



TOWN OF SOUTHERN SHORES
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949
Phone 252-261-2394 / Fax 252-255-0876
www.southernshores-nc.gov
PITTS CENTER
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 9:00 AM

MINUTES

Call 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

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 (4-0).

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

Business Items

Council Vacancy

Mayor Morey reviewed a summary of the process Council took to fill the vacancy and expressed her thoughts as follows; Council began by asking residents to self-nominate for the vacancy on the Town Council. Town staff advertised and made widely available an application form. Council was fortunate to have a total of 14 residents apply for the vacancy over the last month or so. As we have said as a Council, the people who have submitted their applications are outstanding; they represent a range of ages, work history, community involvement, and a passion for making our Town the best place it can be. I continue to be amazed and very pleased by the response to our request for self-nominating. Over the last month I spoke with each applicant by phone to acknowledge we have received their application and to thank them for their willingness to serve. Some fellow Council members also called and spoke with some of the applicants as well.

Mayor Morey stated she spoke to each Council member and asked them to independently review and evaluate all the applications and use their best judgement to make a decision for this vacant seat. She asked them to come to today's meeting prepared to nominate and vote for an applicant to fill the vacancy. As a result of this process there will be one person sworn in for the remainder of the term, which ends in 2023. She further stated she hoped that all the folks that expressed interest in this open seat on our Town Council will seek out other opportunities to serve our community and consider running in a future election.

-Mayor Morey opened the floor to comments from other Council members.

Council Member Sherlock reiterated the mayor's comments about the quality of the applicants and the wide range of people in Southern Shores that these applicants represent, from young parents to retired folks, those with long distinguished careers, and many involved in public service. It was very hard to make a decision.

Mayor pro tem Neal stated it is always impressive the civic engagement of our citizen's and every applicant was probably amply qualified to sit up here with us. It was hard to weigh what indicators would point towards one person to the other.

Council Member Holland thanked everyone that did apply. He stated everybody was well qualified; it was difficult to come to a decision and it was amazing the background of all the applicants. Hopefully the remaining ones will consider in two years to campaign and get on the board.

Mayor Morey reiterated once again how extremely difficult the decision was, and you could of picked a variety of different kind of criteria to try to make your decision. Ultimately, Council must end up with one from the pool of applicants.

Mayor Morey **moved** to nominate Mark Batenic for the open seat on the Town Council, Seconded by Council Member Sherlock. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

It was **consensus** of Council to have Mark Batenic sworn in as soon as he was available and then have a swearing in ceremony at the February 1st Council meeting.

Series of Discussions Items-

Town Manager Ogburn addressed several items of business that will need to be addressed.

Pavement Preservation- Town Manager Ogburn stated entering into year one of that project, \$800,000 is estimated but prices could be higher. There is 1.1 million dollars budgeted and \$800,000 would allow for some increase, as well as some construction if needed. Town Manager Ogburn, the Town Engineer, and Public Works Director had a kickoff meeting with SEPI. The original plan was to start the data collection this week, but due to some health issues it has been put off to next week. SEPI will collect that data and pinpoint where the patching (preservation) is going to take place. That information will be put together and be ready to go out to bid. Staff hopes to have those bids before you March 2nd but before that we would like to have a public input meeting in the later part of February. This will give the public an opportunity to understand exactly what it is that we are doing here. It is a little bit different than the full depth rebuild that has been done in the past. SEPI would come to the meeting and present to the public and give an explanation about the method; year one does this, year two does this, year three and building upon a plan to get all of our streets up to good condition or better. Staff anticipates getting this to Council in March and contracts ready by an April/May timeframe.

By **consensus of all Council**, SEPI will hold a public information meeting February 23rd or 24th at 5:00 p.m. Exact date to be determined by SEPI's availability.

Stormwater- Town Manager Ogburn has received some final guidance for the reinvestment funds and feels confident about spending the funds on a project. The Town received \$970,000 and the Town engineer is working on a project for NC12 /Duck Road and Sea Oats. The plan done by VHP several years ago resulted in the East Dogwood project, there are still some outstanding projects there and we are going to try and work our way down, meaning north to south to address some of these projects. The big challenge is where to store and

capture this water; unlike East Dogwood where we have the corner lot. There are also other issues in Town. In addition to reworking the intersection of Wax Myrtle and Hickory, we would also like to put a plan to address the issue on Ginguite with the standing water. There is a list of potential projects we could be working on but those are the three that staff would like to bring back to Council for consideration/ discussion of hurdles and costs associated with these projects at the March 9th retreat.

Mayor Morey asked Town Manager Ogburn if the SEPI Pavement Preservation Information meeting would be a good time for residents to bring forward or communicate any stormwater issues. Town Manager Ogburn felt it was best for residents to communicate directly with the Town by email or phone with stormwater issues; leave the pavement preservation information meeting on task and topic.

