

**TOWN OF CAROLINA SHORES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

May 13, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Mayor Conte called the May 13, 2024, meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and there was a moment of silence. Commissioners present: Greg Davis, Beverly Mayhew, Debbie Watts, Marlene Vandergrift and Harry McClard. Also, present: Chad Hicks, Town Administrator; Nicole Hewett, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk and Lori Frye, Finance Director.

Members Absent: None

Also Absent: None

Administrative Reports: Mr. Hicks gave the Town Administrator Report. (A copy of this report is on file.)

Mr. Hicks said the Chevy Impala has been sold and it went for \$5,360. Mr. Hicks said at the prior meeting, Eagle Run came in with a bond reduction and we agreed to accept it. Mr. Hicks said the bonds are done and here now. Mr. Hicks said they came back in with a bond for Phase 4B and he needs to get it accepted. Mr. Hicks asked how the Board would like to handle it instead of having a special meeting every time this comes up. There was discussion on this item. It was agreed that unless there is a problem, Mr. Hicks can accept them as the Development Agreement has already been approved. Mr. Hicks said construction will start soon on Phase 4B in Eagle Run. Mr. Hicks said the curbs and roads over there look good. Mr. Hicks said the pickleball court is complete and the Public Works guys did some landscaping over there. Mr. Hicks said Brunswick County is putting out the new proposals for debris removal and he triple checked and we are listed in the RFP. Mr. Hicks said we have had a couple of culvert failures that we have been working on. Mr. Hicks said there was one on Carolina Shores Blvd and there are three more areas he is going to have the contractor hit while they are here. Mr. Hicks said that he saw Jacson surveying for the big project across the golf course last week, so that should go out to bid shortly. Mr. Hicks said that is going to be a fairly big contract.

Building Inspections: Report on file with Town Clerk.

Public Works Department: Report on file with the Town Clerk.

Public Safety Department: Report on file with the Town Clerk.

Finance Report: Mrs. Frye gave the Finance Report. A copy of this report is on file with the Town Clerk.

Committee & Volunteer Group Reports:

Planning Board – Commissioner Watts said the Planning Board did not meet.

Parks Commission – Commissioner Vandergrift said the Parks Commission meeting is on May 15, 2024.

Calabash Fire Department - Commissioner Mayhew reviewed the slide presentation of the Calabash Fire Department meeting that was held April 16, 2024. Commissioner Mayhew said there were a total of 132 calls for March which was down. Commissioner Mayhew said the calls for Carolina Shores were down a little bit and the number was 42 calls. Commissioner Mayhew said EMS calls seem to be the majority in all three jurisdictions of Carolina Shores, Calabash Lakes and Brunswick County. Commissioner Mayhew said they are continuing their training. Commissioner Mayhew said they had some promotions, so they did a pinning ceremony.

GSATS – Mayor Conte said he went to the last GSATS meeting, and they voted to accept Area A and Area B which are rural and municipal locations into their master plan and that will help us with a little more control over what is going on in those various areas. Mayor Conte said Area A goes mostly up into Ash and Area B would be the 211-area going into Southport and further up into Green Swamp and Supply.

Consent Agenda:

COMMISSIONER DAVIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA:

- BOC Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024

COMMISSIONER MAYHEW SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CONTE CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Presentation of Proposed 2024/2025 Budget and Budget Message:

Mr. Hicks presented the 2024/2025 Budget and Budget Message to the Board. Mr. Hicks said nothing has changed since the Board’s Budget Retreat Meeting. Commissioner Davis asked if they would get the recommendations for the merit raises. Ms. Hewett said she would arrange it and have a Special Called Meeting for the Human Resources Committee.

Ordinance to Amend Parks Commission Procedures Ordinance 24-2:

COMMISSIONER DAVIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 24-2 TO AMEND THE PARKS COMMISSION PROCEDURES. COMMISSIONER MAYHEW SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CONTE CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Resolution Clarifying Personnel Policy on Bereavement Resolution 24-3:

COMMISSIONER MAYHEW MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-3 – CLARIFYING PERSONNEL POLICY ON BEREAVEMENT. COMMISSIONER MCCLARD SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CONTE CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Public Comment:

Bob Breen, 222 Pilothouse Place – Mr. Breen thanked the Calabash Fire Department for all they do and said they do an outstanding job. Mr. Breen said he is the Precinct Chair for the Republican Party for Carolina Shores and Calabash. Mr. Breen said they got together with their democrat folks, and they decided this next two weeks they will be giving out voter registration forms. Mr. Breen said he is one of the few that will be doing it for the southern end of the County. Mr. Breen asked if he could come to the meeting and stand in the back and hand out voter registration cards. Mr. Breen said it is not just for one party, it is a voter registration card and asked if he could come to the New Resident Welcome Orientation.

