

MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MAY 12, 2022

Mayor Mills called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 321 Causeway Drive, Wrightsville Beach.

Attendance: Mayor F. Darryl Mills, Mayor Pro Tem Hank Miller, Alderman Ken Dull, Alderman Jeff DeGroot, and Alderman Vivian (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 Earl, Little Chapel on the Boardwalk.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: SKIPPER FUNDERBURG – SURFING; SUE BULLUCK – BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION, BEACH NOURISHMENT, AND PARKING PASSES FOR THE BLOCKADE RUNNER; AND RICHARD FURR – COMMERCIAL PARKING LOT.

Mr. Skipper Funderburg reported that the current surfing proclamation had been ratified by the Governor. He then gave a brief history of east coast surfing that included navigational changes in 1756 that revealed surfing in the West Indies and Bermuda. The Board thanked Mr. Funderburg for his report.

Ms. Sue Bulluck said, “First, thank you for including the Chamber in the discussion in terms of D.O.T. and the temporary resolution of open lanes to and from. Second, our debacle of our environmental impact study and the fact that we have tires and reef material in the site that was selected as our source for our beach reconstruction. That may or may not delay the process. After talking to multiple folks, it looks like we may be there sometime between November and February. Cost wise, we’re probably looking at twenty million dollars or more. I will be asking you sometime in June, after the environmental impact study is developed, to work with me and our residents and owners of property here to go to the governor and our legislative leaders – we’re going to need to go to the governor, to our folks in Congress, and more importantly, to the head of the Corps because the head of the Corps could, with the stroke of a pen, allow us to use our, and create the exception allowing us to use our CBRA site on the south end for one more season while we find, over the next four years, a reliable source of sand. All of that is tied together by how we progress as an island business-wise. Third, you’ve all received an email from me about traffic and parking issues. I would like you to develop a concise and historically sort of stable process for buying parking passes and street parking passes for the Blockade Runner. Over a season, their contribution to what we need is \$350,000. So, when we look at that in comparison to what they need to work together with us, we need a concise process. We haven’t needed it before because of COVID.” The Board thanked Ms. Bulluck for her comments.

Mr. Lee Furr introduced his mother, Lois Furr, and said his brother, Richard, could not be present. He said, “We own the property at 525 Causeway Drive. It’s been in the family for at least three generations and for most of that time, it’s been vacant. It’s time for us to look at producing income from the property. One of the prime ways that we feel like that could happen would be parking. As you know, the season is coming up and I have been coming to the beach and it’s been backed up all the way to the Catholic Church. So, we were hoping that we could turn that into a parking situation and hopefully do it this season so that more people could park here at the beach and utilize the local businesses. We’ve been looking at what we have to go through and it seems to be quite a gauntlet to

go through such that I'm not sure that we could get it done this season. But it would seem that if we could somehow do that, then there could be an additional thirty-five or forty parking spaces available for the visitors this season. I have a written letter and if you like, I can just leave it there and you could have a copy of it. I've been talking to several folks already and gathering the information that we have to go through. If there's any way that we can respond quicker to see if we could get it done this season, that would be great." The Board thanked Mr. Furr for his comments.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY MOTION OF ALDERMAN PARTIN AND SECOND BY ALDERMAN DEGROOTE.

- a. Approved Minutes of April 5, 2022 Budget Workshop; April 13, 2022 Budget Workshop; and April 14, 2022 Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting.
- b. Approved special event permits as follows:
 - 1) AFSP Walk for Suicide Prevention (~600 participants)
Sunday, November 6, 2022 (10:00 am – 6:30 pm) (event 1:00 – 5:30 pm)
Location: In front of Town Hall and the John Nesbitt Loop
*** Recurring Event
- c. Acknowledged previously approved special events for June.
- d. Acknowledged departmental quarterly reports covering the months of January, February and March, 2022 with the exception of Planning and General Admin.
- e. Adopted Resolution No. (2022) 2264 proclaiming May 21-27, 2022 as Safe Boating Week in Wrightsville Beach.
- f. Adopted Resolution No. (2022) 2271 Proclaiming June 4, 2022 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day in Wrightsville Beach.
- g. Adopted Resolution No. (2022) 2272 proclaiming the week of May 11-17, 2022 as Police Week in the Town of Wrightsville Beach and Sunday, May 15, 2022 as Peace Officers Memorial Day.
- h. Adopted Resolution No. (2022) 2269 in Support of the Americans with Disabilities Act Section 504.
- i. Approved revised 2022 Board of Adjustment Meeting Schedule to cancel the May 26th meeting.
- j. Set the FY22/23 Budget Public Hearing for June 9, 2022.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR MILLS.

