

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

October 13, 2009

The Town Council of the Town of Carolina Beach met in special meeting/budget workshop on October 13, 2009 at 12:00 noon 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) Dan Wilcox; Councilwoman Pat Efird; Councilman Jerry Johnson; and Councilman Alan Gilbert. Also present were Town Manager, Tim Owens and Town Clerk, Lynn Prusa. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the stormwater projects, sanitary sewer projects, water projects and other miscellaneous town projects.

Mayor Macon called the meeting to order.

The town manager said we have a lot of projects going on in the town and Brian Cox with Engineering Services is here today to help us go over some of these projects.

STORMWATER PROJECTS

The first one discussed was the stormwater study. Mr. Cox said with the Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant we put together a stormwater study of the yacht basin and the town has been provided with the results of the study. We tested for TSS bacteria, oil and grease and PH and the results from the study have shown there are some high bacteria levels in some of the storm drainage pipes and we have provided in the study a priority listing of which outfalls we determined needed the most attention and inside of that listing is a cost associated with some alternative remedies to improving the stormwater quality such as education of the quality, the town's maintenance in keeping the areas cleaned and maintained. The town manager said we will try to do some additional testing in some of the areas that scored poorly. MPT Wilcox asked about the protocol for testing. Mr. Cox said the procedure is that it had to be rainfall of a 1/10th of an inch or greater and there had to have been 3 days prior to the event a dry period and the samples were taken at the discharge of the stormwater pipe. We are measuring at the event after a 72 hour dry period. There were 6 samples taken at that time and not sure of the time lapse period of the sampling but they were all done during the same day. Mr. Cox said for some of those that were way out of the range, we went back a second time and sampled and got a lower result. We actually sampled at 3 locations and all were sampled at a high tide and a low tide. He feels additional sampling needs to be done at the first flush and maybe within a period of an hour or two or the next day to see if there are any other results of the sampling because the first flush could be a concentrated result. Mayor Macon said we already have our sampling and a document we can forward with it for a grant instead of spending more money. Mr. Cox recommended that we pick one small drainage area that we are having trouble with and sample from that area and see

what the affects are and then take the document and go and apply for grants to help fund some of these improvements. MPT Wilcox asked how strongly do they look at the test data. Mr. Cox said they would look at it as you have but they would see there are several different areas. MPT Wilcox said we need to do whatever we can to make the document fly. Mr. Cox said he would like to maybe do another site with UNCW to validate what we have. Councilman Gilbert feels the document should be reviewed and edited one more time before you put it out there. He feels we need some kind of routine testing. Mr. Owens said what he got out of this is we do need to look at some other kind of testing either in-house or by UNCW. Mayor Macon said his question would be how long does this material last, how long does it have to be switched out and what does it cost to get switched out. Mr. Cox said it isn't as expensive as some of the other items that were recommended. The material filters out the stormwater as it passes through but it requires vacuuming out by the stormwater department on a regular basis. Mayor Macon asked if anyone from the audience has any questions.

Randy Simon a member of the Harbor Commission said he hasn't been able to get the materials to look at. He has only been given the original draft. Mayor Macon said it is a public document so you should be able to get a copy of it. Mr. Owens said he has a copy of the latest draft and he will get a copy of it to him. Mr. Cox said there will be six samplings. Mr. Simon asked if it will be an average of the 6 or the lowest or highest. How will you do it? Mr. Cox said there were 6 at a time in order to give enough time to get them to the lab for testing. One sample was at low tide and one was at high tide. Mr. Cox referred Mr. Simon to a chart of the sample results located in the back of the document. Mr. Simon said it took 18 months to get these samples done. Mr. Simon is concerned about the high levels and the safety of the people. Mr. Cox said that is what the town and we the engineers are looking at and why we are taking further sampling. MPT Wilcox said there are some oddities in these samplings that he doesn't feel are fully explained. The Mayor said the whole reason we are here is because this Council is concerned about what is flowing in the sound and nobody is trying to hide anything and he takes it offensively that he would suggest that would be the case. To put it into perspective if you started swimming at an outlet that could be a concern but I don't think that is happening. We can sample the ones you are concerned about and see how they match up to the other two. Mr. Simon said at no circumstance was he trying to relinquish that. He said my only concern was about the readings being off of the chart. I wasn't going anywhere close to someone trying to do a cover up. My concern is with the readings this high I am brining to your attention the figures that show exactly what we are talking about. The Mayor said this Council is very interested and we are dedicated to fixing the problem but it may take a long time. We could put something in the newspaper noticing that you shouldn't be swimming at the outfalls. Mr. Simon said he wants to make sure that no one gets sick. There was further discussion about the various ways to test the sites. Councilman Gilbert said he would like the focus to be on those 32 outfalls and we need a management plan.

