

CAROLINA BEACH

Town Council Workshop

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 - 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 Joe Benson

Council Member Mike Hoffer

ALSO PRESENT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley

Assistant Town Manager Ed Parvin

Finance Director Debbie Hall

Town Clerk Kim Ward

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Resolution Supporting House Bill 569 Regarding PFAS

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte requested a discussion and consideration of supporting House Bill 569 PFAS Pollution and Polluter Responsibility. She said she thinks the Town should support this because it makes polluters pay for all the money incurred cleaning up PFAS out of the Cape Fear River.

Council Member Benson said this would be retroactive to January 1, 2017.

ACTION: Motion for a resolution to support H.B. 569

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

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

Motion passed unanimously

2. Consider a Letter of Support for the State Park Living Shoreline Restoration Project

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte requested a discussion and consideration of sending a letter of support to Congressman David Rouzer for the State Park living shoreline restoration project. She said she received communication from the Friends of Pleasure Island State Parks group asking for the Town's support to get grant money for restoration and shoring up the shoreline along the Cape Fear River.

ACTION: Motion to send a letter of support for the State Park living shoreline restoration project

Motion made by Mayor Barbee

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

Motion passed unanimously

3. FY 25-26 Town Manager's Budget Message

Mr. Oakley presented the FY 25-26 budget message. The proposed budget has a revenue-neutral tax rate of \$0.1417 per \$100 valuation, compared to the current tax rate of \$0.235. The budget includes 3 additional Fire personnel and 3 additional Police personnel. To keep the budget balanced, those positions can be filled in January. Council was supportive of the proposed budget, which they will vote on at the June 10 meeting.

Council Member Hoffer said he had heartburn about bringing on 7 new Fire personnel during his 4 years on Council, but after spending time with Fire Chief Alan Griffin he sees the logic behind the needs of a growing community.

Council Member Benson said the additional commercial space in the Town, especially Proximity, is a good case for why these additional positions are necessary.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said the Paradise Cove fire a few years ago shows how important and awesome our Fire Department is.

Mayor Barbee said he suggests anyone who questions the need for these positions go visit with the Fire Department for a day. He said they are the first responders to almost everything, and they have his full support.

Council Member Hoffer said he looked at the numbers comparing our Police Department to that of similar municipalities and thinks the request for additional personnel is consistent with everybody else. He said it's a tricky situation because he realizes there may be some boredom in the winter, but he doesn't know how to balance this with the great need during the summer.

Council Member Healy said it would be great to have a Magistrate on call for the island because it makes things difficult to take one or two officers out of the equation when they have to travel across the County to process arrests.

Mayor Barbee said the idea that the Town can balloon the Police force in the summer and shrink it in the winter is not possible because there are no Officers available to work only half a year, and even if there were the process of getting them certified and otherwise meeting State requirements would not be feasible. He said Officers try to do their training and vacations during the off-season.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said she thinks the Town is very lucky to have its first responder teams.

Mayor Barbee said he'd put our first responders up against anybody because they do a fantastic job.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said the boards have come in for the Rainbow Bridge project at Lake Park, and there will be an official ribbon cutting at the Pets in the Park event in October.

Council Member Healy said after this weekend, he thinks it might be time to take a hard look at no left-hand turns on some of the Town's streets. He said there were serious traffic-flow issues.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said the Harper Avenue and Lake Park Boulevard intersection has a different traffic pattern with lanes than the Cape Fear Boulevard and Lake Park Boulevard intersection. Mayor Barbee said the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) should be restriping this as part of the repaving project.

Council Member Benson asked if the June or July workshop would be best for a discussion about wetlands designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mayor Barbee suggested putting it on the July agenda along with the Sunny Day Flooding Project update and a review of the north end bulkhead projects.

Council Member Hoffer asked about the woods trimming schedule and working on sight lines of the Spartanburg Avenue and Greenway intersection. Public Works Director Brian Stanberry said they are waiting on the contractor to do the line-of-sight issue at the Greenway first because it's the easiest thing to get done. He said for the area around Town Hall, they are trying to run irrigation because they need water, which is supposed to happen this week or next week. Mr. Stanberry said once that's done, then landscaping and clearing of trees can start. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte asked that they not touch the azaleas.

Mayor Barbee asked if there is any proactive review of sight lines at intersections or whether the best thing to do is use SeeClickFix. Mr. Stanberry said right now actions are more reactive than proactive, but they hope to improve upon this.

Council Member Benson asked about a pending issue regarding Kure Beach's wastewater being treated at the Town's plant. Mayor Pro Tem LeCompte said she reached out to Kure Beach Mayor Allen Oliver to get the ball rolling because they've been waiting a while. Public Utilities Director Mark Meyer said this issue has been resolved after he met with the Kure Beach Utilities Coordinator, and everything is moving forward the way they wanted it. He apologized that Council had to get involved but said everything is good.

Mayor Barbee asked if the Town has ordered a replacement crosswalk light for the Spartanburg Avenue and Greenway intersection. Mr. Oakley said yes. Mayor Barbee said this will probably not be in place until the fall and asked if staff found out who knocked that down. Mr. Oakley said he hasn't heard the latest but can get an update.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barbee adjourned the meeting at 9:24 AM.