Mayor Mills said, "These Consent Agendas are considered routine matters so we don't discuss them but, that said, we do not wish to diminish the value and the importance of some of these items. We do recognize and salute some important activities and organizations. So, as you go through the agenda, please take the time to consider what is in the Consent Agenda even though we don't discuss it."

REQUEST TO AMEND THE AGENDA.

Mr. Owens asked to amend the agenda by adding Item 6-b, which would be the Wrightsville Beach Marketing Advisory Committee Budget. Mayor Mills made the motion

to amend the agenda to include Item 6-b as requested by Mr. Owens. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Miller and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF SAFE BOATING PROCLAMATION TO POWER SQUADRON SAFETY OFFICER DAVID PARKER.

Mayor Mills read Resolution No. (2022) 2264 (just approved on the Consent Agenda) and presented it to Power Squadron Safety Officer David Parker. Mr. Parker introduced the other members of the Power Squadron that were in attendance and said, “We’ve made great strides in boating safety in this country. About the only way people lose their lives by boating now is by drowning. Almost nobody drowns if they have on a life jacket. We need to discipline ourselves to put our life jacket on from the time we leave the dock until the time we come back. That’s really our message this year. We appreciate your constant and steady support and all that you do for our sport.” The Board thanked the Power Squadron for all they do to promote boating safety.

PRESENTATION OF WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH MARKETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE BUDGET.

Mr. Owens presented the Marketing Advisory Committee Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He noted that they tried to push the envelope this year as far as the revenue estimates go to make it more in line with what the revenue actually was as opposed to putting that into reserves and having to deal with that. He said the focus seems to be more on the media-type spends. Mr. Owens stated that Chairman Robert Huckabee and Ms. Sue Bulluck were present to represent the Marketing Advisory Committee.

Mayor Mills asked if they were okay with the proposed budget. Chairman Huckabee replied, “We’ve been pretty in line with what we think the marketing should be. Our biggest contributor to our budget is occupancy. It seems like our highest visitors comes from Raleigh (day trippers), so we’re adjusting our marketing budget to focus on people who are a little further away that will actually stay two to four nights. With the changes in marketing overall, the adjustments that have been made are more in line with how we want to bring the right visitors to drive up that occupancy tax.” Ms. Bulluck noted that the Room Occupancy Tax helps to pay for the sand for beach nourishment. She said, “A year from now, we’ll have the two studies and the research from in-season and out-of-season, we’ll be able to come to you with some additional ideas. This marks the year when we’ll actually be able to data-wise drive the market in terms of who really comes here.” Chairman Huckabee said, “Since I’ve been Chairman of the Marketing Committee, the adjustments made in the past eighteen months, I think will prove to be very beneficial for the Town.” Alderman DeGroot said, “I’m good with it. Until the data is back from the research that they’re doing, there’s no sense to break from the unified plan right now. They’ve done a great job and I support what they’re doing.” He then made the motion to approve the Marketing Committee’s budget. The motion was seconded by Alderman Partin and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A TEXT AMENDMENT TO SECTION 155.8.9 EXPANSION OR ENLARGEMENT BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (N), EXCEPTION FOR RESIDENTIAL ELEVATOR/WHEELCHAIR LIFT IN THE R-1 DISTRICT. (ORDINANCE NO. (2022) 1839)

Mr. Owens said, “We discussed potentially opening and continuing this item to the June meeting because we thought we would be down a member. We talked to Matt Nichols about that and we agreed to do that. I don’t think his client is here either.” Mayor Mills asked if that was acceptable to Mr. Nichols. Mr. Nichols replied, “Yes sir. Thank you.” Mayor Mills opened the public hearing at 5:56 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to continue the public hearing to the June 9, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mills and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A TEXT AMENDMENT TO SECTION 155.2.10(B) OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (14) ALLOWING FOR STANDARDS FOR RETAINING WALLS.

