

**Town Council Minutes
Morehead City, North Carolina**

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

The Honorable Council of the Town of Morehead City met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., in the Municipal Chambers located at 202 South 8th Street, Morehead City, North Carolina. Those in attendance were:

MAYOR:	Gerald A. Jones, Jr.
MAYOR PRO-TEM:	William F. Taylor
COUNCIL:	George W. Ballou
	Demus L. Thompson
	Harvey N. Walker, Jr. [Absent]
	Diane C. Warrender
CITY MANAGER:	David S. Whitlow
CITY CLERK:	Jeanne M. Giblin
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:	Derek Taylor, Michael W. Thomas
OTHERS:	Sarah Lanier; Daniel Williams; Graham Strother;

Antony Sadorski; Anna Harvey, Reporter, THE CARTERET NEWS TIMES; Carolyn Dennis; Dana Green; Jewel Lasater; John D. Wood; Michelle Velten; Carter Wood; Matthew Coffey; Sam Potts; Hunter Baxter; Jackson Gainey; Will Gainey; Tom Kies; Bryan Dixon; Jim Thompson; Chuck Sewell; Jane Sewell; John Sewell, Ellen Sewell and several others

1. Regular Meeting Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Councilman Thompson gave the invocation. Mayor Jones recognized Boy Scout Troop 130 from Morehead City United Methodist Church who then led all in The Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Special Presentation: Resolution of Retirement in Appreciation to Finance Director B. Ellen Sewell

Director of Finance B. Ellen Sewell retired from the Morehead City Finance Department on January 1, 2016, after serving in the position for 25 years. Through her judicious oversight of Morehead City's financial wellbeing, the City prospered and grew. During her tenure, the Unassigned Fund Balance for the Town of Morehead City went from \$11,950 on June 30, 1990, to \$4,280,262 on June 30, 2015. For the past 25 years, Morehead City also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting [CAFR] Award which encourages local government to prepare financial reports that evidence transparency and full disclosure.

The Council and staff wished Ellen the best upon her retirement and many more happy and productive years in her future. Mayor Jones presented her with a Resolution of Retirement.

Ms. Sewell stated that working for the Town of Morehead City was the highlight of her professional career and it was a pleasure to serve the citizens of Morehead City. She continued that the ability to provide a high level of service was the highest honor. She thanked the Council and other fellow employees, especially the members of the Finance Department for making her life easier and for providing moral support. She stated she very much appreciated the funding benefits that make retirement for City employees possible and she applauded the Council in this endeavor.

Councilwoman Warrender stated she enjoyed working with Ellen on the Finance Committee. She commented that Ellen was always prepared and gave such clear explanations that she made the world of finance understandable.

Councilman Taylor added his thanks saying that before he was elected he came to Ellen to understand the financial aspects of the City. He thanked Ellen for her time going over all his questions of finance.

Councilman Ballou commented that Ellen left Morehead City better than she found it. He thanked her for her guidance.

Councilman Thompson explained that it was Ellen and her guidance that brought the City out of its financial hole some 25 years ago. He thanked her for her dedication.

3. Adoption of the CONSENT AGENDA

3.A. Approve the Minutes of Tuesday, January 12, 2016, Regular Meeting

Approved the minutes of the Tuesday, January 12, 2016, Regular Council Meeting and dispensed with the reading.

3.B. Approve the Requests for Release of Overpayment of Ad Valorem Taxes for January 2016, in the amount of \$1,867.19; and Accept the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for January, 2016

Approved the requests for release of overpayment of ad valorem taxes for January 2016, in the amount of \$1,867.19; and accepted the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for January 2016. [The Financial Reports are attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.]

3.C. Submittal of 2015 Delinquent Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Lists as per G.S. 105-369[a] including Interest Due and Authorize Tax Collector to Post and Advertise the 2015 Delinquent Tax List

Approved the submittal of 2015 Delinquent Real Estate and Personal Property Tax lists as per G.S. 105-369[a] including interest due and authorized the Tax Collector to post and advertise the 2015 Delinquent Tax List. [The 2015 Delinquent Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Lists are attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.]

