



COUNCIL WORKSHOP
JUNE 16, 2020
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JUNE 16, 2020 Minutes: Council Workshop

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Bennett, Mayor pro tem Elizabeth Morey, and Council Members Jim Conners, Leo Holland and Matt Neal.

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

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and held a moment of silence.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilman Conners moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holland. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

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

- Steve Hackman-Public Comment by Email-cut thru traffic needs to be addressed.
- Jim Groff-Public Comment by Email- very pleased with the new sidewalk installed along Dogwood Trail. Widening of Dogwood Trail to 24 ft. needs to occur for safety reasons.
- Bettye House-Public Comment by email- cut thru traffic needs to be addressed, especially on Sea Oats Trail.
- Amanda Bartell-Public Comment by email-please find a solution to the cut thru traffic.
- Wendy Hawkins-Public Comment by Email-Please address cut thru traffic.
- Tommy Karole-Public Comment by email-Traffic Committee looks forward to analyzing the data collected from the three no left turn weekends and will submit their finding this fall.
- Victoria Green-Public Comment by email-cut thru traffic needs to be addressed.
- J. Wohner-Public Comment-Please address some bumps along the road surface on Trinitie Trail.
- Craig Albert-Public Comment-doesn't understand why Council will not utilize the opinion and data from the research pier in Duck for beach nourishment information. No capital expenses should be used at this time.
- Ann Sjoerdsma-Public Comment-Council needs to address cut thru traffic. Wanted to share comments received on the Beacon about traffic.

- Joseph Van Gieson-Public Comment via Zoom- Council needs to address traffic. Council should wait for the new Town Manager to address beach nourishment.
- Kristine Kiouis-Public Comment via Zoom-Council needs to address cut thru traffic.

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

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Bennett stated Ed Lawler's term will expire June 30, 2020 and he wishes to serve a three-year term. No other applications are on file.

MOTION: Mayor Bennett moved to appoint Ed Lawler to the Planning board for a three-year term. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holland. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

TOWN ENGINEER CONTRACT

Councilman Connors withdrew his motion to hire Anlauf /Deel engineering (tabled motion from June 1, 2020).

Councilman Holland read an email received from a resident stating how pleased he was with a very prompt response to an issue brought before the Town Manager and Town Engineer on a Friday afternoon. The email praised them for the excellent customer service.

Councilman Neal stated if the Town has a project and there is a more qualified engineer for that project, he would like to reserve the right to bid out the engineer service.

Town Attorney Gallop stated there is nothing in the contract that states that the Town engineer is exclusive.

MOTION: Councilman Connors moved to retain Anlauf/Deel Engineering for a period of two years, commencing July 1, 2020, with a contract extension of one or more years by the Town Manager with Council approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holland. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

NO LEFT TURN WEEKEND

Mayor Bennett stated Council had committed to three no left turn weekends, a commitment of resources on short notice. The amount of traffic on the weekends are consistent with prior years July numbers. NCDOT and the barrel rental company are willing to work with the Town for some additional weekends, even without police presence. The Town Attorney stated there may be some risks but not enough that should be discouraging. Mayor Bennett suggested adding two additional no left turn weekends in June at the cost of \$7400.

Finance Officer Bonnie Swain clarified that the \$7400 will come out of the unassigned fund balance, as this is not currently in the budget.

Mayor pro tem Morey inquired about the purchase of barrels rather than rental.

Finance Officer Swain stated there is not enough time to order barrels for delivery and then there is an issue with storage.

MOTION: Councilman Neal moved to appropriate \$7400 for the Mayor's suggestion of the weekends of June 20th and June 27th for barrel rentals, and subsequently develop a resolution for the first meeting in July to notify requisite authorities of our road closures. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holland. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

BEACH NOURISHMENT-PUBLIC HEARING

Town Attorney Gallop stated this is a public forum/public hearing being conducted for the opportunity to let Council know your thoughts on the Town pursuing or not pursuing beach nourishment. Town Attorney Gallop opened the public hearing and called for comment.