Ellen Vogel, Gate 10 – Ms. Vogel said the biggest question on her mind is Walmart. Ms. Vogel said she would like to hear what is going on and why. Mr. Hicks said the Planning Board will be meeting this Wednesday regarding Walmart. Mr. Hicks said they have submitted a request for approval. Ms. Vogel asked if it was a done deal. Mr. Hicks and Commissioner Davis explained the process and laws. Ms. Vogel said what happens next when the fire department, the police department and the roads are all congested, how is that going to be handled. Commissioner Mayhew said the fire department is Calabash and they will have another station and another truck. Commissioner Davis said the roads are the County. Ms. Vogel said that will be all construction around here again. Ms. Vogel asked about the police department and Commissioner Davis said that is the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Vogel asked if they will put up another substation here. Ms. Vogel said that is an important questions and are they going to allow overnight parking like at the other Walmart's, is that going to be monitored? Mr. Hicks and Commissioner Davis said that is not our jurisdiction. Ms. Vogel said this is our town. Mr. Hicks said there are particular laws that govern this. Ms. Vogel said that means we're screwed then. Mr. Hicks said you could try to change the laws. Mr. Hicks said if they meet the requirements in the ordinance then they have a right to do that. Ms. Vogel said the town is going to change, it is going to be tragic, tragic and she thinks we all have a responsibility to have a say in this. Ms. Vogel said obviously not a big concern because not a lot of people showed up, but she is concerned about safety, our children and our roads. Ms. Vogel said the fire department is out night and day, running around like crazy with these terrible, horrible accidents. Ms. Vogel said Highway 17 is nuts and 57 is even worse. Ms. Vogel said she thinks that we need to look into the future. Commissioner Davis spoke about progress. Ms. Vogel said when they were looking to move over a period of five years, they drove up and down the coast and all the way to Alabama, Lousisana and Orange Beach and explained their trip. Ms. Vogel said take it as caution and see what is going to happen to all of these lovely places that are here, and it is going to be very sad. Ms. Vogel said she hopes she is dead by then because we will all live to regret this decision.

Bert Glines, 5 Court 7 Northwest Drive – Mr. Glines said with Walmart coming in and the increased amount of traffic, is there anything we can do to put a vegetative buffer or something along that line on the Northwest Drive section of Highway 17. Mr. Glines said he called NCDOT and left messages, but they are not getting back to him. Mr. Glines said he is looking to the Board of Commissioners to either give him direction or something that can be done just to abate the noise so we can sit outside and enjoy it. Mr. Hicks said it is an issue for NCDOT and the town has planted on our side in our right-of-ways. Mr. Glines said with the increased traffic, it is going to be worse. Mr. Glines said they just spent thousands of dollars dressing up the entrance to North Carolina. Mr. Hicks said he will reach out to NCDOT and ask. Mr. Glines said he called about some erosion that is on Court 5. Mr. Glines said the town came out and looked at it and the builder had someone come out and look at it and they really did not address the problem. Mr. Hicks said he will speak to Sandy Wood about that. Mr. Hicks said that will be addressed. Mr. Glines said they cleaned it out and then the rain brought more down.

Mayor & Board of Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Davis – None

Commissioner Mayhew – Commissioner Mayhew asked if we have any further information on the mosquito sprayer. Mr. Hicks said yes, we have and are doing the program. Commissioner Mayhew said the town spring concert is Friday. Commissioner Mayhew asked if River Rock had been notified and Ms. Hewett said yes.

Commissioner McClard – Commissioner McClard said he is speaking as a private citizen. Commissioner McClard said in regard to the Cert program, WWAY ran a spot on the news on Friday and he got a bunch of people out of Leland. Commissioner McClard said we have almost 40 volunteers so far. Commissioner McClard said he is meeting with the fire chief from Calabash at 11:30 to firm up some things about the training.

Commissioner Watts – Commissioner Watts said if any of you have new residents, please invite them to come to the New Resident Orientation on Thursday at 3:00pm as it is very, very informative. Commissioner Watts said it covers hurricanes, tornadoes and the history of the town.

Commissioner Vandergrift - None

Mayor Conte – None

Closed Session:

None

Adjourn:

COMMISSIONER DAVIS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MAY 13, 2024, REGULAR MEETING AT 10:28 A.M. COMMISSIONER MAYHEW SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CONTE CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Mayor

Submitted by:
Nicole L. Hewett, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk