

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

October 10, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis called the October 7, 2022 meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioners present: Beverly Mayhew, Bill Brennan, and Debbie Watts. 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 Administrator Report. (A copy of this report is on file.)

Mr. Hicks said the safety glass has been installed on both windows. Mr. Hicks said the contractor had a problem with a defect in the glass on the administration side. Mr. Hicks said it is functional, but it will be replaced.

Mr. Hicks said the Covid State of Emergency has been cancelled as of this past Friday.

Mr. Hicks said we started emailing the HOA's that are interested in the permits and it's going great.

Mr. Hicks said the TV for the chambers has been ordered and we are on the schedule.

Mr. Hicks said in regard to Hurricane Ian, he can't say enough about our Public Works crew. Mr. Hicks said not including the dump trucks that were taken to the Recycle Center, we have 13 full, chipped truck loads of debris so far. They have been working hard.

Mr. Hicks said that Public Works and Gail Treglia did a great job at managing traffic at the Recycle Center with all the debris.

Mr. Hicks said we have signed the bid documents for the sealing of roads at Calabash Lakes and Beacon Townes. Mr. Hicks said the letters in regard to the ETJ relinquishment should go out today.

Building Inspections: Report on File. Mr. Hicks said the number of houses under construction has come down a little bit but it's getting ready to skyrocket with 123 townhomes in Shingletree.

Public Works Department: Report on file.

Public Safety Department: Mr. Hicks said we couldn't get the Safety Report in this month, and you will get two next month.

Finance Report: Report on file. Mrs. Frye gave the Finance Report.

MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS MADE A MOTION TO MOVE ONE MILLION DOLLARS INTO THE NC TRUST FUND. COMMISSIONER BRENNAN SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Committee & Volunteer Group Reports:

None

Consent Agenda:

COMMISSIONER MAYHEW MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- BOC Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2022

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

Old Business:

Speed and Traffic Schedule Update Ordinance 22-11:

There was discussion on this item.

COMMISSIONER BRENNAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 22-11 WITH THE EXCLUSION OF THE STOP SIGNS. COMMISSIONER WATTS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

New Business:

Ratification of State of Emergency Declaration Hurricane Ian:

COMMISSIONER MAYHEW MADE A MOTION TO RATIFY THE STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR HURRICANE IAN. COMMISSIONER WATTS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Discussion and Possible Action on Dog Park Fencing:

There was discussion on this item. Mr. Hicks said there are a lot of people using the dog park and this was brought up by the Parks Commission. It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners to expand the dog park. Mr. Hicks said the cameras are in too.

Discussion on Hurricane Ian Response:

Mr. Hicks said he already touched on this in his Administrator Report. Mr. Hicks said did you see anything else? The Board is very pleased with the work being done by Public Works.

Presentation and Proposal from Calabash Elks Lodge:

Juanita Adams from Lodge #2679 gave a presentation on a supposal, not a proposal but a supposal. Ms. Adams said the supposal is that the Town of Carolina Shores join the Elks Lodge and the Town of Calabash to include these two pieces of equipment for an inclusive playground. Ms. Adams said an inclusive playground allows children with disabilities more accessibility to the pieces of equipment. There was further discussion on this item. The Board of Commissioners said they would take it under advisement. Ms. Adams thanked the Board.

Discussion and Possible Action on Commissioner Vacancy Appointment:

