

MINUTES  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
APRIL 14, 2022

Mayor Mills called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 321 Causeway Drive, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina.

Attendance: Mayor Darryl Mills, Mayor Pro Tem Hank Miller, Alderman Ken Dull, Alderman Jeff DeGroot, and Alderman Zeke Partin; together with Town Attorney Brian E. Edes, Town Manager Timothy W. Owens, and Town Clerk Sylvia J. Holleman.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Pastor John McIntyre, Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: MS. KERRI ALLEN REGARDING REGULATION OF POLYSTYRENE IN FLOATING DOCKS AND MR. NEAL BRIGGI REGARDING SPEED BUMPS.**

Ms. Kerri Allen with the North Carolina Coastal Federation said she would like for the Town to consider resilient marine construction to better regulate the use of polystyrene in floating docks. She said they began a project to remove debris from the water and they removed 2,000 pounds of debris daily and 85% of the debris was from docks and piers and residential structures. She said, "In looking for prevention, we're working with builders and contractors and a 'win win' is the encapsulation of polystyrene. Traditionally, foam docks are made from hunks of foam. There is a method of encapsulation that lasts a minimum of fifteen years. I would love to see the Town's encouragement of this. I have sample ordinances and I would love to speak to Town staff or personnel interested in presenting this." Mayor Mills said, "I agree with you. Enforcement will be difficult but we will look into it. We have been doing this for a long time at the marinas."

Mr. Neal Briggi, 4 West Henderson Street, said he would like to speak about lessons learned from West Henderson Street speed bumps. He said, "You are going to deal with speed bumps on Coral Drive. We had speed bumps installed on West Henderson Street in 2017 and I've been observing since then. Prior to the installation, we went back and forth on how many and where. We went over all the streets in Town with speed bumps to see what was effective. I've made a table for you. We're basically an 800-foot street but it's longer on Coral. We have three bumps and I regret we didn't get four bumps and we didn't get six inches. People still speed up. Three speed bumps give you a huge interval and people accelerate between them. The other question is, we're 15 mph on West Henderson and Coral is posted at 25 mph. To me, it is incompatible to slow the vehicles down and still have the 25 mph speed limit." The Board thanked Mr. Briggi for the information.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY MOTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM MILLER AND SECOND BY ALDERMAN PARTIN.**

- a. Approved February 10, 2022 Regular Minutes, March 9, 2022 Budget Workshop Minutes, and March 10, 2022 Regular and Closed Session Minutes.
- b. Approved special event permits as follows:
  - 1) First Presbyterian Church Easter Sunrise Service (~150 participants)  
Sunday, April 17, 2022 (6:00 am – 8:00 am) (service is 6:30 am – 7:30 am)  
Location: Beach Strand at Access #34  
\*\*\* Recurring Event
  - 2) Surfer's Healing- for Children with Autism (~600 participants)  
Monday, August 22, 2022 (7:00 am – 4:00 pm) (event is 9:00 am – 3:30 pm)  
Location: Birmingham to Stone Street  
\*\*\* Recurring Event

Surf Event for Active Military Families (~150 participants)  
Tuesday, August 23, 2022 (7:00 am – 4:00 pm) (event is 9:00 am – 3:30 pm)  
Location: Birmingham to Stone Street  
\*\*\* Recurring Event

3) Wrightsville Beach Elementary School Fall Festival (~500 Participants)  
Friday, October 21, 2022 (4:00 pm – 6:15 pm)  
Location: Wrightsville Beach Park  
\*\*\* Recurring Event

4) NC Holiday Flotilla Day in the Park (~1,500-2,000 participants)  
Saturday, November 26, 2022 (7:00 am – 5:00 pm)(event 10:00am-4:00 pm)  
Location: Wrightsville Beach Park and Municipal Complex  
\*\*\* Recurring Event

NC Holiday Flotilla Boat Parade / Fireworks Display (~20,000-30,000 participants)  
Saturday, November 26, 2022 (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm)  
Boats: Banks/Motts Channels ICWW; Spectators: Waynick, Causeway, etc.  
\*\*\* Recurring Event

