

The Honorable Council of the Town of Morehead City met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 13, 2017, in the Municipal Chambers located at 202 South 8th Street, Morehead City, North Carolina. Those in attendance were:

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Gerald A. Jones, Jr.; Councilmen George W. Ballou, William F. Taylor, Demus L. Thompson, Harvey N. Walker, Jr.; and Councilwoman Diane C. Warrender.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager David S. Whitlow; City Attorneys Derek Taylor and Mike Thomas; Finance Director Jewel Lasater; Planning and Inspections Director Linda Staab; Parks & Recreation Director Craig Lands; Public Services Director Daniel Williams; Assistant Public Services Director Dale Price; IT Manager Jon Snyder; Police Chief Bernette Morris; Deputy Police Chief Brian Dixon; Police Captain Haywood Wilder; Police Officer Tracy Bruno, Fire Chief Jamie Fulk; Fire/EMS Coordinator Kelly Urban; Senior Administrative Assistant Gabriella Lowe; and City Clerk Cathy Campbell.

OTHERS: Anna Harvey of The Carteret News Times; Division 2 Project Development Engineer Bill Kincannon and Planning Engineer Jeff Cabaniss of the North Carolina Department of Transportation; Patrick Flanagan of Down East RPO; Sue Stanley of Downtown Morehead City; Ron Cullipher of Stroud Engineering; Michael and Bonnie Bruno; Marie Maroules; Sarah West; Michael Thomas; Dean Marion; John Steele; and Travis Day.

Mayor Jones called the regular meeting of the Morehead City Town Council to order at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 in the Municipal Building Council Chambers with a quorum present. Councilman Thompson gave the invocation and Mayor Jones led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS

Recognition of the Heroic Actions of Police Officer Tracy Bruno.

Mayor Jones presented Resolution 2017-23 to Police Officer Tracy Bruno recognizing her heroic actions that saved the life of Elizabeth Baugham and her cat Frank. He stated that all public servants are heroes, but the super heroes are those that put the lives of others before their own. On of April 27, 2017, Officer Bruno was a super hero as she did not hesitate to rush into the burning house in order to locate and lead Ms. Baugham to safety. Assistant Fire Chief Dykeman Baily determined that had Tracy not respond when she did, Ms. Baugham would not have lived another two (2) minutes.

Chief Bernette expressed her pride in the actions of Officer Bruno, and shared that Tracy worked in the health field before becoming a police officer.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones reviewed the Consent Agenda as presented to the Town Council for review and approval. Included within the Consent Agenda were the following approvals:

- A. Approve the Minutes of the May 2, 2017 Special Budget Meeting.
- B. Approve the Minutes of the May 9, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.
- C. Approve the Requests for Release of Overpayment of Ad Valorem Taxes for May 2017, in the amount of \$6,058.94; and Accept the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for

May 2017.

These reports are attached and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.

- D. Adopt Resolution 2017-23 Recognizing the Heroic Actions of Police Officer Tracy Bruno on April 27, 2017 that Saved the Life of Elizabeth Baugham.

Resolution 2017-23 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.

- E. Adopt Resolution 2017-25 Endorsing the NC Ducks Unlimited Billfish Tournament and Authorizing Action Necessary for the Event to be Held July 27-29, 2017 at Ottis Landing.

Resolution 2017-25 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.

- F. Award Brooks Street-Galantis Drive Sewer Project Bid to Thomas Simpson Construction in the Amount of \$400,769.

Bid results are attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.

- G. Accept Annual Audit Contract & Arrangement Letter with RSM US LLP for FYE June 30, 2017.

This contract is on file in the Clerk's office.

- H. Adopt Budget Amendment Ordinance 2017-21 to Increase Garage by \$1,000 for the purchase of a New Computer and Decrease Streets by the Same; Increase Other Financing Sources by \$23 for Transfer in from Newport River Public Water Access Capital Project Fund and Increase Contingency by the Same; Increase Other Financing Sources by \$45,792 for Transfer in from MATS Trail Capital Project Fund and Increase Contingency by the Same; Increase Other Financing Sources by \$16,807 for Transfer in from Baseball Park Capital Project Fund and to Increase Contingency by the Same; Increase Streets by \$26,000 for Purchase of Replacement Truck and to Increase Miscellaneous Revenue by \$8,500 for Insurance Reimbursement for 2005 Ford F150 VIN#0974 and to Decrease Contingency by the Difference of \$17,500; to Increase Revenues by \$40,000 for Portion of Revenue from Sale of 203 N. 25th Street Building and to Increase Expenditures by the Same for the Purchase of Materials the Construction of a Training Tower; to Increase Revenues by \$8,860 for Transfer in from Fire EMS Station #2 Replacement Capital Project Fund and to Increase Contingency by the Same in Preparation for Closing the Capital Project Fund at June 30, 2017; to Increase Revenues by \$314,783 for Transfer in from Water Treatment Capital Project Fund and to Increase Reserved for Future Appropriation by the Same in Preparation of Closing Multiple Capital Project Funds at June 30, 2017; to Increase Other Financing Sources by \$56,800 for Transfer in from Water & Sewer Capital Reserve Fund and to Decrease Appropriated Fund Balance by the Same with Zero Impact to the Budget; and to Decrease Reserved for Future Appropriation by \$56,800 and to Increase Transfer to Water & Sewer Fund by the Same for Capital Recovery Fees to Offset Debt Payments with Zero Impact to the Budget.

Budget Amendment Ordinance 2017-21 is part of Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.

- I. Adopt Budget Amendment Ordinance 2017-22 to Recognize Investment Earnings in the Fund Not Previously Budgeted in the Amount of \$69; to Reduce Grant Revenues by \$19 to Actual Accounts; to Decrease Water Access Improvement by \$73 to Actual Amounts; and to Increase Transfer to General Fund by \$23 Allowing the Capital Project Fund to be Closed.

Budget Amendment Ordinance 2017-22 is part of Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.

- J. Adopt Budget Amendment Ordinance 2017-23 to Recognize Investment Earnings in the Fund Not Previously Budgeted in the Amount of \$3,575; to Reduce Transfer from Street Improvement Capital Project Fund by \$515 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease Professional Services by \$34 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease Capital Outlay by \$22,698 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease Contingency by \$20,000 to Actual Amounts; and to Increase

Transfer to General Fund by \$45,792 Allowing the Capital Project Fund to be Closed.

Budget Amendment Ordinance 2017-23 is part of Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.

- K. Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2017-24 to Recognize Investment Earnings in the Fund Not Previously Budgeted in the Amount of \$478; to Reduce Transfer from Street Improvement Capital Project Fund by \$2,000 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease Professional Services by \$4,130 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease Capital Outlay by \$10,249 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease Contingency by \$3,950 to Actual Amounts; and to Increase Transfer to General Fund by \$16,807 Allowing the Capital Project Fund to be Closed.

Budget Amendment Ordinance 2017-24 is part of Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.

- L. Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2017-25 to Reduce Investment Earnings to Actual in the Amount of \$6,148; to Increase Donations to Actual by \$400; to Decrease Professional Services by \$333 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease Capital Outlay & Other by \$8,402 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease Debt Service by \$5,873 to Actual Amounts; and to Increase Transfer to Fire/EMS Fund by \$8,860 Allowing the Capital Project Fund to be Closed.

Budget Amendment Ordinance 2017-25 is part of Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.

- ~~M. Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2017-26 to Recognize Investment Earnings in the Fund Not Previously Budgeted in the Amount of \$3,565; to Decrease Other Financing Sources to Actual by \$21,993; to Decrease PWS ARRA Expenditures by \$85 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease PWS NON-ARRA Expenditures by \$76,834 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease RDA ARRA Expenditures by \$367,638 to Actual Amounts; to Increase RDA NON-ARRA Expenditures by \$111,346 to Actual Amounts; and to Increase Transfer to Water & Sewer Fund by \$314,783 Allowing the Capital Project Fund to be Closed.~~

Commissioner Taylor asked to pull Item M from the consent agenda in order to obtain further clarification. The item was moved to the Regular Agenda as Item #6.B. under New Business.

Councilman Ballou made a motion **to accept the consent agenda as amended.**

Councilman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0)

PRESENTATION: NCDOT Project Update Report

Bill Kincannon, Division 2 Project Development Engineer, and Jeff Cabaniss, Planning Engineer, of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) appeared before the Town Council to provide basic information on two upcoming Morehead City DOT projects. He stated that tonight's briefing is part of a new process whereby NCDOT is committed to obtaining public input early on large scale plans. These projects have passed through scoring, are funded, and have now moved into the engineering and design phase.

The Bridges Street Extension project widens the existing Business Drive through the Industrial Park until the intersection with Old Airport Rd. The project then goes on to a new location and will connect back to US 70. The project description says the project will tie into US 70 at McCabe Road, but several alternatives will be studied to determine which will have the least impact on existing infrastructure. The road is designed to be a divided four (4) lane road, with a curb and gutter and space for sidewalk or multi-use path.