Mr. Owens said, “For the same reasons I just mentioned, I would recommend that we open this public hearing and continue it.” Mr. Matt Nichols said he also represents this applicant and they would appreciate consideration of the continuance to June 9, 2022. Mayor Mills opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to continue the public hearing to June 9, 2022. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dull and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A CONCEPTUAL PLAN REVIEW FOR A MIXED USE PROJECT FOR 4 NORTH LUMINA AVENUE.

Planning and Parks Director Tony Wilson gave the following overview: “This is a conceptual plan review for 4 North Lumina Avenue to provide the Board with the opportunity to hear the applicant’s presentation, review staff comments, receive public comments, and offer suggestions to the applicant for consideration on plans to be completed. At the conclusion of the discussion, staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt Resolution No. (2022) 2273 to transmit some recommendations to the applicant regarding the proposed project, This resolution enables the applicant to submit a special use permit application for the mixed use development. This is the second step in this mixed use development application process. Background: 1 Stone Street Partners, LLC did submit an application for this review for 4 North Lumina Avenue. The applicant is seeking feedback on both the likes and dislikes regarding the development. The proposed mixed use development is located at the corner of North Lumina and Stone Street. This is in the Tower 7 building. This existing two-story building was built, according to the tax records, in 1948. It is located in the C-1 Commercial District. The site contains around 7,000 square feet. It is C-1 and abuts the C-1 property to the north and the parking lot adjoins the R-2 Residential District. The height is still restricted to forty feet. The proposed project will contain three residential units ranging in size from 633 square feet to 765 square feet; and there’s one storage room also up in that same area. There will also be an outside stairway in the parking lot to access those units. On April 13th, staff had a technical review meeting with the developers and there are minutes from that meeting attached for your review. This type of development is consistent with the CAMA Land Use Plan Policies. That policy does support mixed use. Requested action is to provide a resolution acknowledging the process for this review and to provide some comments and recommendations to the developer regarding this proposed project.” Mr. Owens noted that there was no site plan included in the agenda packet. Mr. Wilson said the applicant may have it in their presentation.

Attorney Sam Franck, representing the applicant, said, “This is a concept plan review; an opportunity for you to tell us what you like and what you don’t like before you’re in a position where you’re either approving or denying the special use permit. We proposed a text amendment to you a couple of months ago, so this concept is not new to the Board. That said, we very much value your thoughts and your feedback on this relatively subtle redevelopment opportunity. The property is located in the C-1 district. There’s not much located in the C-1 district. Relatively isolated pockets in that zoning category in the Town of Wrightsville Beach. There are several multifamily residential uses with unit sizes that are similar to what is proposed here in the C-1, Some examples: the Sunsetter, Hallelu, Summer Sands, One South Lumina, and Shore Breaker are all within 200-250 feet of this proposed site. What we contemplate here is quite simply turning six to eight offices into three residential apartments. The vision for the exterior is a very subtle upgrade without any meaningful changes to the actual conventional building or the space. The site plan: what I’d like you to take away here is that the fundamental footprint of the building remains the same. The average unit size for these three units is just over 700 feet. The smallest is 633 feet; the largest is 765 feet, basically working with what the building allows us to do. These are the existing conditions; we think this is a landmark building. It’s a significant corner in the downtown district in Wrightsville Beach. The objective therefore is to improve in a subtle fashion the upkeep and appearance of the exterior of the building while preserving what we consider to be an attractive landmark structure. This is the backside of the building or the southeast facing side of the building. Contemplating a little bit more significant improvement in this area just aesthetically to dress up what is currently the least attractive façade of the building.”

Alderman Partin said, “You said there’s going to be a stairway going up to access the three units. How do you get to the hallway?” Mr. Franck replied, “The stairwell that you’re talking about is on the right side; you see the small hallway going into the space that provides access to the three apartments. Both the applicant and our architect are here to the extent that you have design questions that are beyond the lawyer. Please don’t hesitate to ask. These are a few more renderings giving you an idea of the overall space. That really is all there is to it. The exterior stays fundamentally the same. The inside, we go from six to eight offices – I’m saying six to eight not to be ambiguous but because some of those spaces were used as conference rooms over the years. The storage area is ancillary to both uses; Tower 7 has the right to store some things upstairs pursuant to their lease. And we also gain a little bit of storage space to support the three apartments. That’s not an independent storage use but rather ancillary to the primary uses. What more can we tell you about our vision for this project?”

Alderman Partin asked how they intended to rent the apartments such as weekly, monthly or annually. Mr. Franck replied, “This applicant is the owner of the Hallelu building and the Sunsetter is above it. They envision very similar in both process and method with handling the rentals and also duration of rentals that they’ve incorporated there.” He then introduced Mr. Ross Tomaselli to provide a little more detail.

Mr. Tomaselli said, “For intended duration of stays or use, one thing that is different between this and the Sunsetter unit – the Sunsetter unit was such a small unit, it couldn’t accommodate a full kitchen. We’d like to have full kitchens in all of

these units because we'd like the option for people to rent from four to six months at a time in the off season. In the summer, I think you're going to see more weekly rentals." Alderman Partin clarified that there would be a separate bedroom; it would not be like a studio apartment. Mr. Tomaselli said that was correct.

Mr. Franck said, "As promised, we have submitted a special use permit application. To the extent that you provide us feedback tonight that warrants revising that, we look forward to being first in front of the Planning Board, but ultimately before you again to discuss our very specific request on this project."

Mayor Mills opened the public hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Neal Braggi, resident of West Henderson Street, said, "I support the project but in reviewing this packet of information, I'm curious about the Lumina corridor there and that sidewalk. It's one of the worst pieces of sidewalk I think we have in the Town. It's got a pole in the middle of it. It often has bicycles attached to the pole or leaned up. I couldn't find anywhere in the packet that addressed anything regarding bicycles and I think this is an opportunity to bring that together. I don't have a solution but somewhere in that one space, it has the density of traffic, both vehicles and bikes and pedestrians and dogs. The other thing is, it's not changing any egress and I don't know if that's truly a pass through from the block down behind all those buildings. But it seems to me that that should be considered if there's anything that can improve that. Stone Street can be a mess with that parking lot. We know that they came forward a couple of meetings back and talked about speed bumps. Maybe now is the time to consider it."

Mr. Jim Skiba said, "I own the building next door. I'm not against this; it sounds like a great idea. My only question is – is there some kind of parking pass the tenants would get? Would they have on-street parking? Or would they be behind the building?" Mayor Mills replied, "They're going to have to provide the parking."

Ms. Sue Bulluck said, "I have just one question and that comes in the conditional use permit when we'll talk about the parking again."

With no further input from the public, the hearing was closed at 6:14 p.m.

Alderman Dull said, "They came before us previously and we had this discussion. We gave our thoughts and comments and I think what they have here is exactly what we agreed upon that night and the direction that we wanted them to head. So, they have presented to us what we talked about at that meeting." Mayor Mills said, "I would echo those comments. I think they've done a good job of taking what we pointed out and requested and incorporated it."

Alderman DeGroot said, "I think it's probably one of the best improvements to the downtown district that we have seen in a long time. I think they've done a great job." Mayor Pro Tem Miller agreed with what had been said. He then made the motion to adopt Resolution No. (2022) 2273. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mills and unanimously approved. Mr. Edes said, On Exhibit A, we'll just put "No Comments."

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON EXTENDING THE PIER HEAD LINE FOR 920 WATER STREET (RESOLUTION NO. (2022) 2270.

Mr. Wilson gave the following overview: “This is for direction on extending the pier head line from 912 to 920 Water Street. Mr. Fraser Perry is requesting to extend the pier head line at his property at 920 Water Street. The adjusted length is approximately forty feet from where it is now. If granted by the Board, this adjustment would bring it in line with the Coast Guard dock at 912 Water Street. It is approximately forty feet in front of Fraser’s property. Staff started talking about the Coast Guard Station. A lot of times we try to clean up the area. So what staff would like to recommend is for the Board of Aldermen to consider extending the pier head line forty feet to the property to the north of the Coast Guard property. If this is granted, then the Coast Guard dock will be conforming to the pier head line. No other piers are located to the south of 920 Water Street.”

Mayor Mills said, “I understand that taking it out to the extent of where the Coast Guard Station is would bring the Coast Guard into conformity, Is it necessary to go that far out for Mr. Perry to hit deep water?” Mr. Wilson replied, “The Town Manager and I have discussed this. One option for Mr. Perry or anybody else would be dredging. Does he have to go out forty feet – he’s not here. He wanted to go out; if not, he would have to dredge. We did mention dredging to him as an option. He did not think that was an option for him. I think it’s filled in with sand. I think he thinks dredging would keep doing it.”

