

**Town Council Minutes
Morehead City, North Carolina**

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

The Honorable Council of the Town of Morehead City met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 13 2019, 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, Keri V. McCann, William F. Taylor, Harvey N. Walker, Jr. and Diane C. Warrender.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ryan Eggleston; City Attorneys Derek Taylor and Mike Thomas; Fire Chief Jamie Fulk; Police Chief Bernette Morris; Communications Director Alize Proisy; Interim Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Riggs; Planning Director Sandi Watkins; Public Services Director Daniel Williams; City Clerk Cathy Campbell and the following Fire Department Personnel, Deputy Chief Jack Manley, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Dykeman Baily, Assistant Fire Marshal Bobby Stephens, Captain Brian Pasko, and Firemen Kevin Fuller, Jamie Hunnings, Wesley Kittrell, John Mancini, and Mark Rignola.

OTHERS: Elise Clouser of the Carteret News Times; Clyda Lutz of Carteret County Literacy Council; Lisa Rueh and Lee Hinson of Downtown Morehead City, Inc.; David Quinn of Diamond City Gala Committee; Mitch Gay, Stephanie McIntyre, Carol Campbell, Dale Gillikin, Katelyn Gillikin, Amber Hughes, Tim Necaise, Kirby Sloan, Brian Starling, and Kim Tynes of the NC Seafood Festival; Billy, Sherry, and Brian Beck, Crystal Harmon, George Hesta, Tressa Jones, Gloria McCarther, John McIntyre, Joann Manley, Anthony Sadorsik, and Fred Tootle.

Mayor Jones called the regular meeting of the Morehead City Town Council to order at 5:30 p.m. with a quorum present. Councilmember Ballou gave the invocation and Mayor Jones led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of Resolution 2019-R-48 in Honor of Billy Beck Upon His Retirement

Mayor Jones presented Resolution 2019-R-48 to Billy Beck in recognition of his retirement from the Town of Morehead City on August 1, 2019. Mr. Beck began his career with the Town on November 10, 2003 as a Firefighter/Engineer with the Morehead City Fire/EMS Department and was promoted to the position of lieutenant on September 28, 2006, a position he held until his retirement. Mayor Jones explained that it is not only the employee who serves,

but also the family as they support the employee in fulfilling their duties. Therefore, he encouraged everyone to extend thanks to Billy and his family for their many years of service.

Fire Chief Fulk presented Lt. Beck with his helmet and badge, stating that Billy is the salt of the earth in that he has repaired and towed many vehicles for the department free of charge, and works continuously behind the scenes to benefit the Department and the City. He shared that Billy has more than 40 years of service between Morehead City Fire/EMS and the Beaufort Fire Department.

Lt. Beck stated that he has really enjoyed his time with Morehead City Fire/EMS and has met many wonderful people during his time of service.

Presentation of Mayor's Proclamation in Recognition of International Literacy Day

Mayor Jones presented a proclamation recognizing Saturday, September 8, 2019 as International Literacy Day in the Town of Morehead City to Clyda Lutz, Vice President of Carteret County Literacy Council. Mayor Jones stated that it is an honor to recognize those that give so much back to their community such as those who volunteer for the Carteret County Literacy Council.

Literacy education serves as a unique and powerful tool to eradicate poverty and is a strong means for creating sustainable societies. Mayor Jones commends the efforts of the hundreds of volunteers, tutors and adult learners who have worked through the Carteret Literacy Council's Adult Literacy & ESL Program, and urges all citizens to support the goals of the Carteret Literacy Council's program to make Carteret County a more literate community. This year's theme is Literacy and Multilingualism.

Ms. Lutz reminded those present that the Carteret Literacy Council is always looking for tutors for all age groups.

Seafood Festival Presentation

Mayor Jones then recognized Mitch Gay, Chairman of the North Carolina Seafood Festival, who came forward to propose Resolution 2019-R-47 endorsing the 33rd Annual Seafood Festival. Mr. Gay stated that the committee is once again ready and excited to offer a full festival following the recovery of Hurricane Florence. This year's festival will feature the area's culinary talents in the Chef's Tent and local musicians both located in Katherine Davis Park; a local oyster industry showcase at Big Rock Landing; headline entertainment at Jaycee Park, and carnival rides in the Sanitary parking lot. The Festival will offer a 3-Bridge Road Race (Beaufort, Radio Island and Atlantic Beach) to include 5k, 10k and half marathon races.

