

Minutes
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
FY07-08 Budget Work Session
Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The FY07-08 Budget Work Session of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at 2:00 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: Tommy Combs, Interim Town Manager; Dave Harvell, Town Manager; Scott Kilpatrick, Chief of ABPD; Capts. A. K. Miller and Jim Willard, both of ABPD; Adam Snyder, Chief of ABFD; Marc Schulze, Director of Public Works; Jessica Fiester, Planning Tech; 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 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Bailey made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a discussion and making a decision on the request for Instant Voter Runoff as Item #1. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tarascio, vote was unanimous, 5-0.

Mayor Vinson advised that the Town had received a Thank You letter from Morehead City for Atlantic Beach's financial support for the Morehead City Sesquicentennial Celebration.

1. Instant Voter Runoff

Mayor Vinson stated that she had received a call from a representative at the Board of Elections in regards to Atlantic Beach being a "Guinea pig" since Atlantic Beach has a runoff system. The caller stated that what was wanting to be done is an Instant Runoff system where a person votes on one ballot, and then there would be another ballot you would vote on. Mayor Vinson stated that her office received a letter from a woman, she believes lives in Rocky Mt., where this Instant Voter Runoff has been tried and that this system does not work. Citizens are not happy and are opposed to this system. Mayor Vinson feels that Atlantic Beach has been a guinea pig long enough.

Councilman Bailey made a motion to thank the Board of Elections for their offer, but at this time, Atlantic Beach will decline their offer. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Barnes, vote was unanimous, 5-0.

2. Resolution 07-05-01, "Designating Bank Depositories and Authorizing Signatures"

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 07-05-01, "Designating Bank Depositories and Authorizing Signatures". Motion was seconded by Councilman Dawkins, vote was unanimous, 5-0.

(Clerk's Note: A copy of Resolution 07-05-01 is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.)

3. Budget Work Session

Dave Harvell, Town Manager opened the floor to thank Interim Town Manager, Tommy Combs for his hard work and sharing his forty-three (43) years of experience. Mr. Harvell also thanked staff for the tremendous amount of work hours that was put into the presentation and data that will be presented.

a.) Presentation of Atlantic Beach Financial Trends – Tommy Combs

Mr. Combs opened the floor with a brief summary of his presentation and what it will entail.

Mr. Combs stated that Atlantic Beach's biggest problem is the maintenance of capital equipment. He feels that more revenue could be generated from the summer population.

Mayor Vinson thanked Mr. Combs for his hard work and efforts that went into the making of his presentation.

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

Mayor Vinson recessed the meeting at 3:10 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

b.) Budget Presentation and Discussion – Dave Harvell

Dave Harvell, Town Manager took the floor at this time. He thanked the entire staff management team and Mr. Combs for the efforts and hard work in putting together the information and data into a comprehensive presentation for Council. He stated that the primary objective for the work sessions will be to get the Town Council's philosophy and primary operational objectives. Mr. Harvell gave an overview of what the presentation will entail and proceeded with his presentation.

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

At this time, Mr. Harvell completed his presentation.

c.) Budget Direction from Council

Mr. Harvell asked for general direction from Council on several items that are listed below:

- 1.) Town Hall facilities
- 2.) Fire Department Rescue Truck (\$385,000)
- 3.) Purchase of new patrol vehicles for Police Department
- 4.) Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)
- 5.) Budget Work Session schedule

Councilwoman Barnes feels that Council needs to take care of issues/problems that have been put off in the past.

Councilman Tarascio is also for taking care of town issues at this time.

Councilman Warren is in favor of planning for a five (5) year budget.

At this time, Mr. Harvell asked for questions/comments from the Council on the items listed.

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In reference to Item #1 (Town Hall facilities)- Mr. Harvell stated that an amount of \$215,000 would be used as “seed” monies to put into the creation of a plan to move forward on new town hall facilities (space needs study, relocation expenses, etc.). Mr. Harvell did state that he felt that the current management staff could provide the space needs study without having to outsource.

In reference to Item #2 (Fire Department Rescue Truck) – Mr. Harvell stated that the debt assumption, with Council approval, for the apparatus would be in the FY2007-08, but the actual burden of expense would not take place until the FY2008-09, which would provide substantial cost savings.

Councilman Barnes made a motion to proceed forward with the bidding for purchase of a rescue truck for the Fire Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tarascio. Vote was unanimous, 5-0.

In reference to Item #3 (purchase of new police patrol vehicles) – Mr. Harvell requested direction on the purchase of four (4) new patrol vehicles for the Police Department. He stated that if the order was closed on/before June 1, 2007, a substantial total net savings of \$5,000 would be obtained.

Councilman Tarascio made a motion to move forward with the purchase of four (4) new patrol vehicles for the Police Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dawkins. Vote was unanimous, 5-0.

In reference to Item #4 (COLA) – Mr. Harvell stated that the current Operational and Maintenance budget reflects a four percent (4%) COLA. He is asking for direction for this percentage to be acceptable or to go back and obtain various data using specific indicators (Southeast CPI, national average, surrounding municipalities, etc.) Upon further discussion, it was requested for Mr. Harvell to seek data from the surrounding municipalities with comparison to the Southeast CPI and bring forth to Council at the next scheduled budget work session.

In reference to Item #5 (budget work session schedule) – It was with general agreement from Council to meet on Monday, May 14, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. for the next budget work session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Town Council, Councilman Warren made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Barnes. Vote was unanimous, 5-0. It was 6:05 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