Mr. Kincannon stated that the project came out of the Carteret County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and is designed to reduce congestion on Hwy 70 in the area. He anticipates that three (3) alternative routes will be presented to the public for commit. The process calls for several public meetings and public hearings that will provide everyone the opportunity to have their concerns heard and addressed.

Council requested that a traffic study be done to determine how the extension would affect traffic between North 4th Street and North 20th Street, where it reduces down to a two (2) lane road. Mr. Kincannon agreed to look at it from a traffic perspective to see if it can be incorporated into this project. A request was also made for NCDOT to consider another

ingress point for traffic from Hwy 70 to move onto Bridges Street, perhaps in the area of Colony Tire.

The project has a rights-of-way acquisition timeline of 2022, with construction slated to begin in 2024.

Next, Mr. Kincannon explained that the Newport River Bridge project will widen and replace the bridge over to Radio Island at the Morehead City Port. The new bridge will allow for four (4) lanes of traffic. This is going to be a big project and will likely entail a unique project delivery method known as Design-Build. This allows an engineering design company to team with a construction company to develop the project together. NCDOT will be working closely with the Port as they begin to move forward.

The project is currently estimated to cost \$60 million, but Mr. Kincannon anticipates that the cost will grow closer to \$85 million based on the complexity of the project. The many challenges include the need to keep the current bridge open during construction, as well as the narrow work area available due to the railroad and existing utilities.

This project is being undertaken because the bridge is in a corrosive environment and is nearing the end of its lifespan. This project is also slated for construction to begin in 2024. It is feasible that the design will be complete by summer 2018, after which two (2) public meetings and public hearings will be held to hear and address concerns.

Council asked that NCDOT keep in mind the Town's investment in the Radio Island boat ramp and to consider, as part of this project, what might be done to make the Hwy 70 and Radio Island Road intersection safer.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Adopt Ordinance 2017-17 to Permanently Close the Portion of the North/South Alley Located East of Lot 10, the Portion of the North/South Alley Located East of Lot 6 (Excluding Portions of the North/South Alley Located Directly Adjacent to Lot 8), and the East/West Alley Located Between Lots 11-13 and 3-5 in the 800 Block of Arendell Street (Block 11).

Planning Director Linda Staab appeared before the Town Council asking the Council to open a Public Hearing concerning Arendell Street Partners, LLC's request to permanently close the portion of the north/south alley located east of Lot 10, the portion of the north/south alley located east of Lot 6 (excluding portions of the north/south alley located directly adjacent to Lot 8), and the east/west alley located between Lots 11-13 and 3-5 in the 800 Block of Arendell Street (Block 11).

Ms. Staab displayed aerial maps and charts identifying the areas to be closed and new areas of access to be opened. In exchange for closing the alleys, owners will provide a 10 foot utility easement and donate a 50x25 foot portion, adjacent to the library to the City. A bio-retention field will be added to the south side of the block and pervious parking pavers will be added to the parking lot in two (2) areas. Owners will also relocate a utility pole to ensure pass-through access for the new easement.

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-299, notice of this Public Hearing was published in The Carteret News-Times on May 12, 19, 26 and June 2, 2017.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing.

Ron Cullipher, Stroud Engineering: Mr. Cullipher came forward, representing Arendell Street Partners, to clarify that the request includes the addition of a landscaping easement in the portion of the north/south alley located directly adjacent to Lot 8 that is not being closed. With these changes, the current ten (10) foot alleys become wide access drive-outs.

Sarah West, 601 Bridges Street, Morehead City: Ms. Sarah West stated that she was initially concerned with the alley closure thinking that it might interfere with water views; however, after further study, she deems it to be reasonable request.

No one else came forward; therefore, Mayor Jones closed the public hearing.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to **adopt Ordinance 2017-17 to permanently close the portion of the north/south alley located east of Lot 10, the portion of the north/south alley located east of Lot 6 (excluding portions of the north/south alley located directly adjacent to Lot 8), and the east/west alley located between Lots 11-13 and 3-5 in the 800 Block of Arendell Street (Block 11) in recognition of improvements outlined on the plan.** Councilwoman Warrender seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Ordinance Amendment 2017-17 is part of Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.

Adopt Resolution 2017-24 and Ordinance 2017-20 to Amend the Following Sections of the Unified Development Ordinance: Article 2-2 to Amend, Add, and Delete Definitions Related to Landscaping Requirements; Section 4-32 to Add a Requirement for Landscaping and Screening Areas to be Shown on Subdivision Sketch Plans and to Clarify that Landscaping Plans be Prepared in Accordance with Article 15; Article 13-1 to Move Development Standards from Section 15-4 and to Require Silt Fences for Land Disturbing Activity; Article 15 to Reformat and Rewrite Buffering, Recreation, and Open Space; and Add Appendix VI to Include Tree Planting Recommendations.

Planning Director Linda Staab requested that the Town Council open a Public Hearing, to receive public comments in regards to amending the following sections of the Unified Development Ordinance: Article 2-2 to amend, add, and delete definitions related to landscaping requirements; Section 4-32 to add a requirement for landscaping and screening areas to be shown on subdivision sketch plans and to clarify that landscaping plans be prepared in accordance with Article 15; Article 13-1 to move development standards from Section 15-4 and to require silt fences for land disturbing activity; Article 15 to reformat and rewrite buffering, recreation, and open space; and add Appendix VI to include tree planting recommendations; and adopt Resolution 2017-24 and Ordinance 2017-20.

The proposed ordinance amendments are in the public interest as the purpose of the draft landscaping ordinance is to:

- To encourage high quality design in development, structures, and the use of land through proper siting of structures and uses;
- To provide flexibility in achieving the desired standards of development;
- To protect and enhance the natural environment;
- To establish landscaping standards for property proposed for development;
- To establish requirements for open space, recreation, and water access areas in new subdivisions;
- To enhance the appearance of the Town;
- To protect public and private investment;
- To mitigate adverse impacts on adjacent property when the use or development of the adjacent property is significantly different in character, density, or intensity by maintaining a provision for screening between certain districts and/or uses;
- To reduce adverse impacts of development such as dirt, litter, traffic, noise, odor, glare of lights, etc.; and
- To encourage the preservation of existing trees, when feasible.

Pictures were displayed to demonstrate the impact screening requirements would have on residential and commercial development. She noted that for smaller lots concrete bollards would be permissible.

Ms. Staab advised that the ordinance was drafted consistent with the requirements for public water access for major and minor subdivisions as set forth in Section 15-8 of the Ordinance, and proposes an option for Council to determine if it would be acceptable for the developer to pay a fee in lieu of dedication, at an amount based on one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per unit/lot, not to

exceed seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00). After some discussion, Council decided by consensus not to include a maximum as the fee is meant to encourage developers to provide waterfront access.

The proposed ordinance amendments are consistent with the CAMA Land Use Plan Vision Statement and development policies; Section 4.2.5 Water Quality, Policy #6, and Section 4.2.7 General, Policy #16.

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-364, notice of this Public Hearing was published in The Carteret News-Times on May 12, June 2, and June 9, 2017.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing.

Seeing no one coming forward to speak, Mayor Jones closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Warrender motioned **to adopt Resolution 2017-24 and Ordinance 2017-20 amending the following sections of the Unified Development Ordinance: Article 2-2 to amend, add, and delete definitions related to landscaping requirements; Section 4-32 to add a requirement for landscaping and screening areas to be shown on subdivision sketch plans and to clarify that landscaping plans be prepared in accordance with Article 15; Article 13-1 to move Development Standards from Section 15-4 and to require silt fences for land disturbing activity; Article 15 to reformat and rewrite buffering, recreation, and open space; add Appendix VI to include tree planting recommendations, and eliminating the maximum on fees assessed in lieu of dedicating public water access.** Councilman Thompson seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Resolution 2017-24 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference and Ordinance Amendment 2017-20 is part of Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.

Adopt FY2017-2018 Budget Ordinance 2017-19 with a General Fund of \$14,512,249; Water/Sewer Fund of \$7,435,780; Other Funds of \$6,732,433 for a total of \$28,680,462 and a tax levy of \$0.35 per \$100 valuation

City Manager David Whitlow appeared before the Town Council to ask that they conduct a Public Hearing to receive public comment and consider adoption of the proposed Morehead City FY2017-2018 Budget, which was summarized as:

General Fund	\$ 14,512,249
Fire/EMS Service Fund	\$ 5,042,177
Water/Sewer Fund	\$ 7,435,780
Sanitation [Solid Waste] Fund	\$ 989,016
Water/Sewer Capital Projects	\$ 587,000
Water/Sewer Capital Reserve [Combined]	\$ 114,240
TOTAL	\$ 28,680,462

The proposed FY2017/2018 Budget recommends the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of \$ 0.35 per \$100 property valuation, with no increase over the current year. Mr. Whitlow reminded Council that included within this budget is the continuation of the compensation program with a Cost of Living Adjustment and Performance increase; continuation of full benefit programs with no adjustment in benefits; accessibility upgrades to the Municipal Building; completion of software transition to MUNIS; completion of municipal vehicle repair facility; replacement of three (3) police cruisers, animal control van, and crime scene van; major street reconstruction/paving projects at 4th, 5th, Evans Streets and Blair Farms Parkway; storm water drainage project at Church Street; electrical upgrades at Webb Library; replacement of electrical system at charter boat slips; replacement of lighting at Shevans tennis courts; replacement of roof and windows (as needed) at Charles Wallace building; replacement of HVAC at Fire Station 1; rehabilitation of Lift Station 17; creation of an additional full-time administrative assistant position in Planning and Inspections; and the addition of part-time seasonal positions in Parks and Webb Library.