The Festival board then distributed the official 2019 Festival poster to the Council and staff members.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones reviewed the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Walker made a motion **to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** Councilmember Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

Councilmember Warrender questioned the amount of requested ad valorem tax refunds as noted in Item C. Finance Director Jewel Lasater stated often property owners and their banks, through the escrow program, will pay on the same invoices.

Included within the Consent Agenda were the following approvals:

- A. Approve the Minutes of the July 9, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting.
- B. Accept the Finance Director Reports, Tax Collector Reports, and Notice of Ad Valorem Tax Overpayments in the amount of \$5,270.54 for the month of July 2019 as Recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.
- C. Approve the Requests for Refunds of Overpayment of Ad Valorem Taxes in the amount of \$10,854.37 for July 2019 as Recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.
- D. Adopt Resolution 2019-R-45 Affirming Partnership with 2020 Census as Recommended by the Planning Committee.
- E. Adopt Resolution 2019-R-46 Endorsing the Diamond City Gala Music & Art Festival Event and Authorizing Action Necessary for the Event to be Held on October 19, 2019 as Recommended by the Public Works Committee.
- F. Adopt Resolution 2019-R-47 Endorsing the Seafood Festival Event and Authorizing Action Necessary for the Event to be Held on October 4-6, 2019 as Recommended by the Public Works Committee.
- G. Accept RSM Government Auditing Standards Communication as Recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.
- H. Accept Annual Report for Sale of Surplus Items under \$30,000 FYE 6/30/19 as Required and Recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.
- I. Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2019-32 as Presented and Recommended by the Finance and Administrative Committee.
- J. Adopt Governmental Capital Project Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment 2019-33 as Presented and Recommended by the Finance and Administrative Committee.
- K. Adopt Authorization Amendment Section VI. FY2019-2020 Annual Budget Ordinance Amendment 2019-34 as Presented and Recommended by the Finance and Administrative Committee.

- K. Adopt Authorization Amendment Section X. Governmental Capital Project Ordinance Amendment 2019-35 as Presented and Recommended by the Finance and Administrative Committee.
- M. Adopt Authorization Amendment Section X. Water & Sewer Capital Project Ordinance Amendment 2019-36 as Presented and Recommended by the Finance and Administrative Committee.
- N. Adopt Authorization Amendment Section X. Solid Waste Capital Project Ordinance Amendment 2019-37 as Presented and Recommended by the Finance and Administrative Committee.
- O. Adopt Resolution 2019-R-48 Honoring Billy Beck Upon His Retirement.

NEW BUSINESS

Governing Body Appointments: *Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, and Highway 70 Corridor Commission*

Planning Director Sandi Watkins presented the Planning Committee's recommendation for filling the expiring In-City seat terms on the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment.

Board of Adjustment:

The Board of Adjustment In-City Member terms for Charles Sewell and Katrina Smith, as well as the Alternate Member terms for Judson Walton and John Steele expire on August 27, 2019.

The Planning Committee recommends the reappointment of Charles Sewell and appointment of Judson Walton to the Board of Adjustment In-City Member seats, and the appointment of Sarah West and Bobby Schultz to the Board of Adjustment In-City Alternate seats for a three (3) year terms to begin August 27, 2019 and expire August 27, 2022.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board In-City Member term for Andrea Smith expires on August 15, 2019. Ms. Smith is eligible and has expressed an interest in continuing to serve.

The Planning Committee recommends the reappointment of Andrea Smith to the Planning Board In-City seat for a three (3) year term to begin August 15, 2019 and expire August 15, 2022.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission

On August 14, 2018, Council appointed Ryan Eggleston to the Highway 70 Corridor Commission to fulfill David Whitlow's unexpired term to expire on December 31, 2018. The Council then reappointed Mr. Eggleston on December 11, 2019 to a one-year term beginning January 1, 2019 and expiring December 31, 2019. Carteret County advised that the term changed to begin August 20, 2019 and expire August 20, 2020. Therefore, staff requests that Council reappoint Ryan Eggleston to the Highway 70 Corridor Commission for a one-year term to begin August 20, 2019 and expire August 20, 2020.

