

CAROLINA BEACH

Riverview Restaurant (Fort Fisher Air Force Base)

Friday, February 21, 2025 8:30 AM

121 Riverfront Road Kure Beach, NC 28449



MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barbee called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

PRESENT

Mayor Lynn Barbee

Council Member Jay Healy

Council Member Mike Hoffer

Mayor Pro Tem Deb LeCompte

Council Member Joe Benson

ALSO PRESENT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley

Finance Director Debbie Hall

Fire Chief Alan Griffin

Community Development Director Jeremy Hardison

Finance Director Debbie Hall

Executive Assistant Sheila Nicholson

Assistant Town Manager Ed Parvin

Town Clerk Kim Ward

Public Works Director Brian Stanberry

Public Utilities Director Mark Meyer

Parks and Rec Director Eric Jelinski

Guests include:

Chance Lambeth, Representative Rouzer's Office

Representative Charlie Miller

Bailey Hartsell, Senator Ted Budd's Office

Chairman Bill Rivenbark, NHC Commissioner

Grayson Overholt, Thom Tillis' Office

Senator Michael Lee

Mayor Barbee opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

This is a budget workshop. No action was taken. This is a general account of the topics discussed.

Mr. Parvin reviewed Pivot Parking's proposal for a barrier arm at the Freeman Park entrance. The price quoted was \$77,000. Council discussed the idea of closing the park at night.

Mayor Barbee asked Mr. Lambeth about the future of FEMA. He said this decision could potentially have an impact on Carolina Beach and future storm events.

Mr. Lambeth asked the Mayor to provide him with some talking points that he can take back to Mr. Rouzer.

Mayor Barbee said that he would like to include his questions on how the Army controls parking and policy on resident discounts.

Council Member Benson mentioned the bottleneck in the Army's process at the MOTSU level, possibly the real estate office in Atlanta, specifically with the water storage tank.

Mr. Lambeth suggested that Council send their questions to Mr. Parvin and he can draft the talking points for him to follow up on.

Representative Miller said that he enjoyed seeing all the bills getting filed. He said that he currently does not have any information on the budget right now.

Senator Lee said that he enjoys working with Carolina Beach. He said that when a request comes from the Town, he knows it is a need and not a want. He also said he does not have any information on the upcoming budget.

Chairman Rivenbark said that it is going to be a tough budget this year. On a positive note, there will be a lot of jobs coming to New Hanover County in 2025. Amazon will open their distribution center on 421 North and a new pharmaceutical refrigeration company located near the airport will be hiring over 100 employees. He complimented the Town on the response and recovery efforts regarding Potential Tropical Storm 8.

Ms. Hartsell also noted how well the storm recovery went. She mentioned that her office does not receive any information from Washington in advance. They are notified after changes have been made.

Mr. Overholt said that Senator Tillis was in a security conference, in Ukraine. He added that the FBI Director Kash Patel does not agree with pausing all fed funding, but wants to take a close look at it.

Mayor Barbee said that the things that affect Carolina Beach are beach nourishment, the National Flood Insurance Program, FEMA, and getting businesses back to normal as soon as possible after an event.

Senator Lee asked if the Town had considered joining the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority. Council said that the residents would not be in favor but felt Council should consider looking into it for redundancy. He said that he would like to discuss a long-term redundancy plan with the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority.

Mayor Barbee mentioned the need for legislation for e-bikes.

Mr. Oakley said that all of our budget needs are infrastructure related. Directional drill to get more water out of the lake, and a new water tank. He said that he would send the representatives a list.

Chairman Rivenbark asked for a dollar amount needed for the directional drill project. Mr. Stanberry answered that it would be a \$3million project.

Representative Miller mentioned that he has received complaints about the boardwalk bathroom construction project. Staff informed him that they have been working with the contractor on delaying the project until after Labor Day.

Council Member Hoffer asked about the bulkhead ordinance. Representative Miller said there were some legal issues over property rights. Mr. Hoffer said he feels that most of the flooding issues on Canal Drive are a result of leaky bulkheads and lack of bulkheads.

Council Member Hoffer said that he feels the ROT formula for dispersing funds is not appropriate. Chairman Rivenbark agreed and tried to fight that and hit a brick wall in Raleigh. Representative Miller said that he hears this from other communities.

Chairman Rivenbark mentioned that the County is finishing off the City's Greenway Trail and extending to Monkey Junction.

Council Member Healy asked about shallow inlet dredging and having our own dredge. He feels it would pay for itself. MPT LeCompte added that they are down to one dredge and also feels this would be beneficial.

Representative Miller said he has asked about acquiring a dredge. He feels there will be conversations on that in the future.

Mr. Hardison gave an update on the UDO amendments.

MPT LeCompte asked staff to put the Bike/Ped Committee on the March Council agenda. She also mentioned considering bike racks count as one parking space.

MPT LeCompte asked staff to consider having the budget retreat at the fire station next year.

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.