

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES

OCTOBER 16, 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 Tony Wilson. 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
Brian Nague, Police Lieutenant
Matt Holland, Fire Chief
Brian Murray, Finance Director
Bailey Hartsell, Communications Manager
Bill Fay, Public Works Director
Katie Carus-Childers, Parks & Rec. Director
Tony Wilson, Director of Planning & Parks

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Bulluck expressed appreciation to the Board and to Mayor Mills, noting that his efforts to obtain Federal legislation securing the use of Masonboro Inlet as a source of sand for beach nourishment. Bulluck stated that the legislation saved the community from \$5-7 million per nourishment event.

Neal Briggi reported on volunteer efforts harvesting sea oats, noting that this was the 12th year of harvesting. Briggi stated that the team had harvested 43 pounds of sea oats and expressed appreciation to the volunteers and to Asst. Public Works Director Evan Moriegerato for his assistance with the project and to Bailey Hartsell for the publicity of the effort, which resulted in 6 additional volunteers for next year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Partin, seconded by DeGroot and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Consent Agenda. It consisted of 1) approval of the open session minutes of the 9-11-25 Board of Aldermen Meeting; and 2) acknowledgement of previously approved special events for November.

PRESENTATIONS – *None.*

PUBLIC HEARING – *None.*

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE (2025) 674-B APPROPRIATING \$185,000 FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO THE BULKHEAD REPAIR PROJECT FUND FOR THE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING OF STREET END HEADWALLS AT CHARLOTTE, AUGUSTA, AND RALEIGH STREETS

Brigman stated that two years ago the Town analyzed 10 street end bulkheads, resulting in a priority list for repair. The Town developed a plan to repair and/or replace these bulkheads at a rate of 2 per year. Since that time, the Town has applied for a FEMA hazard mitigation grant that would fund 100% of the costs of design and repair if awarded, however, funding for that program has been postponed until late 2027 or early 2028. Brigman stated that the Town wished to add the bulkheads

at Charlotte, Augusta and Raleigh Streets to the grant application, which were not included in the original 10, but which need to be addressed. Miller noted that the bulkheads at Sweeney and Columbia Streets were completed first and that the Town was prepared to embark on the next two projects on the list, however, the contractor was not available until the following year. Upon motion by Miller, seconded by Mills and carried unanimously, the Board approved Budget Ordinance (2025) 674-B and authorized the Town Manager to execute the agreement with Andrew Consulting Engineers for the design and engineering work.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE (2025) 675-B APPROPRIATING \$126,000 FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO THE BULKHEAD REPAIR PROJECT FUND FOR THE BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT OF THE OXFORD AND FAYETTEVILLE STREET END HEADWALLS

Brigman stated that the Town had asked the consulting engineer to reassess the bulkhead projects and that it was determined that Oxford and Fayetteville Streets should be the next priority. Brigman recommended that the Town proceed with these projects with capital reserve funds given that the grant funding had been delayed. Upon motion by DeGroot, seconded by Miller and carried unanimously, the Board approved Budget Ordinance (2025) 675-B and authorized the Town Manager to execute the agreement with Andrew Consulting Engineers for bidding and construction management.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - JOHN NESBITT LOOP IMPROVEMENTS

Brigman asked the Board to approve the solicitation of contractors and allow staff to select a firm to prepare design documents and construction documents that will allow the project to be shovel ready. Brigman noted that the project which had been approved by the Board was to enhance the existing trail by widening it, relocating portions of the trail away from the vehicular corridor, adding trail amenities including benches, water fountains, bike racks, and the installation of a new section connecting Salisbury Street and Causeway Drive through the municipal complex and Wrightsville Beach Park. The project is also expected to blend pedestrian and bicycle improvements on the Loop with the proposed improvements NCDOT will construct as part of the three bridge replacement projects on Salisbury Street and Causeway Drive. Upon motion by Dull, seconded by Partin and carried unanimously, the Board approved the issuance of the RFP.

OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- A. **Mayor Mills:** 1) thanked Briggi, the volunteers, and Town Staff for their work on the sea oats project; 2) stated that he had met with Congressman Rouzer regarding the beach escarpment issues caused by the recent storm; Brigman noted that the Army Corps of Engineers would be coming within the next week to survey the damage and expressed appreciation to Public Works for their efforts in reestablishing public access at the beach access points; and 3) thanked Bulluck for her comments.
- B. **Town Attorney Richardson:** nothing to report.
- C. **Town Manager Brigman:** 1) noted that the CFPUA consolidation had been completed seamlessly and expressed appreciation to Matt Tribbett of CFPUA and Fay; and 2) noted that the Town had been working with NCDOT regarding problems following the resurfacing of Causeway Drive, stating that NCDOT agreed that the project was not up to their standards and that repairs would be made.
- D. **Alderman DeGroot:** nothing to report.
- E. **Mayor Pro Tem Miller:** 1) noted that the Waynick, Stone St., N. Lumina intersection area is being examined per the Resolution adopted by the Board asking NCDOT to review it; and 2) observed that CFPUA had taken the Town's water and sewer system in its entirety and that any future capital issues would be dealt with as part of the overall CFPUA customer base and not fall solely on the customers in Wrightsville Beach.

- F. **Alderman Partin:** 1) noted that she and Neal Briggi had attended the TDA breakfast at which the new tourism plan had been presented; 2) she had been attending WMPO meetings as the Board’s backup representative; and 3) reminded those present of the Veterans Day event scheduled for November 7 at 11:00am.
- G. **Alderman Dull:** 1) stated that he was excited that the Loop improvement project was beginning to be worked on; 2) reiterated Miller’s comments regarding the CFPUA consolidation; 3) expressed appreciation to Public Works for rescuing a Wall Recycling trash vehicle which was stuck on the beach; and 4) reiterated Bulluck’s comments.
- H. **Town Clerk Heater:** nothing to report.

Brigman stated that the Town had received a request from Board of Aldermen candidate David Wortman to hold a political campaign event at Durwood Sykes Sunset Memorial Park and, per the Town’s policy, this event needed to be approved by the Board. Upon motion by Partin, seconded by Mills and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request.

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

At 6:12pm, Partin made a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of considering the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of employment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). The motion was seconded by Mills and carried unanimously.

Upon motion by Partin, seconded by Miller and carried unanimously, the Board returned to open session at 6:57pm.

Upon motion by Partin, seconded by DeGroote and carried unanimously, the Board approved modifications to the Town Manager’s employment agreement as agreed to in closed session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance G. Heater, Town Clerk