

CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Workshop

Tuesday, November 26, 2024 - 9:00 AM

Council Chambers, 1121 N. Lake Park Boulevard, Carolina Beach, NC



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barbee called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

PRESENT

Mayor Lynn Barbee

Mayor Pro Tem Deb LeCompte

Council Member Jay Healy

Council Member Mike Hoffer

ABSENT

Council Member Joe Benson

ALSO PRESENT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley

Assistant Town Manager Ed Parvin

Finance Director Debbie Hall

Town Clerk Kim Ward

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Employee Recognition

Fire Chief Alan Griffin recognized Captain Lane Britt for 15 years as a full-time firefighter and 18 years total.

Mayor Barbee recognized Ms. Ward for 20 years of service with the Town.

2. Beautification Committee Presentation

Beautification Committee Chairman Cindy Dunn gave an update on upcoming projects and goals. She said the 9-member group focuses on hands-on Council-approved beautification projects that will enhance the Town's community charm and bike- and pedestrian-friendly environment.

Goals for 2025

- Recommend Council continue to encourage the update of the annual Tree City USA designation
- Keep the Public Beach Access Sponsorship Program moving forward
- Continue to maintain the Wildflower Garden area on Bridge Barrier Road

- Continue working with various 501(c)(3) organizations and other groups such as N.C. Wildlife Federation, Friends of CB Parks & Greenways, Alliance for Cape Fear Trees, CB Trash Walkers, and other Town committees and local groups pertinent to the mission
- Continue to encourage Council to include funds for beautification in the annual budget process, mostly for watering
- Encourage Council to approve moving forward with various components of the Master Beautification Plan for the Lake Park Corridor (presented to Council November 22, 2022)
 - Continue efforts to beautify the right-of-way area along the west side of Dow Road from the Bridge Barrier Road intersection to Elton Avenue or Glenn Avenue
 - Move forward with choosing a design and location for a formal “Welcome to Carolina Beach” sign, ensuring that it’s in place for the Centennial
 - Continue pursuit of installing benches and placement of trees in appropriate locations along the Lake Park Corridor

Projects for 2025

- 4th Street entrance to Lake Park
- Front entrance to Town Hall Council Chambers
- Centennial Park

Ms. Dunn said the committee would like guidance from Council on projects they’d like to see take place.

Council Member Hoffer praised Ms. Dunn for her efforts. Ms. Dunn thanked other members of the committee.

Council Member Healy asked Ms. Dunn to share examples of the welcome sign with the Public Works Department. He asked if the committee is still working with CB Trash Walkers to get trees for the Town. Ms. Dunn said the group collected so much trash that they maxed out the contributions they were able to receive. She said the trash poundage is still being weighed and used for stormwater regulations. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said the Realtors Give Back events in the spring and summer are doing plantings.

Council Member Hoffer asked that committee members look at Centennial Park plans to weigh in before the Town hires a landscape designer. He also asked that the Bike/Ped Committee be scheduled to make a presentation at the next workshop in January.

3. Public Hearing for the Financing of a New Boardwalk Restroom

Ms. Hall requested bid proposals from 7 lenders for financing the demolition and construction of a new ADA-compliant public restroom located at 9 Boardwalk Avenue for \$1,998,147 with a 15-year term. The following proposals were received:

Lenders	Interest Rate	Financing Term
Truist Bank	3.97%	15 years
Atlantic Union	4.968%	15 years

The debt service payment will be appropriated in the FY 25/26 budget. The Town will request reimbursement for the debt payment from room occupancy taxes.

Although staff requested that a public hearing notice be published 10 days prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting on November 12, it was not published in the newspaper. As a result, the Local Government Commission (LGC) directed the Town to advertise a public hearing for tonight to comply with Article 1 of Chapter 162A of the General Statutes. No action is required by Council because the following resolutions were approved on November 12:

- Resolution #24-2317 to accept the terms of the proposal from Truist Bank
- Resolution #24-2318 authorizing the Finance Director to file an LGC application
- Resolution #24-2319 to allow reimbursement of expenses from loan proceeds

ACTION: Motion to open the public hearing for financing the new Boardwalk restrooms

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Hoffer

Motion passed 4-0

Ms. Hall presented the details.

No one else requested to speak.

ACTION: Motion to close the public hearing

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

Voting Yea: Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte, Council Member Healy, Council Member Hoffer

Motion passed 4-0

4. Discussion on Traffic-Calming Devices

Council Member Benson previously requested a discussion about the process of requesting traffic-calming devices for areas that have trouble with speeding motorists.

Community Development Director Jeremy Hardison said tonight's presentation is similar to what was discussed in August, and staff is ready to implement it. He said the Town gets citizen requests for stop signs and speed limit changes but doesn't have a clear process and approval review for them, so staff would like to create a policy and include this in the packet for Council to review and adopt at the next meeting. He said the procedure would include the following:

1. Application
 - Community acceptance – 60% of households on proposed street must sign petition
 - Devices will not be installed on any primary emergency or truck route
2. Review by Technical Review Committee (TRC) to determine the issue
3. Council (options/cost/budget)
4. Installation of the traffic-calming device

Mr. Hardison said requests for removal will follow the same process.

Mayor Barbee asked if the policy will address how projects are funded. Mr. Hardison said depending on what it is, it would be funded on a case-by-case basis.

Council Member Hoffer said having a process and policy makes sense. He asked if staff has considered whether just one block or an entire street would be asked to sign the petition, and Mayor Barbee asked if adjacent streets would be included. Mr. Hardison said the idea was that the petition would be circulated to residents on the street being considered for a device.

Mayor Barbee said it's a great idea to have a policy.

Council Member Healy said he likes the idea that each request would go to TRC.

Council Member Hoffer asked if private streets can put in speed bumps without Town approval. Mr. Hardison said yes.

5. Discussion on Installing a Rainbow Bridge at the Lake

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte requested to discuss installing a pet memorial Rainbow Bridge at Lake Park similar to the one that was in Lake Lure before it was destroyed by Hurricane Helene. She said most homes in the Town have at least one pet, and this would be a great tribute to animals. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said Folly Beach, SC, recently added a similar project. She proposed using the bridge closest to Lake Drive near the south side and said this would be a community project with the only requirements from the Town being to paint the bridge and place a sign on each end with the Rainbow Bridge poem.

Mayor Barbee asked how long the memorial collars would stay on the bridge and questioned what happens if space runs out. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said collars would remain on the bridge indefinitely, and if space runs out the Town could consider building an extension like they did in Lake Lure.

Mayor Barbee also brought up safety concerns about hanging things from the rails and asked that staff be sure ADA compliance matters are addressed.

Council Member Hoffer said the bridge is narrow and questioned if that would be an issue.

Mr. Oakley said staff will work with Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte to get the ball rolling on this project.

Council Member Healy said he thinks the project would be a cool addition to the Town.

With the presenter for the last discussion item not present, Mayor Barbee suggested moving to the Council Comments section next.

Mr. Parvin told Council the Town heard from the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) about the speed limit on Ocean Boulevard, and they said studies will take about 12 weeks.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte asked staff to look at the process of annexing Freeman Park so it can be within Town limits. Mr. Oakley said there is still one section to figure out, but he will get with Town Attorney Noel Fox to get the process started.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte reminded everyone that Lighting at the Lake is Friday at 6:30 PM. She also asked staff to consider establishing a memorial garden behind the Federal Point History Center.

Council Member Healy asked about the tribute to the Freeman family. Mr. Oakley said the Town is waiting to receive final approval for the land conservation.

Mayor Barbee asked about the process for ending the State of Emergency that was established in the Town for Potential Tropical Cycle 8 (PTC8) in September. Mr. Oakley said the County just rescinded theirs last Friday, so Mayor Barbee can do so for the Town now. Mayor Barbee declared the State of Emergency for PTC8 over and said he would sign papers to make the termination official.

Council Member Hoffer said he received his electrical inspector certification. He gave an update on Bike/Ped Committee projects and said Sgt. Derrick McNeil of the Police Department had several recommendations, including additional lighting at crosswalks. Council Member Hoffer said the committee also voted to recommend an official speed limit of 12 mph on the Greenway.

Council Member Hoffer said Council did not have enough information to discuss parking at this time but requested that the topic be on the December regular meeting agenda for a first discussion and on the January regular meeting agenda for a possible vote. Mr. Parvin said under the Town's current ordinance, golf cart and resident passes will start being sold on January 1. Mr. Oakley said this can be amended if necessary, or Council can call a special meeting to finalize the vote before then. Mayor Barbee said he doesn't want Council to make a rash decision to meet a date. Mr. Oakley said staff will plan to present as much detailed information as possible in December.

With the presenter for the last discussion item still not present, Mayor Barbee called a 10-minute recess.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (continued)

6. Update from MOTSU on the Upcoming Prescribed Burn

Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU) Natural Resources Manager Kevin Crawford gave an update on habitat management and specifically an upcoming prescribed burn on MOTSU property. He said the buffer zone is now referred to as the explosive safety clearance zone. Mr. Crawford reported that they will be burning approximately 60 acres on MOTSU property along Dow Road between now and January and are waiting for some rain before they start.

Mayor Barbee asked Mr. Crawford to communicate with the Town to help get information out to the public ahead of time. He also inquired about whether the previous mulching operation on the property impacted stormwater retention there during PTC8. Mr. Crawford said the sheer volume of rainfall was

the biggest contributor, although the mulching operation could have had a minimal effect. He said they need to do better on coordinating maintenance of ditches and culverts.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM.