



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 4, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

The Town Council held a public hearing on June 4, 2015 on the proposed fiscal year 2105-2016 budget.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Dean Lambeth
Mayor Pro Tem Craig Bloszinsky
Commissioner Emilie Swearingen
Commissioner David Heglar – attended via telephone

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Steve Pagley

STAFF PRESENT

Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver
Town Clerk – Nancy Avery
Town Attorney – Andy Canoutas

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lambeth called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

VOTE TO EXCUSE COMMISSIONER PAGLEY

MOTION – Mayor Pro Tem Bloszinsky made the motion to excuse Commissioner Pagley from the meeting.

SECOND – Commissioner Swearingen

VOTE – Unanimous

Mayor Lambeth opened the public hearing at 6:31 pm stating the purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 15-16 budget which includes the following highlights:

- 1) No increase in the property tax rate or General Fund fees
- 2) Changes to the existing water and sewer rate structure:
 - a. Minimum gallons reduced from 3,000 to 2,500 for all service types
 - b. Monthly minimum rates remain unchanged
 - c. Increase in the rates per 100 gallons above the minimum usage, as follows:
 - Residential Water: from \$0.36 to \$0.45
 - Residential Sewer: from \$0.465 to \$0.58
 - Commercial Water: from \$0.555 to \$0.694
 - Commercial Sewer: from \$0.57 to \$0.7125
 - Out of Town (EJT) Water: from \$0.63 to \$0.7875
 - Out of Town (EJT) Sewer: from \$0.81 to \$1.0125
- 3) No changes to the type or level of services provided by the Town
- 4) Cost of Living adjustment of 1.7% for all full-time employees

- 5) Merit increase of 3.3% to reward employees who are performing above expectation and salary adjustments resulting from the fiscal year 2015 Salary Study

Notice of the public hearing was posted at Town Hall and on the Town's website on May 20, 2015, and was published in the Island Gazette on that date, as well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Mary Stevens, 610 South Fort Fisher Boulevard, stated the city water line behind her house has not changed over the years and needs to be updated. She has addressed this with Council before. She noticed money has been set aside in the proposed budget for water line replacement, but it doesn't say where. She asked if Council knew where?

The mayor replied that Sonny (Public Works Director Beeker) had her property in mind when he put this in the budget. Work should start this winter.

Ms. Stevens asked if it would be in front of or behind her house. Mayor Lambeth responded it would be in front of her house, not behind it.

Ms. Stevens also stated that some of the parking spaces that were on South Fort Fisher Boulevard before the repaving were not put back afterward. Some of the parking spots had been there for 30 years. She stated they need to park on the street because of there isn't enough yard to park. The spaces in front of 614 South Fort Fisher Boulevard and other ones towards the pier.

The mayor said he was not aware of this, but Nancy (Town Clerk Avery) will call the Public Works Director and he will call the state.

2. Becky Tilley

The Town Clerk read into the record an email from Ms. Tilley. Said email is herein incorporated in these minutes.

CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Lambeth closed the hearing at 6:40 pm.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO FINANCE OFFICER

Finance Officer Copenhaver stated:

There are some revisions to the budget since it was presented at the May meeting due to an addition to the salary study adjustments for the Police Department and a delayed purchase of a Public Works vehicle. Said revisions are herein incorporated as part of these minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-UP SHEET

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING

June 4, 2015 Budget

NAME

Mary Stevens

ADDRESS

610 S Ft. Fisher Blvd

NAME	ADDRESS
<i>Mary Stevens</i>	<i>610 S Ft. Fisher Blvd</i>

June 4, 2015

Kure Beach Town Hall
117 Settlers Lane
Kure Beach, NC 28449

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I will be unable to attend tonight's public hearing on the budget. I request my comments be entered into the minutes of the meeting.

I am opposed to the proposed increase in water and sewer rates in the proposed town budget. A 25% increase in water and sewer rates along with a 500 gallon reduction in the monthly minimum will be an excessive hardship, especially to those on fixed incomes. Even for those not on a fixed income, the average pay increase is expected to be 3% in 2015.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Tilley".

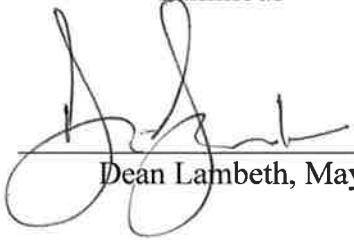
Becky Tilley
137 Seawatch Way
Kure Beach, NC 28449
919-222-2480

ADJOURNMENT


MOTION - Mayor Pro Tem Bloszinsky made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

SECOND – Commissioner Swearingen

VOTE – Unanimous



Dean Lambeth, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Nancy Avery, Town Clerk

