

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**

July 29, 2011

The Town Council of the Town of Carolina Beach met in special session on July 29, 2011 at 12:00 noon in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Administration Building, 1121 N. Lake Park Blvd., Carolina Beach, North Carolina. The following were present: Mayor Joel Macon, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Pat Efirid; Councilman Dan Wilcox; Councilman Bob Lewis; and Councilman Lonnie Lashley. Also present was the Town Manager Tim Owens and Town Clerk Lynn Prusa.

Mayor Macon called the meeting to order.

Mr. Owens said that Council decided to go over some of the items that were previously talked about. He said that Katie Hite and Chad Kimes are here to give us some technical advice and let us know what we can do and can't do.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss returning Lake Park Boulevard to 4 lanes and to consider options and alternatives to improve upon the 4 lane design above the design that was in place. We would like to discuss:

1. Moving Lake Park Boulevard back to 4 lanes. Discuss pros and cons of different resurfacing methods.
2. Determine if there are some improvements that can be made to make Lake Park Boulevard more pedestrian and bicycle friendly after moving to a 4 lane section.
3. Review and look at Harper Avenue intersection with Lake Park Boulevard. Determine if there is a better alignment or orientation.
4. Review all of Lake Park Boulevard and discuss the possibility of providing high visibility crosswalks at some of the east/west intersections (mainly along the stretch from the Lake to Alabama Avenue)

Those are the 4 main goals at this time.

Mayor Macon said he would like everyone to be cognizant of is that we do have the Master Plan and it calls for wider sidewalks and a more pedestrian friendly downtown and he feels that we can still include some of these aspects of the plan with parallel parking, keeping the bike lane and widening the sidewalks.

Mr. Jerry Bigley said he would like to see parallel parking from Cape Fear Blvd. all the way down. He said that the intersection of Charlotte and 421 is dangerous.

Councilman Lashley said the Master Plan calls for parking and he agrees.

Mr. Dennis Barbour said that before we get into redesign we need to know from DOT what the requirements are for parallel parking, the width, etc.

The town clerk asked everyone on the panel to state their name for the record. The following were present: Mike Kirkbride, LeAnn Pierce, Ron Clontz, Councilman Dan Wilcox, Councilman Bob Lewis, Mayor Joel Macon, MPT Pat Efird, Councilman Lonnie Lashley, Dennis Barbour, Jerry Bigley, Tim Owens, Chad Kimes, and Katie Hight. Mr. Barbour said that Alan Gilbert contacted him prior to the meeting and said he should be here at about 12:30 p.m.

There was discussion about the different types of road surfaces that the town could choose for resurfacing Lake Park Blvd. Mr. Kimes said that micro-surfacing has a maximum life of about 8 years.

Mr. Owens explained that micro-surfacing is a placement of thin asphalt mix over the entire road surface after the lines have been removed. The estimated cost the entire roadway is \$110,000 to \$164,000. It may have a different appearance and texture than standard asphalt mix.

The second option is to mill and fill. Which means to mill all the travel lanes and leave the parking areas in place as the currently exist, and to place back the asphalt in the areas that are milled. The estimated cost for this method is \$192,800. It will blend with the existing asphalt and it has a longer life span.

Concerning parking, Mr. Kimes said parallel parking would require 10' width to be safe. They can let us know later how many diagonal spaces we could put in versus parallel parking.

Mr. Barbour said we should decide on a total design first and then determine what can be done and at what time frame.

Councilman Lewis agreed and said we should come up with a design and then phase it in. He cannot see doing the sidewalks right now because it will take forever.

Mayor Macon doesn't know if there is enough space for 4 lanes, parallel parking and bike lanes. Mr. Kimes said you will gain about 7' by putting in parallel parking. They require 50' of uniform pavement and prefer 12' on the side lanes.

Councilman Wilcox asked, what is the distance between the curbs? Mr. Kimes said it varies.

There was discussion about other types of improvements that can be made such as sharrows, high visibility crosswalks, refuge islands, etc.

Mayor Macon asked if anyone in the audience would like to comment.

Mr. Joe Coen said he feels that parallel parking is a lot safer than what we have now. The biggest priority is going back to 4 lanes, moving traffic and increasing safety. He said there are areas where we could add parking such as 4 more spaces could be put on the west side of Fayetteville Avenue.

Sheryl Jennings said she would like to address the immediate plan. She asked if it is possible to put in a median from Cape Fear to Carl Winner with a light at Atlanta. She offered some suggestions for reverting traffic.

There was discussion about holding another meeting to receive feedback from the business owners about parking options. Mr. Gilbert suggested that the council members individually visit those business owners.

There was also discussion about Harper/Lake Park Boulevard alignment. Mr. Owens said some have questioned the alignment. He said a center lane on the east side of Harper will allow you to turn left or access the west side of Harper Avenue and the outside lane on the east side of Harper is for right turns only.

Mr. Owens said the town currently has permits for several HV crosswalks. The cost will be approximately \$4,000-5,000 or \$1,100-1,300 for 2 lanes. It will cost about \$1,300 per intersection with striping and signage.

Councilman Lashley made a motion to move forward with the crosswalks at each of the beach accesses. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Kimes summarized what they can do and bring back to the next meeting. He said they will bring a set of striping plans for the 4-lane section showing diagonal parking and one with parallel parking. This will allow us to see how many parking spaces this will accommodate whether it is diagonal or parallel. They will also be able to determine lane widths.

Mr. Barbour said another option is you can have a combination of parallel and angled parking instead of just one or the other.

Council agreed to hold another joint workshop on August 23, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. to consider the following:

1. Method of construction and cost to return Lake Park Boulevard back to a 4 Lane roadway in the Central Business District,
2. Discussion and consideration of possibly changing the angled parking on Lake Park Boulevard to parallel parking,
3. Discussion and direction on adding additional parking on Cape Fear Boulevard and Harper Avenue,

4. Discussion and direction of adding High Visibility Crosswalks at streets that intersect with Lake Park Boulevard from the Carolina Beach Lake to Alabama Avenue.

They would like to advertise the next meeting in order to receive public input especially concerning the parking options.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn N. Prusa
Town Clerk

Approved: _____