

CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Workshop

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - 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 Wayne Rouse

Council Member Vince Losito

ALSO PRESENT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley

Deputy Town Manager Ed Parvin

Finance Director Debbie Hall

Town Clerk Kim Ward

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Bike/Ped Committee Update

Bike/Ped Committee Chair Rodney Kidd gave an update.

League of American Bicyclists Application

Mr. Kidd said the committee recently submitted its Bicycle Friendly Community application to the League of American Bicyclists. He thanked staff members for their significant effort in completing the submission and reported that surveys from the organization are anticipated to be distributed to residents in July and August. Mr. Kidd said the application outcome is expected to be announced in December, with a potential opportunity to engage a League representative at the NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit in September. He suggested the Town consider proactively publicizing its existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure and celebrating publicly if status is awarded.

Priority Bike/Ped Infrastructure Projects

Mr. Kidd presented four priority projects drawn from the Town's Bike/Ped Plan:

- 7th Street sidewalk – The committee recommended completing the sidewalk along 7th Street through to Harper Avenue to connect to the Greenway, with a proposed extension down Tarboro Avenue.

- 8th Street sidewalk – The committee expressed strong support for constructing a sidewalk along 8th Street connecting through to Mike Chappell Park. This corridor already serves as the Greenway connector for cyclists, passes Seaside Chapel and the Fire Department, and provides direct access to the Mike Chappell Park Greenway entrance.
- Harper Avenue/Dow Road multi-use path segment – Rather than pursuing the full Harper Avenue multi-use path, the committee identified a near-term, high-priority segment: a one-block multi-use path connection from 8th Street to Dow Road at Harper Avenue. This would route cyclists and pedestrians away from the dangerous Dow/Harper intersection and connect to the existing Greenway running from Dow Road to Bridge Barrier Road.

Healy suggested looking into painting the bike lanes on Harper Avenue between 8th Street and Dow Road. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte mentioned sharrows. Mr. Kidd noted that sharrows alone would not resolve the crosswalk issue, as cyclists are technically required to dismount at the existing crosswalk, and the geometry places cyclists on the incorrect side of the road.

Mayor Barbee raised a previously discussed concept of extending the multi-use path along the west side of Dow Road from Harper Avenue down to Cape Fear Boulevard, crossing at that point rather than at the Harper/Dow intersection. Mr. Kidd said this would reduce the crossing to two lanes of traffic rather than three, position the crossing in front of the Fire Department, and avoid a curve. Mayor Barbee noted the relevant property is privately owned, not part of Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU), and that the applicable authority is the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT).

Council directed staff to bring the concept of making 8th Street one-way with a designated bike/pedestrian lane through the Technical Review Committee (TRC) for a preliminary feasibility assessment before committing to further study. Mr. Kidd was invited to attend the relevant TRC discussion. Council also asked that the Dow Road/Cape Fear Boulevard multi-use path connection remain a high priority on the radar.

- Tennessee Avenue/Lake Park Boulevard crosswalk – The committee identified a pedestrian safety concern at the crosswalk near Lake Park Boulevard and Tennessee Avenue, where the absence of a landing pad or sidewalk forces pedestrians into the grass or roadway. The committee recommended, at minimum, installation of a concrete landing pad on the west side of the crosswalk to guide pedestrians, with the ultimate goal being a sidewalk along Tennessee Avenue.

Mr. Parvin provided an update on Lake Park Boulevard sidewalk progress. He said the Town will meet with engineering in July and should know in October or November about getting grant money. Mayor Barbee said Council has approved funding to go from Lake Park to Spartanburg Avenue and install a crosswalk there, the grant would take the sidewalk from Spartanburg Avenue to Ocean Boulevard, and then the next portion would be Ocean Boulevard to Alabama Avenue. He said as costs escalated, it became clear the Town would never get a grant to do the whole thing so they are breaking it into segments.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte asked for a landing pad at the Ocean Boulevard crosswalk on Lake Park Boulevard, noting it has been a longstanding request.

The discussion turned to the possibility of a full Harper Avenue multi-use path. Mr. Parvin said the Town once had grant money for this but ended up changing what that money was used for and no longer has funding, although he said the project remains a priority. Council Member Healy said the cost estimate for the project was \$13 million five years ago.

Bike Rack Inventory and Management

The committee and staff completed a mapping inventory of all Town-owned bike racks, identifying 52 racks. This inventory was included in the League of American Bicyclists application. The committee recommended establishing a rotation program in which 8-10 racks are taken out of service each off-season for refurbishment rather than waiting until racks reach poor condition. The committee further recommended developing a plan to deploy racks to high-activity event locations such as the Cape Fear Kite Festival, suggesting that a volunteer team or the Parks & Recreation Department could handle this. Mayor Barbee acknowledged there could be liability concerns around using private volunteers and suggested that Mr. Oakley look into the matter.

Greenway Maintenance

Mr. Kidd noted that the Greenway from Dow Road to Bridge Barrier Road is approaching 20 years old and that there is currently no budget line for eventual resurfacing. He requested that future capital planning include funding for Greenway repaving, also noting that the Greenway along Cape Fear Boulevard, approximately 12 years old, would require resurfacing in time.

NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit

Mr. Kidd reported that the NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit is scheduled for September 17-19 and will be hosted at the Marriott in Carolina Beach, with Carolina Beach as the host city. He said registration is open and suggested that the Town might want to discuss the possibility of a sponsorship.

Mayor Barbee said sponsorship levels range from \$200 to \$10,000 and indicated he would be in favor of somewhere in the middle, suggesting \$2,500.

ACTION: Motion to approve \$2,500 to sponsor the NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit in Carolina Beach September 17-19

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

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

Motion passed unanimously

E-Bike Ordinance

Mayor Barbee reported that enabling legislation authorizing municipalities to regulate e-bikes was before the State Senate. He said under current law, e-bikes are treated as bicycles, and municipalities have no authority to enact e-bike-specific rules. Mayor Barbee explained that the proposed legislation would establish classifications for e-bikes and grant municipalities the authority to regulate them, similar to the existing authority to regulate low-speed vehicles such as golf carts.

Mayor Barbee proposed that once the legislation passes, the Bike/Ped Committee take the lead on community engagement – including an open house for public input – before any ordinances are drafted. He said the input would then go to staff and TRC to ensure rules are based on community feedback. Council gave consensus on this approach.

Mr. Kidd suggested the open house should be held in the fall, after the summer season, targeting primarily residents. Mayor Barbee said feedback could be reported to Council by approximately next January.

2. Annual Committee Appointments

Council made the following annual Committee appointments:

- Bike/Ped Committee – Steve Graybush (reappointed), Crystal Lee (reappointed), and Kate Dolan
- Board of Adjustment – Ken Thompson (reappointed), Clint Harris, and Tom Bridges (former Council Member, will serve as alternate); current alternate Dana White elevated to full member
- Marketing Committee – Brad Bradley (reappointed) and Tom Ulring (reappointed)
- Planning and Zoning Commission – Ethan Crouch (reappointed), Todd Piper (reappointed), and Lynn Conto (reappointed)

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte brought up the issue of private parking lot signage that may mislead visitors due to the name and small-font disclosures. Community Development Director Jeremy Hardison said staff will make sure they meet sign requirements, including minimum lettering size.

Mr. Oakley encouraged people to use the PivotGO website so they will be directed to public lots. Mayor Barbee said the URL is not easy to remember and suggested creating a simple redirect URL to make it easier to remember. Mr. Oakley said this could be done.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 10:06 AM.