

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

**August 14, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

Mayor Pro Tem Davis called the August 14, 2023, meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioners present: Beverly Mayhew, Bill Brennan, Debbie Watts, and Marlene Vandergrift. Also, present: Chad Hicks, Town Administrator; Nicole Hewett, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk; Lori Frye, Finance Director and Gail Treglia, Code Enforcement Officer.

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 we will have a minimum housing standard ordinance that will be coming to the Board in September. Mr. Hicks said this was prepared by our Town Attorney. Mr. Hicks said it was reviewed by the Planning Board and they made a motion to recommend the ordinance to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hicks said our fire system is unserviceable and needs to be replaced. Mr. Hicks said ADT is our current company, but we would like to have Holmes do it and the cost will be under \$15,000.00. Mr. Hicks said he would like them to do it as they are doing our new lock system. It was the consensus of the Board to have Holmes Security install and monitor the new fire alarm system. Mr. Hicks said we are in the process of ordering 2 vehicles now. Mr. Hicks said BEMC is going to move the guidewires and we are going to the parking area. Mr. Hicks said he has been asked to install the new pickleball court north/south in the opposite direction, so the sun won't be in their eyes. Mr. Hicks said we are going to put up a sunscreen on the current pickleball court to help with the sun. Mr. Hicks said Building Inspections is still wide open. Mr. Hicks said the Recycle Center gate and the Public Works gate have been ordered. Mr. Hicks said we have got back the documents from the attorney and East Coast on the paving and hope to have the final document going out to bid in two to three weeks.

**Building Inspections:** Report on File.

**Public Works Department:** Report on file.

**Public Safety Department:** Report on file. Mrs. Treglia said she is working with the Health Department on two houses. Mrs. Treglia said we have a concert coming up next month.

**Finance Report:** Ms. Frye gave the Finance Report.

**Committee & Volunteer Group Reports:**

**Commissioner Brennan (GSATS)** – Commissioner Brennan said even with the change from us going to the Myrtle Beach area to the Wilmington area, along with the rest of the county, supposedly there is no change to the GSATS status.

Commissioner Vandergrift (Planning Board) – Commissioner Vandergrift said the Planning Board discussed the minimum housing standard. Commissioner Vandergrift said they discussed the cost effectiveness if a house needed to be repaired or taken down. Commissioner Vandergrift said the Planning Board approved a few minor changes on that.

Commissioner Vandergrift (Parks Commission) – Commissioner Vandergrift said there is a Parks Commission meeting this Wednesday.

Commissioner Mayhew (Calabash Fire Department Liaison) – Commissioner Mayhew discussed the slide presentation of the Calabash Fire Department’s July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with stats from June 2023. Commissioner Mayhew said their training is going to continue every month.

**Consent Agenda:**

COMMISSIONER BRENNAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

- BOC Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2023
- BOC Special Called Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2023

COMMISSIONER MAYHEW SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

PRD Modification Request:

Mr. Hicks said this is a PRD that has already been approved. Mr. Hicks said this is across the road from Car City on Highway 17. Mr. Hicks said when we approved the PRD, we knew they may come back for a revision. Mr. Hicks said they added 7 more units after the final engineering was done on the property. Mr. Hicks said they had to come back through the Planning Board and was recommended by the Planning Board and staff. Mr. Hicks said there are really no significant changes to what was already approved. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said there is a huge buffer between that, and The Farm and Mr. Hicks said yes.

COMMISSIONER WATTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PRD MODIFICATION. COMMISSIONER VANDERGRIFT SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Discussion of Additional Stop Signs at The Farm at Brunswick:

Mr. Hicks said the Board at The Farm has asked us to put a total of 4 stop signs. Mr. Hicks said they are the blue dots on the map. Mr. Hicks said this would certainly help with speeding and safety. Mr. Hicks said if the Board of Commissioners approves it, we are going to consider it an Ordinance revision and add it to our schedule of Traffic Control Devices in the Ordinance. There was discussion on this item.

MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL STOP SIGNS AT THE FARM AT BRUNSWICK PER THEIR REQUEST. COMMISSIONER WATTS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Discussion of Christmas Decorations:

There was discussion on a commercial Christmas tree, Christmas decorations and lights for Town Hall and the Town Park.

COMMISSIONER BRENNAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE, LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Public Comment:**

Paul Hourigan, 1097 Captains Court – Mr. Hourigan said he would like to know if you could make a tie between the Village at Calabash and South Carolina for walkers and bikers. Mr. Hourigan said you could come out of the Village at Calabash and come down Thomasboro Road. Mr. Hourigan said there are about 5 ½ miles of road in The Village and about 12 or 13 miles of road over here. Mr. Hourigan said it would be good and safe for people that want to walk or ride bikes. Mr. Hourigan said he got a map of the computer, and it shows Watson Ave. and Sunfield have little spurs on them that go back towards that creek. Mr. Hourigan said you could put a little bridge back there, about the size for a golf cart would be good but just for bikes and walking. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said the last time we had a request for a bridge from Watson Ave. to The Lakes, it was going to cost \$125,000.00. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said we would have to bring in the Army Corps of Engineers to go over a canal or ditch. There was discussion on this item.

Nick Haynes, 18 Picket Fence Lane – Mr. Haynes said he was at the last meeting and was concerned about speeding and people stopping at stop signs in The Farm. Mr. Haynes said he wants to say that he appreciates the effort that the Town has put forth. Mr. Haynes said he knows that we brought out the temporary speed signs, we already had our two in there. Mr. Haynes said within a day or two, he noticed more deputy sheriffs coming in. Mr. Haynes said he rides his bike every single day, so he appreciates them coming in and having some police presence there. Mr. Haynes said he also appreciates the fact that Gail came out and spoke to our community, which is a tough job when you are talking to a group of people that have all these concerns. Mr. Haynes said unfortunately there is a lot of information that is unknown. Mr. Haynes said one of the things was there was something said about all the stop signs needing to have a NCDOT sticker on the back of them for them to be legal. Mr. Haynes said this is the kind of thing that is going through The Farm. Mr. Haynes said after they had the meeting that Gail was at, he called Sheriff Chism personally. Mr. Haynes said he explained what his concerns were. Mr. Haynes said he made it pretty clear that he has no authority in The Farm Development unless it was careless or reckless, then he could charge somebody. Mr. Haynes said he isn't looking for careless and reckless, he is just looking for people to slow down. Mr. Haynes said he also reached out to Frank Iler. Mr. Haynes said his response back to him was pretty clear. Mr. Haynes said that Mr. Iler said there is no jurisdiction for enforcement unless it is a state road. Mr. Haynes said he said that normally the HOA/POA regulates their own speed limits which cannot be enforced. Mr. Haynes said he also indicated about the careless and reckless. Mr. Haynes said then he said if the signs are installed privately or by municipality, they would be enforceable. Mr. Haynes said he also reached out to David Allen Hancock with NCDOT. Mr. Hancock said he told him about the issues. Mr. Haynes said he went into the speed limit on that

road because it is a public road (Carolina Farms Blvd.). Mr. Haynes said he said legally it's 35 mph. Mr. Haynes said he said you can put a 25-mph speed limit in there, but it is not enforceable unless there is an Ordinance. Mr. Haynes said all of your No Parking signs in our development are ordinated. Mr. Haynes said what he is requesting is that maybe somebody could get together with the Sheriff, Mr. Iler, and NCDOT and try to figure out what we need to do to put up enforceable signs. Mr. Haynes said Mr. Hancock from NCDOT sent him the law regarding speed limits in the State of North Carolina. Mr. Haynes said as much as he appreciates everything this group has done; he's even seen warning/parking stickers on people's windshields. Mr. Haynes said so the message is getting out. Mr. Haynes said he does think it's making a difference with the deputy sheriff's but from his perspective, he would love to have the Commissioners put this thing together. Mr. Haynes said he knows you are going to install new signs and if they need to be ordinated, then have them ordinated because then they are enforceable. Mr. Haynes said maybe the Sheriff needs to know that the stop signs are ordinance. Mr. Haynes said he knows that Gail has been on top of this, and he appreciates her coming out to their HOA and speaking. Mr. Hicks said he spoke to the Chief Deputy either Thursday or Friday and all of our stop signs, speed limit signs, and no parking signs is by Ordinance and there is a list. Mr. Hicks said all of our signs are to code. Mr. Hicks said Chris went out and measured to be sure that they are all to the NCDOT Manual. Mr. Hicks said that some charges have been written. Mr. Hicks said we will talk to the deputies that come in and patrol for us. Gail said she thinks Mr. Haynes wants a meeting with all parties to discuss. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said then have a meeting. Mr. Hicks said if you look at the actual data, we don't have a terrible speeding problem in the Town. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said no, we don't. Commissioner Brennan said if the roads are not turned over to the Town, there is absolutely nothing we can do. Mr. Haynes said he thinks that everybody should get together and discuss so that we are all on the same page.