Kevin Tanner a resident of Canal Drive said you should test about 20' out from everyone's pier because that is where everyone swims at. His son did have one GI incident and after hearing this he may not let him swim again. It is a good place to swim

and he doesn't want that to go away but he will see – the results were high. He also mentioned an area where someone is pumping water from under a house with a pump. Should they be able to put a hose directly into a storm drain. Mr. Owens said no, but if your basement or bottom level was flooded you would probably do the same.

Councilman Gilbert asked if the state routinely test the waters out there. The manager said they do behind Masonboro and there maybe someone out there but not that he knows of. Councilman Gilbert said maybe we can look into that.

A gentleman with Cape Fear Marine Water Harvesting asked if the Council or engineers have given any thought for using marine water collection devices to localize the first flush run that can be reused later. Councilman Gilbert said that was his thought that if every resident could install that type of device and consider where that rain water is going. Mr. Cox said in the area of Canal Drive there isn't too many of those areas. The Mayor said the runoff is coming from the roads.

Jerry Johnson of 1119 Canal Drive, said this summer his family had 15 kids swimming off of the dock and we heard there was a negative report but they didn't know the details, and they discussed if we should let these kids swim. We ended up saying well people having been swimming out here for 15 years and no one has gotten hurt but I don't know if we would have made the same decision if we knew there were high test results. Mayor Macon said it has been in the paper but maybe we should do some kind of official notice. Mr. Johnson said maybe make people aware of it and let them decide for themselves.

Fred Grady said in talking to most of the Harbor Commission people, we don't expect the town to spend \$3 million dollars to fix the harbor, but we need to fine tune the draft and try to get grants and go slowly to get it done after we find someone who knows how to fix it. We could do it gradually. Mayor Macon said we could do 1-2 outfalls per year and start with the worse ones first.

Diane Johnson asked if it is safe to eat the fish that our caught out there. Mr. Owens said he would but obviously there are certain fish with higher levels of mercury.

WILMINGTON BEACH STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The manager said this project has been a long time coming. We currently have all of the permits. He said there are somewhere between 465-467 lots in this project area. Mr. Cox has asked our stormwater contractor to give us an estimate on the project. The total project cost estimate is \$3.425 million plus engineering and construction administration at \$3.65576. This would be for resurfacing of road construction and stormwater abeyance that would be taken over to the different pump stations. Sidewalks will be on Alabama, Ocean, and Tennessee. There will be no curb and gutter partly because of some of the feedback we had in our permitting process and partly because of cost so we had to deviate from our original design which included curb and gutter. The state likes to see shallow swells. In 2005 it was said that the town would pay for 1/3 of the cost and

by statute we cannot assess folks for intersections or the sidewalks. The town agreed to give owners 7 years to pay at 6% annual interest. The town can recoup associated project costs such as advertising, surveys, attorney's fees, etc. He questions if it is worth going back looking at bills for 2005, probably not. We did not give any incentive to folks to pay up front but that is something we could consider. At this point we are set for 7 years at 6% annual interest rate. If you go over the assessment total roughly it will be \$640-\$680 per year and that doesn't include the interest part, so \$700-750 per assessment payment if it takes the full 7 years. The town's portion of the assessment would be 1/3 of the cost, \$425,000 for the intersections and the sidewalks at a total of almost \$1.6 million to be picked up by the general fund. The cost is basically the same as what it was going to be in 2005. Everything is ready to move forward and it is up to the town how we want to move forward and when. Councilman Johnson said he feels we need to hold a public hearing but all the information needs to be correct because the last time those people understood that it was going to be a certain way and then we found out that we had problems with the Corps. There was discussion about when to start the project. Mr. Cox said the construction project can be scheduled in a way that they work in the less populated areas and work their way toward Lake Park Blvd. once they get into the off season period. Councilman Gilbert said we should first let the public know what the scenario is. Mr. Owens said we need to go through the public hearing process. Mayor Macon likes the expediated plan.

WILMINGTON BEACH STORMWATER PONDS, FORCE MAIN AND PUMP STATIONS

Mr. Cox said this is a stimulus funded project and it is also a project that we are putting in two stormwater ponds in the Wilmington Beach area that will positively affect the Carolina Beach yacht basin. The force main is under construction now, and the two ponds are 90% complete and the estimate project completion date is March 2010.

CAROLINA LAKE DWR & CWMTF GRANT

The town is getting a proposal from S&EC to provide feasibility study to determine the cost of permitting and cost of the sediment removal from Carolina Beach Lake. Mr. Owens said they are proposing roughly \$7,000 and they will contact 4 different vendors and come up with different ways of handling the material in the lake and outline the procedures for permitting and the pros and cons of doing it different ways and come back with options. After that you would do your permitting and engineering. Some of the funds we put aside after this last budget year. So that is moving forward.

