# CAROLINA BEACH

**Town Council Workshop**

**Tuesday, October 27, 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. Review the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) Phases 1 and 2

Community Development Director Jeremy Hardison introduced Tara Marden, Senior Coastal Geologist/Project Manager with Coastal Protection Engineering (CPE), who guided the Town through the State-funded Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP).

Ms. Marden described the project team, which included CPE, the Town, the State RCCP office, and the subcontractor Inspire Placemaking Collective. She said a five-member Community Action Team (CAT) represented residents. The CAT adopted the project goals: data-driven and human-centered decisions, informing and engaging residents and businesses, protecting the waterfront and vulnerable neighborhoods, investing in resilient infrastructure, and promoting adaptive neighborhoods and buildings.

Ms. Marden reported the following public outreach results:

- 129 questionnaire responses
- 129 comments on the online map
- 64 responses on prioritization
- Roughly 40-50 participants at a table at the drone show last year
- A presentation to the Northend Flood Mitigation Alliance in January

She said 59 critical assets were identified and scored on exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. Snow's Cut Bridge scored highest as the sole evacuation route, but no changes to it were proposed. Priority areas were Canal Drive/North End, harbor/marina, Carolina Beach Lake, Lake Park Boulevard, Dow Road, and oceanfront. Ten existing Town plans and studies were also taken into consideration, and the result was a portfolio containing 19 concepts addressing the Town's remaining resilience needs.

Ms. Marden said the State would fund only nature-based concepts for Phase 3. She said roughly $2.5 million was available for Phases 3 and 4 combined and that Phase 3 applications were due November 10 or 11. Ms. Marden described the concept portfolio as a platform for future funding and discussion and said the final report will go to the state by November 6, which will wrap up Phases 1 and 2.

Mayor Barbee thanked Ms. Marden and the community for the effort.

Council Member Rouse asked whether bulkheads were addressed. Ms. Marden said several concepts discussed bulkheads. She noted that State-funded work must be on Town property, so incentives such as no-interest loans might be considered for private lots.

Mayor Barbee recognized State Rep. Charlie Miller, who had entered the room.

2. Presentation by the Bike/Ped Committee

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte presented on behalf of the Committee Chair, who was out of town. She reported the following:

- Following House Bill 1094, a public open house on e-bikes was set for February 8, and a public survey is being prepared with staff assistance.
- A Bicycle Friendly Community designation from The League of American Bicyclists was expected in December.
- The committee was working on e-bike guidelines, helmet safety messaging, and bike racks for upcoming event parking.
- Safe Routes to School items included crosswalk improvements on Cape Fear Boulevard at 4th and 5th streets.
- A Bike Bus would depart Mike Chappell Park about 7:20 AM on November 4, with the Blueliners Foundation funding new signs. The Bike Bus is held the first Monday of each month.
- The NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit was successful, and audit results from the AARP representative were pending.
- Future agenda items were the bike/ped update from the State, and the committee's next meeting would be in November.

Mayor Barbee said the committee was not behind schedule regarding e-bikes, adding that other jurisdictions were also finding e-bike planning more involved than expected. Council Member Healy asked about regulations. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said none had been drafted and that the committee was reviewing other towns' ordinances. She said the committee wanted to avoid overly restricting residents who need e-bikes.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Barbee asked Mr. Oakley to begin planning the off-site meeting. He proposed assessing the Town's communication strategy and social media workload, possibly with UNC School of Government resources. Mayor Barbee noted that Clerks statewide were overwhelmed by AI-generated social media requests and that additional staffing for the Town Clerk might eventually be needed, though he preferred to avoid it if possible.

Council Member Healy raised a parking concern from a representative with The Spot. Council Member Losito said he had spoken with staff about options, including designating spaces in the Carolina Beach Avenue South lot. Mr. Oakley cautioned that any action must be taken carefully. Mayor Barbee said the Town cannot make rules for a single business and that any change must be part of an overall plan.

Council Member Healy asked if Kure Beach had passed any changes to their parking program after the matter was on a recent agenda. Mayor Barbee said there was no vote, and they would revisit the matter in November. He added that no parking changes were on the Town’s agenda this year.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte praised the quick completion of the bridge at Lake Park, and Mr. Oakley gave credit to staff for this work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 9:45 AM.