

**Minutes**  
**Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, November 24, 2008**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held Monday, November 24, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room.

**Members Present:** Mayor A. B. Cooper, III; Mayor Pro Tem Harry Archer; Councilmembers: Ann Batt, Eddie Briley and Vada Palma

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Pete Allen, Town Manager; Derek Taylor, Town Attorney; Kelly Cyrus, Town Clerk; Sabrina Simpson, Administration; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Jessica Fiester, Planning Director; Donna Turner, Inspections Director; Allen Smith, Police Chief; Lt. Brian Prior; FF Bolick; FF Ainsworth and FF Arthur

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Kelly Cyrus, Town Clerk took roll call.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Joe Tarascio gave the Invocation and Mayor and Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Batt made a motion to amend the agenda by the removal of Action Item #5 and to bring forth this item at the December 22, 2008 Town Council meeting.. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Briley. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

Councilmember Briley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as written. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Batt. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**All items listed below are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one introduction/motion/second/roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.**

**1. TAX COLLECTION REPORT – OCTOBER, 2008:**

The tax collection report for October, 2008 was submitted for approval, which showed that \$241,484.96 had been collected on 2008 taxes and \$1,099.79 on 2007 taxes.

**2. TAX RELEASES - OCTOBER, 2008:**

A cumulative amount of \$885.87 in tax releases was submitted for approval.

**3. BUDGET TRANSFERS**

\$3,000.00 in budget transfers was submitted for approval.

**4. BUDGET AMENDMENT #5**

A budget amendment for 41,045.00 was submitted for approval.

**5. TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

October 27, 2008

(Clerk's Note: a copy of all Consent Agenda items are hereby attached and therefore made a part of these minutes.)

#### CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS

##### **John Ghesquiere, 2511 West Fort Macon Rd, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina**

Mr. Ghesquiere commented that the overgrowth from the trees along Fort Macon need trimming/pruning and he also stated that he is in favor of keeping the seasonal speed limits within the town.

##### **Joe Tarascio, 113 Hoop Pole Creek Drive, Atlantic Beach, NC**

Mr. Tarascio stated that the Council needed to look at how to survive the post-boom economy. He stated that between illusion and politics, there is "Pollusion". He advised for the Council to pay attention to the facts of situations, issues, etc. – not the illusion.

##### **Lee Willis, 104 Atlantic Beach Causeway, Atlantic Beach, NC**

Mrs. Willis offered a suggestion to the debate over the seasonal speed limit within the town. Her suggestion was to change to speed limit to 40 MPH year round which, she felt, would be a compromise and appease all concerned.

##### **Jim Willis, 104 Atlantic Beach Causeway, Atlantic Beach, NC**

Mr. Willis asked the question as to who introduced the concept of a Unified Development Ordinance to which he answered Landin Holland of Holland Consulting.

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### **1. Proclamation 08-11-01: Proclamation for Dedicated Services – Rebecca Hobgood**

Presented by: Mayor Cooper

Mayor Cooper presented Ms. Rebecca "Becky" Hobgood for her long standing, dedicated services to the men and women of our military and their families. Ms. Hobgood thanked the town for the recognition and again thanked all of our nation's active and veteran military for their services to this country.

##### **2. Awarding of Departmental Purple Heart – Sgt. Alvarado**

Presented by: Mayor Cooper

Mayor Cooper presented Sgt. Erica Alvarado with the Atlantic Beach Police Department Purple Heart for injuries sustained in the line of duty on the evening of September 17, 2008.

##### **3. Unified Development Ordinance Update**

Presented by: Jessica Fiester, Planning Director

Miss Fiester reported that since the UDO committee was formed in February, 2008, they are at their 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with the last meeting scheduled for December 2, 2008 at which they will discuss the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the ordinance. She also commented that several community meetings were held in specific areas of the town in an effort to get feedback from the residents of those areas on the impact the UDO would have on their areas. She noted that the committee was given some good suggestions and comments and some of those have been incorporated into the draft of the UDO. She stated that the committee will be tying up some loose ends on the draft and then present it to the Planning Board with a possible joint meeting of the Town Council and Planning Board to further work out any "kinks" and upon completion will be brought forth to the state.