- c. Acknowledged previously approved special events for May.
- d. Adopted Resolution No. (2022) 2262 declaring May 2022 as Building Safety Month in Wrightsville Beach.
- e. Adopted Resolution No. (2022) 2263 proclaiming the week of May 1-7, 2022 as Municipal Clerks Week in the Town of Wrightsville Beach.
- f. Adopted Resolution No. (2022) 2265 proclaiming May 15-21, 2022 as Public Works Week in Wrightsville Beach.
- g. Approved Staff Request to Void Budget Ordinance No. (2022) 553-B (replaced by Budget Ordinance No. (2022) 563-B on March 10<sup>th</sup> .
- h. Approved revised 2022 Board of Adjustment Meeting Schedule to cancel the April March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- i. Approved a Seasonal Change in the Speed Limit on Waynick Boulevard from 35 mph to 25 mph by adopting Resolution No. (2022) 2268 and Ordinance No. (2022) 1841.
- j. Set the following public hearings for May 12, 2022:
  - Set a public hearing for Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider a text amendment to Section 155.2.10(B) Open Space Requirements by adding a new subsection (14).
  - Set a public hearing for Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider a text amendment to Section 155.8.9 Expansion or Enlargement by adding a new subsection (N).
  - Set a public hearing for Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider a Conceptual Plan Review for a mixed use project for 4 North Lumina Avenue.

#### **NORTH CAROLINA HOLIDAY FLOTILLA COMMITTEE UPDATE BY MRS. LINDA BROWN.**

Mrs. Linda Brown gave a history of the Holiday Flotilla that started in 1983 with a group of locals hanging out at the Blockade Runner and thought it would be fun to put lights on boats and have fireworks and have a party on Thanksgiving weekend. She said, "From there came the

Festival in the Park. We still have around a hundred vendors every year. We still have carnival food and bouncy houses for the youngsters and the Shriners bring their train. Then the car show developed. It brought a lot of different people here that wouldn't just come for the boat parade. We used to have bands and a magician, etc. Thirty-nine years later, the Flotilla still floats. No matter how many boats we have, the captains never fail to give us a show. And Zambelli still provides good fireworks. Last year, we had twenty-one boats and only nine showed up to line up at the drawbridge. We went green last year and had twelve canoers. This year we have nine committee members and a new chair, Levi Boyd. When the Pandemic came, we could not encourage people to congregate. So we came up with a door-to-dock decorating contest. We had over twenty docks and people were very excited. We are so appreciative that we all worked together with lighting issues, etc. Our sponsors play a huge role and we're also grateful for the Town. The Town provides TDA funding to pay for fireworks and our advertising campaign. We get 50,000-plus people. They stay in our hotels and eat in our restaurants in our shoulder season. I have been asked what the Flotilla gives back to the community. I say we are unable to give money back to the community because we get TDA funding. What we do give back is an opportunity for families and visitors to make memories to last a lifetime. The sign on this side of the drawbridge says welcome to 'Wrightsville Beach, Home of the NC Holiday Flotilla'."

#### **HARBOR ISLAND GARDEN CLUB UPDATE BY MRS. KATHY GRESHAM.**

Ms. Kathy Gresham, President of the Harbor Island Garden Club, gave the following update. "We are celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. We are now fifty members strong, full of inspiration and creativity. Recycling was started by a member of the Harbor Island Garden Club. The Garden Club helped to put up signs so birds have a place to nest. We host a luncheon for the Town employees every year. We provide Christmas wreaths each year for Town facilities. We help educate children at Wrightsville Beach Elementary School. We provide sunshine baskets for people in the hospital. Yard-of-the-Month is a program we started years ago. We meet each month at Little Chapel; we do flower shows; we have ways and means; we sell bricks and pavers in the Garden; we have an auction; we have a tent in the Day-in-the-Park. The Harbor Island Garden Club has funded over \$100,000 in the Harbor Way Gardens in the last nine years. Each year, the president has \$2,500 to do a president's project on Wrightsville Beach. Hopefully, we'll be here for seventy more years." Alderman Partin said, "I was at the Garden for the Azalea Festival and someone said they had never been to our Garden. I think bringing awareness is important for our Town and for our State." Mrs. Gresham said, "We had over three thousand last week and will have that many on Mother's Day."

#### **REQUEST BY THE RESIDENTS OF CORAL DRIVE FOR THE TOWN TO INSTALL SPEED HUMPS ON CORAL DRIVE AND ONE SPEED HUMP ON SECOND AVENUE.**

Town Manager Tim Owens asked to table this item until the next meeting in light of what Mr. Braggi brought up regarding speed bumps. Alderman Dull said, "I think Neal brought up some reasonable points. We need to have standards for speed bumps. For example, it would be different for the different speed limits." Mr. Owens said, "We do have some standards. I want to get professional advice from the MPO". There was Board consensus to table this item until the next meeting. When asked about the proposed speed bumps on Jasmine, Mr. Owens replied, "We will still move forward but I will get advice for that as well."

