the participation of the county for it to come to fruition. She suggested having some sort of signage that was eye-catching would be beneficial, maybe a flashing warning light or something to that effect.

Commissioner McDonald said he was confused on the intent of this; was it to redirect or slow traffic down. He added what works to slow vehicle traffic might not work to slow pedestrian traffic, especially with US Highway 70 being so close to the area. He said he did not think either one of the options would be effective; he suggested it needed some more studying because whatever is done there will cause a backup somewhere else. He asked if the goal was to redirect, slow or stop traffic.

Mr. Bell said it was a busy intersection that caused a bottleneck when it was busy. He said the courthouse driveway did present a lot of problems because it is so close to the intersection itself; moving it would help with the flow of traffic. He said the main goals for the project include improving pedestrian safety and maintaining better traffic flow with safe speeds. He added that another option with the driveway, depending entirely on Carteret County's involvement, would be turning the driveway into "one way" out, which should help the flow of traffic.

Commissioner McDonald said he had no more questions.

Commissioner Harker said she liked option one, without the four stop signs. She also said she liked the fact that no matter what happens, improvements will be made to pedestrian walkways because that needs to be done. She had some concerns about the raised crosswalk, that they may slow traffic too much and suggested an analysis of those be conducted. She asked if there were any kind of temporary bumps that could be put there to test the theory before it is made permanent.

Mr. Bell said he could certainly look into that; he would check with Greg and Mark at Public Works to see if anything is currently available or if there was something they could purchase.

Commissioner Carter said she did not like the four-way stop option, it would create a bottle neck area and it is already a problem when court is released. She liked the idea of having the crosswalks marked clearly and thought it would offer a big help. She said moving the driveway into the courthouse could help but she wouldn't want to do anything to disturb the trees. She added that a temporary raised crosswalk might be helpful on Turner Street, but she did not think it would be needed on Broad Street.

Mayor Newton recapped the discussion, specifically the questions about the temporary raised crosswalk, and asked if there was a consensus to allow Sam to do a little more research, reach out to the Public Works division and then report back at the work session, in hopes they could then finalize a plan.

Commissioner Hagle suggested trying a regular crosswalk, versus a raised crosswalk, and said that the bump out areas will calm traffic down because of the reduction of about a foot. He also said the crosswalks should be marked regardless; but the slight reduction of road width in a couple areas is a good way to remedy the problem without any other kind of devices. He added he did not think added some type of barrier would show you anything.

Commissioner Hollinshed said she would like to see how the rumble strips worked, if they would slow traffic enough, and mark the intersections better.

Commissioner Hagle said one other option would be to temporarily not install the new curb and gutter on the south side of that intersection, and just put a crosswalk there with the curb and gutter as it is. He said that might slow it down and you could always come back and add the curb, gutter and raised crosswalk if that does not work. He added that it would not change the width of the road any, it would just mark the crosswalk with some warning signs to please slow down.

Commissioner Carter said to remember when you turn with that bump out, it is throwing traffic further into the road itself.

Commissioner Hagle said he was suggesting do not put the raised crosswalk, just mark the current crosswalk.

Commissioner Carter said she was talking about the bump outs.

Commissioner Hagle said the bump outs are needed for pedestrian traffic at that intersection; hopefully the county will make that little change in the road.

Commissioner Carter said when you are coming around that corner, it throws your vehicle out further into the traffic lanes; so that needs to be kept in mind when considering those bump outs, same going the other way.

Commissioner McDonald said he thought the county was satisfied with the way it is now; he did not hear them complaining about how it functions in those areas. He said he thought Beaufort needed to look at this closely, as the area consisted of the courthouse, churches, and the food market; which many of those people walk to and from those places. He again asked what the intent was at the intersection.

Mayor Newton responded that the intent is to slow down traffic through there and to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety, as there have been multiple reports of people going through the intersection at a high speed.

