



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting 6:00 PM Monday, October 14, 2019 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 Minutes

Call to Order

Mayor Newton called the meeting to order and asked those in attendance to please join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Town Clerk Davis called roll and declared a quorum present for the meeting.

PRESENT

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

Agenda Approval

Commissioner Hagle made a motion approve the agenda as presented.

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

Calendar

Town Clerk Davis reviewed the upcoming events for October 2019 and November 2019.

Public Comment

Daphne Littiken asked the commissioners to take into consideration all of the possible issues when deciding on the proposed Compass Margaritaville Hotel to be located on Cedar Street. Some considerations specifically named were the impervious surfaces, problems with parking, traffic, trash, troubled estuaries, surrounding neighbors of the hotel and height of the proposed hotel.

Elizabeth Patterson read the Mayor's letter from the September 2019 newsletter regarding the I-42 and you.

Steve Tullevech, Town Creek Marina, asked the commissioners to please delay voting on the proposed Amendment to the Navigable Waters Ordinance until they could meet with business owners surrounding the Federal harbor of refuge.

Jerry Gaskill, echoed Steve Tullevech's comments for the board to please delay the vote until a meeting could be held with business owners.

Dick DeButts spoke about the proposed hotel and the parking concept. He indicated the proposal was like putting a gallon of fluid into a pint. He indicated the original proposed hotel was of a size that out not flow out into the neighborhood. He asked the board to please think about how the project will impact the surrounding community. In addition, he spoke about the Land Development Ordinance and was glad to know funds were in the budget to work on the LDO.

Presentations

1. Introduction of New Police Officers

Police Chief Paul Burdette introduced Officers Justin Truney and Brittany Williams. Officer Truney comes to us from Smithfield and Officer Williams is just out of Basic Law Enforcement Training.

2. Presentation of Lessons Learned from Nationwide and Global Boaters About Their Beaufort Experience

Diane Tretault spoke about working with the Ocean Cruising Club (OCC). She indicated there are approximately 50 visitors of the OCC that come through our ports (Morehead City and Beaufort) each year. She spoke how the members of the club have heard how Beaufort has cleaned up Taylors Creek and Gallants Channel and are coming in for many reasons such as mechanical issues, weather and because Beaufort is becoming a cruisers destination point.

Ms. Tretault made personal recommendations to the board members as a result of working with members of the OCC. She recommended to continue to clean up the surrounding waters of debris, build a mooring field, consider a shuttle service, build and manage a Captains Quarters and form a waterway building committee.

Manager Report

Town Manager Day indicated that NCDOT has recently experienced some financial shortfalls for a variety of reasons, which resulted in a number of projects being delayed. Initially the NC101/Live Oak St. roundabout was among the delayed projects, however, as of last week it has been removed from the delayed project list and is moving forward.

Additionally, FEMA public assistance for Dorian related damage was approved. Our Finance Director Christi Wood attended a meeting with FEMA officials and we have formally applied for assistance.

Commissioner Hollinshed asked about the Cedar Street project since there has been a delay in funding. Town Manager Day indicated the last time he spoke with a DOT representative the work would be

completed through DOT instead of a contractor. Mr. Day indicated he would follow up with the representative and report back.

Commissioner Hagle asked if there would be any impact on the timing of the Cedar Street project. Mr. Day indicated there should be no impact on the timing.

Items of Consent

Motion was made to approve the Items of Consent as presented.

Motion made by Commissioner Hagle.

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

1. Draft Minutes of the September 9, 2019 Regular Meeting
2. Designation of Applicant's Agent for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Items for Discussion and Consideration

1. November 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting Change

Town Clerk Davis indicated the NC Beach Inlet Waterway Association annual conference was being held in Wrightsville Beach on November 12 and 13, 2019. There are commissioners who would like to attend the conference so a changed of meeting date was needed to accommodate.

A motion was made to move the meeting to November 18, 2019 as recommended by staff.

Motion made by Commissioner Carter.