The following resident spoke in favor of beach nourishment:

- Katherine Edward
- Paul Shaeffer
- Paul Borzellino
- Martin Miller
- Kevin Whaley
- Ken Fisher
- John Price

The following residents spoke in opposition or undecided to beach nourishment:

- Ann Sjoerdsma-opposed to beach nourishment as currently proposed.
- Charles Andrews- undecided, would like to see results of beach nourishment recently conducted in Southern Shores.
- DA Higham Gardill-cost of project should be distributed evenly among all property owners.
- Hendrik Pepler--establish reserve fund for future beach nourishment projects
- Joseph Van Gieson-opposed to beach nourishment project as proposed at this time and believes project engineer has a conflict of interest.

[**Clerk's Note:** Council was provided approximately 271 emails received from residents in response to the beach nourishment outreach postcard sent to property owners.]

Hearing no other citizen wishing to provide comment, Town Attorney Gallop closed the public hearing.

Mayor Bennett called from a brief ten-minute recess.

Recess-10:45a.m.
Back in Session 10:55 a.m.

Upon returning from recess, Mayor Bennett called on Ken Willson, CPE-NC to answer any questions Council may have and to address questions that may have come up during the public hearing.

Mayor pro tem Morey inquired as to delaying moving forward with the CPE-NC contract until the new Town Manager is on board at the July 7th meeting.

Ken Willson stated he understands the gravity of the decision. His one concern is costs sharing with the other three towns. The other towns understand Southern Shores situation and the gravity of the decision that needs to be made. With many of the cost sharing aspects of the project, it would be better to decide sooner than later, so that some of the additional costs, if Southern Shores choses to not move forward with a project, can be mitigated earlier in the project.

It was **CONSENSUS OF ALL COUNCIL**, to wait until the new Town Manager Cliff Ogburn had a chance to look at the CPE-NC contract and address the item at the July 7th meeting.

Councilman Neal inquired if Council was going to talk about beach nourishment? He stated Council has heard from approximately 300 emailed comments, and public comment. He thinks there was some confusion with the math related to the tax increases. He stated today is the day to tackle the beach nourishment decision.

Mayor pro tem Morey asked for some answers to some of the financial comments made today. Andrew and Doug Carter with DEC addressed some of the financing comments that came up during the public hearing; summarizing the financing models and the current interest rate.

Councilman Conners stated the Town should post information on the website that is easier to understand, decipher the technical terms being used.

Mayor pro tem Morey asked if easy to understand PowerPoint slides could be created and posted on the Town website, as a reference or explanation of the financing models.

Councilman Neal stated the Carters have basically shown all that in their financing model. Until the Town decides and puts the MSD's in place, it is just estimating for people. He stated again, are we going to move forward with sand on the beach or not? All the financing stuff can be solved once Council decides.

Councilman Neal stated he keeps going back to what an oceanographer friend who work at the Duck Research Facility stated. *"It is better to have some sand than not to have any."*

Mayor pro tem Morey stated she would personally like to see the beach the way it is, but we have made changes to the landscape over time, and she is not willing to risk losing ocean front properties. The Town needs to look forward. We are subsidized by our visitors, and the County is in the business of putting sand on the beaches. She stated her support is contingent on the other towns participating and receiving the financial support from Dare County.

Councilman Holland stated we need to support the group in order to accomplish the project. The financial cost would just be too much individually. If we do not do the project and wait several years until the next project time and the beaches are compromised, we would be criticized then as well.

MOTION: Councilman Neal moved that the Town of Southern Shores pursue beach nourishment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Conners. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Interim Town Manager Wes Haskett asked for clarification. He stated is it Council's decision to move forward with beach nourishment but to wait on consideration of the CPE-NC contract and budget amendment? All of Council agreed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Bennett thanked Ken Willson, Doug and Andrew Carter, and staff for their time and help this morning.

Councilman Holland thanked Public Works Director David Bradley for going above and beyond recently with helping residents, even when he wasn't on the time clock.

Mayor pro tem Morey stated at some point she may want to speak to Council about a resolution opposing seismic testing off our shoreline.

ADJOURN

Hearing no other business, mayor Bennett called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Councilman Holland moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor pro tem Morey. The motion passed unanimously. The time was 11:50 a.m.

ATTEST:


Thomas G. Bennett, Mayor



Respectfully submitted,


Sheila Kane, Town Clerk