#### **4. Financial, Cash and Investment Reports**

Presented by: Sabrina Simpson, Administrative Services

Mrs. Simpson gave a presentation on the town's monthly financial reports.

(Clerk's Note: a copy of all financial reports are hereby attached and therefore made a part of these minutes.)

### **ACTION AGENDA**

#### **1. 2nd Reading: Franchise Agreement between the Town of Atlantic Beach and Carolina Power & Light Company d/b/a Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. ("Progress Energy Carolinas")**

Presented by: Pete Allen, Town Manager

Councilmember Palma questioned Mr. Dan Oliver, representative of Progress Energy on possible conditions incorporated into the agreement for purposes of underground wiring for new and exiting wiring within the town. Mr. Oliver advised that there is an existing plan on file that deals with this type of conversion. He did note that there would be significant costs attached to a project of this magnitude, but that Progress Energy would work with the town on the details of the conversion to implement this over time if that is what the town so chooses.

Councilmember Briley made a motion to *approve* the Franchise Agreement between the Town of Atlantic Beach and Progress Energy Carolinas., Inc. on its 2nd Reading. Seconded by Councilmember Batt. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

#### **2. Appointments to Planning Board:**

Presented by: Jessica Fiester, Planning Director

Miss Fiester advised the Council that four (4) seats on the Planning Board will expire on December 31, 2008 and that all four of those members have expressed interest in being reappointed to the Planning Board for a two (2) year term of January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011. Those members are: Norman Livengood; Larry Burke; Scott Rice and Steve Joyner.

Mayor Pro Tem Archer made a motion to *reappoint* Norman Livengood, Larry Burke, Scott Rice and Steve Joyner to the Planning Board. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Palma. Vote was unanimous, 4-0, motion carried.

#### **3. Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2007-2008:**

Presented by: Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Company

Mr. Greg Adams, representative of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Co. gave a brief overview of the findings of the audit report for the FY2007-2008.

Mayor Pro Tem Archer made a motion to *approve* the audit report for FY2007-2008 for the Town of Atlantic Beach. Councilmember Briley seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

#### **4. Appointment to Atlantic Beach Town Council:**

Presented by: Mayor Cooper

Mayor Cooper stated that himself along with Council have been working on filling the vacancy on the Town Council that was left with the passing of former Councilmember Kenneth Ide. He advised that their decisions were based upon who would carry on the former Councilmember's legacy and what he stood for as related to good of Atlantic Beach.

Councilmember Briley made a motion to *appoint* Patricia Ide, former Councilmember Kenneth Ide's wife, to fill the vacancy on the Atlantic Beach Town Council for the remainder of the term. Mayor Pro Tem Archer seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. Motion carried.

**5. Resolution 08-11-01; Adoption of Revised Personnel Policy:**

Presented by: Sabrina Simpson, Administrative Services

\*\*\* This item was removed from the agenda

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

There was no report from the Town Manager at this time.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

There was no report from the Town Attorney at this time.

**MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/COMMENTS**

Councilmember Palma wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving and noted that she appreciates all the support that has been shown.

Councilmember Briley commented that the first year had been very interesting and a learning year for the Council. He noted that their biggest task were personal assets and stability of the town. He also thanked the Town Manager and staff for their extreme efforts in cutting costs and monitoring expenditures during these trying times.

Mayor Pro Tem Archer wanted to give light to the fact that behind closed doors at Monday morning staff meetings, the Town Manager along with department heads address the town's economic conditions, along with constant review of the budget; financial review; town fuel consumption and surcharges; hiring policies and procedures; travel. He stated that all departmental training has been cut and purchasing is monitored quite closely. He thanked everyone for all their cooperation.

Councilmember Batt noted that everyone, not just towns, are watching their spending and the town departments have, without cutting services, have adjusted and gone beyond the call of duty in their part of monitoring and cutting costs. She wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving and congratulated Patricia Ide on her appointment.

Mayor Cooper concurred with the previous statements that were made by the Council and also thanked staff and Pete Allen, Town Manager for their cost cutting efforts and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Town Council, Councilmember Batt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Palma. Vote was unanimous, 4-0. It was 7:09 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Kelly L. Cyrus, Town Clerk

These minutes were approved at the December 22, 2008 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

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A. B. Cooper, III - Mayor