

Minutes
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
FY07-08 Budget Work Session
Monday, May 30, 2007

The FY07-08 Budget Work Session of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, May 30, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in the Atlantic Beach Town Council Boardroom

Members Present: Mayor Joyce Vinson; Council members Jim Bailey, Ruth Barnes, Eddie Dawkins, Joe Tarascio, and Michael Warren.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dave Harvell, Town Manager; Capt. A. K. Miller, Acting Police Chief; Adam Snyder, Chief of ABFD; Marc Schulze, Director of Public Works; Donna Turner, Inspections Director; Laura Buda, Tax Collector; Sabrina Simpson, Town Clerk; Kelly Nash, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Vinson called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Tarascio made a motion to add an update discussion on Special Legislation Bill 359 to the agenda as the first item of discussion. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dawkins, vote was unanimous, 4-0.

1. UPDATE DISCUSSION ON SPECIAL LEGISLATION BILL 359:

Councilman Bailey advised that Bill 359 passed the Senate and it is now in the House of Representatives. Councilman Bailey also stated that he had received a call from Jean Preston, who stated that she had been contacted by both the state homebuilders and the state realtors lobbyists and there seemed to be some opposition to the Bill. He stated he asked Councilman Tarascio to speak with Jean Preston and the homebuilders representatives to find out where the opposition is coming from. Councilman Tarascio stated that he did speak with Jean Preston. He advised the general objection of the state homebuilders and state realtors is municipalities giving their legislative authority to state legislature which creates a fear that may result in everything going to a referendum. He stated that he has explained, and the homebuilders understand that this Bill is essential in terms of public perception regarding the sewer system issue and so in turn has asked the homebuilders to voice their objections in a general manner and not to attack this bill specifically.

Councilwoman Barnes arrived at this time. It was 3:09 p.m.

2. PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008:

Dave Harvell, Town Manager took the floor at this time and opened with thanking Sabrina Simpson, Town Clerk and Laura Buda, Tax Collector for their efforts and input. He began his presentation and advised that he, along with Sabrina Simpson's assistance, will educate the Council on its historical path that has brought them to their current position in regards to the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. At this point, Mrs. Simpson proceeded to discuss the Unreserved Fund Balance. Upon the conclusion of Mrs. Simpson's portion of the presentation, the Council held a question/answer discussion amongst themselves and with Town Manager as to what may have caused the decline of the Unreserved Fund Balance to bring it down to its current level and possible solutions to bring the balance back to acceptable levels. Mr. Harvell continued with the presentation. Several Council members discussed various items that may bring in additional revenues while benefiting the Town. Mr. Harvell concluded his presentation and it was agreed upon by all Council members that something needs to be done and to educate the citizens as to the financial solvency of the Town. Council also feels that Carteret County needs to step up to the bat to help alleviate some of the funding costs for some of the public services the Town provides.

(Clerk's Note: a copy of Mr. Harvell's PowerPoint presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.)

2. REQUEST TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008:

Councilman Warren made a motion to set a Public Hearing at the regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting held on June 18, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Bailey. Vote was unanimous, 5-0.

Councilman Bailey made a motion to amend the agenda by adding an additional item for discussing the Circle Development project. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tarascio. Vote was unanimous, 5-0.

3. DISCUSSION OF CIRCLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

Councilman Tarascio feels that the Town needs to know exactly where the Town will be if the Circle Development does not materialize either in whole or in part. It was stated out of concern, by several Council members, about the way the development is being "piece mealed" at this point, because this will put additional burdens on Inspections and Planning. It was also felt that a guarantee needs to be received from Mr. Bunn on a completion date. Councilman Tarascio feels that at some point, Mr. Bunn needs to provide some concrete plans in regards to the development plans. Councilman Bailey stated that he suggested to Mr. Bunn to get his plans together, present them to the Planning Board and then bring it in front of Council and if it changes, go back to the Planning Board. Councilman Warren questioned what will guarantee that this development plan will ever be completed. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she is hearing comments from various citizens about their concerns over the validity of the promise that was made by Mr. Bunn to develop the Circle and the citizens, at this point, feel that Mr. Bunn is back pedaling. Councilman Bailey suggested that maybe there should be some sort of a timeline added into the language in the next change that Mr. Bunn brings forth prior to approval.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Town Council, Councilman Tarascio made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Warren. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. It was 5:56 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kelly L. Nash, Administrative Assistant

These minutes were approved at the June 18, 2007 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

Joyce Vinson, Mayor