Council Member Holland inquired if NCDOT was involved in the NC12/Duck Rd and Sea Oats project. Town Manager Ogburn stated they were not yet but once a plan was on paper, he would reach out to NCDOT.

March 9th Retreat- Beside the stormwater projects the Town Manager and Deputy Town Manager would like to bring forth a conceptual plan of future paths/multi-use paths or sidewalks that could go in town; prioritize based on where the projects should go.

Traffic Mitigation- Town Manager Ogburn would like to get a plan together before the start of another summer season, so that everyone will know what to expect. He stated we know there is discussion about the Mid Currituck Bridge and the renewed roll that Southern Shores could play in an effort to expedite the process but at the same time we know there are other things that we can't wait on. There has already been discussions with Duck, the Mayor has reached out to the NCDOT Division One Representative with some issues, we have data from the no left turn, experience with local traffic only barricades, experience with closing the median at East Dogwood and staff feels it is best to put a plan in front of the public before the summer season to get there input.

Town Manager Ogburn asked Council since we have all of this collected information and data, should staff present a plan and then have another meeting for public input? There is a strong communication part that needs to ensure it gets to the visitors themselves. He stated he could see putting some restrictive things in place and then working from there.

Mayor Morey stated if Council is going to take actions that inconvenience residents in a specific street segment or part of town, then before we do something like that, she would want to get support from those inconvenienced residents; that they think the inconvenience is worth trying to deter drivers going through our neighborhoods in order to get to Duck or Corolla.

Mayor pro tem Neal recommended a lesson learned data packet from the new stuff we will be getting and the no left turn experience and a public discussion of potential measures. Then staff can put together something which includes a public weigh in, and Council adjudicates on it. It is two public discussions but would be good to get the input and the buy in and not just the affected streets because ultimately others may be affected from us trying to help a different street. Take prior input of what we have collected, a list of potential measures and then have that discussion. Then a formal plan can be put together and we can hear input on that plan.

Council Member Holland agreed that some form of communication needs to take place with the residents. Some measures were taken last summer, and many residents were not aware of what the town was going to do, and they may all not agree with it. A change to the timing of the lights on NC12 may work in one way but it may cause more backup in the town. The residents need to know if this change will take place.

Mayor Morey stated the lights have always favored the north/south bound traffic and it is just favoring them a little more now.

Council Member Sherlock stated while campaigning she found the issue of traffic along the interior streets is just a nonstop issue. Ideas have been floated around and some of those ideas may work for your street but not others. The more the data can be shared with the community and communicated and get some buy in. It may be better to just be totally inconvenienced for a Saturday afternoon but not a thousand cars on your street. It is important for the residents to really think through it and let us know what is best for them.

Council Member Holland stated we are already predicted to have another season of large amounts of traffic coming. Vacation rentals are already booked.

Town Manager Ogburn asked if Council would like to work the traffic plan backwards from the plan in place from their May meeting That plan can be the base and make tweaks from there? Mayor Morey stated that seems correct and asked when the budget was presented? Town Manager Ogburn stated it is presented in May and voted on in June.

In reference to the traffic plan, Mayor pro tem Neal asked if the Town Manager planned on assembling a tool kit of different things that can be used or just have a very rigid outline of plan with specific dates? How flexible is the plan that we are going to discuss? Town Manager Ogburn stated he envisioned a list of things that can be done and then we will create a plan for you to consider as a starting point.

Mayor Morey stated we are in a slightly better position this year because the residents will know what we are talking about. Last summer all the ideas were new, and residents weren't sure what to expect. Flexibility is still going to be important throughout the summer.

Town Manager Ogburn stated we will have the information from Streetlight this year and we will share with the public what we learn from that data. The report is expected in the next 30 days.

Mayor Morey would like to see that data also shared with the Tourism Bureau.

Council Member Holland stated he would see about getting that on the May Tourism Board agenda.

General Public Comment (Limit: 3 minutes per speaker.)

Tony DiBernardo-The Southern Shores Historic Flat Top Cottage Tour has been scheduled for April 30, 2022. He would like to encourage the town to advertised the program and make it a prior to agendize any applications that may come in for approval before this April 30th date. Town of Southern Shores has established an incentive program to promote the preservation of certain of its historic architectural landmarks important to the Town's heritage and to North Carolina's Outer Banks area.

Council Comments

Mayor Morey acknowledged Mayor pro tem Neal's service to the community as he was recently honored at a wire cutting ceremony at the College of the Albemarle.

Council Member Sherlock completed the Essentials of Municipal Government course offered through the NC School of Government.


Mayor pro tem Neal stated the hospital is looking to consolidate the cancer treatment centers to one advanced center for the community. He encouraged the residents to support the project.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council Member Holland to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 a.m., Seconded by Council Member Sherlock. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

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

ATTEST:


Elizabeth Morey, Mayor



Respectfully submitted,


Sheila Kane, Town Clerk

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