

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES

NOVEMBER 14, 2024, 5:30PM

TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 321 CAUSEWAY DRIVE, WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Mayor Mills. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was provided by Caroline Jinkins, Pastor, Little Chapel on the Boardwalk. The following were present:

Board of Aldermen

F. Darryl Mills, Mayor
Hank Miller, Mayor Pro-tem
Jeff DeGroote, Alderman
Ken Dull, Alderman
Vivian (Zeke) Partin, Alderman

Staff

Haynes Brigman, Town Manager
Lance G. Heater, Town Clerk
Brian Murray, Finance Officer
Bill Fay, Director of Public Works
Joe Newberry, Police Captain
Katie Ryan, Rec. Programs Supervisor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Bulluck, representing the Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on Chamber events and activities.

Jeff Turpin, 105 Island Dr., asked for a study of speeding on Harbor Island and suggested the installation of 3 or 4-way stop signs and/or portable speed monitors which would advise motorists of their speed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Prior to consideration of the Consent Agenda, Partin asked questions of Police Captain Newberry and Finance Officer Murray regarding specific items within the Consent Agenda.

Upon motion by Miller, seconded by DeGroote and carried unanimously, the Consent Agenda was approved. It consisted of the following: 1) approval of the minutes of the 10/9/24 regular meeting; 2) approval of amendments to previously-approved events; 3) acknowledgement of previously-approved events for December; 4) acknowledgement of departmental quarterly reports for the months of July, August and September 2024; 5) adoption of Resolution (2024) 2340 authorizing the Finance Officer to establish an investment account with NCClass; and 6) adoption of Resolution (2024) 2343 declaring kitchen table and chairs surplus and authorizing sale on GovDeals.

PRESENTATION – None.

PUBLIC HEARING – None.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF UPGRADES TO WATER STORAGE TANK #2 AND ADOPTION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE (2024) 638-B FUNDING THE WORK

Fay explained that in 2018, equipment was installed in both of the Town's elevated tanks to combat a byproduct of chlorination and that the equipment in Tank #2 had reached the end of its useful life. The Town had consulted with the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority and it was in agreement with the replacement of the equipment. Ultimately, these costs would be funded by CFPUA in that the expenses would lessen the amount of funds transferred to CFPUA from the Town's Water and Sewer Fund at the time of merger. Upon motion by Dull, seconded by Miller and carried unanimously, the Budget Ordinance was approved.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH WITHERSRAVENEL TO COMPLETE A PAVEMENT CONDITION STUDY

Brigman noted that the study had been approved to be included in the FY24-25 Budget but has been pending execution. Brigman stated that the study would provide data so that the Town could prioritize street resurfacing projects. Upon motion by Miller, seconded by DeGroot and carried unanimously, the Board authorized the Town Manager to execute the contract.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION (2024) 2342 DESIGNATING APPLICANT'S AGENT FOR PURPOSES OF EXECUTING AND FILING APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL AND/OR STATE ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN IN CONNECTION WITH SECURING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) GRANT PROGRAM

Murray noted that this was a FEMA program which, if approved, could be utilized to assist with the repair of street end bulkheads. Murray stated that Andrew Engineering had conducted a study of the bulkheads on behalf of the Town which indicated that total repairs were estimated at \$2.75 million. Murray stated that he had completed a Letter of Intent, which had been sent to the NC Department of Emergency Management, indicating the Town's interest in pursuing funding for these projects. The Resolution would allow the Town Manager and/or Finance Officer to file the application for funding in the event the Letter of Intent was approved. Brigman noted that this was a nationwide grant which will be highly competitive and that the area's representatives in the House of Representatives and Senate would be providing letters of support for the Town's projects. Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Partin and carried unanimously, the Resolution was adopted.

OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- A. **Alderman DeGroot:** expressed appreciation to Recreation Programs Supervisor Katie Ryan and the Harbor Island Garden Club for the recent Veterans Day recognition program; noted that he would be meeting with Chamber of Commerce officials regarding the securing of TDA funding for the visitors' center.
- B. **Alderman Partin:** also expressed appreciation to Ryan and Town staff for their work on the Veterans Day program.
- C. **Alderman Dull:** expressed support for making the Veterans Day program an annual event.
- D. **Mayor Pro Tem Miller:** noted the MPO had moved into its new facility.
- E. **Mayor Mills:** stated that the New Hanover County liaison to the Ports, Waterway & Beaches Commission, Layton Bedsole, was retiring; stated that he would be updating the Town Manager on the need for future permitting action by property owners adjacent to Mason Inlet.
- F. **Town Clerk Heater:** nothing to report
- G. **Town Manager Brigman:** nothing to report.
- H. **Town Attorney Edes:** nothing to report.

CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER, FITNESS, CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT, OR CONDITIONS OF INITIAL EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICER AS AUTHORIZED BY NCGS 143-318.11(A)(6)

At 6:08pm Partin made a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel matter as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(A)(6). The motion was seconded by Miller and carried unanimously.

Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Mills and carried unanimously, the Board returned to open session at 6:16pm, with no action being taken as a result of the closed session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance G. Heater, Town Clerk