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said before they start the discussion, it is very important that we fill the position of Commissioner here. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said that is a voting member of this body. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said his job right now of Mayor Pro Tem is a non-voting duty and filling it is not a priority. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said he is willing to fulfill Joe's term until the next municipal election and let the people of Carolina Shores elect a mayor. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said we do need to fill the commissioner's vacancy. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said we need a full compliment of 5 commissioners. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said right now we could have a tie and that's the last thing that we want. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said we received 8 applicants. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said he was very pleased with the applicants. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said we have spent time reading and looking at applicants and he has spent hours looking at applicants/resumes. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said he went online and did a few reference checks and he's sure the rest of the commissioners did the same. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said everyone has looked at the applications. Commissioner Mayhew said she was extremely pleased to see 8 resumes of so many highly qualified people. Commissioner Mayhew said since we can only pick one, she would hope that those that did apply would get involved with the Town in some other capacity. Commissioner Mayhew said that was very nice to see. Commissioner Watts said just for everybody's information we each did this independently of each other. Commissioner Watts said we were not gathered when reviewing the resumes. Commissioner Watts said it was a completed, independent examination of the resumes. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said yes, we have not had any HR Committee meetings or subsequent meetings to discuss this, prior to this. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said this is all open for this meeting for all. Commissioner Brennan said normally we would, in a situation like this have the HR Committee do a presort and perhaps get down to 2 or 3 candidates and then reviewed by the full Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Brennan said we have been very, very like in terms of what we have been thinking of what the Town needs. Commissioner Brennan said that being said, he was impressed with the quantity and quality of the resumes we received. Commissioner Brennan said he will reveal his choice as he's sure everybody else will. Commissioner Brennan said for him it was a person on the town's Planning Board that he thought was the best candidate and best fit. Commissioner Brennan said that person is Ms. Marlene Vandergrift, and she has had a number of years on the Planning Board and comes well represented and good history and resume. Commissioner Brennan said his choice is Ms. Vandergrift. Commissioner Watts said just for clarification, this is until the next municipal election. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said he too was impressed with the quality. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said you're right Commissioner Brennan. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said Marlene Vandergrift has worked on Parks and Rec., Planning Board, and volunteers for everything we do. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said she was even at the town concert handing out water and popcorn. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said she gets involved. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said he is not saying that those other people wouldn't, but she has proven herself. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said he hopes that next November that some of the people that we don't select today remain interested and run for spots. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said that he agrees with Commissioner Brennan and his selection is Ms. Marlene Vandergrift. Commissioner Mayhew said she finds this refreshing because that is who she was going to say, not knowing who you were going to say.

Commissioner Mayhew said it was simply because everybody's resume had a variety of background in many areas. Commissioner Mayhew said from law to the military to real estate, but Marlene has shown the best interest in our Town, and she feels that is very important. Commissioner Mayhew said Marlene Vandergrift is who she is leaning towards. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said if we are all in agreement, then he needs a motion.

COMMISSIONER MAYHEW MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT MARLENE VANDERGRIFT TO FULFILL THE COMMISSIONER SEAT VACATED BY DEE GRAY. COMMISSIONER BRENNAN SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Public Comment:

Dan Conte, Planning Board Member – Mr. Conte said he is a member of the Planning Board, and he feels the Board made an excellent choice to fulfill the vacant commissioner seat.

Mayor & Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Brennan – Commissioner Brennan said traditionally, the Town Board has seen fit when an emergency has occurred of there is a vacancy and a person takes over that spot, they get the higher salary during that time. Commissioner Brennan said we have been a little lax on terms of Mayor Pro Tem Davis and feels that Mayor Pro Tem Davis should be getting the mayor's salary. Commissioner Brennan said he has been the acting Mayor Pro Tem and has been doing all the duties of the mayor for 4 or 5 months now. Commissioner Brennan said that will continue for another year according to his liking. Commissioner Brennan said he should be getting the mayor's salary during this period of time as opposed to the commissioner's salary. Commissioner Mayhew said it should be retroactive. Commissioner Brennan said you willingly took the job and he knows that it takes a lot more time. Commissioner Brennan said the latest from GSATS is the bridge over the Calabash River. Commissioner Brennan said that is going to be an 18-month project. Commissioner Brennan said the status of that is they have already started ordering materials, so there won't be material issues. Commissioner Brennan said they are going to build the new bridge on top of the old bridge, then take the old bridge out and it will be 10 feet higher. Commissioner Brennan said in regard to Carolina Bays Parkway, they are studying all the interviews. Commissioner Brennan said there is no money in the budget anywhere for the next 5-10 years.

It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners to pay Mayor Pro Tem Davis the mayor's salary and make it retroactive.

Commissioner Watts – Commissioner Watts said the Calabash Fire Department's open house is October 15th from 12pm-4pm. Commissioner Watts said the Brunswick County Landfill will be free of charge for this week, for all the debris and it needs to be sorted out. Commissioner Watts said voter registration deadline for the mid-term elections is October 14th and early voting starts on the 20th and ends on the 5th. Commissioner Watts said the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Fall Festival is October 28th. Commissioner Watts said there are plenty of opportunities for all of us to get involved with our town, neighboring towns, and the county.

Commissioner Mayhew – None

Mayor Pro Tem Davis – Mayor Pro Tem Davis thanked those that came to the meeting and encouraged them to come and to tell their friends to get involved.

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

None

Adjourn:

COMMISSIONER BRENNAN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 10, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AT 10:52 A.M. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO TEM DAVIS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Mayor Pro Tem

Submitted by:

Nicole L. Hewett, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk