



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 6, 2017

FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Kure Beach Town Council held a public hearing on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. The town attorney was present and there was a quorum of council members.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Emilie Swearingen
Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Craig Bloszinsky
Commissioner David Heglar (via conference call)
Commissioner Joseph Whitley
Commissioner Jim Dugan

STAFF PRESENT

Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver
Public Works – Jimmy Mesimer
Town Clerk – Nancy Avery
Deputy Town Clerk – Nancy Hewitt

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Swearingen called the meeting to order and stated its purpose is to receive public comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 17-18 budget, and official notice was posted on the town's website and bulletin board, and was advertised in the Island Gazette on May 24, 2017, to meet with public notification requirements per N.C.G.S. 159-12. She said the proposed budget includes the following highlights:

- 1) Tax rate remains at its current rate of \$0.285, which is \$0.0137 greater than the revenue-neutral tax rate
- 2) Monthly fee per residential garbage cart increases from \$6 to \$12 for all carts after the first cart. The first garbage cart remains the same at \$6 per month
- 3) Trash pickup fees increase as follows:
 - a. minimum truck load: current \$10 charge increases to \$15 charge
 - b. ¼ truck load: current \$30 charge increases to \$45 charge
 - c. ½ truck load: current \$60 charge increases to \$90 charge
 - d. ¾ truck load: current \$90 charge increases to \$135 charge
 - e. full truck load: current \$120 charge increases to \$180 charge
 - f. appliances: current \$10 charge increases to \$15 charge for each appliance
- 4) Cost of Living adjustment of 1.5 percent for employees
- 5) Merit increase of 2.5 percent to reward employees who are performing above expectation

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None



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CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING

As no one signed up to give input nor indicated an intent to speak, Mayor Swearingen asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

MOTION – Commissioner Whitley moved to close the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

SECOND – Commissioner Dugan

VOTE – PASSED four to one, as follows: Mayor Swearingen, MPT Bloszinsky and Commissioners Dugan and Whitley FOR, and Commissioner Heglar AGAINST.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO FINANCE OFFICER

Commissioner Heglar commended Finance Officer Copenhaver for doing a great job.

MPT Bloszinsky concurred and added his thanks to the department heads for doing a fine job getting things together and holding the line.

Mayor Swearingen said she sent information to council about a bill that was introduced to the legislature that would allow billboards to be placed anywhere, regardless of any local ordinances. She asked council for their opinions.

MPT Bloszinsky said he is against the bill, as it provides no local controls.

Commissioner Whitley asked if there is anywhere billboards are allowed now in Kure Beach, and he didn't think anyone would put a billboard in town; but he added that he is also against the bill.

Mayor Swearingen said, "Never say never."

Commissioner Heglar said council should formally oppose the bill to support all of the other municipalities that need to be able to regulate this. He said the decision on billboards shouldn't be at the state level, it should be at the local level.

Commissioner Dugan said he agrees with the rest of council, to oppose the bill.

Mayor Swearingen said she also opposes the bill and will let the town's legislative contingent know about the consensus of council, including Senator Lee.

Commissioner Heglar asked the mayor if anyone has a resolution against it for council to adopt.

Mayor Swearingen said she isn't aware of a resolution against it but, if there is one, she will have it ready at council's next meeting for adoption. She briefed council on other items of concern, as follows:



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- The National Marine Fisheries announced they are opening up a 30-day comment period regarding seismic testing because of its possible negative impact on marine life. The comment period runs from today until July 6th.
- She provided information to a local news station and the Wilmington Business Journal about this.
- Oceana has the resolutions from the municipalities that opposed seismic testing and will submit them to marine fisheries and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.
- There are many federal regulations to which the U.S. President will have to adhere regarding offshore oil drilling.
- Ruth Ravitz-Smith from the county told her that a deal was struck on an amount of money from an unidentified source that is to be divided between use for clean water, parks and recreation and beach nourishment. Everyone seemed to be in agreement with it until an amendment was made to use ten percent of it for agriculture. Tom Fetzer from the county is confident the amendment will be deleted and the bill will be returned to its original intent. She hopes to hear more about it at the Port, Waterway and Beach Commission meeting next week.

MPT Bloszinsky said it was his understanding that the full coastal amount is \$18 million and there are more than 18 beaches.

Mayor Swearingen reported on a bill regarding Topsail that would exclude them from receiving beach nourishment funding if they didn't comply with required placement of construction of new homes on the beach. She said an amendment was added to apply it to the entire coast but was removed when legislators objected.

MPT Bloszinsky said he and Town Clerk Avery met with everyone regarding downtown parking, and the lease agreement has been given to the two lot owners for review. He said they received a document from the parking management company with a list of their responsibilities, to be reviewed by Attorney Canoutas.

Mayor Swearingen asked if parking would be presented at the next meeting for a final decision.

MPT Bloszinsky said council agreed at their May meeting to go ahead and do it, but they can tell council at their next meeting what the status is on it and see if there are any questions or concerns. He said they want to be in place for parking by the end of this month.

Attorney Canoutas said he met with the town clerk and changes to the town's civil citations will be presented at the next council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner Dugan moved to adjourn.

SECOND – Commissioner Whitley




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VOTE – Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.


Emilie Swearingen, Mayor


ATTEST: Nancy Hewitt, CMC, NCCMC
Deputy Town Clerk

NOTE: These are action minutes reflecting items considered and actions taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting.