3.D. Adopt Resolution 2016-02 In Support of Ending the Economic Development Tier System in North Carolina

The Economic Development Tier System is a way for the state to offer assistance to the state's most economically distressed communities. Many in Carteret County have advocated that the Economic Development Tier System in North Carolina should be eliminated or changed because it penalizes Carteret County which has high property values due to being a resort area, therefore, not receiving the assistance for which it would be normally qualified.

Adopted Resolution 2016-02 in Support of Ending the Economic Development Tier System in North Carolina. [Resolution 2016-02 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.]

3.E. Adopt Resolution 2016-03 Approving a Qualified Source for Obtaining the Ethics Training Required by N.C. General Statute 160A-87

North Carolina General Statute 160A-87 requires Councilmembers/Commissioners to receive a minimum of two [2] hours of ethics education within 12 months after initial election or appointment and again within 12 months of each subsequent election or appointment to office. The Eastern Carolina Council offered this course on Wednesday, February 10th through the law offices of Sumrell, Sugg, Carmichael, Hicks & Hart, P.A. The adoption of this resolution will confirm that this firm was a qualified source of the mandated education.

Adopted Resolution 2016-03 approving the Law Firm of Sumrell, Sugg, Carmichael, Hicks & Hart, P.A. as a qualified source for obtaining the ethics training required by N.C.G.S. 160A-87. [Resolution 2016-03 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.]

3.F. Adopt Resolution 2016-04 Endorsing the "Alive at Five" Events and Authorizing Action Necessary for the Events to be Held May 27, June 3, June 17, July 1, July 15, August 5, August 19, September 2 and October 27, 2016 on the Morehead City Waterfront

The Downtown Morehead City Revitalization Association [DMCRA], with the support of several downtown businesses, in an effort to attract more people to downtown Morehead City, proposes the continuation of the “Alive at Five” concert series in Jaycee Park. The concerts are to provide family entertainment and to sell beverages in a defined area in accordance with all state, county and municipal laws with the proceeds used to fund the event. The DMCRA will be solely responsible for any state permits required. This was the eighth year for the concert series which has been very successful. The DMCRA requested the use of Jaycee Park, the closure of Shepard Street from 8th to 9th Streets during the concerts and ancillary services. The Public Works Committee of the Council reviewed the request and recommended adoption.

Adopted Resolution 2016-04 Endorsing the “Alive at Five” Events and authorizing action necessary for the events to be held May 27, June 3, June 17, July 1, July 15, August 5, August 19, September 2 and October 27, 2016, in Downtown Morehead City. [Resolution 2016-04 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.] ✓

3.G. Adopt Resolution of Retirement 2016-05 In Appreciation to Finance Director B. Ellen Sewell who retired on January 1, 2016

Adopted Resolution of Retirement 2016-05 In Appreciation to Finance Director B. Ellen Sewell who retired on January 1, 2016. [Resolution 2016-05 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.] ✓

3.H. Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2016-04 to Increase Miscellaneous Revenue in the General Fund by \$50 and Mayor/Council Election Costs in the amount of \$1,380; Increase donations by \$10,805 in the Fire/EMS Department Fund

The purpose of Budget Ordinance Amendment 2016-04 in the General Fund is:

- To increase Miscellaneous Revenue for donations in the amount of \$50 and to increase Police Department budget by the same.
- To increase Mayor/Council for municipal election costs in the amount of \$1,380 and to decrease Contingency by the same.

In the Fire/EMS Department Fund:

- To increase revenue from donations and fundraisers in the amount of \$10,805 and to increase the Fire/EMS Department expenditures by the same.

The Finance and Administration Committee of the Council reviewed the proposed ordinance at their last meeting and recommended adoption.