Commissioner Harker referred to her original comments; the pedestrian part needs to be done and there can be some temporary things done without having to spend a lot of money. She said even though the bump outs are only a few feet, it could help slow some of the traffic down. She asked Mr. Bell about the bump out by the courthouse and if the county did not want to move the driveway, was it an absolute deal breaker for the bump out landing to go across to the other side.

Mr. Bell said it would be really nice to be able to do it, because the way it is not the driveway covers up some of the sidewalk. He said the bump out would not change the parking lot at all, it just changes ingress.

Commissioner Harker said it does seem like the driveway is encroaching on the sidewalk. She said the pedestrian portion definitely needs to be done. If some of the bump outs could be placed on both sides to slow traffic, the raised crosswalks might not be necessary, and the rate of which traffic flows could be monitored in the meantime. She said the rumble strips could be another way of alerting drivers, as well as strategically placing signage in the area.

Mr. Bell added there are a few raised crosswalks in Beaufort already; from his observation, they have made a difference. He also said with this particular design, there are already a lot of elements that could help with traffic calming, like the bump outs and the warnings; the raised crosswalks would be for a maximum effect.

Commissioner Carter said again, be careful when you put the bump out there because when you have all that traffic exiting the courthouse they are going to stack up in one corner and it will really slow the flow of traffic. She said the raised area works good as long as it is marked well; no four-way stops please.

Mayor Newton said it sounded like the consensus was to move forward with the pedestrian measures in place and no raised crosswalk.

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to that effect.

Commissioner Hollinshed said she would like to add the rumble strips to the motion.

Commissioner Hagle added the placement of rumble strips to the original motion.

Commissioner McDonald said he has not heard any complaints about the area they have been discussing. He expressed concerns about other areas where traffic needs to be slowed down, such as Pine and Mulberry Street. He said they needed to be consistent with these type of actions throughout the whole Town.

Mayor Newton reminded Commissioner McDonald there was an enormous amount of time spent discussing the speed bumps on Pine Street and the one way exit on the west end of Pine Street as well.

Voting Yes: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter

Voting No: Commissioner McDonald

3. Water Rate Adjustment – Eastman Creek Subdivision

Greg Meshaw, Public Services Director/Town Engineer, presented the proposed water rate reduction at Eastman Creek Landing subdivision. He gave some history on the rates, discussing how the Carteret County Board of Commissioners adopted new county water rates on June 21, 2021; rates jumped 95% from the previous year and this is relevant because the Town of Beaufort buys water from the county and then they resell it in Eastman's Creek. Mr. Meshaw explained how this change would affect the Town, going

from an estimated \$6,600 surplus to a \$23,000 deficit. He reminded the board they asked for a break-even rate for customers and at the August 23, 2021 Work Session, the volume charge remained the same at \$7.61 per 1,000 and the based fee was raised to \$33.80. Since then, the rates have been reduced by 25%, as the Carteret County Board of Commissioners voted to do this in their September 20, 2021 meeting. Mr. Meshaw said with that recent change, they feel it may be worth considering passing the savings along to the customers in Eastman Creek. Mr. Meshaw said the proposed rate for customers was a base fee of \$23.25, with no change in the volume charge. He said this should allow a continued break-even point for selling and distributing the water. Mr. Meshaw said in addition to the proposed lower rates for the ¾-inch meter hookup, he also asked the board to consider establishing rates for the larger meters, incase they were needed in the future; these rates are as follows: 1-inch, \$38.37; 1 ½ -inch, \$82.96; 2-inch, \$147.25; 3-inch, \$333.91.

Mayor Newton went down the roster to see if there were any questions.

Commissioner Hagle had no questions but said he liked the proposed change, as it would help people who lived in that subdivision. He said he also liked the additional of the four larger meter sizes.

Commissioner Hollinshed had no questions and said she agreed with the comments of Commissioner Hagle.

Commissioner McDonald had no questions.

Commissioner Harker said she agreed with the decrease and thanked staff for looking towards the future as far as added in rates for the larger meter sizes.

Commissioner Carter had no questions and said she felt it was appropriate.