Councilmember Warrender made a motion to **Reappoint Charles Sewell and appoint Judson Walton to the Board of Adjustment In-City Member seats, and appoint Sarah West and Bobby Schultz to the Board of Adjustment In-City Alternate seats for a three (3) year terms to begin August 27, 2019 and expire August 27, 2022; reappoint Andrea Smith to the Planning Board In-City seat for a three (3) year term to begin August 15, 2019 and expire August 15, 2022; and to reappoint City Manager Ryan Eggleston to the Highway 70 Corridor Commission for a one-year term to begin August 20, 2019 and expire August 20, 2020.** Councilmember Ballou seconded. Motion carried by majority vote (5-0).

Consider Adoption of Updated Personnel Policy Manual

City Manager Ryan Eggleston presented a revised edition of the Morehead City Personnel Policies. Revisions were highlighted by red text. This revised edition is the end product of a review process that continued over a period of approximately six (6) to eight (8) months. The review committee represented a staff member from every department with the last meeting being a presentation to the department directors for their review, comments, and feedback. All committee members were engaged and provided much feedback, suggestions, and comments to produce the proposed document.

The Finance and Administration Committee reviewed the policy on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at which time the City Manager and HR Director presented the policy to Councilmembers Ballou and McCann page by page providing explanations. After review and further changes, the Committee recommended the policy for approval, directing that it be presented to Council for consideration at this meeting under New Business.

Revisions focus on policies and benefits that will enhance recruitment and retention of highly qualified individuals. The benefit revisions did not include salaries, but rather leave protocols and other similar benefits. It was pointed out that Mr. Eggleston met with councilmembers individually to review all the proposed amendments and to answer their questions. Councilmembers commended Mr. Eggleston, Human Resources Director Susan Nixon, and staff on their efforts in developing the comprehensive policy.

Councilmember Taylor made a motion to **approve the updated Personnel Policy Manual as presented and recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.** Councilmember McCann seconded. Motion carried by majority vote (5-0).

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Ryan Eggleston reported that he and Communications Director Alize Proisy continue to move forward with the new branding initiatives. Samples of various logo items were shared.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS (2 Minute Time Limit)

Fred Tootle, 1003 Avery Street: Mr. Tootle came forward to address the alley adjacent to his home, asking why the City no longer mows this area. Mayor Jones and City Manager Ryan Eggleston assured him that staff will look into the matter. He also reported that cars are parking in the alleyway.

George Hesta, 1008 Avery Street: Mr. Hesta stated that the streets lights along Avery Street between 10th and 12th streets appear to be darker than they used to be. This is a concern for area residents as street lights are a deterrent for unwelcome activity. Mr. Eggleston assured him that staff will look into the matter as well.

COUNCIL REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Councilmember Warrender thanked everyone for coming and sharing their comments. She then reminded those present of the statewide Litter Sweep North Carolina Clean Up initiative scheduled for September 14-28, 2019 and welcomed everyone to participate.

Councilmember Taylor thanked everyone for coming and stated that it was great to have citizens involved in the governing process. He then commended Human Resources Director Susan Nixon on the comprehensive personnel policy.

Councilmember Walker thanked attendees for coming and for making Council aware of their concerns.

Councilmember Ballou expressed agreement with the prior comments and stated that it is an honor to serve the citizens of Morehead City.

Councilmember McCann also thanked attendees for coming, and commended Communications Director Aliza Proisy for her efforts on the branding campaign. She also offered congratulations to the Morehead Marlins on their 2nd Coastal Plain League Petitt Cup Championship.

Mayor Jones stated that a community is really about the individuals within the community, and a town will always be a work in progress. Noting that the Council's primary responsibility is to keep its citizens safe, he too thanked Mr. Tootle and Mr. Hesta for sharing their concerns.

APPROVE AND SEAL CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

City Clerk Cathy Campbell presented the minutes of the July 9, 2019 Closed Session for review and approval. After a review of the minutes, Councilmember Ballou moved **to Approve**

and Seal the minutes of the July 9, 2019 Closed Session meeting as presented.
Councilmember Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

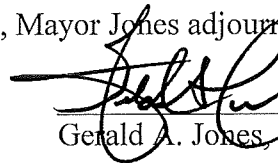
CLOSED SESSION PER NCGS 143.318.11(a)(3) TO CONSULT WITH CITY ATTORNEY AND 143-318.11(a)(6) PERSONNEL MATTERS

Councilmember Ballou made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:12 p.m. per NCGS 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with city attorney and 143.318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel matters. Councilmember Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Councilmember Taylor moved to return to OPEN SESSION at 6:31 p.m. Councilmember McCann seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, Mayor Jones adjourned the meeting 6:32p.m.



Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest: 
Cathy Campbell, City Clerk