#### **CONSIDERATION OF RENAMING SEAWATER LANE 'EVERETT WARD DRIVE'.**

Former Police Chief John Carey gave the following overview, "This started about a year ago and ended up in a lot of policies and guidelines. Chief Ward took a rag-tag social organization and turned it into a professional firefighting organization. He was the first paid fireman for Wrightsville Beach. He took that department from two old fire trucks to the big trucks we have now. I think he deserves the recognition."

Planning and Parks Director Tony Wilson said, “This went to the Planning Board on January 4<sup>th</sup> and they voted unanimously to forward a favorable recommendation to the Board of Aldermen. The Police and Fire Departments support the request; Public Works had no comment; and Parks and Recreation had no concerns. We do have a couple of Town-owned buildings that would have an address change. Since this was first introduced, the guidelines have been changed.” When asked if those Town-owned buildings have mail delivered, Mr. Wilson replied, “I do not know but for 911 and things like that, the address would have to be correct.” Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to approve the renaming of Seawater Lane to Everett Ward Drive. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mills and unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. (2022) 2267 AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR A 2022 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING GRANT.**

Mr. Owens said, “I’m requesting to move forward with the planning grant to get the pulse of the community on a bicycle grant. The County is adding a referendum for bike paths and public transportation. I anticipate the cost to be no more than \$5,000.” Mayor Pro Tem Miller said, “This was brought to my attention. The last time we did this was in 2011. It was suggested that we update our pedestrian and bike plan that we did in 2011. This would put it in 2022.” Mr. Owens said it could also be an opportunity to tap into County money with programs. Alderman Dull made the motion to adopt Resolution No. (2022) 2267 authorizing the application for a 2022 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant. The motion was seconded by Alderman DeGroote and unanimously approved.

**DIRECTION REGARDING A TEN PERCENT INCREASE IN PAY FOR WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.**

Mr. Owens said, “At one of our last budget meetings, we talked about raising wages to help with retention and recruitment. I have provided information to show what it would be.” Mayor Pro Tem Miller said, “This is just what we did the other day – adding ten percent to everyone?” Mr. Owens replied, “Yes. Ten percent across the board for full-time employees.” Alderman Partin made the motion to approve the ten percent across-the-board wage increase. The motion was seconded by Alderman DeGroote and unanimously approved.

**CONSIDER AMENDING THE SANITATION FEE SCHEDULE TO REFLECT THE CHANGES IN CHARGES TO THE TOWN FROM WALL RECYCLING BY ADOPTING BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. (2022) 566-B.**

Mr. Owens said, “We met with our sanitation vendor today. There are some changes in what they charge us for services; small items that aren’t used widely. Mayor Mills noted that they were not raising sanitation fees per se – just certain charges. Alderman Dull asked if they were keeping the same schedule. Mr. Owens replied, “They are trying to keep the same schedule. We were very proficient; we have offered to have our guys ride in their trucks to show them a more efficient way to do it.” Alderman Partin said, “I live in the area where our trash is considered commercial. Before, if you wanted your trash picked up on Saturday, you needed to adopt the five-day schedule.” Public Works Director Bill Squires replied, “Administration still goes through the Town. Just call Public Works – you do not have to have five days to have Saturday.” Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to adopt Budget Ordinance No. (2022) 566-B. The motion was seconded by Alderman Partin and unanimously approved.

**CONSIDER A LETTER OF SUPPORT AND CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. (2022) 2266 TO APPLY FOR A UTILITY MERGER STUDY.**

Mr. Owens said, “This is to apply for a grant. CFPUA would like to do a merger study. They anticipate the cost to be between \$300,000 and \$400,000. We would pay for half and

CFPUA would pay for half. We would pay \$100,000 and they would pay \$100,000 to match. If not funded, we will come back and ask for funding.” Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to provide a Letter of Support and to adopt Resolution No. (2022) 2266. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dull and unanimously approved.

