

## BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 11, 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 Presbyterian Church. The following were present:

### Board of Aldermen

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

### Staff

Haynes Brigman, Town Manager  
Lance G. Heater, Town Clerk  
Grady Richardson, Town Attorney  
Robert O'Quinn, Planner  
Matt Holland, Fire Chief  
Jason Bishop, Police Chief  
Bailey Hartsell, Communications Manager  
Brian Murray, Finance Director  
Bill Fay, Public Works Director  
Katie Carus-Childers, Parks & Rec. Director

Prior to consideration of the agenda, Mayor Mills noted the 9-11-01 commemoration ceremony held that morning and thanked Chief Holland and the Fire Department.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Jacobs, 16 Oceanic St., stating that there were noises and disruption resulting from bar patrons several nights per week impacting the residents of his area, asked that the Town increase police enforcement of ordinances prohibiting such behavior.

Sue Bulluck, representing the Chamber of Commerce, expressed appreciation to Board members who attended the recent Chamber meet and greet event and also thanked the Board for the agenda item which, in part, asks for TDA funding for various items. Bulluck also expressed support for adoption of the conditional zoning ordinance.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Miller, seconded by DeGroot and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Consent Agenda. It consisted of 1) approval of the open and closed session minutes of the 8-12-25 Board of Aldermen Meeting; 2) approval of recurring special events as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee; 3) approval of the ILM Lobster Bake and Air Show special event; 4) acknowledgement of previously approved special events for October; 5) approval of Budget Ordinance (2025) 672-B amending registration fees for the Lacrosse Club youth program; 6) approval to request TDA funds budgeted for FY25-26; 7) approval of Budget Ordinance (2025) 669-B to fund improvements to the Wrightsville Beach Park stage; 8) approval of Budget Ordinance (2025) 670-B to fund outstanding purchase orders from FY24-25; 9) approval of Budget Ordinance (2025) 671-B funding a new sign for Durwood Sykes Sunset Park; and 10) approval of Resolution (2025) 2359 awarding badge and service sidearm to retiring Police Sergeant James Lowe.

### PRESENTATIONS

Scout Project Recognition

The Board heard a presentation from Scout Tre Collins (Robert Green Collins, III) regarding his Eagle Scout project to design and build a picnic table at the Visitors Center and to plan landscaping around the Center. The Board expressed appreciation to Collins for his work on the project.

**Consider an update on the activities of the Bridge Replacement Committee by Chair Neal Andrew**

Andrew reviewed the Committee’s activities, noting: 1) first meeting was held in February 2024; 2) the Committee consists of residents from all areas of the Town, ex officio members Alderman Miller, Len Anthony, representing the Chamber of Commerce, Mike Kozlosky of the WMPO, along with invitees Chad Kimes, Town traffic consultant, an emergency response consultant, Novant Health consultant and future invitees to be an NCDOT representative, a New Hanover County Schools representative, a Coast Guard representative, and Town staff; 3) the date for project bid opening is Spring 2028; 4) the Town has created a project website which is constantly updated; 5) a traffic count study has been completed; 6) NCDOT has selected this project for an alternative delivery method of contracting which will allow for coordination of efforts between NCDOT, the contractor and the Town in order to expedite the project and minimize disruptions; 7) NCDOT is beginning right of way acquisition; 8) the emergency response consultant is reviewing the current emergency response plan and is developing an alternative plan to take into account the project; 8) the current plan is to replace the smaller bridge on Salisbury, followed by the longer bridge on Salisbury, followed by the Causeway bridge; and 9) next meeting is November 17 at 10:00am and should include a presentation on the traffic count study. Members of the Board expressed appreciation to Andrew for his work in chairing the Committee.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board continued a public hearing and considered adoption of Ordinance (2025) 1867 amending the Land Use Ordinance to modify the special use process and incorporate conditional zoning. O’Quinn noted that, at the request of the Board, he had added a new section to the ordinance which stated that if an application is denied by the Board, a reapplication cannot be submitted for a period of one year. O’Quinn noted that existing special use permits would be unaffected by the adoption of the ordinance with an avenue being left open for larger tracts with multiple commercial units to seek a special use permit. The Mayor declared the public hearing open at 6:03pm. Sue Bulluck stated that continuing existing special use permits is essential, especially for businesses. O’Quinn reiterated that they would be continued. There being no other persons present who wished to comment, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed at 6:07pm. Partin commented that conditional zoning would be a better process in that it allowed for Planning Board input as well as more opportunities for public comment. In response to a question from Dull, Richardson stated that conditional zoning was the path that most municipalities were going to, stating that it would lessen the financial burden for neighboring property owners who oppose the project in that they would not have to hire experts to submit testimony. Upon motion by Dull, seconded by DeGroote and carried unanimously, the Ordinance was adopted.

**CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE (2025) 1868 AMENDING SECTION 74.45 (B)(7) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CREATE A NO-PARKING ZONE ON ISLAND DRIVE BETWEEN CAUSEWAY DRIVE AND JASMINE PLACE**

Brigman stated that residents had expressed concerns about vehicles parking along Island Drive between Causeway Drive and Jasmine Place. These vehicles do not appear to belong to residents but are likely vehicles belonging to employees of nearby commercial properties. Brigman stated that vehicles park on both sides of the road in this general area causing congestion and unsafe conditions for motorists and residents by restricting clean vehicular movement and emergency vehicle access. Brigman asked that a No Parking Zone be established on the eastern (northbound) side of Island Drive to allow Parking Enforcement and the Police Department to address vehicles parked in this

general area. In response to a question from Dull, Brigman stated that nearby businesses would be notified prior to installation of the no parking signs. Upon motion by Partin, seconded by DeGroot and carried unanimously, the Ordinance was adopted.

**CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION (2025) 2360 REQUESTING THAT NCDOT INVESTIGATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THREE CORRIDORS IN WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH**

Brigman stated that the Town had updated its Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in June 2024, which included several recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Within this plan, three unique areas were recommended for further investigation to determine potential improvement solutions; including a crosswalk installation on Causeway Drive at Seawater Lane adjacent to Town Hall; and bicycle and pedestrian improvements along N. Lumina Avenue (north of Salisbury Street) and Waynick Blvd. Brigman said that in addition to investigating these three areas for pedestrian and bicycle improvements, the Town would also like NCDOT to investigate traffic improvements along Waynick Blvd, including the intersection of Waynick Blvd, Causeway Drive, and N Lumina Avenue. Brigman added that with previous public support shown for these projects through the 2024 Wrightsville Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the 2013 Wrightsville Beach Comprehensive Transportation Plan, these areas of interest have shown to be important to the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors. With additional investigation and study by NCDOT and the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), the Town hoped to find long-term solutions for these transportation corridors. Partin noted the need for public education for drivers regarding the need to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. Miller noted that the public did have input prior to the 2024 update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, with the next step being to meet with NCDOT and review the items in that plan. Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Partin and carried unanimously, the Resolution was adopted.

**OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

- A. **Alderman Partin:** noted that she had attended the TDA Board meeting and WMPO Board meeting; commended Chief Holland on the 9/11 commemoration service.
- B. **Alderman Dull:** commended Hartsell for her work on “The Loop” newsletter.
- C. **Alderman DeGroot:** nothing to report.
- D. **Mayor Pro Tem Miller:** 1) suggested the Board conduct 2 parking workshops after the end of the parking season, noting that the issue of the use of residential hang tags in commercial areas could be discussed as well as the agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers and the Town regarding the number of spaces (666) that needed to be made available that are of equal value to the residents and to the general public or face the loss of federal funding; 2) dynamic message boarding should be approved in September by the MPO, which could be used to assist in identifying available parking spaces; 3) noted that the a Meet the Manager event would be held on 9/24 at 5:30pm; 4) noted that the Mayor had testified before a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives and that resulting legislation allowed for sand to be borrowed from Masonboro Inlet; 5) noted the activities of Board members in addition to attending Board meetings, such as serving on external boards; and 6) the NCDOT will be giving an update on all area projects including Project 5710 (Military Cutoff overpass) at the WMPO meeting on 9/24 at 3:00pm.
- E. **Town Manager Brigman:** 1) reported that, with regard to the replacement of 9 street end bulkheads, the Town had applied for a State grant which would fully fund their replacement, however Finance Director Murray had been informed that the grant application requirements and deadline have changed; the original submittal date was October 2025 but has now been pushed back to late 2027 or early 2028 and additional technical requirements have been added; Brigman stated that the Town needed to submit a

full application for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under DR-4827 (Tropical Storm Helene); the Town will need engineering assistance to provide the full application and Brigman recommended that Andrew Consulting Engineers be asked to assist the Town with the grant application and therefore asked for approval of Budget Ordinance (2025) 673-B in the amount of \$55,000 to fund the services; upon motion by Dull, seconded by DeGroote and unanimously approved, the Budget Ordinance was adopted; and 2) reminded those present that the CFPUA would be hosting a second community workshop on 9/17 at 4:00pm; 3) reported that the merger with CFPUA was set to be completed on 9/30.

- F. Town Attorney Richardson:** nothing to report.
- G. Town Clerk Heater:** nothing to report.
- H. Mayor Mills:** thanked Miller for his kind words.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance G. Heater, Town Clerk