

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

March 23, 2009

The Town Council of the Town of Carolina Beach met in a special meeting to discuss and review the proposed budget for FY 2009/2010. The meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. in the training room at the Carolina Beach Municipal Administration Building, 1121 N. Lake Park Blvd., Carolina Beach, North Carolina. The following were present: Mayor Joel Macon, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Dan Wilcox, Councilwoman Pat Efird, Councilman Alan Gilbert and Councilman Jerry Johnson. Also present Town Manager Tim Owens, Finance Director Dawn Johnson, and Town Clerk Lynn Prusa.

Mayor Macon called the meeting to order.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2009/2010

The town manager said he would like Council to amend the agenda to consider authorizing him to send a letter and resolutions concerning stimulus funds.

A motion was made by Councilman Gilbert to amend the agenda to consider authorizing the manager to send out a letter and resolutions concerning stimulus funds. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The town manager said the tourism fund will be the toughest to balance this year. Currently it is about \$300,000 out of balance. The water and sewer fund is almost balanced. This fund is about \$250,000 less. The general fund is about the same, and as mentioned the tourism fund is higher.

He is proposing a 401K benefit this year; however, no COLA or merit.

He asked Council to go through what he has presented to date and to ask questions; then he would like Council to come back together in April to talk about it.

Councilman Gilbert said he would like to do something similar to what the county is doing and that is to present options to reduce expenses and look at staffing, COLA, merit, and reduce expenses in each fund to include staffing considerations. With that said, **Councilman Gilbert made a motion that we see a reduction in cost options, aggressive cost cutting, to look at staffing and any opportunity to cut cost very similar to what our neighboring communities are doing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There was discussion about the possibility of suspending some of the town's programs such as the take home vehicle policy.

We also need to look at what our parking fees are in relation to other areas such as Wrightsville Beach. There was discussion about parking fees for businesses with the fee going toward maintenance of lots and future lots.

Councilman Gilbert said he noticed there are a couple of hotels that are currently utilizing town parking spaces. It appears to be hotel parking but it's not. The signage needs to be changed or we need to put up meters. The town manager will check into those areas.

The town manager will consider cost cutting options and Council will meet again on April 13th at 9:00 a.m. to consider further.

ENTRYWAY PROJECT

The town manager said the bid was lower and it leaves us about \$72,000 of remaining funds that can be used. The town's share is about \$42,000. He would like to beef up the project. Mayor Macon questioned if we have to use town water. Mr. Owens said the state will not allow wells. Mayor Macon said we need to get creative and see if maybe we can buy a little spot of land from a business to put in a well. He suggested that the manager set up a meeting with the medical center board to discuss this possibility. He would like to avoid using drinking water for irrigation.

A motion was made by Councilman Gilbert to adopt Resolution No. 09-964 for second round bidding for Entry-Way Beautification Project (Exhibit 1). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

STIMULUS FUNDS

Mr. Owens said he met with Senator Burr, Senator Hagan and Congressman McIntyre at which time he went over some of the things the town is asking for federal assistance, such as: Wilmington Beach Streets and Drainage Project, Master Development Implementation and Streetscape, Carolina beach Police Department Safety Enhancement, NC Aquarium Pier at Carolina Beach, 3 MGD Groundwater Storage Facility, Well and Line Improvements, and Carolina Beach Police Department Safety Enhancement.

A motion was made by Mayor Macon to authorize him to send a letter out seeking federal assistance from our elected officials. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There was discussion about the upcoming beach renourishment project. Councilman Johnson would like to know why in SC and FL renourishment is done from one end of the beach strand to the other and here the COE only does renourishment in certain areas

for fill in. The manager said he will invite someone from the COE to meet with us briefly concerning this matter.

A motion was made by Councilman Gilbert to adopt the resolutions for economic stimulus funding as presented by the town manager (Exhibits 2-7). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilman Gilbert suggested copying some of this to the Governor's office.

The next budget meeting will be held on April 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **a motion was made by Councilwoman Efirid to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn N. Prusa
Town Clerk

Approved: _____