SANITARY SEWER PROJECTS – PUMP STATION #1

Mr. Cox said we received bids on September 10th and those bids were rejected due to the high cost. We put together a preliminary redesign. Mr. Cox went over the design with

Council. He said we are hoping that will reduce our cost of the pump station, reduce the size of the pump station, the generator is located outside of the building and the trash compactor and recycled unit are all located inside the fence. He also provided an elevation view. We plan to advertise for bid this summer and construction to begin after Labor Day 2010. The appearance will blend in with the area. There was discussion about the cost of the fencing and gate. MPT Wilcox said it will be custom built so that fencing will not be cheap. Mayor Macon suggested that they go with 6x6 posts.

LAKE PARK SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION AND REPLACEMENT

Mr. Cox said this has been under construction since August 1st. It is also a stimulus funded project. The dig and replacement of sewer pipes to be completed prior to NCDOT paving. The rehabilitation of sanitary sewer lines will begin mid-October. The estimated project completion date is March 2010. The manager will talk to the contractor and try to coordinate the construction activity so there isn't any conflict with the Island of Lights Parade.

EQUALIZATION BASIN

Mr. Cox said this has been submitted to the state for approval and the state has asked the town to do some additional testing in the old basin to determine if there is any old sludge or heavy metals. If the samples come back that there are then the town will have to do additional remediation removal of the bottom layer and disposes of that and if it doesn't then it can be abandoned and replaced.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY SEWER PROJECTS

The additional sanitary sewer projects include Pump Station #1 for a 24" gravity sewer rehab at 115 feet of line; Pump Station #3 replacement of 20 ft of 12" pipe. The construction estimate is \$95,000.

WATER PROJECTS – 3.0 MG GROUND TANK, WELL 15H, RAW WATER LINES & SCADA SYSTEM

Mr. Cox said the design is 95% complete. The NCDOT encroachment has been submitted. We need to submit for public water supply, stormwater and erosion control permits. The estimated cost is \$2.85 million.

NORTH END STREET & UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

We are looking at replacing the water line from Scotch Bonnet to Salt Marsh and making the street and utility improvements from Clam Shell and north to Salt Marsh replacing and repairing existing sanitary sewer, storm drain and water lines.

TEST WELL 15G (STATE PARK)

The town is working with the State Park for site approval. The estimate for testing cost is \$42,000.

TEST WELL 16A (ACROSS FROM TOWN HALL)

Test wells have been drilled and further testing is scheduled. The estimated testing cost is \$40,000; well construction estimated cost \$250,000.

ASR STUDY

The draft study is 100% complete. We will be meeting with Cape Fear Public Utility Authority to discuss water connection and cost to purchase water. Additional information on the cost of the source of water is needed from CFPUA to complete the feasibility. There was discussion about study rates comparison between an on-site reverse osmosis facility verses connection with CFPUA. The manager will also be meeting with the Carolina and Kure Beach Sewer Authority to see what their thoughts are.

LAKE PARK BLVD WATER CONNECTION AND REPAIRS

Mr. Cox said Gene has been working on adding some additional 6” connections to replace existing 2” connections. He is trying to get this done before the paving project on Lake Park Blvd. The town is also installing a 12” water line across Lake Park Blvd. down by the carwash to get the system looped. That line will run parrell to Lake Park Blvd. in front of the Lake down to Well #2 and make the connection there. All of this has been done for the most part. This will all be done prior to the paving.

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS – SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Mr.Owens said we have done some preliminary design work and when that grant comes up again we will apply.

LAKE PARK BLVD CROSSWALKS

Design work is complete for crosswalks at Alabama, Texas, Tennessee, Ocean, Atlanta and Hamlet Avenues. These are considered high visibility areas. Councilman Gilbert asked about putting one in at Goldsboro. A lot of people cross there from the neighborhoods to the beauty salon and restaurants.

GEORGIA AVENUE STORMWATER

They are looking at improvements to the storm drainage on Georgia Avenue prior to the resurfacing. The survey data is 95% complete.

ADDITIONAL PARKING AREAS

Mr. Cox said the manager asked them to look at the possibility of additional parking in the areas of Tennessee, Bowfin and Texas. There are potentially 40 additional parking spots.

CAPE FEAR BLVD EAST PARKING

We still have a CAMA grant for Cape Fear Blvd. east parking. We need to decide if we are going to move forward or turn it back in. The Mayor said he is for the PJS plan and he doesn't want to lose the grant but he also doesn't want to jeopardize the plan. The manager said he thinks you can add the parking for \$10,000 if you don't add the lighting and underground utilities. Councilman Gilbert said with respect to where the parking is now he doesn't think any of the plans give you that much more additional parking in comparison to the money you will spend. He would like to see Council make decisions on the parking that is there now if we are going to enforce the two hour limit where it is friendly for businesses. The manager said we will talk about this more on November 10th. MPT Wilcox said he thought they already made the decision. The manager said we did, but we will talk about it one more time. Brian's plan is about 19 parking spaces on the east side. The Mayor would like to stick with the master plan. MPT Wilcox said he doesn't have a problem with that. There were no other comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments, Councilman Johnson made a motion to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn N. Prusa
Town Clerk

Approved: _____