**CONSIDER APPROVING MCKIM AND CREED AS THE ENGINEERING FIRM CHOSEN FROM THE RFQ PROCESS FOR THE DESIGN OF WATER PROJECTS IN WHICH ARPA FUNDS WILL BE USED.**

Mr. Owens said, “We went through the RFQ process. McKim and Creed were the only ones to submit an RFQ. The process is for the Board to approve the vendor then we will bring back a contract to do a study of the feasibility of getting all of our water from CFPUA. The Board decided to use ARPA and SCIF funds.” Alderman Partin said, “So, you are talking about \$800,000 more to fund it – in this fiscal year?” Mr. Owens replied, “We will take six to eight months and use our existing reserves.” Alderman Dull made the motion to approve McKim and Creed as the Engineering Firm for the design of water projects in which ARPA Funds will be used. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Miller and unanimously approved.

**APPOINTMENT OF ALDERMAN PARTIN TO REPRESENT THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to appoint Alderman Partin to represent the Board of Aldermen on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mills and unanimously approved.

**DIRECTION ON MOVING FORWARD WITH INTERNAL RENOVATIONS TO THE FRAN RUSS CENTER FOR OFFICE SPACE AND TO THE PARKS MAINTENANCE BREAK ROOM FOR AN OFFICE AND BREAK ROOM. CONSIDER ADOPTING BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. (2022) 567-B IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT.**

Mr. Owens said, “The Board approved moving forward with the breakroom and office for Parks Maintenance and office space in the little wing of the Recreation Center. The best bid was \$100,000. We will do Parks Maintenance first and then the Recreation Center.” Alderman Partin made the motion to adopt Budget Ordinance No. (2022) 567-B in the amount of \$200,000. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Miller and unanimously approved.

**CONSIDER MOVING FORWARD WITH HIGHFILL ENGINEERING FOR THE COMPLETION OF AN AWIA RISK & RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN AND ADOPT BUDGET ORDINANCE NO, (2022) 568-B IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,000 TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT.**

Mr. Owens said, “The State is making us do this. We will contact Highfill to move forward. The cost is roughly \$70,000.” Mr. Squires said, “It’s a federally mandated study that takes about three months. They will advertise the meetings and the staff and the public can come. It is very in-depth.” Mr. Owens said staff would like to execute the contract after review of the Town Attorney. Alderman Partin made the motion to adopt Budget Ordinance No. (2022) 568-B in the amount of \$70,000. The motion was seconded by Alderman DeGroot and unanimously approved.

**ALDERMAN DEGROOTE: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.**

- Will have lunch with Sue Bulluck and Bill Bagget this week. The committee has come up with a contract with UNCW (Mark Imperial).

**ALDERMAN PARTIN: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.**

- The Cape Fear Council of Governments met but I could not attend. They will meet again on May 9<sup>th</sup> and I will try to attend.

- There are no ads for Wrightsville Beach in “Our State Magazine” – do we not do print anymore?” Ms. Bulluck replied, “The unified plan has removed most of the print advertising. That is part of why we want to do this research. We feel like our advertising is not as efficient as it could be – like print ads being specifically placed.”
- Since I was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee tonight, I will meet with Katie Ryan and the Turkey Trot people on Monday.

**ALDERMAN DULL: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.**

- We got our \$52,000 funding from TDA for the Study. We are over 25% ahead of last year on Room Occupancy Tax (ROT) money. Wrightsville Beach takes in probably about 20% of ROT for the whole County.

**MAYOR PRO TEM MILLER: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.**

- Barricades are down for Easter weekend. They cannot put them back up until Monday. We have a meeting next week. May 1<sup>st</sup> is still their planned date to have the traffic rerouting done. I will let you know if that changes.

**MR. EDES: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.**

- You all saw the news on the ruling for short-term rentals with the State preemption. They cannot require registration or permits so it's hands-off at the local level. That was the ruling of the Court of Appeals.

**POLICE CHIEF SQUIRES: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.**

- Officers responded to several calls this morning; fourteen cars were broken into; 100% of those were unlocked. One car had a firearm stolen. This kind of problem is something we have a lot of control over. Do not leave valuables or firearms in your car. If you lock your car, you will have a better chance to prevent a break-in. Thieves will know this is an easy place and they will come back. The thieves roamed – both driving and walking pulling on door handles. Also surprising, when they found keys in a car, they did not drive the car off the island. I'm asking residents and Town leaders to speak up. If people hear “me” say it, they don't hear it like they would if their friends and neighbors say it.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia J. Holleman  
Town Clerk