Adopted Budget Ordinance Amendment 2016-04 to increase Miscellaneous Revenue in the General Fund by \$50 and Mayor/Council election costs in the amount of \$1,380; and increase donations by \$10,805 in the Fire/EMS Department Fund. [Budget Ordinance Amendment 2016-04 is attached to Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.] ✓

3.I. Award the 2016 Mowing Contract to the Low Bidder, AR-DO-IN Lawn & Ground Care in the amount of \$4,680.00 per month

The following bids were received for the 2016 Mowing Contract with the Town of Morehead City:

	Novus	The Rashid Group	Chem-Pro	AR-DO-IN
City Row & Medians	\$2,375.00	\$2,595.00	\$1,264.80	\$1,055.00
NCDOT Right Of Ways	\$3,749.00	\$2,895.00	\$3,999.00	\$3,210.00
Alleys	\$ 958.00	\$2,095.00	\$ 184.00	\$ 415.00
TOTAL	\$7,082.00	\$7,585.00	\$5,447.94	\$4,680.00

The apparent low bidder is AR-DO-IN Lawn & Ground Care. The Public Works Committee reviewed the bids at their last meeting and recommended awarding the contract to the lowest bidder.

Awarded the 2016 Mowing Contract for the Town of Morehead City to the Low Bidder, AR-DO-IN Lawn & Ground Care of Newport, N.C., in the amount of \$4,680.00 per month.

Councilman Taylor MOVED, seconded by Councilwoman Warrender, and carried unanimously [Councilman Walker absent], to adopt the CONSENT AGENDA in one [1] motion.

4. Citizen Requests/Comments:

Local Attorney Jim Thompson addressed the Council on the ORV [off-road vehicle] Rules which are currently being proposed by the National Park Service at Cape Lookout National Seashore. He voiced his concern that the National Park Service was trying to tighten the restrictions on off-road vehicle travel in the park. These proposed rules are now open for public comment as the federal process requires. He continued that those who use recreational vehicles at Cape Lookout National Seashore have joined together and constructed a draft comment opposing the proposed rules.

Mr. Thompson stated that these comments were not intended in any way to bash the Park Service, but were designed to be a logical, persuasive statement of opposition to some of the rules proposed. He was of the opinion that the public was being “regulated to death”.

He reported that the Carteret County Board of Commissioners will take up this issue next Monday. He requested that the Town of Morehead City join with others in support of this statement. At the least, he asked that the Council support Alternate A which was initially proposed by the Park Service. The comment period ends February 16th at 5 p.m., and he requested the Council’s response by Friday, February 12th, in order to be able to post the response.

5. City Manager’s Report:

City Manager Whitlow reported that he had nothing to report at this time.

6. Council Requests/Comments:

Mayor Jones advised the Council that as the imminent comment period date on the proposed ORV Rules was February 16th, if the Council wished to support the above request of Jim Thompson, action was necessary now.

Councilman Thompson commented that he personally would join in the statement in opposition to the proposed ORV Rules.

Councilwoman Warrender commented that as a member of the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce, she had witnessed the slow progression of regulations causing detriment to our economy. It was her opinion that Cape Lookout National Seashore should be a park used by the people who help pay for it through taxes.

Councilman Taylor commented that he endorsed Alternate A as the option he felt the Council would like to see implemented. The National Park was purchased by taxpayers and all taxpayers should have equal access.

Councilman Taylor MOVED, seconded by Councilman Thompson, and carried unanimously [Councilman Walker absent], that the Morehead City Council endorses Alternate A as recommended in the preliminary draft of the ORV Rules for the National Park Service, and to support the effort as presented by Jim Thompson this the 9th day of February, 2016.

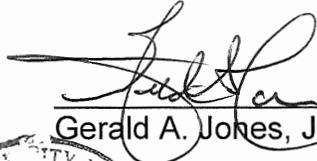
7. CLOSED SESSION AS PER G.S. 143.318.11 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016

No CLOSED SESSION was held.

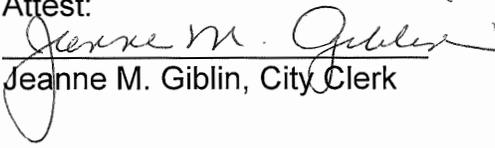
Councilwoman Warrender MOVED, seconded by Councilman Taylor, and carried unanimously [Councilman Walker absent], to approve and seal the CLOSED SESSION Minutes of Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.



Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest:


Jeanne M. Giblin, City Clerk