Pam Shiner, 76 Field Planters Circle – Ms. Shiner said she is the VP for the Board of Directors at The Farm at Brunswick. Ms. Shiner said she is requesting that when you replace the poles, that the speed limit signs that you have on wheels will be replaced with the ones that will be aesthetically pleasing like the ones at Calabash Lakes. Mr. Hicks discussed putting up black poles that would have nothing on them and then they could move the speed signs to different places, and would they mind Ms. Shiner said she will have to take that to their Board, and they meet in a couple of weeks. Ms. Shiner asked about Holmes Security and asked where they are out of. Ms. Shiner asked Mr. Hicks if he thought in the next six weeks The Grove would be turned over to the Town and Mr. Hicks said yes, he would think so. Mr. Hicks said he thinks the deeds are already done and the work is almost done. Mr. Hicks said we will go through and seal those roads.

Bert Glines, 5 Court 7 North West Drive – Mr. Glines said he spoke to Mr. Hicks a couple of weeks ago about putting in a pedestrian pathway or bike pathway put in on Country Club Road. Mr. Glines said he suggested he get ahold of GSATS and other people which he did do. Mr. Glines said he is at the end of his ability to do things. Mr. Glines said what he did do is put out a question to see who would be interested in having that and he has 119 people that are interested in having that done. Mr. Hicks said on Thursday, he put that on the map for GSATS. Mr. Hicks said the people that he talked to said they thought it would score really well because of the house count and being close to the grocery store. Mr. Hicks said it would be on the road. Mr. Glines said it is impossible to walk or bike on that road. Mr. Hicks said that intersection was on the study to look at it.

Russell Payne, 110 Planters Row Lane – Mr. Payne said he was driving around this morning looking at stop signs around the area and you are going to install new signs at The Farm. Mr. Payne said he appreciates the new stop signs that are going to go in. Mr. Payne said as a land developer, he's not from this area but from up North, we had a standard to put signs in. Mr. Payne said when installing a sign, it had to meet a certain standard. Mr. Payne said it had to meet the standard in

order to be enforced by the local police. Mr. Paynes said you can enforce these laws if you give a written legal document to the Sheriff's Department to enter the community. Mr. Payne said there is a sign when you drive into the community that says private. Mr. Payne said your stop signs down here at this road are at 5/6 foot, that is not a standard. Mr. Payne said standard is 7 feet. Mr. Payne said street signs for your streets are at 9 feet. Mr. Payne said one community meets that standard that he drove through this morning and that is Eagle Run. Mr. Payne said everything is perfect there. Mr. Payne said he comes out of Eagle Run by the library entrance, and you have a stop sign at 3 feet. Mr. Payne said it doesn't meet the standard. Mr. Hicks and Mayor Pro Tem Davis said those are not our signs, they are NCDOT signs. Mr. Payne said you are going to be replacing signs at The Farm and right now they are at legal standard. Mr. Payne said he appreciates you coming in and what you are doing but please install those signs at the proper, legal standard.

Bob Breen, 222 Pilothouse Place – Mr. Breen said the reason the signs are so small is because DOT is running out of money. Mr. Breen said he just wanted to let people know that there is Voter ID. Mr. Breen asked who is running or running again in the upcoming election. Mr. Breen said he is not trying to get political. Mr. Breen said he is trying to get people to come down here and debate. Mr. Breen said if you would like to debate, let him know.

### **Mayor & Board of Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Brennan – Commissioner Brennan said we had talked about looking at electric trucks. Commissioner Brennan said he did some research. Commissioner Brennan said it may be premature to look at taking that step right now. Commissioner Brennan said the website looks really great. Commissioner Brennan said we talked about changing out the pictures. Mr. Hicks said we are working on that. Mr. Hicks said he can pull the pictures off. Commissioner Brennan said that 40% of people that use dog parks leave dog waste in the park.

Commissioner Watts – Commissioner Watts said everybody stay cool.

Commissioner Vandergrift – Commissioner Vandergrift said for those of you that new Diane and Ed Lillis from Beacon Townes, Diane passed away 3 years ago, and Ed passed away less than a year ago. Commissioner Vandergrift said he was very involved with the town here. Commissioner Vandergrift said he was killed while riding his bicycle. Commissioner Vandergrift said the daughter is going to livestream a memorial service on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Vandergrift said it was tragic.

Commissioner Mayhew – Commissioner Mayhew said the Calabash Fire Department wanted to thank the Board of Commissioners for the yearly check and getting it to them in a timely fashion. Commissioner Mayhew said do we have recent drone pictures of our canals, ditches, and everything. Mr. Hicks said he will make sure we have some type of photos. Mr. Hicks said we had to replace the drone.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis – Mayor Pro Tem Davis said he wanted to thank everybody for coming and we need more people to be involved. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said he knows that we can't fix everything, but we will at least listen to your concerns. Thank you.

### **Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel:**

None

**Adjourn:**

COMMISSIONER BRENNAN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 14, 2023, REGULAR MEETING AT 11:10 A.M. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

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Mayor Pro Tem

Submitted by:

Nicole L. Hewett, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk