BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2025, 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	Staff
F. Darryl Mills, Mayor	Haynes Brigman, Town Manager
Hank Miller, Mayor Pro-tem	Lance G. Heater, Town Clerk
Jeff DeGroote, Alderman	Jerry Mannen, Acting Town Attorney
Ken Dull, Alderman	Bill Fay, Director of Public Works
Vivian (Zeke) Partin, Alderman	Matt Holland, Acting Fire Chief
	Jason Bishop, Acting Chief of Police
	Katie Ryan, Recreation Programs Supervisor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ian Balding, stating that he was representing local commercial captains and business owners, spoke of the need to upgrade the Wrightsville Beach public boat ramp. Balding stated that State Senator Michael Lee was in support of the improvements, but needed to have the support of the Town. Balding asked that the Board adopt a resolution in support of the improvements.

Neal Briggi expressed appreciation to the Board and Brigman for the 1/7 budget workshop. Briggi also: 1) advocated development of a status dashboard which would show progress on current and future projects; 2) advocated the inclusion of bike racks at various locations in the upcoming budget; 3) advocated installation of high visibility crosswalks; and 3) challenged the Town to maximize volunteer opportunities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Partin and carried unanimously, the Consent Agenda was approved. It consisted of 1) approval of the open session minutes of the 12-2-24 special called meeting and the 12-12-24 regular meeting; 2) acknowledgement of previously-approved special events for February; 3) approval of recurring special events as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee; and 4) adoption of Resolution (2025) 2347 in support of the WMPO's Resilience Improvement Planning Grant Application.

CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE PAID PARKING PROGRAM INCLUDING ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE (2025) 1864 AND BUDGET ORDINANCE (2025) 643-B

Brigman reviewed staff recommendations resulting from the 12/2/24 special called meeting and the proposals from Pivot Parking regarding the 2025 parking season as follows: 1) remove identified parking spaces that present safety concerns; 2) delay the use of fixed camera enforcement until further technology advancements provide efficiency gains; 3) approve the longer appeal process from 3 days to 5 days; 4) keep existing lifeguard parking spaces as they are; however, open the spaces up to be used by the public outside of the time lifeguards are staffed on the beach (from Labor Day to Memorial Day); 5) consider increasing the daily rate by $5.00 to keep up with market changes and the increasing costs to provide public safety and sanitation services on the beach. In discussing the recommendations, it was the consensus of the Board to approve items #1-4.

Regarding Item #5, DeGroote cited the negative effect that parking rate increases have on businesses and expressed opposition to increasing the daily rate. Partin also expressed opposition to increasing the daily rate. Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Mills and carried by a vote of 3-2 (DeGroote and Partin opposed), Budget Ordinance (2025) 643-B was approved (increasing the daily parking rate). Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Mills and carried unanimously, Ordinance (2025) 1864 was approved (changing the appeal period from 3 days to 5 days).

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET ORDINANCE (2025) 642-B FUNDING A PROPOSAL FOR CAMERA IMPROVEMENTS AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH INFRANET TO IMPLEMENT THE IMPROVEMENTS

Brigman stated that Infranet had prepared a comprehensive camera proposal that addressed several needs for the Town's security camera technology. The proposal included the installation of new cameras, replacement of older cameras with newer technology, service and maintenance improvements to existing cameras, and installation of SD cards to save video footage. The project would also switch out older radio-read cameras with cellular connected cameras to address weak radio-read signals at several camera locations and the relocation of a camera on a Duke Energy pole to a more appropriate location. Brigman stated the completion of the project would allow the Town and its public safety departments to have greater surveillance capabilities, utilize license plate reader technology to track vehicles, and utilize higher definition cameras for facial recognition and other surveillance technology to improve public safety response. Brigman noted the proposal included all costs associated with the equipment and installation and that the Town received a $15,000 grant from the ABC Board for the installation of two cameras which would cover a portion of the total costs. Upon motion by Dull, seconded by DeGroote and carried unanimously, Budget Ordinance (2025) 642-B was approved.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWN AND THE HARBOR ISLAND GARDEN CLUB RELATING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE HARBOR WAY GARDEN

Ryan stated that the MOU was written to better define expectations between the two parties and to prevent any potential conflicts in use of the Harbor Way Garden facility and the adjacent fields. Ryan reported that the Harbor Island Garden Club, both the past and the current president, as well as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee had reviewed the MOU and approved of the content. Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Partin and carried unanimously, the Memorandum of Understanding was approved.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION (2025) 2346 AMENDING THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR NAMING OF TOWN ASSETS

Ryan stated that the policy was initially approved by the Board of Aldermen on March 10, 2022 and requires that an Application to Name Town Assets be submitted to the Town Clerk. The application is then reviewed by the Planning Board which makes naming and renaming recommendations based on the criteria outlined in the policy. Ryan reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) had reviewed the policy and voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Aldermen consider the revision to include the PRAC review of any parks and recreation-related applications to name Town assets as it is consistent with the ordinance pertaining to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee’s purpose. Upon motion by Partin, seconded by DeGroote and carried unanimously, the Resolution was approved.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE (2025) 644-B FUNDING THE PURCHASE OF TWO RADAR SPEED SIGNS

Brigman stated that the signs would be smaller, pole-mounted signs which could be moved according to need. The signs would collect and display speed data and would be used by the Police Department to gather information for enforcement purposes. In response to a question, Acting Police Chief Bishop stated that the signs would be installed with a lock to prevent theft. Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Partin and carried unanimously, the Budget Ordinance was approved.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD

Using ballots, the Board made the following appointments to the Planning Board for terms expiring January 2027: Catherine Brunjes, 404 N. Lumina Ave.; Leigh Ann Joyner, 204 S. Lumina Ave.; David Wortman, 2 Lindy Lane; and Andrew Cooke, 8A Heron St. Detailed votes were as follows:

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS	
APPLICANT	**VOTE**
Catherine Brunjes - reappointed	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull
Leigh Ann Joyner - reappointed	Mills, Miller, Partin, DeGroote
David Wortman - reappointed	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull, Partin
Andrew Cooke	Mills, DeGroote, Dull, Partin
James Smith	Miller, Dull, Partin,

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Using ballots, the Board made the following appointments to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for terms ending January 2027: Margaret Baggett, 13 Shore Dr.; Jim Chaffins, 10 W. Salisbury St.; Mindy Gillis, 7 N. Ridge Ln.; Frances Woodbury, 117 Cypress Ave.; and Jason Bendjy, 107 Live Oak Dr. Detailed votes were as follows:

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS	
APPLICANT	**VOTE**
Jim Chaffins - reappointed	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull, Partin
Frances Woodbury - reappointed	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull, Partin

Jason Bendjy	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull, Partin
Margaret Baggett	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull, Partin
Mindy Gillis	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull, Partin

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION

Using ballots, the Board made the following appointments to the Historic Landmark Commission for terms ending January 2027: Nancy Faye Craig, 111 Seaside Ln. and Martha Rice, 104 N. Channel Dr. Detailed votes were as follows:

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS	
APPLICANT	**VOTE**
Nancy Faye Craig	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull Partin
Martha Rice - reappointment	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull, Partin
William Baggett	Mills, Miller

CONSIDER AN APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Using ballots, the Board made the following appointment to the Board of Adjustment for a term ending January 2028: William Blair, 801 S. Lumina Ave. Detailed votes were as follows:

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPOINTMENT	
APPLICANT	**VOTE**
William Blair – reappointed	Mills, Miller, DeGroote, Dull, Partin

OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- **A. Alderman DeGroote:** nothing to report.
- **B. Alderman Dull:** nothing to report.
- **C. Alderman Partin:** nothing to report
- **D. Mayor Pro Tem Miller**: recognized the appointment of Sam Proffitt as the new Ocean Rescue Director.
- **E. Town Manager Brigman**: also recognized and congratulated Proffitt.
- **F. Acting Town Attorney Mannen**: thanked the Mayor for the introduction and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Town.
- **G. Mayor Mills**: nothing to report.
- **H. Town Clerk Heater**: 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 6:31pm Miller 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 Partin and carried unanimously.

Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Mills and carried unanimously, the Board returned to open session at 6:51pm, with no action being taken as a result of the closed session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance G. Heater, Town Clerk