

MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
JUNE 5, 2019

Mayor Blair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Attendance: Mayor William J. Blair III, Mayor Pro Tem Darryl Mills, Alderman Ken Dull, Alderman Elizabeth King, and Alderman Henry E. Miller III; together with Town Attorney John C. Wessell III, 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: BROOKE BLOOMQUIST – BEACH SWEEP JULY 7, 2019.

Ms. Brooke Bloomquist, 611 North Channel Drive, said, “We have a beach cleanup scheduled for Sunday, July 7th. We’ve already had a great response from different organizations wanting to come out and help clean up the beach after the Fourth of July. We will start at 8:00 a.m.” The Board thanked Ms. Bloomquist and said they would take all the help they could get.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY MOTION OF ALDERMAN DULL AND SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM MILLS.

- a. Approved Regular and Closed Session Minutes of November 8, 2018.
- b. Approved special event permits as follows:
 - 1) Schreckengost Sunrise Wedding (*Approximately 50 participants*)
Thursday, July 18, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 am (*ceremony at 6:30 am*)
Location: Access 2, south side of Shell Island Resort
 - 2) O’Neill/Sweetwater Pro Am Surf Contest and Music & Art Festival
Surf Contest: Friday – Sunday, August 16 – 18, 2019, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Scaffolding set up on August 15 at 10:00 am, daily prep begins at 6:00 am
Location: Between Charlotte and Oceanic
Approximately 600-1,000 participants per day
*** Recurring Event
Music & Art Festival: Saturday, August 17, 2019, 4:00 – 10:00 pm
Set up begins at 1:00 pm
Location: Wrightsville Beach Park
Approximately 200 – 300 participants
*** Recurring Event
 - 3) Wrightsville Beach Wahine Surf Contest (*Approximately 100-200 participants*)
Saturday and Sunday, August 24 – 25, 2019, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Scaffolding to be set up on Friday, August 23 at 10:00 am, daily prep 7:00 am
Location: Between accesses 38 and 39
*** Recurring Event
 - 4) Grace Baptist Church Easter Sunrise Service (*Approximately 275 participants*)
Sunday, April 12, 2020, 5:00 – 7:30 am
Location: Access 8, north side of Holiday Inn Resort
*** Recurring Event
- c. Acknowledged previously approved special events for July.
- d. Adopted Budget Ordinance No. (2019) 509-B to accept donations for the purchase of two benches for the Harbor Way Gardens from Robert and Wylene McDonald in memory of a loved one (\$650) and George Clark, Jr. in honor of the Harbor Island Garden Club (\$650).

- e. Approved Revised 2019 Marketing Committee Meeting Schedule to change the August 13, 2019 meeting to August 20, 2019.
- f. Approved revised 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule to cancel the June 3rd and July 1st meetings.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF FY19/20 BUDGET AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. (2019) 510-B AND THE PROPOSED FY 19/20 BUDGET IN ITS ENTIRETY.

Mr. Owens reviewed the budget process thus far and said the Budget was balanced with no tax increase proposed. He said, “The Town is changing insurance coverage for employees this year with a dual option being offered by United Health Care. A one percent COLA is proposed for employees with a one percent merit to be considered mid-year. There is a new employee in Streets but not in Sanitation. A part-time Ranger is in this budget. This budget includes a retention program for the Police Department but no other department. There is no change proposed in hourly and temp rates. We are looking at other property and liability coverage but we may have to do that next year.”

Following a brief discussion regarding where we stand with post Florence claims and whether the public adjuster had been beneficial, Mayor Blair asked if the Powell Bill money seemed high. Mr. Owens replied, “We have not done a project in a while. We will use some of that soon.”

Mr. Owens said, “With parking, I think we will meet projections this year. We are keeping enforcement penalties the same and we did a 20% increase on the hourly rate. I think we will make up for the storm. This is a soft revenue so you need to leave a little room.” Mayor Pro Tem Mills noted a discrepancy in the number of commercial passes sold. Mr. Owens said he would get that figure corrected. Mayor Blair said, “I want to make sure we review parking before the end of the year to make sure we have not over projected.”

