

MINUTES  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

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 Jeff DeGroot (remotely by phone), Alderman Ken Dull, 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 Student Minister James Connolley, Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church.

**ALDERMAN DEGROOTE ATTENDING REMOTELY.**

Mr. Edes asked if the Board could make a motion to allow Alderman DeGroot to join remotely by phone and to participate and vote on any matters that come before the Board. Mayor Pro Tem Miller made that motion. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mills and approved with a 4-0 vote.

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

- a. Approved Regular and Closed Session Minutes of July 8, 2021.
- b. Approved special event permits as follows:
  1. Seaside Shuffle (*200 participants*)  
Sunday, November 21, 2021 (*6:00 – 9:00 am*) (*Race starts at 7:00 am*)  
Location: Town Hall to Salisbury Street, Pelican, Boat Ramp, under drawbridge, Old Causeway, Causeway, Waynick, end at Blockade Runner  
\*\*\* Recurring Event
  2. Ironman 70.3 (*2,600 participants*)  
Saturday, October 23, 2021 (*4:00 – 10:00 am*) (*Race starts at 7:00 am*)  
Location: Swim Banks Channel – Hanover Seaside Club to Seapath, Transition to bike at park soccer field and exit beach.  
\*\*\* Recurring Event
- c. Acknowledged previously approved special events for October.
- d. Acknowledged Planning and Inspections departmental quarterly report covering the months of April, May and June, 2021.
- e. Adopted Budget Ordinance No. (2021) 547-B to transfer funds (\$100,000) from 307131.9664 to 307131.1900 for current storm water projects.
- f. Adopted Budget Ordinance No. (2021) 548-B to take the revenues out of fund balance and create the budgeted expense for FY22 for three projects (Fire Training Grounds (\$19,000); Tennis Courts (\$22,000); and Myrtle Court Paving/Harbor Island Drainage Improvements (150,000).
- g. Approved revised 2021 Board of Adjustment Meeting Schedule to cancel the September 23, 2021 meeting.

- h. Set a public hearing for Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider a Text Amendment to Section 155.6.5.7 to add a new Part (l) Small Lot Exception for the C-5 Commercial District.

**CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. (2021) 2250 ADOPTING THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR NAMING TOWN ASSETS.**

Alderman Partin said, “On July 8<sup>th</sup>, you asked me to establish a committee to look into developing policies and procedures – first of all you said just for naming or renaming of streets. I formed a committee with four citizens of Wrightsville Beach. I only have two of them here tonight, Neal Braggi and former Town Attorney John Wessell. We also had Kitty Brunjes and Jim Chaffins. We expanded our scope as per the Mayor’s agreement and decided to include all assets within the Town that could possibly be named. I also want to thank Mr. Edes for giving us a document that we could begin with. We met the first time on August 4<sup>th</sup> and began reviewing the document and making adjustments. I also want to thank Sylvia Holleman for her keeping us very professional as we went through this process. So, we adjusted the document and met again on August 25<sup>th</sup> and looked at the changes that were recommended and the committee members agreed unanimously to adopt the document that you have before you today. The flow of this document – it will come into the Town via the Clerk; then it will go to the Planning Board for vetting; and then to the Board of Aldermen for approval. Just like with any process or procedure, until you use it one time or a couple of times, there could be changes made.”

Mayor Mills thanked Alderman Partin for chairing the committee and thanked the committee members for serving. He said, “I had been approached about the renaming of a street and the Board decided we needed some criteria. I think the committee did a fine job. I looked at the initial document before the committee made changes and I think we have a good guideline now and a very workable plan.” Alderman Dull agreed and said, “I think Alderman Partin and her committee took on the challenge and exceeded expectations.” He then made the motion to adopt Resolution No. (2021) 2250 approving a Policy and Guidelines for Naming Town Assets as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Miller and unanimously approved. Mr. Edes noted that any formal changes to the policy would have to come through the Board of Aldermen for formal amendment.

**MAYOR MILLS: OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS.**

- A memorial service will be held this Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the Park to commemorate the anniversary of 911. The Board appreciates all of the effort going into that. We should not ever forget.
- Jim Chaffins has confirmed by email that they have raised sufficient funds to cover the conversion of the tennis court into four pickleball courts, so we will proceed with that.
- Ports, Waterway and Beach Commission met yesterday. We still don’t have funding and we’re still fighting to see if we can continue to use the borrow pit we have used for years.
- Ms. Holleman will not be able to meet on the normal October date. Following a brief discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to change the October meeting date from Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mills and unanimously approved.

