

**Town Council Budget Kickoff Meeting Minutes
Morehead City, North Carolina**

Monday, February 3, 2020

The Honorable Council of the Town of Morehead City met in Special Session on Monday, February 3, 2020, in the Municipal Chambers located at 202 South 8th Street, Morehead City, North Carolina. Those in attendance were:

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Gerald A. Jones, Jr.; Councilmembers George Ballou, David Horton, Keri V. McCann, William F. Taylor, and Diane C. Warrender.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ryan Eggleston and City Clerk Cathy Campbell.

OTHERS: Elise Clouser of the Carteret News Times;

Mayor Jones called the special meeting of the Morehead City Town Council to order at 10:04 a.m. with a quorum present. The purpose of this meeting is to begin discussions in preparation for the FY 2020-2021 budget.

In order to accommodate the attorney's schedule, Mayor Jones asked Council to amend the meeting agenda by moving the closed session to Item #1. Councilmember Ballou made a motion **to amend the Special Meeting agenda, moving the Closed Session to Item #1.** Councilmember Warrender seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

CLOSED SESSION PER NCGS 143.318.11(a)(3) TO CONSULT WITH THE ATTORNEY

Councilmember Ballou made a motion **to enter into Closed Session at 10:06 a.m. per NCGS 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with the City Attorney.** Councilmember Warrender seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Councilmember Taylor moved **to return to OPEN SESSION at 10:54 a.m.** Councilmember McCann seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

BUDGET KICKOFF DISCUSSION:

City Manager Ryan Eggleston began with a review of the budget schedule. The schedule lists six (6) budget meetings in addition to the one held today; a Strategic Planning Session on February 21, 2020, four (4) budget workshops on April 14, May 12, May 19, and June 2, 2020, and a the budget public hearing on June 9, 2020. Mr. Eggleston is working with the UNC School of Government to secure a facilitator for the February 21, 2020 strategic planning session.

The February 21, 2020 meeting will be focused on setting the Council's priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The goal will be for Council to reach agreement, through collaboration, on eight to ten priorities for the next year. Councilmembers are welcome to share areas of

concern at the same time. Following this meeting, Management will implement the Council's priorities and requests into the budget in preparation for the April 14, 2020 meeting. Management will begin to make presentations on their departmental budgets, and answer Council's questions at that same meeting.

Mr. Eggleston explained that the budget narratives are designed to educate the public on the functions of each department. Councilmember Taylor asked for a better balance of public information and functional information for the Council. He would like the narratives to include an outline the departmental objectives/projects to be accomplished under the budget and a plan to accomplish them. In addition, Councilmember Taylor asked for a list of items, especially paving projects, that will be carried over from this year to the new fiscal year with a status report for each, and a complete list of the improvements requested for the Recreation Center. Mr. Eggleston explained that the new capital project funds are the tracking mechanism for managing multi-year projects, such as the new city hall project and the stormwater plan project. Councilmember Taylor shared that he will be focused on improving the execution of budgeted projects. It was agreed that establishing measurement standards should be part of the priority setting process.

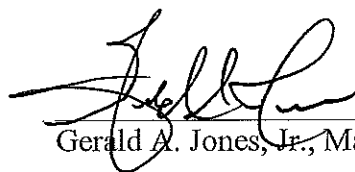
Concerning paving, Mr. Eggleston stated that he plans to develop a 30-year paving plan based on the latest paving study. The plan would begin with a focus on those streets identified as the worst roads and work towards the best roads, and then adjusted as necessary based upon complexity, costs, and resources to develop a final annual project list and timeline. Mr. Eggleston stated that the road assessment studies should be updated on a regular basis.

Councilmember Horton expressed frustration with the Board Committee structure that prevents the Council as a whole from discussing all topics. Mr. Eggleston said that the Committee structure was developed to allow items to be vetted in advance of the council meetings, minimizing the length of time spent in such meetings. He stated that discussion during a Committee meeting should be restricted to the items on the agenda. Councilmember Warrender disagreed stating that the committee meeting minutes typically include only the final decisions and motions without the details of the discussion. This prevents the other councilmembers from having the benefit of knowing the full considerations on a subject being presented to the Council.

Horton made a motion **to establish the structure of two Council meetings per month in lieu of the Board committee structure.** Mayor Jones stated that actions such as this should only take place when the items are included on a regular meeting agenda. Council agreed to hold a special workshop meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. prior to the regular monthly meeting to discuss further, and that it should be included on the February regular meeting agenda for consideration. Based on the scheduling of this meeting, Councilmember Horton withdrew his motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Taylor made a motion **to adjourn.** Councilmember McCann seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.



Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest:


Cathy Campbell, City Clerk