Alderman Dull said, “The channel is pretty stable so you know where the deep water starts. You would think all he would need would be to be able to get a floating dock and a boatlift from that point out to the end of those structures, so whatever that is. If it’s thirty feet, then that gets the floating dock and the boatlift where they can get a boat in at low tide. I would think that is all we need. I don’t think we need to go all the way out.”

Mayor Mills said, “I’m not saying I’m necessarily against this, but my concern is, are we going to create a situation where moving on northward, we will start playing leapfrog with our pier head line because everybody wants to go out deeper and deeper. I see where Mr. Perry’s concern is. Something needs to be done for him. I’m just concerned that moving north, the owners would want to add thirty, forty or fifty feet. Pretty soon, the channel would be piered up.”

Alderman Dull said, “You’ve got that rock jetty right there. If not for that, he probably wouldn’t be here because he could get his pier in just like everybody else does. So, it is unique. There’s no other place like that on Banks Channel, I don’t think. I would say that if we could allow him to get to deep water, that would be my recommendation.” Alderman Partin asked how we determined forty versus thirty feet. Mr. Wilson replied, “I think the surveyor looked at the Coast Guard Station and just picked a number.”

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said, “Do we deal with Mr. Perry in his absence. I don’t see any sense in it. Following a lengthy discussion regarding whether to consider this tonight and how to word a motion that would include the minimum amount needed not to exceed forty feet as determined by a licensed surveyor, Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to continue this item to the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mills and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON A REQUEST TO INSTALL SPEED HUMPS ON CORAL DRIVE. CONSIDER ADOPTING BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. (2022) 569-B IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000.

Alderman Partin asked about the definition of speed hump. Mr. Owens said, “Speed bumps are typically used in parking lots and those types of facilities. Speed humps are generally to try to slow down traffic. I met out there with the MPO and the sweet spot is anywhere from three hundred and four hundred feet between speed humps. All of these averaged around three hundred twenty-five and three hundred eighty between the speed humps with three. So, all we have to decide is whether we want to do this project. I’m having a hard time finding contractors. I will try to get somebody here in a timely fashion. The other decision is whether we want to consider Second Avenue. It’s a fairly short street. We have a budget adjustment in your packet, (2022) 569-B, in the amount of \$40,000. That will definitely get you speed humps. I will lump all of the streets together and send it back out to bid. The petition is in your packet. I think most people are in favor. The school is in favor of it. We did a speed study and there are some people going too fast on that roadway.” Alderman Dull made the motion to adopt Budget Ordinance No. (2022) 569-B and to consider approving speed humps for Coral Drive. The motion was seconded by Alderman Partin and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON THE DISPOSAL OF A 1996 SUTPHIN QUINT LADDER TRUCK.

Mr. Owens said, “We finally received our new truck. They want to use our truck in some of their shows and those types of things. We really don’t need the old truck. It rarely responds now and is more of a liability than anything. We would like to put this on gov.deals and we would like to set a threshold of \$15,000 so it’s not sold for something like one dollar.” Alderman Partin made the motion to dispose of the Sutphin Quint Ladder Truck using gov.deals with the threshold as requested. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Miller and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON THE ROAD WIDENING OF JACK PARKER BOULEVARD.

Mr. Owens said, “We talked about potentially expanding Jack Parker Boulevard with roughly a six-foot wide strip so the parking side would be pushed closer towards the dunes – pushed to the south. The road sections would basically be eleven feet still but you’d have a wider stall for people to park in. If you want to move forward, I will bring back an exemption for the engineering part of it. I don’t have any kind of cost estimate yet. I just want to know if we want to move forward with it.” Mayor Pro Tem Miller said, “I don’t have enough information to know if I want to move forward with it or not. You don’t have a cost estimate because you don’t have a design. At the end of the day, if nobody is screaming for it, I don’t know that we need it other than we told you that we might want to look at it. But nobody down there seems to care. I don’t know that it’s going to benefit the citizens of Wrightsville Beach but I worry about the safety.” Alderman Partin said, “I’m the same way as you. Unless somebody is screaming about it – unless it’s a safety issue. Is there a safety issue?” Mayor Mills said, “I think at times, there is a safety issue. That’s why we brought it to Tim’s attention. In riding the beach with the park ranger like I do during the summer, any number of times there’s a grid lock down there and tempers get on the verge of