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

2. Amendment to Navigable Waters Ordinance

Town Manager Day indicated there were some issues with boats still being anchored in Taylors Creek that posed a problem. He indicated we have legislation allowing us to patrol our waters and what we can do as far as requiring boats to be removed during a storm. Further he indicated the only place we could not require for boats to be removed is the federal harbor of refuge in Town Creek.

The amendment as proposed is to enforce a shorter time period for boaters to move from Taylor's Creek when a storm is approaching. Commissioner McDonald asked if there was a time limit on how long a boat could remain anchored in Taylor's Creek. Mr. Day informed him the time limit is 10 days during a 30 day period.

Commissioner Hollinshed indicated she believed the amendment should be put off for a month for better refinement. Commissioner Hagle asked if the town could work with the federal agency to work with ways for better anchoring. Mayor Newton indicated strong moorings needed to be used, the town should talk with the Army Corp of Engineers and should also get the information on the streets for boaters.

Commissioner Harker asked if the amendment got passed during the evening and then board members met with business owners could it be refined even further. Mayor Newton changes could absolutely be made after the discussion.

A motion was made to approve the amendment as presented with a commitment from all board members to follow up with the stakeholders and the Army Corp of Engineers.

Motion made by Commissioner Carter.

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

Mayor Newton asked Town Manager Day to please meet with the stakeholders prior to the monthly work session to be held Monday, October 28, 2019.

Commissioner McDonald indicated he was not opposed to having a safe place for boaters to locate during a storm, but he also would like for the town to consider a place for citizens to be able to gather for safety during a storm.

3. Appointments to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Town Clerk Davis indicated there were two vacancies on the Parks and Recreations Advisory Board. She indicated it had been advertised with the only two submitting for appointment were Peter Crumley and Liz DeMattia who each currently served.

Commissioner Hollinshed made a motion to open the nominations. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor. Commissioner Carter nominated Peter Crumley. Commissioner Hagle made a motion to close the nominations with the vote being unanimous. The vote for Peter Crumley to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a three year term was unanimous.

Commissioner Hollinshed made a motion to open the nominations. The was was 5 to 0 in favor. Commissioner Harker nominated Liz DeMattia. Being no further nominations, Commissioner Hagle made a motion to close the nominations with the vote being unanimous. The vote for Liz Mattia to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a three year term was unanimous.

Commission / Board Comments

Commissioner Carter had no comments.

Commissioner McDonald had no comments.

Commissioner Harker welcomed the new members of the Police Department. She also spoke about the National Night Out event and how well it was attended and organized. In closing Commissioner Harker stated she was seeing that Beaufort was still busy and was open for business.

Commissioner Hollinshed extended sympathy to Robert Campbell and his family for the passing of his wife Sherry Campbell. Commissioner Hollinshed asked if there was a way to partially close Ann Street during trick or treating on Halloween night. Police Chief Paul Burdette indicated the Police Department did not have enough manpower to physically shut down the street for the event.

Commissioner Hagle welcomed the new members of the Police Department. He thanked the Public Works Director Mark Eakes for the completion of the sidewalk along Campen Road. He also commended the Public Works staff for their clean-up of debris residuals from Dorian. For his safety message, he reminded walkers, bikers and drivers to all be aware of their surroundings and watch out for each other since the it was beginning to get darker earlier.

Mayor Newton commented on the Watch for Me event being held the next day since Beaufort was becoming a more walk-able community. He asked all citizens to please come out to the Chat with Chief sessions since they were informative of what was going on the in community. Mayor Newton also reported he had been able to meet with Governor Cooper and other leaders on coastal resiliency and the impacts to Beaufort.

In response to a comment made during the public comment period, he addressed the question regarding the \$2M dollars provided for parks. He indicated the town wanted to make sure the projects were done right and not too fast. In closing he indicated Mr. Haywood Weeks had informed him the docks would be full in the next coming weeks with transient boaters stopping off to spend time in Beaufort.

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Harker.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Mayor Everette S. (Rett) Newton

Michele Davis, Town Clerk