



Minutes
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Special Meeting-Budget Work Session
Thursday, February 18, 2010



A Special Meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Boardroom, 125 West Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Members Present: Mayor Cooper, Mayor Pro Tem Harry Archer; Councilmembers: Ann Batt, Eddie Briley, Trish Ide and Vada Palma

Members Absent:

Others Present: David Walker, Town Manager; Kelly Cyrus, Town Clerk; Sabrina Simpson, Administration; Donna Turner, Inspections Director; Jessica Fiester, Planning Director; Allen Smith, Police Chief; Jeff Harvey-Maj., police department; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; James Sebastian, Water Superintendent

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

The meeting began with the department heads giving an overview of the FY2009-2010 accomplishments and the goals/objectives for FY2010-2011 for their respective departments.

(Clerk's Note: All departmental memos are hereby attached and therefore are made a part of these minutes.)

Councilmember Briley stated that although there are a lot of troubled areas throughout town, the west side was, in his opinion, the worst with regards to storm water. He stated that the town needed to start looking at funding options, look at all the problems areas and figure out which projects to work on. Mayor Cooper felt the time for talk was over, the town needed to pick a project and fix it.

LUNCH: 12:00 – 12:40 p.m.

David Walker, Town Manager commented on the high level of expertise of all department heads. He advised that he would like feedback from Council during the afternoon portion with regards to the tax rate, will it be remaining the same or pull monies from the Fund Balance to handle projects and capital outlay. Mr. Walker also initerated that the purpose of a municipality is not to “hoard” monies and posed the question to the Council as to how bad they want to attack the problems and issues facing them (i.e. dredging, storm water, water wells, etc.)

With regards to water, Mr. Walker suggested a possible option of tiered water rates. He also advised that the town is possible looking at increased premiums for health cost. He then proceeded to go over again the short and long term goals/objectives that were set at the January 22, 2010 Council retreat. Mayor Cooper stated that the renovation of the town's water system will be incorporated as a short and long term goal.

At this time, the Council held a discussion on keeping the tax rate the same; how 1 cent increase would generate approximately \$227,000.00 dollars in revenues; possibility of using Fund Balance monies for capital outlay, vehicle replacement, storm water, dredging, and other capital projects; the severe compression within the town's pay plan with regards to salaries (5 years since last salary survey and adjustment). Mayor Cooper posed the question to the Council, “where do we want Fund Balance to be at?”

BREAK: 1:30 – 1:40 p.m.

Discussion/Feedback:

Street maintenance: Marc Schulze, Public Services Director advised it would take approximately \$50-60,000.00 to complete about five (5) to six (6) road projects. Mayor Cooper directed Mr. Schulze while his department is implementing these projects to also look at possible solutions to storm water runoff that can be incorporated. Mayor Pro Tem Archer questioned the possibility of outsourcing the work and Mr. Schulze noted that that option would not be cost effective.

Parks and Recreation Funding: Jessica Fiester, Planning Director advised that the town and the Parks and Recreation committee need to define/design/plan a project and apply for grant funding to show a community need.

Beach Accesses: Mr. Walker advised that there are monies in Beach Nourishment for improvements that can begin during this budget year.

Storm water: General consensus that the town's needs to prioritize and pick projects that can be started now and also look at a renovation to the Causeway.

Henderson Blvd.: Marc Schulze and Jessica Fiester advised that they will need direction on a layout for this area in order to move forward. Mayor Cooper voiced the possibility of parking meters on Henderson Blvd. and if a viable option, gave direction to explore modern technology with regards to the meters.

Councilmember Batt questioned as to when the year-old Parks and Recreation committee was going to begin meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Archer, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, advised that the first meeting will be held either the 26th or 27th of this month.

Jessica Fiester, Planning Director questioned the temporary use of the inner Circle area. Mayor Cooper advised that Council is currently working on a temporary lease agreement with the developer to utilize the Circle areas up to the boardwalk and currently the town does not have the authority to enforce town ordinances on this property with regards to parking.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Town Council, Councilmember Palma made a motion *to adjourn* the worksession. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Batt. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kelly L. Cyrus, Town Clerk

These minutes were approved at the March 15, 2010 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor