

**KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL**

**BUDGET WORK SESSION—COMMUNITY INPUT**

**MAY 2, 2005**

Mayor Medlin opened the work session noting that the purpose of the work session is to receive public input in reference to the budget. Mayor Pro Tem Dugan, Comm. Ufferman and Comm. Fuller were present.

Mayor Medlin mentioned that persons wishing to speak are asked to raise their hand, come to the podium, state name and make your comments.

(Excerpts of Comments):

Mr. Ken Buchert read aloud the following statement: “I would like to thank the Mayor, present and past Council members and all of the Department Heads for controlling costs and keeping our taxes low. I am sure you will do the same for the 2005/2006 Budget Year so we can keep the same low tax rate that we currently have, speaking for hundreds and maybe thousands of property owners, I thank each and everyone of you, thank you.”

Mayor Medlin thanked Mr. Buchert as did the other Commissioners.

Mr. Mac Montgomery noted he agreed with Ken and he encouraged Council as we go through this process that if possible, he would like to see the Town website used—not the specific departmental budget but the general public spreadsheet so more people in the town can see it—perhaps the final draft budget before adoption.....and this would help get more people involved.

Mrs. Mary Beth Whitten, member of the dog park committee, in commenting mentioned that they could use a little more sand in the dog park—sand is blowing out of the west side of the park—we may need to use edging.....We will be meeting in May and will look into getting landscape logs to put on the west side.

Mr. Ed Philemon, who was unable to attend, submitted a memo noting his concerns. Mayor Medlin read aloud his memo relative to the Town’s infrastructure system—storm water drainage, sewer, drinking water, streets and significant growth of over the past years and to insure that the budget contains money to improve, repair, replace items consistent with the growth demands..... Memo included comments relative to the various phases of stormwater repairs and asked if these are included in the budget.

Comm. Fuller noted they are not included at this point as Council was going to see how the recent improvements worked and then determine how urgent the other phases are.

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Mayor Pro Tem Dugan noted that if what has been done to date takes care of the flooding situation we have had in the past, then we will put these on the to-do list. North end project was mainly due to deterioration....

Mayor Pro Tem Dugan mentioned that he had received a call from Donna Boothe-Neal asking that Council realize the need for a fence between the buffer zone and the Town for deer and rabid animals.

Mr. Montgomery referring to Mr. Philemon's memo noted that the new tower and well which will tie into the existing water system asked if there is money budgeted to continue the process.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugan noted enough money was budgeted in this present year's budget for the entire project.

In commenting Comm. Fuller mentioned that the money has already been allocated.

Mr. Gabby Kraus mentioned that he thought at one time Council had commissioned a study to repair the streets south of K and put in a storm system. Does this need to be in the next budget year.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugan noted that this will probably be in this budget (05-06).

Comm. Fuller mentioned that Public Works Director Beeker had the engineer do an evaluation and come up with package of a series of repairs and if all were to be completed, cost would be about one million dollars. Currently working on part of work that was budgeted in the 04/05 budget combination of \$200,000.00 for portion of that work.....Hope to have this project out for bids sometime this summer.

Mr. Kraus asked where Public Works Department's new building was budgeted.

Comm. Fuller mentioned that it was budgeted in 2003/2004 and as response was not received approving use of the land until the 04/05 budget year, it was carried over to the 04/05 budget.

Mr. Kraus noted that he had been asked if Council does not approve this (design) before bids go out.

During comments/discussion it was mentioned that the concept had been approved and the drawings would be received before bids awarded

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Mr. Kraus also asked the possibility of putting money in next year's budget to study the feasibility of a Town Administrator.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugan mentioned that the Council of Governments will do a work study of the administrative portion of the Town operations to help determine the type of man power we need, work loads, etc. They have indicated they would do the study.

Mr. Ron Griffin mentioned the ocean outfalls and asked how this will effect next year's budget or future budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugan noted there are two(2) sites being used. The overall by plan was to pump the water back (towards the river) and create wet lands.....because of difficulty of getting the CWT funding for this project, we looked for other alternatives. We got together with N.C. State and their graduate students will do two(2) of one ocean outfalls—they will create holding pins. He further explained how this will work noting that one outfall will be near the pin and one at N Avenue. This will be at least a year-long study and is being funded by Clean Water Trust, DOT and N.C. State...

Mr. Gilbert Alphin mentioned that as he is in the Fire Department, last year he took his drill pay and applied it to his health insurance. He requested Council consider what Carolina Beach is doing to help compensate the firemen with their health insurance.

Mr. Gabby Kraus mentioned that maybe as a part of beautification, maybe the trash cans can be identified with Kure Beach on the can or some identifying mark.

Frances Regan, member of the Beautification Committee, asked if the Town has thought about some type permanent maintenance to help public works in this endeavor.

Comm. Fuller asked if Mrs. Regan could get a list of areas needing planting, mowing, maintenance, etc.

Mr. Gilbert Alphin, ADA Chairman, mentioned that he has talked with a couple of contractors who could do some of this maintenance and upkeep—he would like to see the funding researched for this upkeep project.

Mr. Mac Montgomery commented on the need to consider the number of personnel especially in the Public Works Department and the jobs they do based on the growth of the Town.

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Mayor Pro Tem Dugan noted this is being reviewed by the Public Works Department in regards to the number of hours, versus the number of jobs, number of personnel time off, etc.....

Comm. Ufferman noted a \$200.00 processing fee has been put in place to help cover code enforcement.

During discussion/comments, Mayor Medlin noted that Council will look at expenses as well as income.

Ms. Betty Philemon asked if there are job descriptions for all jobs—does the Town do salary surveys for employees as well as Council. She recommended salary survey be done for Council. Also maybe do a study on the computer system.

Mr. Gabby Kraus noted that what has been said echoes two(2) words Town Administrator.

Mrs. Regan asked if we had an adequate supply of water based on the growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugan noted the main function of the tower is for fire fighting.....the system we currently have in place is supposedly adequate to take the maximum allowable building on each lot in town.

Following additional comments relative to the present system, **motion was made by Comm. Ufferman and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dugan to close the work session. Motion approved.**

Council thanked the residents for their participation.

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F. Jones