



Town of Southern Shores
Regular Council Meeting
October 1, 2019

The Town of Southern Shores Town Council met in the Pitts Center located at 5377 N. Virginia Dare Trail at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Bennett, Mayor pro tem Chris Nason and Council Members Fred Newberry, Jim Conners and Gary McDonald.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Attorney Ben Gallop, Interim Town Manager Wes Haskett, Finance and Human Resource Officer Bonnie Swain, and Town Clerk Sheila Kane

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and held a moment of silence.

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Mayor Bennett moved to approve the agenda with an amendment to remove item #2A. Leo Holland's Planning Board recognition and have it placed on the December Council meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Conners. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- Council Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2019

MOTION: Mayor pro tem Nason moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Conners. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

STAFF REPORTS

The following Department Heads presented department reports for the month:

- Town Planner Wes Haskett presented the Planning Department's monthly report for September. He reported the Planning Board will be meeting on October 21st to continue its discussion of the Town's current requirements for building height and fill.
- Police Chief David Kole presented his Department's monthly report for September.
- Fire Chief Limbacher presented the Fire Department's monthly report for September.
- The Interim Town Manager provided a brief update on Town operations:
 - Hurricane Dorian-Debris removal began on September 24th and there are currently two trucks working in the Town. As of yesterday, a total of 68 loads, or 3,461 cubic yards, of vegetative debris has been hauled to the landfill in Manns Harbor. The debris removal contractor and our debris removal monitoring contractor have both indicated that the pick-up will take longer than initially anticipated. However, the contractors have also indicated that additional trucks will begin working in the Town as soon as possible, so we ask that everyone please be patient as the pick-up moves through the Town.
 - Capital Street Projects-We have received the geotechnical reports for the E. Dogwood Trail, Dewberry Ln., Hillcrest Dr., and Sea Oats Trail street projects. The Town Engineer has started drawing the plans for the E. Dogwood Trail project. We'll continue to provide updates on these projects as they move forward.
 - S. Dogwood Trail Walking Path-The bid opening for the S. Dogwood Tri. walking path will take place on Thursday, October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. Assuming we receive at least three bids on the project, we will add the consideration of awarding a contract to the November 6, 2019 meeting agenda.
- Town Attorney Gallop had no report.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Bennett called for public comment and the following citizens offered comment:

1. Tommy Karole-77 East Dogwood-Cut-thru Traffic Committee Chair, working on the process of setting up some meetings. Believes he has diversity among his group so that all opinions and areas of Town are represented. Hopeful to bring some good solutions.
2. Paul Borzellino-16 7th Avenue-supports beach nourishment and the budget amendment to contract with financial consultants DEC Associates. Perhaps Dare County will see this as a commitment and reserve the 7 million for Southern Shores beach nourishment.

Hearing no other citizen wishing to speak, Mayor Bennett closed public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of Budget Amendment #4 -Half of the total amount due for financial planning from DEC Associates, Inc. for beach nourishment. DEC Associates (Doug and Andrew Carter) are an independent firm providing help with shoreline protection financial planning and the financing modes available to the Town, should Council decide to pursue such a project.

Mayor Bennett stated other towns and the county have used DEC Associates. He felt the first step was making sure that there is somebody on board who can really advise and help with a plan that will allow the Town to pay for the beach nourishment project, if Council decides to move forward. He further stated that it will send a message to the county that the town is, at least this point in time, moving forward. Council can commit now, November or December, but needs to make a decision in a timely manner.

Councilman Newberry asked if anyone talked to the other towns and county about their learning experiences. He felt it was worth talking to the other towns before spending money on a consultant, unless they say we need a consultant.

Mayor Bennett stated he had talked with all the towns during the last project, Kitty Hawk, Duck, and Kill Devil Hills. He said they all used the same consultant, speak highly of them and the county has encouraged Southern Shores to work with DEC Associates. Mayor Bennett stated until DEC knows all the financials for Southern Shores, we do not know what they will recommend.

Councilman McDonald stated he ran the numbers of what a 14-16-million-dollar project would run. He inquired as to how much the county was willing to provide and if it was going to be a 50/50 match.

Mayor Bennett stated as of February the amount the county was willing to commit to Southern Shores was 7 million. He stated Southern Shores does not have a bid price to actually provide project numbers, just estimates.

Councilman McDonald stated he would like Council to invite the County Chair and Finance Director to come and present to our public some options on what the county can do, so we have a better idea. He stated to also ask our finance department to work up some numbers so the public knows what this is going to do to taxes. Is it going to be straight across the board, districts, how is it going to go?

Mayor Bennett stated that is why we are bringing a consultant on board. They will advise as to what we could do and should do. Councilman McDonald felt that our own finance office could come up with these numbers.

Councilman Nason stated Councilman McDonald and Newberry are correct in asking the question on how we will pay for this. The county is asking us to use a certain professional organization to help answer that question. The county is also looking for some type of commitment to the project and we don't want to lose that 7 million dollars in the process, then there will be no project. He said it will then be easy, and we don't do anything, no project. It is important that we as a town show we are moving forward, that we are looking at the county's suggestions and using their consultant to come up with answers to these questions. He further stated, Gary may be correct in that our staff could do the numbers, but these financial planners have done this all over and they

may have seen ways that we have not. Doing nothing and delaying shows the opposite to the county. He supports contracting with the financial consultants, DEC Associates.

MOTION: Councilman Conners moved to pass this budget amendment #4 and authorize Mr. Haskett to engage in contract negotiations with DEC Associates, i.e. the financial planners. The motion was seconded by Mayor pro tem Nason. The motion passed 3-2 with Mayor Bennett, Mayor pro tem Nason, and Councilman Conners voting affirmative; Councilman McDonald and Councilman Newberry opposing.

Mayor Bennett stated he would be glad to have the County Manager and County Chair come and speak with Council at the November 6, 2019 meeting.

Councilman Newberry agreed with asking County Manager Bobby Outten to attend the November Council meeting.

Councilman McDonald inquired as to who specifically recommended DEC Associates to Council, the individual.

Mayor Bennett stated the Mayor of both Duck and Kitty Hawk recommended DEC to him. He further stated that he did not think the county would recommend Southern Shores using a company that they were not comfortable dealing with. The Mayor stated he spoke with Ken Willson who indicated that the Town can adjust the amount of sand needed, even if the project is in process.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Bennett again called for public comment and the following citizens offered comment.

1. Trisha Farinholt-69 Ocean Blvd-when the canals were dredge all homeowners paid, it should be the same with beach nourishment.
2. Ann Sjoerdsma-69 Hickory Trail-agrees with Trisha Farinholt that all homeowners benefit from the beach, predictable 3-2 vote.

Hearing no other citizens wishing to speak, Mayor Bennett closed public comment.

MAYOR COMMENTS & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Bennett stated two Planning Board Members stepped down from their positions in July. Leo Holland will be recognized at the December meeting. Joe McGraw wanted his recognition certificate mailed, rather than presented. Mayor Bennett recognized Mr. McGraw for his years of service on the Planning Board.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a)(6) for purpose of approving prior closed session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman McDonald. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

ADJOURN

MOTION: Upon returning to open session, Councilman McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded Mayor pro tem Nason. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). The times was 7:38 p.m.

ATTEST:



Thomas G. Bennett, Mayor



Respectfully submitted,



Sheila Kane, Town Clerk