



Minutes
Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
Town Council Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2009



The Special Meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council was held February 3, 2009 at 8:30 a.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: Councilmember Trish Ide

Others Present: Pete Allen, Town Manager; Kelly Cyrus, Town Clerk; Sabrina Simpson, Administrative Services Supervisor; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Jessica Fiestler, Planning Director; Donna Turner, Inspections Director; Allen Smith, Police Chief; A.K. Miller, Deputy Police Chief; Adam Snyder, Fire Chief; Laurie Hasulak, Administrative Assistant

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The Town Council, Town Manager, department heads and key staff met in the Town meeting room for a review of the current year's budget, accomplishments and discussion of needs for the various department requests within the upcoming FY2009-10 budget.

The Town Manager and department heads reviewed and discussed all information provided in the retreat packets with Council. Though it was noted we are in the early stages of planning for the FY2009-10 budget process, the Councilmembers agreed on the following statements:

- Though we are facing tough economic times as a nation, Atlantic Beach is in sound financial condition.
- Tax rate is to remain at 12.5 cents and therefore the budget process for FY09-10 will be tough with declining state revenues and flat growth.
- Employees should have no fears in regard to job stability or that salaries or benefits will be cut, though a COLA increase will be unlikely with current CPI trends.
- Grants should be actively applied for, with prior approval of the Town Manager, whether or not a cash match will be required of the Town.
- Market conditions are favorable for vehicle replacements, even if fund balance monies of \$100,000 to \$250,000 have to be appropriated for this use.
- Document management software and scanning services should be purchased as soon as possible in preparation of natural or manmade disasters. Tom Doe historic preservation donation of \$10,000.00 shall be used toward this purchase.
- Digital recording software should be actively researched and brought to Council for action due to unreliability of current system.

The Town Manager explained that a budget calendar will be prepared shortly and distributed to Council and staff with budget workbooks to be handed out in early March for FY2009-10 to department heads.

(Clerk's Note: Copies of all supporting documents are hereby attached and therefore made a part of these minutes.)

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/COMMENTS
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Councilmember Ann Batt comments: stated that the Town Manager summed it all up in that Council will do all they can to protect staff. Thanked staff for the wonderful job they do.

Mayor Pro Tem Harry Archer comments: Staff, Town Manager and Council could not have hand picked a better group of individuals to work with.

Councilmember Vada Palma comments :that Council has a wonderful support system and hopefully within her lifetime staff can be provided with a new facility.

Councilmember Eddie Briley comments: he is in awe of what he has found out since being elected and stunned on what goes on behind closed doors in regards to the working of the town departments. Noted the professional dedication of staff and supports all endeavors.

Mayor Cooper comments: that he is aware that a new facility is very much needed and this just very well may be the year to start planning for this issue. Council has accomplished a lot in the past year by maintaining low taxes, moved forward on much needed dredging, and addressing storm water issues. He noted also that he is thankful Council has a “pro” in Pete Allen, running the town.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no action taken nor any further business before the Town Council, Mayor Cooper adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kelly L. Cyrus
Town Clerk

These minutes were approved at the March 23, 2009 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Town Council.

A. B. Cooper III, Mayor