



TOWN OF SOUTHERN SHORES
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949

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www.southernshores-nc.gov

PITTS CENTER

Tuesday, May 03, 2022 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

PRESENT

Mayor Elizabeth Morey

Mayor pro tem Matt Neal

Council Member Leo Holland

Council Member Paula Sherlock

Council Member Mark Batenic

Amendments to / Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Council Member Holland to approve the agenda as presented, Seconded by Council Member Sherlock. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yea: Mayor Morey, Mayor pro tem Neal, Council Member Holland, Council Member Sherlock, Council Member Batenic

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

1. Extension of Town Engineer Contract
2. Resolution 2022.05.01 Surplus (PD)
3. Policies for ARP Funds

Motion made by Council Member Sherlock to approve the consent agenda, Seconded by Council Member Holland. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yea: Mayor Morey, Mayor pro tem Neal, Council Member Holland, Council Member Sherlock, Council Member Batenic

Presentations

Mayor Morey recognized Public Works Director David Bradley for his five years of service with the town.

Staff Reports

Deputy Town Manager / Planning Director Wes Haskett presented the permit department's monthly report for April. He further reported the Planning Board's next meeting will be May 19th.

Police Chief David Kole presented his department's monthly report for April. K9 Echo's first day on duty will be Monday, May 9th.

Fire Chief Ed Limbacher presented the Fire Department's monthly report for April.

Town Manager addressed the following operational highlights:

- Small cell wireless follow- up- The Town Manager and Deputy Manager are slowly creating a network of contacts within the wireless providers that they can gather information from and reach out to. Staff will continue to educate themselves and be able to try and balance the line between good aesthetics and good service. Because the town past the underground utilities' ordinance, the town is in a better position to be able to work with the providers.
- Stormwater project update-The Town Manager hopes to bring a bid ready project for the Ginguite project at the mid-month June or July project that will be designed and ready to go to bid. In reference to the Wax Myrtle project, it would be beneficial to get council members individually out to the project site with the town engineer and try to paint a better picture of what is trying to be accomplished there.
- Chicahawk sidewalk relocation update- Staff is still waiting on a contractor to supply a price quote, which is to move the sidewalk off the street and provide some separation for safety purposes. He further stated the work would need to be done before Memorial Day or in the fall.

Town Attorney Gallop gave a brief update on the Mid Currituck Bridge. Council approved the attorney to prepare an amicus brief. The Town of Duck and other local municipalities, along with some private entities have approved or shown interest in joining the brief. NCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have obtained another 30-day extension which extends the amicus brief deadline. The brief will now be due Monday, June 13th.

Council Member Sherlock included those two other counties have passed resolutions in support of the bridge: Chowan and Camden County. This now makes Dare, Currituck, Chowan, and Camden County passing resolutions; four out of the ten northeastern NC counties, which is powerful.

Council Member Holland stated the Dare County Tourism Board also approved a resolution in support of the bridge.

General Public Comment

Connie Dimanno-59 Ocean Blvd-the traffic and speed of the traffic on Ocean Blvd. is a safety issue. Vacationers are a large amount of revenue for this town and are put at risk trying to cross the road. The speed limit should be lowered.

Chief David Kole addressed the speed limit on Ocean Blvd. He confirmed that the speed is set by NCDOT and it is lowered to 35 mph in the summer. The speed limit is 45 mph in the off season.

Old Business

None

New Business

5. Town Manager's Proposed Budget FY 22-23 & Scheduling of Public Hearing

Town Manager Ogburn distributed the Manager's FY 2022-23 Recommended Budget and stated a public hearing to receive citizen comment on the recommended budget will be Tuesday, June 7, 2022. He reviewed the Manager's Message which consisted of the following budget highlights:

Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Presented for your consideration is the Town manager's recommended budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, which has been prepared in accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Fiscal Control Act, as required by North Carolina General Statute Chapter 159-11. This budget was a result of a great deal of hard work from all staff, particularly Finance Officer Bonnie Swain.

For the past several years the Town has been impacted, both positively and negatively by world events. Tourism continues to be very strong. Since January 2021, Leisure & Hospitality Services reported the largest jobs increase in North Carolina. The Impacts of COVID still remain with efforts placed on adjusting to the new normal. The war in Ukraine and sanctions against Russia have greatly impacted oil prices. This year the budget was greatly impacted by rising inflation. The February 2022 Consumer Price Index Summary indicated an increase of 7.9% over the previous year. As a measure to combat inflation, the Federal Reserve recently raised interest rates from 0.25% to 0.5% and indicated that further hikes are expected throughout 2022. Inflation and rate hikes eat into consumers' disposable income. However, it remains to be seen how inflation will impact consumer and visitor spending as all indications point to above normal occupancy and sales tax revenues.

Town staff continues to recognize that eventually revenues will start to level out. This expectation was accounted for in the planning of the current FY 21-22 budget. The Town did not experience the leveling out of revenues as expected. Although increases are expected in sales and occupancy taxes in the next fiscal year, a drop in land transfer tax is anticipated.

According to the NCSU Index of North Carolina Leading Economic Indicators, a forecast of the state economy's direction four to six months ahead, rose a strong 1.7% in February from its level in January. The Index is now 7% higher than a year ago and has especially accelerated since last Fall. Three factors will drive the future course of the North Carolina economy. One is Covid, which will be a positive for the economy if cases and severity decline. Second is the Ukraine War. If it escalates and directly involves U.S. forces, fear of what may happen could put the economy in reverse. Conversely, a settlement or even a stalemate would be viewed positively. Third is how fast the Federal Reserve tightens monetary policy and slows the economy to curtail inflation. The worry is if the Fed's actions push the economy from growing more slowly to not growing at all – meaning a recession.

Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

This year's General Fund budget totals \$8,706,138 a decrease of \$115,152 or 1.30% from the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 adopted budget. Last year's budget noted "while a tax increase for General Fund Expenditures is not recommended at this time, a tax increase will likely be part of the FY 2022-2023 budget". The tax rate had not increased for over nine consecutive fiscal years until this year (2021-22) when taxes were raised four cents town wide to pay the loan for the beach nourishment project. Over those years the Town experienced a decline in shared revenues consequently. Last year, a tax increase of \$0.0320 would have balanced the budget. One cent in ad valorem taxes generates \$164,710. The manager's recommended budget shows a shortfall of \$312,671 An appropriation from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance in that amount to balance the budget is recommended in lieu of a property

tax increase. The budget recommends no change in the tax rates already established for the beach nourishment debt service.

Use of Fund Balance

Through several years of careful and deliberate conservative budgeting, the Town has accumulated a large fund balance. These funds can be used to balance the budget, pay for large capital items, and possibly be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund for future project needs. Ideally fund balance should be used for future projects rather than budgeted for annual operating expenses. The current (2021-22) budget was balanced with a transfer from the unassigned fund balance in the amount of \$1,270,519, of which, \$750,000 went into the Capital Reserve Fund (along with MSD collections) to be used for beach nourishment debt payment and the remainder of \$520,519 went into the operating budget in lieu of a tax increase.

Capital Improvements

Long-range plans articulate the Town's vision and provide a framework for how the Town should grow and develop, provide public services, and maintain the qualities that define the Town of Southern Shores. The Town Council has emphasized the need to address ongoing stormwater issues as well as the need to address the condition of the Trinitie/Juniper Trail Culvert. At the time of the writing of this message, staff is pursuing plans and options for both needs and will come forward during the next fiscal year to present and request funding. It is anticipated that these funds will be available from the undesignated fund balance

American Rescue Plan

On January 6, 2022, the U.S. Department of the Treasury issued the Final Rule, which governs the eligible uses of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("SLFRF") under the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"). The Standard Allowance allows a local government to expend up to their full allotment of ARP/CSLFRF funds (up to a maximum of \$10 million) in the Revenue Replacement category without having to demonstrate any actual lost revenue growth. While North Carolina municipalities continue to plan how to spend the \$1.3 billion distributed to them across the state, town staff recommends using the funds under the Revenue Loss Standard Allowance to supplant police salaries and benefits.

The Town was granted \$942,717.04, of which the first tranche of \$471,353.52 was received on July 15, 2021. The second tranche is expected in July 2022. The funds received to date of \$471,353.52 are currently in a Special Revenue Fund and will be obligated through a Grant Project Ordinance in June 2022 to supplant Police salaries and benefits in the General Fund. When the second tranche is received in July 2022, those funds will also go into the Special Revenue Fund to supplant Police Salaries and Benefits.

Beach Nourishment – Beach Nourishment

FY 2021-2022 marked the first of ten debt service payments for the planned spring 2022 beach nourishment project, budgeted at \$11,325,189. Funding for this project consists of Dare County Occupancy Tax for Beach Nourishment at \$4,371,401, Department of Environmental Quality Grant Award of \$1,408,247 and Town contribution of \$5,545,541. The Town adopted two Municipal Service Districts to generate the necessary revenue to meet its contribution including \$0.715 for those in MSD 1 and \$0.03 for those in MSD 2. All properties in the Town paid an additional \$0.04 in taxes as part of this contribution which brought the tax rate from \$0.1958 to \$0.2358. Additionally, to lower the tax rate for all properties, the Town Council approved a total appropriation from Fund Balance of \$1,000,000.

One cent in MSD 1 generates \$ 27,195, and in MSD 2 generates \$ 58,070, one cent generates

\$164,710 town wide.

Beach Nourishment Revenue (99.65% collection rate)

MSD 1 -	\$0.0715	\$ 194,100
MSD 2-	\$0.030	\$ 173,574
Town Wide	\$0.04	\$ 657,850

These rates can be set in any manner that generates the required revenue to cover the debt service for the project.

Street Improvements – Investments into the Town’s street infrastructure has been a priority of the Town Council. The Town is transitioning into a Pavement Improvement Plan with the current FY marking year one of a ten-year Capital Improvement Plan. \$1,000,000 is recommended in street improvements for next FY. These funds are estimated to be spent primarily on pavement maintenance with remaining funds towards street construction.

Personnel

Merit funds are budgeted at \$63,528. Merit increases will be given up to a maximum of 2.5% depending on performance evaluation. COLA 3.5% for each employee for a total of \$60,836.

Mandatory Town contributions to the State Retirement System are anticipated to increase from 11.39% to 12.13% for general employees, while increasing from 12.04% to 13.04% for law enforcement officers.

The Town will see an approximate 4% increase to the medical premiums for employees which is much improved from 10% for the current FY. Small groups medical insurance renewal rates are based on statewide claims for the year of all small groups.

An additional Police Officer is recommended for funding.

	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
Health Insurance	\$17,556 monthly yearly increase of \$9,072)	\$18,312 monthly (a

The Town provides a “Cafeteria Plan” to offset the cost of dependent health care of \$650 per month. A cafeteria plan is a separate written plan maintained by an employer for employees that meets the specific requirements and regulations. A 4% increase is recommended or \$25 per month. This would be the first increase since at least 2009.

Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department – The contribution of \$665,223 is an increase from the current \$625,358 funding. FY 2021-2022 marked the first full year of fire department debt service of \$314,020.

Sanitation and Recycling Fees – The cost for residential sanitation collection will increase in FY 2022-23 from \$5.59 per household to \$5.93. The cost for commercial sanitation collection is \$219.69 per dumpster. The price per ton paid to Albemarle Regional Solid Waste Authority is budgeted at \$77.46. The amount budgeted is an increase of 4% over the current fiscal year for additional tonnage and fuel surcharge. Curbside recycling increased from \$5.21 per household to \$5.52. The \$80.80 per ton to haul the material to Recycling and Disposal Service for recycling remains unchanged for the third consecutive fiscal year.

Ocean Rescue Contract – The present five-year contract was approved in 2021 with funding budgeted at \$184,000 for the coming fiscal year.

Consolidated Fee Schedule – The Consolidated Fee Schedule is a list of the fees the town charges for various services provided by the town. These fees must be approved by the town council. It is recommended that this be done annually as part of the budget document. However, the Council can make changes to this schedule throughout the year if they see a need. Increases to the CFS are recommended to offset the cost of permitting and development fees.

Land Use Plan Update - Funding for consultant and associated costs for updating the Town's currently adopted Land Use Plan is budgeted at \$80,000. The LUP was last updated in 2012.

Information Technology – Increased funding for IT needs is budgeted for a Laserfiche system to improve document and record retention, municipal focused website improvements, security updates and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

Town Manager Ogburn stated the recommended budget will be available on the Town's website for viewing.

Mayor Morey stated the mid-month meeting will be a budget workshop and is being held at the Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department due to elections being held in the Pitts center. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. Council can choose to vote or make changes to the budget anytime after the public hearing on June 7th but before June 30th.

6. Proposed Traffic Mitigation Plan

Town Manager Ogburn presented the agenda summary which read as, at a public meeting held April 26, 2022, town staff shared potential options and recommendations for implementing traffic mitigation measures to assist with traffic congestion for the coming summer season. Ongoing efforts will continue to advocate for the construction of the mid-Currituck Bridge, marketing to the visitors through property managers, signage and other messaging requesting that traffic stay on US158 and NC12, as well as making adjustments to travel applications. Recommendations presented at the meeting included:

- 1- Closing Hickory Trail at East Dogwood Trail. The road would be open and accessible from the intersection of Hickory Trail and Hillcrest Dr.
- 2- Closing Ocean Blvd at the southern end intersecting with NC 12/Duck Road. The road would be open and accessible from points north.
- 3- Placing barriers blocking one lane of traffic with "local traffic only signs" at several locations.
 - a. Hillcrest and Sea Oats
 - b. Hickory and Wax Myrtle
 - c. Hickory and Sea Oats
 - d. Hickory and Hillcrest
 - e. E Dogwood and Wax Myrtle
 - f. E Dogwood and Sea Oats
 - g. E Dogwood and Hillcrest
 - h. Juniper Trail past Food Lion entrance

Other options discussed were closing the road on the west side on NC 12 at Sea Oats, 11th Avenue, Hillcrest Dr and Hickory Trail. Closures or blocking other sections of town streets may also be considered. If all measure were put into place, staff estimates the cost to be \$19,500 for barriers and signage.

Staff recommends the implementation of recommendations 1-3 listed above. Staff also recommends that further consideration and discussion on the other options listed.

Council Member Holland asked if the closing of Hickory Trail would be just the weekends or during the week as well? Town Manager Ogburn stated the barriers would be placed at the end of the workday on Friday and removed first thing on Monday morning. Town Manager Ogburn stated Ocean Blvd. would be the same schedule.

Mayor Morey stated then the barriers would be sitting in the right of way during the week. Town Manager Ogburn confirmed that is correct.

Council Member Sherlock asked if first responders were consulted about the plan and asked if creating cul de sacs at the end of some roads would create difficulty for public safety? Town Manager Ogburn stated they have consulted with them and neither the fire department nor police department are crazy about the idea, it could reduce response time. Anytime a road is closed is a concern.

Council Member Holland stated we have had meeting about this in 2001, prioritizing items to reduce traffic. He stated you can't fix it, can't control people coming.

Council Member Batenic stated what if the town was to do nothing. He stated that the mayor's attempt with the educational video message is an effort. He was uncomfortable with the idea of blocking the streets.

Council Member Sherlock stated that she would like to do as minimal as we can to mitigate the impact. However, the number one issue she hears is what is the Town Council going to do about traffic. Doing nothing looks very unresponsive to the community. She stated she was not in favor of the cul de sac but doing items 1-3 was not minimal, but doable.

Mayor pro tem Neal stated residents on Hickory Trail have asked for the closure before. The consensus seems to not do the cul de sac as it is too risky. He asked the Town Manager to elaborate on the no left turn option.

Town Manager Ogburn stated the intersection sits on the boarder of three jurisdictions, Kitty Hawk, NCDOT and Southern Shores. Safety concerns have arisen, and the support of all jurisdictions is just not there.

Mayor pro tem Neal stated he would like to see the manager given the discretion to implement items 1 and 2 utilizing the local traffic only signs and barriers and to poll the residents on Hickory and possibly Ocean Blvd before moving forward on those streets.

Mayor pro tem Neal stated his message would be the Town Manager makes a decision and he is here to support that decision. Council agreed.

By Consensus of all, Council authorized the Town Manager to implement the following traffic mitigation plan and at his discretion, adjust if necessary:

-Placing barriers blocking one lane of traffic with "local traffic only signs" at several locations.

- a. Hillcrest and Sea Oats
- b. Hickory and Wax Myrtle
- c. Hickory and Sea Oats
- d. Hickory and Hillcrest
- e. E Dogwood and Wax Myrtle
- f. E Dogwood and Sea Oats
- g. E Dogwood and Hillcrest
- h. Juniper Trail past Food Lion entrance
- i. Ocean Blvd at the southern end intersecting with NC 12/Duck Road

Gauge the response from residents on Hickory Trail before considering closing Hickory Trail at East Dogwood Trail.

Motion made by Mayor Morey to approve a budget amendment not to exceed \$15,000 from unassigned fund balance to streets, Seconded by Council Member Holland. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yea: Mayor Morey, Mayor pro tem Neal, Council Member Holland, Council Member Sherlock, Council Member Batenic

7. Consideration of Limb/Branch Contract Award

The present contract will expire on June 30, 2022. Following issuance of a second request for proposals, proposals were received on April 27, 2022. Three bids were received, however only two were considered responsive.

The Town's limb and branch removal service is valued by property owners, and it is heavily utilized. The service is offered year-round and is completed by dividing the Town into four sectors, with each sector being serviced during a specified week each month. Residents are instructed to stack limbs and branches on their property the week prior to their sector being serviced. The contractor providing the service is required to pick up and properly dispose of all brush and woody items found at the edge of the Town rights of way and related materials such as vines and small roots on every Town street in each sector during the specified week each month. In addition to the requirements of the service, the contract also includes, trimming of Town and highway rights of way and post-storm debris removal and disposal service. The contractor will be required to participate when requested in post-storm debris cleanup and disposal as needed, which includes removal of limbs, branches and debris from Public Trust beaches and waterways.

Staff recommends awarding the contract to Atlantic Tree Experts, LLC (ATX). This recommendation is made after evaluating each of the three received bids for adherence to the Request for Bid

Proposals dated April 13, 2022. ATX has been in business on the Outer Banks for thirty-two years and is observed to have the most experience of the three responding bidders. ATX provided six outstanding letters of recommendation. As requested in the RFP, municipal and property management work was preferred. ATX provided six outstanding letters from municipalities and property management companies. The equipment list that was requested in the RFP also clearly indicates that ATX is most qualified and capable to service the contract.

Council Member Batenic asked the term of the contract. Town Manager Ogburn stated it would be a two-year contract with one-year renewals.

Motion made by Council Member Batenic to authorize the Town Manager to enter a two-year contract with the option of renewal with ATX Atlantic Tree Experts, LLC., Seconded by Council Member Sherlock. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yea: Mayor Morey, Mayor pro tem Neal, Council Member Holland, Council Member Sherlock, Council Member Batenic

8. **Consideration of Contract Award-Southern Shores Street Improvements**

Town Manager Ogburn reviewed the contract award recommendation. The Town advertised for bids to perform year one of a ten-year Street Capital Improvement on March 16. No bids were received, and the project was readvertised. A bid was received from Fred Smith Company on April 15 for \$916,000. In addition to the milling and repaving of Soundview Trail, the project includes the repair, patching, and/or rehabilitation of numerous streets. The bid falls within the budgeted amount for street improvements in this year's budget. The Town Manager stated he does not think the town will receive a better price from rebidding, it could actually increase.

Motion made by Mayor pro tem Neal to authorize the Town Manager to enter a contract with Fred Smith Company for project 22PAVE, Seconded by Council Member Holland. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yea: Mayor Morey, Mayor pro tem Neal, Council Member Holland, Council Member Sherlock, Council Member Batenic

Council Member Batenic asked if this goes well the first year when will it go out to bid for the next year and does SEPI tell us if the contractor did a good job. Town Manager Ogburn stated there will be a process the inspector on site will follow. He further stated the review time will make for a short turnaround and the next bid time will be almost immediate. You will have a lot of response from the citizens.

Mayor Morey stated this first year is an opportunity to learn a lot, not just from a staff and council perspective but also a resident perspective, this is something new and different. This will even be new for the contractor. Hopefully we will like it but there will also be opportunity to make some changes if necessary.

Council Member Holland asked about if the funds would be used in this fiscal year? Finance Officer Bonnie Swain stated the funds can be reappropriated by budget amendment in July.

9. **Public Hearing-ZTA-22-04, a Zoning Text Amendment application submitted by the Town of Southern Shores to amend Town Code Section 36-207, C General Commercial District.**

Town Attorney Gallop opened the public hearing and called on Planning Director Wes Haskett for a staff report.

Planning Director Wes Haskett stated the proposed amendments to Section 36-207(b)(4) are being proposed by Town Staff to establish a maximum density requirement of eight dwelling units per acre in the C, General Commercial District. Currently, Section 36-207(b)(4) establishes that detached single-family dwellings, two-family (duplexes) dwellings, multifamily dwellings, and accessory buildings are permitted in the C, General Commercial District according to the dimensional requirements of the RS-8 Multifamily Residential District. The dimensional requirements of the RS-8 District are established in Section 36-203(d) and they address yards (setbacks), lot coverage, lot width, building height, etc., but they do not address density. The density requirement for the RS-8 District is established in Section 36-203(a) at eight dwelling units per acre which should also be required for residential development in the C, General Commercial District.

Town Staff has determined that the proposed amendments are consistent with the Town's currently adopted Land Use Plan and Town Staff recommends approval of the proposed ZTA. The Town Planning Board unanimously (6-0) recommended approval of the application at the April 18, 2022 Planning Board meeting.

Town Planner Wes Haskett stated he wonders why this was not included when the dimensional requirements were put into place. He speculates that this was simply an oversight, there should be some form of density in the commercial district.

Mayor Morey asked if the commercial zoning ordinances need to be look at and reviewed? Town Planner Wes Haskett stated they have been updated periodically through the years and discussions have taken place about looking into aesthetics and commercial design standards.

Mayor Morey stated a commercial lot could be developed with just commercial or just residential. If it was developed as residential then there are no density limits placed on it. Planning Director Haskett stated correct, there is not density as far as number of units, you just would need to adhere to lot coverage, building height and parking requirements.

Mayor Morey stated the town's land use vision statement describes the community as being served by a small commercial district located on the southern edge of town, which focuses on convenient shopping and services. She stated when the town's commercial ordinances were put together, she doesn't think anyone thought about residential, it was commercial. Some of the commercial development is 36 years old and is possible to imagine that in the future there will be redevelopment that consists of other uses in addition to convenient shopping and services.

Council Member Sherlock asked if during discussions with the Planning Board affordable housing came up in discussions about this amendment. Planning Director Haskett stated it did not during discussions of this text amendment.

Connie Dimanno-59 Ocean Blvd-Council needs to be very deliberate in the way this type of a change for this community and what it would mean for this community, it is not within the original intent of Southern Shores.

Mike Stone- 8 Sandfiddler Ct- would like to know if there is an intent with setting a density on the commercial zone now. The Town's commercial area is a small sliver of land, are you looking at trying to down-zone. He doesn't understand where the concern has come up about a small portion of town.

David Neal-81 Wild Swan Lane-could someone please clarify what is going on with this commercial amendment intent, what is exactly changing?

Mayor pro tem Neal stated he does not see this amendment as down zoning; this is a restriction of density that brings it into alignment with the RS8 commercial dimensional requirements. This is a restriction of density that isn't currently there.

Town Attorney Gallop closed the public hearing.

Motion made by Mayor pro tem Neal to adopt the Planning Board's recommendation ZTA-22-04, Seconded by Council Member Holland. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yea: Mayor Morey, Mayor pro tem Neal, Council Member Holland, Council Member Sherlock, Council Member Batenic

General Public Comment

Tommy Karole-77 E Dogwood Trl-offered recommendation to make the traffic plan better. Would like to see a swinging gate installed at Hickory Trail, one that can be lifted during the winter. Jersey walls will be too heavy to move around. He thanked the Fire Chief and Police Chief for standing up for public safety and the response times.

Council Business

Mayor Morey stated that Earth Week was April 3-30th and there was a lot of activity coordinated between the SSCA, Chicahawk Property Owners Assoc. and the Town of Southern Shores. There were many volunteers involved in the efforts to do some cleanup of the properties owned by those associations. There was a celebration at the end with a food truck. Mayor Morey thanked everyone involved.

Council Member Sherlock attended the Flat Top Tour and stated it was a great community event which showed off some unique architecture in our town.

Council Member Holland provided a Tourism Board update for the month of February. He stated occupancy was up 1%, 25% year to date. meals were up 44%, 20% year to date. He further stated the Tourism board has approved the Mid Currituck bridge resolution in Support.

Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Mayor Morey called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m., Council adjourned by **Consensus**.

ATTEST:


A. Elizabeth Morey, Mayor



Respectfully submitted,


Sheila Kane, Town Clerk

The attached documents are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.