flaring. And it's all because with the parking, you're taking up part of that southern most lane that takes you off the beach and it gets jammed in there and people get impatient. And the sidewalk is covered by the front of the vehicle. It's just kind of crowded like a lot of places on this beach. I think Mayor Pro Tem Miller is pretty accurate in that it probably is more beneficial to our visitors than to our residents except to the extent of what it creates for our police to have to deal with." Mayor Mills asked Fire Chief Harraway if there were any issues with getting fire trucks in and out of that area. Chief Harraway replied, "It is tight, especially with the jet ski and the Ocean Rescue vehicles trying to get through there. We've been down there several times. It hasn't even gotten packed yet and trying to maneuver through there, it gets pretty tight." Mayor Mills said, "That's part of why we put it in front of Tim but I wanted you to hear it from the Chief."

Mr. Owens said, "We will be more aware of it this summer and see if we want to bring it back to do something." Alderman Dull said, "You've got a sketch, how much more would it cost to get us enough of a drawing that you could get pricing?" Mr. Owens replied, "I think I could get a price with this in the ball park. I think the sidewalk is a little too narrow on this so I would want a bigger sidewalk, too." Mayor Mills said, "I think it would alleviate a lot of this crowded situation. Does the beach want to spend the money? From a safety point of view, I think we need to consider it. We can make that decision once we get more information."

Mr. Bill Baggett, resident of Water Street, said, "You could change the parking to parallel and eliminate all the problems." Mayor Mills noted that the sidewalk was still not big enough. He asked Mr. Owens if he had his direction. Mr. Owens replied, "Yes." As a side note Mr. Owens said, "The 25 mph signs will go up on Monday on Waynick Boulevard if I get the letter that I need on Friday from the D.O.T. We will put out a press release and we'll also have a police presence there."

REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION.

Mr. Edes said, "We need a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 a-3 to preserve the attorney-client privilege and to discuss the case of Fonvielle vs. W.B.R.P. LLC, et al and Shell Island vs. Wrightsville Beach which is presently stayed but it has not been formally dismissed." Mayor Pro Tem Miller said, "I will make that motion." The motion was seconded by Alderman DeGroot and unanimously approved at 6:35 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED.

Mayor Mills reconvened the Open Session at 7:10 p.m. and instructed the record to reflect that the Closed Session had been held for the reasons so stated with no action taken.

MAYOR MILLS: THANKS TO RETIRING TOWN CLERK.

Mayor Mills noted that this was Ms. Holleman's last Board meeting as she would be retiring on May 16th. He said, "We thank you for all your tireless and dedicated service and patience in assisting and guiding us through so many situations. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

ALDERMAN DEGROOTE: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- Marketing Committee will keep the unified plan for one more year until the data is back to justify moving to our own agenda as far as marketing for Wrightsville Beach.
- Glad that the positions of Finance Officer, Accounts Payable and Town Clerk have been filled.

ALDERMAN PARTIN: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- The Cape Fear Council of Governments had a call-in meeting on Monday.
- We did not have a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting this month.
- We had a very positive Turkey Trot meeting with the people in charge. We should be able to move forward with that without any issues.

MAYOR PRO TEM MILLER: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- The Causeway Drive Bridge is open completely for now because they found more damage than anticipated and ordered additional engineering work to be done and ordered some additional materials. There is a truck limit on it now. The whole idea of fixing the bridge was to extend the life of it but at some point, the bridge will have to be replaced.

MAYOR MILLS: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- Ports, Waterway and Beach Commission met yesterday. Ms. Bulluck gave a fair synopsis of what was discussed and disclosed. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which Congressman Rouzer is a member, it's out of their hands because of the Department of Interior's interpretation of the CBRA stuff and it's in the hands of the National Resources Committee. Congressman Rouzer has some hope that he's getting some sympathy from that committee in that we may, the odds are very slim, but we may be able to find a back doorway to get back to taking sand out of Banks Channel. If not, then this whole tires and our new borrow pit issue will have to be dealt with. The Corps thinks there are some areas within that new borrow pit that may not have tires in it that may be adequate for sand.

MR. EDES: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- Mr. Edes echoed the Mayor's sentiments about the Clerk's retirement and he wished her all the best.

TOWN CLERK: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- Ms. Holleman thanked everyone for their kind words and said she was looking forward to her retirement but she would miss each one of them.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia J. Holleman
Town Clerk