Mr. Owens said, “We have a lot of CIP items. We loaded \$485,000 in this year’s budget. We are heavy on projects and focused on the CIP. About two million dollars of this budget is project related. The Water and Sewer budget is lower because we are not doing as many projects now. We took \$500,000 from the General Fund.” Mayor Blair asked if we were proposing to put the \$500,000 back into the General Fund. Mr. Owens replied, “No. We are \$732,000 more this year.”

Mr. Owens said, “The Police Department is up in salaries. Part of that is the retention program. The Fire Department was mainly capital outlay – projects using CIP money. Parking is up \$202,000 because we never accounted for things that get charged back to Lanier. This year, I added that in. We have been absorbing that in the budget. It is \$200,000 more than last year. It was charged to Parking but not accounted for in the budget.”

When Alderman Dull asked about the debt service on the public safety building, Mr. Owens said the payout was 2023. Following a brief review of the major projects being proposed, Mr. Owens said the Board would need to consider Budget Ordinance No. (2019) 510-B after the public hearing.

Mayor Blair said, “We have a lot of capital improvements being made in Water and Sewer. The Town has made an effort to plan for those monies so you do not see a tax increase. It is a well-done budget.”

Mayor Blair opened the public hearing at 5:55 p.m.

Ms. Tina Williamson, with the Wrightsville Beach Museum, asked if we had started using Cape Fear Public Utility's water. Mayor Blair replied, "No. Our well is shut down on the mainland. We had an agreement to take some of Cape Fear's water and blend it in with ours." Mr. Owens noted that we were still using our other wells. Ms. Williamson asked if the well on the mainland would be shut down permanently. Mr. Owens replied, "We are still testing. If it gets to acceptable levels, we can turn it back on."

Mr. Neal Braggi, 4 West Henderson Street, said, "Thank you for your budget work. I am pleased with what I have seen over the past few years. We have focused on infrastructure. I want to acknowledge the part time ranger and I would like to see the impact of that."

With no further input from the public, Mayor Blair closed the hearing at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Mills made the motion to adopt Budget Ordinance No. (2019) 510-B and the FY19.20 Budget in its entirety, to include the 2019-20 Position Listing. The motion was seconded by Alderman King and unanimously approved.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING ON THE INTENT TO CLOSE A PORTION OF THE OLD TIDE WATER POWER COMPANY RIGHT OF WAY AND A PORTION OF SOUTH LUMINA AVENUE LOCATED WEST AND SOUTH OF WINGS IN WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH. (CONTINUED FROM MAY 9, 2019)

Mr. Owens said, "This is by the Trolley Stop. We are looking at constructing bathrooms adjacent to South Lumina Avenue." Mayor Blair asked what would happen to the old bathrooms. Mr. Owens replied, "We are proposing abandoning those. The property owner can do what he wants with them. It will save us \$12,000 a year. We will leave a foot of space all around this area to be closed so it does not revert back to property owners when we close." Mayor Pro Tem Mills referenced the attached order and said it was showing that the public hearing was held on June 13th. Mr. Wessell said he would change that to June 5th.

Mayor Blair opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. Receiving no public comment, the hearing was closed at 6:06 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Mills made the motion to adopt Resolution No. (2019) 2162 adopting an Order closing a portion of the Old Tide Water Power Company Right of Way and a portion of South Lumina Avenue located west and south of Wings in Wrightsville Beach. The motion was seconded by Alderman Miller and unanimously approved.

DIRECTION ON BUILDING A DUPLEX AT 716 SOUTH LUMINA AVENUE.

Mr. Owens said, "This is an existing property. It is a narrow tract about forty feet wide that goes to the waterway. Mr. Conley wants to build two houses. He would like to stay in the front of the house and start building on the back half. He wanted to continue to keep the house occupied in front, be able to move to the back house, and then un-occupy the front and push them together. Staff felt we could not approve this." Mr. Wessell said, "Our ordinance does not allow two single family units on one lot. Staff does not have the ability to let him do that. I think we need a document immortalizing what you said." Mr. Conley said, "I think that is a reasonable compromise. It would be easy to build the back structure without moving the first one."

Mr. Wessell said, “There will be a point when you cannot occupy either.” Mr. Conley replied, “I can live with that.” When asked if the two houses would be connected, Mr. Owens replied, “We require a common wall.” Mr. Conley said, “I understand that. I planned to abut the new house to the old house.” Mayor Pro Tem Mills asked if the Board wanted Mr. Conley’s lawyer to draw up the document. Mr. Wessell said, “I want to make sure we have a clear statement of what the Board is saying. Let me do it. He needs to get the plans to Tony Wilson so there is no question about what you’re going to do to put these houses together.” The Board so agreed.

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW MUSEUM BUILDING.

Ms. Tina Williamson, representing the Wrightsville Beach Museum of History, said, “We finally have trim carpenters hired. They will be finished in a couple of weeks. Then we will do electrical and HVAC. I would like to give you another update next month. It is in great shape – dry and safe. We are working hard to bring in funding to pay off the materials.”

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH MARKETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE’S FY19/20 MARKETING BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$599,228.

Mr. Owens said, “Every year we have to approve the Marketing Advisory Committee’s budget to move forward. Their budget is \$599,228 this year. Last year it was \$596,000. This is a formality to allow the CVB to move forward.” Alderman Dull said, “Our Town has a logo and we paid a lot of money for that logo. I just wanted to bring that to the Board’s attention. Could we put our seal on documents instead of that logo?” Mr. Owens replied, “We could get the Marketing Committee to recommend it. I will talk to the CVB and ask. They control the websites and documents and they may have to retool it.” Mayor Blair said, “I will call Kim Hufham tomorrow.” Alderman Dull made the motion to approve the Wrightsville Beach Marketing Advisory Committee Budget for FY19/20 in the amount of \$599,228. The motion was seconded by Alderman Miller and unanimously approved. .

CONSIDERATION OF FOUR TWO-YEAR APPOINTMENTS TO THE WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH MARKETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE JUNE 2021.

Mr. Owens said, “We have received no applicants at this point. There are four positions that need to be filled and at least three of those do not want to reapply. I’m asking the Board to allow staff to advertise for those vacancies. There was Board consensus to advertise and get people onboard.

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR YMCA TRIATHLON ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 AT 12:00 NOON FOR TRANSITION AREA SETUP AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019 (7:00-10:30 AM) (4:00 AM SETUP); ADULT AND YOUTH RACES WITH APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PARTICIPANTS. (ADULT RACE: SWIM FROM BLOCKADE RUNNER TO SEA PATH, RUN TO WB PARK TRANSITION AREA FOR BIKE COURSE ACROSS DRAWBRIDGE, RUN LOOP 5K COURSE YOUTH RACE: SWIM OUT AND BACK COURSE AT SEA PATH DOCK, BIKE SHORTER DISTANCE ACROSS THE DRAWBRIDGE, RUN SHORTENED LOOP COURSE.)

Recreation Program Supervisor Katie Ryan said, “A few months ago, you asked for special events with road closures to come to you. This closes Causeway Drive from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Because Seapath is having construction, they may need to use Island Drive Park for the transition over to the soccer field.” Mayor Blair questioned having a thousand people in that little park. Ms. Ryan said, “They would be spread out. They would keep spectators out of that area.” Alderman Miller asked if that was the same date as usual.

Ms. Ryan said it was around the same time. Mayor Blair asked if anyone had concerns with the 4:00 a.m. setup. Alderman Miller asked how much setup there would be at Island Drive Park. Ms. Ryan replied, “It is mostly here in the park for setup for swimmers coming from the Blockade Runner.” Mayor Blair said he wanted the residents to be aware of this. Mayor Pro Tem Mills said he thought Seapath was finished with everything but their clubhouse. Alderman Miller said he was happy to approve the event but he was concerned with what happens at the Island Drive Park with whatever they do. Alderman Dull then made the motion to approve the special event permit application as presented with a contingency to use Island Drive Park if Seapath Marina is unavailable for the swim course. The motion was seconded by Alderman Miller and unanimously approved.

CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL SEASIDE SHUFFLE 5K ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019 AT 7:00 AM BEGINNING AT WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH PARK AND ENDING ACROSS FROM THE BLOCKADE RUNNER. THIS COURSE WILL REQUIRE THAT WEST SALISBURY STREET BE CLOSED FROM 6:50 TO 7:20 A.M. THE OUTSIDE EASTBOUND LANE OF CAUSEWAY AND OUTSIDE SOUTHBOUND LANE OF WAYNICK BLVD. WOULD REMAIN CLOSED FROM ABOUT 6:30 TO 8:00 A.M.

Ms. Ryan said, “This is a second event. They just want a different route. They used to block Waynick on Sunday afternoon. Several years ago, the Board suggested they change that. They changed it to a beach run but they really want a road race. They’d like to use the same route that we use for the Wrightsville Beach Valentine Day Run. They will end at the Blockade Runner. They want to start at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. It should have a minimal impact.” Mayor Blair asked if there were any early church services that could be impacted. Ms. Ryan said she would check. She said the only problem would be the Methodist Church. Mayor Blair said, “We will leave that up to you to make sure.” Alderman Miller made the motion to approve the special event permit application as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dull and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON WMPO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND OTHER SALISBURY STREET PARK ACCESS ITEMS.

Mr. Owens reviewed the WMPO Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and said this had to be done by July 1. He said the Board could consider a minimum match of 20% and we would be notified in July of when the grant would happen. He said, “West Salisbury would have to be a secondary project. East Salisbury could move forward. The plus side is that it would be \$825,896 with a minimum match.” Mayor Blair said, “We will never have a better time to get points and score this thing. I suggest we go for all of it.”

Alderman Dull said, “Say we go in and ask for 50% and we get awarded. Then you would not get West Salisbury done at the same time.” Mr. Owens replied, “We would be looking at next March before we could start doing anything.” Alderman Dull asked if the Board had to decide on the percentage tonight. Ms. Ryan said that had to be included. Mayor Blair said, “There is money there to do that. This would go a long way in shoring up and it gives us more options.” Alderman Dull said, “When you break the project up, you have two different projects and people would be working longer. We would not get the same contractor competition. I’m not sure you wouldn’t save \$400,000 by keeping it one project. I think we ought to apply. What are the chances of getting the grant if we did 20%?” Ms. Ryan replied, “Our application is strong.” Alderman Dull asked what the difference would be if we did 20% or 50%. Mr. Owens replied, “20% is good but 30% would be fine to get points.”

There was Board consensus to go with a 30% match. Alderman Miller made the motion to adopt Resolution No. (2019) 2161 supporting the application for the STP-DA Grant to complete construction on West Salisbury Street in the amount of \$825,896. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dull and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. (2019) 2159 TO APPROVE A PRIMARY DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE CONTRACT WITH CUSTOM TREE CARE, INC. AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. (2019) 2160 TO APPROVE A SECONDARY DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE CONTRACT WITH STATE TREE SERVICES, INC.

Mr. Owens said, “Every two years, we look at bidding this out. Johnson Environmental helps us with this. Mr. Wessell has looked at these contracts. We will make sure he sees them again to make sure they meet state guidelines. Custom Tree Care is being proposed as our primary disaster recovery assistance contractor. If they cannot come, then State Tree Services from South Carolina is proposed to be our secondary disaster recovery assistance contractor. Mayor Blair made the motion to: 1) adopt Resolution No. (2019) 2159 to approve a primary disaster recovery assistance contract with Custom Tree Care, Inc. for the period beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021; 2) adopt Resolution No. (2019) 2160 to approve a secondary disaster recovery assistance contract with State Tree Services, Inc. for the period beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021; and 3) to allow the Town Manager or Mayor to execute the final contracts following review by the Town Attorney. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mills and unanimously approved.

MAYOR BLAIR: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.

- TDA Meeting Report: “It would appear that we are on the road to stability. Carolina Beach has surpassed us. The new marketing campaign should be rolled out in the next few weeks. Wilmington has had good growth in ROT.”

ALDERMAN DULL: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.

- WB Marketing Committee Report: “We are short on members to the Marketing Committee. Thanks for approving the budget. We will look into the logo thing.”

ALDERMAN MILLER: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.

- “We had the public meeting here about NCDOT looking at options for bridge replacement. The only thing that came out of that was just a conversation. The NCDOT got somebody to do a study. We need to support the NCDOT looking into options because they will not come up with any options until they get funding. We need a bridge and we need access to the beach and we need for the NCDOT to stay on that.”

MAYOR PRO TEM MILLS: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.

- “Calls have been received about coyotes on the south end. They are to the point that people are getting scared to be outside and we have lost some pets. Somebody needs to look into that.” Alderman Miller said they had been seen on Harbor Island as well. Mr. Owens said he was looking into that.
- Town Attorney Replacement: Mayor Pro Tem Mills said, “I met with Mr. Wessell and Mayor Blair relative to an RFP to get the process going. We will publish a notice next week in order to cull the list of applicants down to the top three or four. John (Wessell) would like to be gone by the end of August.”

ALDERMAN KING: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.

- “With the new part time ranger, can we get an update on what is happening in Banks Channel?” Mr. Owens replied, “We have gotten rid of some. Both rangers are looking after the boats. If you see one there for over thirty days, we can take care of it.” Alderman King asked if everybody out there had been notified. Mr. Owens replied, “We put up signs and the Police are giving out flyers. It is hard to get in touch with some of these people.”
- “How long will the barges be at the south end?” Mr. Owens replied, “I’m not sure what project that is. The Corps stages them there because it is deep there.” Alderman King said a lot of people on the south end are tired of looking at them.
- “What is the status of the Street Closing at Bellamy and Lumina?” Mr. Wessell replied, “We have had multiple conversations with the lawyer from Carolina Yacht Club. They had not gotten the survey done. We have it now and anticipate bringing that to the Board in August. The easements and the Order have been drafted.”
- “Will we go to Masonboro Island on the Fourth of July?” Mr. Owens replied, “We do not go there unless we are called.” Alderman King asked about Palm Island and Mr. Owens said the Sherriff’s Department handles that.

MR. OWENS: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.

- The Corps is working on our study for the 901. There has been a lot of discussion about COBRA and whether we can get sand from the sound (benefit cost ratio). Our Division of the Corps is suggesting we exempt ourselves from COBRA. I think they will go forward with it.”

REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION FOR UPDATES AND DISCUSSION OF PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO G.S. 143.318.11.

Mr. Wessell requested a Closed Session for updates and discussion of pending litigation pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11. Mayor Blair made the motion at 6:51 p.m. to go into Closed Session for updates and discussion of pending litigation with the Town Attorney. The motion was seconded by Alderman Miller and unanimously approved.

MEETING RECONVENED.

Mayor Blair reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:03 p.m. and asked the record to reflect that the Closed Session had been held for the reasons so stated with no action taken. Alderman Miller referenced Mayor Pro Tem Mills’ earlier request for an RFP in order to receive applications for Town Attorney. Mr. Wessell said it would have to get to the newspaper by the 11th. Alderman Miller then made the motion to approve an RFP for legal services as the Town Attorney. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dull and unanimously approved. Mayor Blair: suggested advertising a couple of weeks and getting resumes in, then hire somebody to get onboard so they can sit in with John for a while.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia J. Holleman
Town Clerk