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

- The Cape Fear Council of Governments normally has a dinner in the fall. I reached out to Charlie Rivenbark for information. I will try to attend.
- The Flotilla has all of their permits. The Day in the Park and the Boat Parade are on for this year; they will have the Door to Dock Program again as well.

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

- Be sure that we let Ms. Brown know whatever the Town Manager determines is the Town's Christmas Light Policy because there was a misunderstanding last year. The last I remember, she was going to come back and ask for an extended time. Please keep the Board informed.
- I thought we had the discussion last time about a sign. I know we don't allow swimming in the inlet and we don't have lifeguards there to encourage people to swim in the inlet. But, there used to be a sign up there and it's not there anymore. The question is, do we need a sign and what should that sign say if we do need a sign. If we don't, then we need to say we don't think we need a sign so that question can get answered. Would it make any sense? When we had the sign that says we welcome you to Wrightsville Beach here are twenty-five things you can't do – but have fun anyway. Does it make sense to put something on the accesses that have lifeguards, and the accesses that don't? We do a great job but if there's more we can do and we save somebody's life, then we ought to do it. Mr. Owens said he would talk with Mr. Edes a little bit more. We will probably need some kind of ordinance or something to that effect but they will come back with something. Alderman Partin said if we do increase knowledge of that, it would be good to put it on the website as well.
- Mayor Pro Tem Miller asked if we changed anything with the Ironman as far as the parking and all of that. Ms. Ryan noted that the information was in the Board's packet under the Consent Agenda.
- The school and the D.O.T. – minus the D.O.T. – are meeting on Friday. The school and the D.O.T. are the ones that have the issue that's causing the issue at Wrightsville Beach. D.O.T. is giving them a plan and I think the Chief is going, too. Wrightsville Beach is going to sit and listen and offer any assistance we can but that's not our school and it's not our highway. We are trying to keep the pressure on them to do something but all we can do is ask. Brian wrote a letter; it has gotten to the right people now. Hopefully, Tim's going to come back and tell us at least the school says there's something they can do and D.O.T. will approve. But we don't have any input because it's not our issue. Mayor Mills agreed and said we don't want it to become our issue.
- The sidewalk has been started on Coral Drive.

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

- Thanks to Town staff – specifically public safety, fire and ocean rescue – for a great summer. There were a couple of things but nothing we could have stopped. Thank you for us not making the newspaper. I appreciate the hard work by everybody.

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

- I met with the D.O.T. and the contractors today that will be working on the Causeway Bridge. It will start the first to the middle of October and could go up to the middle of November of 2022. It will involve shifting lanes. They're going to try to keep Loop traffic going and lanes that are dedicated for Loop traffic folks. But it's going to be noisy. During the summertime, it's not going to be great. They're trying to think of things outside of the box to try to get the schedule completed prior to November of 2022. Whether it be working 24/7; whether it be closing one road permanently for the duration; but they will come back with some recommendation. I will type this up and get it out to the public before it gets started so they know there will be construction.”
- There's a CRC meeting next week. CRC is starting to dabble in what your parking revenues cannot be used for. One thing they're proposing is it can't be used for beach nourishment. They've always insisted that it couldn't be used for general purposes but they're insisting now and they're going to try to make the rule clear that it can't be used for beach nourishment purposes. I think the County was asked that question and the County said the General Assembly has already decided what you can use it for; why is the Division of Coastal Management trying to create a new rule. Just something to think about and keep an eye on. Mr. Edes said, “We have a Local Act as well which I think would have control over any general administrative rule, but we'll see what they do.”

**CLOSED SESSION FOR ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED DISCUSSION PURSUANT TO G.S. 143.318.11.**

Mr. Edes said, “We have an item to discuss in Closed Session. Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to go into Closed Session at 5:55 p.m. pursuant to G.S. 143.318-11 to consult with the Town Attorney and preserve the attorney/client privilege. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mills and unanimously approved.

**MEETING RECONVENED.**

Mayor Mills reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:33 p.m. and asked the record to reflect that the Closed Session had been held for the reason so stated with no action taken.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia J. Holleman  
Town Clerk