

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING/BUDGET WORKSHOP
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**

June 3, 2011

The Town Council of the Town of Carolina Beach met in special session on June 3, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Room 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 Efird; Councilman Dan Wilcox; Councilman Bob Lewis; and Councilman Lonnie Lashley. Also present were Town Manager Tim Owens; Finance Director Dawn Johnson, and Town Clerk Lynn Prusa.

Mayor Pro Tem Efird called the meeting to order.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT BUDGET FOR FY 2011/2012

The town manager opened the discussion and presented a budget versus actual, which he and Ms. Johnson, Finance Director, thinks it should be okay this year. He summarized that there are some revenues and expenditures that are up and some are down. There is no tax increase. There are some proposed changes to (inaudible). You have what's there now versus what was proposed. I think there was a \$4 per ton increased proposed for the county. That's really about the only change in the last year.

Councilman Lashley spoke about the \$500 COLA and merit. He suggested that the merit take effect July 1st and anyone who doesn't have an evaluation, for example, new employees, then their merit pay will become effective when they get their evaluation. Ms. Mallard, Human Resources Officer, said we could get it retroactive this year and she will work with an outside group on policy changes.

Councilman Lewis developed a Comparison Analysis of Planning and Zoning Departments in surrounding towns in southeastern North Carolina. He read from Page 2 of this report, which concerns the Town of Leland. He said their activity is four to five times more than the Town of Carolina Beach. They conduct all their own inspections while using Brunswick County's GIS. Looking at their best practices, he feels it leaves our town looking short and this doesn't make sense. He then compared Carolina Beach to Kure Beach, Wrightsville Beach, Shallotte, Southport, Wilmington, Surf City, and Atlantic Beach and went over their analysis. He stated that our cost per capita is significantly higher than most of the communities he identified. There was also some comparison to private businesses. The recommendation by Councilman Lewis is to reduce the planning department down to five people. He thinks we have two planners and does not understand the GIS position. He believes the building inspector pays for itself.

Mr. Ferguson, Director of Planning and Development, said he spoke to the county and they can provide us with GIS but they didn't discuss the price. Councilman Lewis said he can find out about Brunswick County but they didn't act like it was a significant amount.

Councilman Wilcox feels that Councilman Lewis' presentation is all over the map and it is a mistake to compare us to growth in private business. We have to offer certain services. Also our employees do other things besides what their job title says. He did compare employees by the number of residents. He doesn't think it is upside down; in fact, he thinks it is very close to the middle. He stated that the way this presentation is being presented is a little confusing and misleading.

Mr. Owens provided council with an overview regarding town positions and how it compares to towns of similar size. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that maybe we are not using our resources like we should and maybe we should reorganize some areas. Although it will take a lot of planning, it is something we can look at before the next budget process.

There being no further business, **Mayor Pro Tem Efir** motioned to adjourn.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn N. Prusa
Town Clerk

Approved: _____