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to approve the proposed rates.

Voting Yes: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter

4. To approve or deny the Site Plan for Pruitt Health Care Nursing Home/Skilled Care Facility to contain 104 Beds/Units.

Kyle Garner, Planning & Inspections Director, presented the request and informed the board that staff has been working on this project for well over three years. Mr. Garner explained that the 70,980 square foot facility would be a skilled care nursing home, and said it was important to note that this is phase one of at least two phases. He said there is a request for sewer allocation in the amount of 12,480 gallons per day. He also touched on some questions regarding parking; based on the current parking requirement, there would be 35 spaces, when considering only the number of beds. He added that you would also have to equate the number of staff that would be working, right now, that would be one space for every two people. He pointed out that is hard to calculate right now because it would suggest there would only be 30 people working at the facility at one time; based off the initial conversations had, it is believed that there would be more workers than that in total. Mr. Garner said when you take into account that it is going to be a rehabilitation facility, people will be coming in and out during the day for rehab work; we can see where the

increase in parking is also going to be a possible asset. Mr. Garner mentioned again, this is the first phase in what is going to be a two-phase project; meaning all the parking may not be needed in the second phase, based on what is updated in the first phase. He also said there were some questions about the road configuration. Mr. Garner explained that the engineer worked with the Department of Transportation, and they made recommendations as to what needed to be done. He said he believed the engineers and their staff have done all they needed to, ensuring the criteria of the Town's standards, as set forth in the Land Development Ordinance; other departments on the technical review committee have reviewed this and we do recommend approval of the project, as well as the Planning Board.

Mayor Newton went down the roster for questions and comments.

Commissioner Hagle said he was probably the one who talked about the parking lot the last time they discussed this; he pointed out 50 parking spaces was calculated but they are requesting 138 spaces. He said he did not realize they had a rehab facility and that the calculations may be right, it just seems like a lot of parking spaces for the size. He also pointed out this is a low area, near water, and that he was concerned with stormwater, where it goes and the quality of water that gets into the nearby streams and oceans. He said that were his concerns, and he stills has a few, but thanked Mr. Garner for helping him understand more about the parking.

Commissioner Hollinshed said she thought the facility would be a real benefit to Beaufort, she hoped they approve it and did not have any questions.

Commissioner McDonald said he had no questions and that he was glad to see something like this come to Beaufort, on this side of the bridge.

Commissioner Harker said she had no questions but elaborated on the fact that the stormwater retention pond will be sufficient to handle future growth and that was answered during the work group session. She also said she would love to see the facility take shape in Beaufort.

Commissioner Carter said she had no questions and would rather see too much parking than not enough.

Commissioner Harker made a motion to approve as presented, with the sewer allocation request.

Commissioner Carter asked if the allocation was only for the 104 beds and not the addition.

Mr. Garner responded that was correct, just for the 104 beds.

Commissioner Harker added they would have to come back to the board for anything additional.

Voting Yes: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter

5. Case #21-24 Final Plat – Front Street Village Phase 4

Mr. Garner presented the request and acknowledged that the board has seen this item several times within the last few months. He said this would allow the actual recordation of the final plat and the selling of individual lots; our subdivision Ordinance allows developers or individuals to bond incomplete infrastructure. Mr. Garner explained in this particular case, there are 34 lots at 10.44 acres, the amount of the bond for the infrastructure is \$594,112.50 and Mr. Meshaw has reviewed that number. Mr. Garner said the sewer allocation is not being requested, because it was covered before the policy went into effect. He added that this project will have to pay recreation fees in the amount of \$5,875.20; this is something subdivisions pay a fee of in lieu of providing space. He said this money will go into a specific account to fund infrastructure for recreation. Mr. Garner ended by stating, at their September 20th Planning Board Meeting, the board did vote unanimously to recommend approval of this final plat

Mayor Newton went down the roster to see if there were any questions or comments.

Commissioner Hagle recommended Mr. Garner mention the streets and infrastructure would be private and maintained by the HOA.

Mr. Garner responded that he believed there were draft covenants of that included in the packets.

Commissioner Hagle added he liked the design; it was from the standpoint of protecting the wetlands as much as possible.

Mayor Newton confirmed with Mr. Garner that private did not mean gated, rather than taking care of matters via the HOA.

Mr. Garner confirmed that was correct.

Commissioner Hagle added that it is not gated but it is private streets.

Commissioner Hollinshed had no questions.

Commissioner McDonald had no questions.

Commissioner Harker asked when the Town would receive the \$5,875.20 recreation fees.

Mr. Garner said that is a good question; he explained the developer would need to pay those fees before the plat could be recorded at the courthouse. He added that this system is in place to ensure the person is not making money before paying all associated fees of the project.

Commissioner Carter said she thought it was great and was glad to see the pervious surface.

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to approval the request, including the bond request.

Voting Yes: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter

6. Food and Wine Tent

Commissioner Hollinshed discussed the added item by sharing she thought Food and Wine Board did an excellent job with the event, and that the money raised went to the Carteret County

Schools Foundation. She said she has no problem with the use of it, but she suggested discussing some tent parameters at the next work session. She added that it was a real hardship on merchants with that tent up Thursday-Monday. She said she hoped they could come up with a method that worked for everyone.

Commissioner Hagle said he thought it would be great to discuss it at the work session.

Commissioner McDonald had no comments.

Commissioner Harker said she agreed and that she heard concerns from the businesses. She added that she believed the tent was up and functioning until Friday, but it could have certainly been taken down sooner. She ended by saying it would be good to discuss it for future reference.

Commissioner Carter said it needed to be discussed; also, something to consider is whether it means a penalty on the tent company for not removing it in time.

Mayor Newton said the tent discussion would be added to October's Work Session items.

Mayor/Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hagle welcomed Elizabeth Lewis as the new Town Clerk, stating it was great to have her on board. He thanked Rachel Johnson and others for helping to get the meetings up to date. He also said he hoped something could be put into place to have the minutes from the previous meeting at the following meeting, so they do not get behind. He said it was great to see all of the progress being made on Cedar Street and other work on sidewalks and the repaving of Lennoxville Road. He added that it was great to see the reduction of the water rates at Eastman Creek and reminded citizens that Beaufort does not own or control that water plant; they only purchase water from the County. He explained the Town bills the customer for water and sewer. He also said it was great to see that the Pruitt Health Facility is coming to fruition. Commissioner Hagle ended with a safety message to all: Traffic around Beaufort and the County continues to be busier than ever, when you are out and about, focus on your driving; remember even at 40 mph, you travel 59 feet a second, which is the length of about two vehicles.

Commissioner Hollinshed welcomed Ms. Lewis as well, stating she hoped that she continued with the Town for a while. She thanked the people who were involved in the candidate forum and reminded the group of the online links where the sessions could be reviewed. She ended with a reminder that Halloween on Ann Street was coming, and the Town was not involved with this event.

Commissioner McDonald said he hoped those in the Ann Street area participated as normal and reminded everyone to be mindful of the children walking around during that time.

Commissioner Harker thanked Ms. Lewis for jumping on board and looked forward to the minutes being caught up. She also welcomed all the other new employees that have been added recently and said it was great to have them as part of the team. She reminded everyone to be careful during the Halloween festivities. She commended the Town on their infrastructure work and encouraged others to ride around and look at the great work that has been done. She ended by saying that it is nice to see some of the infrastructure work of the comprehensive plan finally taking shape.

Commissioner Carter welcomed all four new employees. She reminded the group that vaccinations are still being given and added if you received the Pfizer shot and it had been eight months, you are eligible for a booster. She added that Broad Street Clinic would be back at the Beaufort Farmers Market on October 30th with Pfizer boosters.

Adjourn

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker,
Commissioner Carter

Mayor Everette S. (Rett) Newton

Elizabeth Lewis, Town Clerk