



**Town of Beaufort, NC**  
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**Board of Commissioners  
Work Session  
4:00 PM Monday, October 23, 2023  
Train Depot, 614 Broad Street  
Beaufort, NC 28516**

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**Call To Order**

Mayor Harker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Rachel Johnson, Deputy Clerk, called the roll.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Harker  
Mayor Pro Tem Hagle  
Commissioner Oliver  
Commissioner Cooper  
Commissioner Hollinshed

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to excuse Commissioner Terwilliger from the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Approval**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**Presentations**

1. Mayor's Conservation Program

Mayor Harker introduced the Mayor's Conservation Program and explained it is aimed to educate residents and collaborate with stakeholders to preserve the Town's resources for the benefit of future generations.

She discussed strategies that would be involved in the program and goals related to engaging residents and businesses to protect and preserve the environment. She noted the organization, Plastic Free by The Sea, was a key partner and they planned to create

programs at the beginning of 2024 to help educate residents and businesses on the impact of single use plastics.

2. First Tryon – Financial Advisors

Todd Clark, Town Manager, shared that David Cheatwood and Chazzo Habliston with First Tryon were there to provide an update based off the Board's request from the last presentation. Mr. Clark noted the charts reflected where the Town was in terms of the projects that have been committed to, and a few additional ones such as a new water plant. He reminded the group these were just scenarios, and no action was being requested.

Mr. Cheatwood and Mr. Habliston elaborated on the information provided in the Board's meeting packet and presented several scenarios from their financial model.

After further Board discussion, the Mayor deemed a consensus to have a future meeting specific to providing guidance on future projects and how to plan for those through the financial model offered by First Tryon.

3. Dredging Update

Kyle Garner, Planning Director, provided an update on dredging related to the Town of Beaufort. He noted Bulkhead Channel Range 1 is scheduled to be dredged in early November 2023. He said the estimated cost of dredging is \$185,000 and there are federal funds available to reduce the Town's contribution. He shared that Bulkhead Channel is currently on a bi-annual cycle for dredging. He discussed the Beaufort Harbor Environmental Assessment was in progress and it was hoped to be completed by the spring of 2024. He noted as part of the assessment, the use of pipeline dredging is being investigated.

### **Items for Discussion and Consideration**

1. Town Facilities Naming Policy

Mayor Harker introduced a proposed naming policy and noted a draft copy was included in the meeting packet. She expressed the importance for a clear policy to be in place.

Commissioner Hagle suggested including streets, roads, alleys, bridges and other similar thoroughfares. He expressed concerns about the construction of monuments and potentially adding a comment about those in the policy. He questioned having a requirement of a signed petition to accompany a request.

Commissioner Hollinshed suggested removing the term "person" from the policy, noting she did not believe the name of a person should be on a building, road, etc. She explained it may eliminate the need for future name changes if it is not named specifically after a person. She shared concerns about the petition process, noting an extra burden on staff to verify names and addresses.

Commissioner Cooper suggested if something were to be named after a person, it should be well vetted. He recommended leaving out anything referring to a monument.

Commissioner Hagle questioned whether a naming policy was needed at all, rather than finding another way to honor citizens.

Mayor Harker suggested further exploring the topic to produce a second draft.

2. Financial Notes

Christi Wood, Finance Director, shared the Motor Vehicle Tax (MVT) received in September of August was \$27,827. She noted the sales and use tax distribution for October was \$276,742 for July sales, a 5% increase from the distribution received in October 2022.

## **Manager's Report**

Mr. Clark discussed several items to be included on the upcoming November 13th Regular Meeting, such as the FY2023 Audit presentation and the 160-D updates. He noted a potential location on Highway 101 for a new substation owned by Duke Energy.

## **Closed Session**

1. Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3).

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Adjourn**

Commissioner Hollinshed made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

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Sharon E. Harker, Mayor

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Elizabeth Lewis, Town Clerk