Mr. Whitlow reported that if House Bill 126, which proposes a change in the distribution formula for sales tax, passes as proposed it will result in about a \$250,000 loss of revenue for Morehead City. This is the equivalent of a penny to a penny and a half of the ad valorem rate. Mr. Whitlow further advised that he learned late today that House Bill 900 has been submitted, which would allow municipalities to adopt an optional municipal sales tax up to one quarter percent (0.25).

In closing, Mr. Whitlow stated that the City's budget was prepared so that the General Fund meets the balance requirement as established by the Council, while providing the necessary cash flow to maintain services, complete planned projects and cover any potential emergency or storm cleanup. For this reason, he did not think it was prudent to recommend a tax rate cut at this time.

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 159-12, the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, was made available for public inspection at City Hall and the Municipal Building between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and posted on the Morehead City website at www.moreheadcitync.org. Notice of this Public Hearing was published in The Carteret News-Times on May 21, 2017.

Ms. Lasater reminded Council that the FY2017/2018 Budget must be approved by the Morehead City Council prior to July 1, 2017.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing.

No one spoke.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing.

Councilman Ballou made a motion **to adopt FY2017-2018 Budget Ordinance 2017-19 with a General Fund of \$14,512,249; Water/Sewer Fund of \$7,435,780; Other Funds of \$6,732,433 for a total of \$28,680,462 and a tax levy of \$0.35 per \$100 valuation.** Councilman Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Whitlow advised that there would not be any spending restrictions on funds collected under House Bill 900; however, such would not result in surplus money as it is simply a means of recouping some of the revenue lost as a result of House Bill 126.

FY2017-2018 Budget Ordinance 2017-19 is part of Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPOINTMENT:

Planning Director Linda Staab appeared before the Town Council asking them to appoint one (1) individual to fill the remaining In-City Alternate vacant seat on the Board of Adjustment.

She advised that the Planning Committee recommends John C. Steele be appointed to fill the seat for a term to expire August 27, 2019.

Mr. Steele stepped forward to share that he was born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, and worked in building and graphic design. He currently works for Hyman's Landscaping on Arendell Street.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to appoint John C. Steele to fill the vacant In-City Alternate seat for a term to expire August 27, 2019. Councilman Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2017-26 to Recognize Investment Earnings in the Fund Not Previously Budgeted in the Amount of \$3,565; to Decrease Other Financing Sources to Actual by \$21,993; to Decrease PWS ARRA Expenditures by \$85 to Actual Amounts; to Decrease PWS NON ARRA Expenditures by \$76,834 to Actual Amounts; to

Decrease RDA ARRA Expenditures by \$367,638 to Actual Amounts; to Increase RDA NON ARRA Expenditures by \$111,346 to Actual Amounts; and to Increase Transfer to Water & Sewer Fund by \$314,783 Allowing the Capital Project Fund to be Closed.

To provide clarification, Finance Director Jewel Lasater explained that this amendment is addressing expenditures necessary to close the Water Treatment Capital Project, and move the remaining balance into the Water/Sewer Fund. The abbreviations represent the different funding sources that contributed to the project and subsequent spending restrictions. For example, ARRA stands for the American Restoration and Recovery Act. This process reimburses funds transferred from the Water/Sewer Fund for the project.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion **to adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2017-26 to recognize Investment Earnings in the fund not previously budgeted in the Amount of \$3,565; to decrease Other Financing Sources to actual by \$21,993; to decrease PWS ARRA expenditures by \$85 to actual amounts; to decrease PWS NON ARRA expenditures by \$76,834 to actual amounts; to decrease RDA ARRA expenditures by \$367,638 to actual amounts; to increase RDA NON ARRA expenditures by \$111,346 to actual amounts; and to increase transfer to Water & Sewer Fund by \$314,783 allowing the Capital Project Fund to be closed.** Councilwoman Warrender seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Budget Amendment Ordinance 2017-26 is part of Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager David Whitlow provided an update on Katherine Davis Park stating that the Staff has been working with a landscape designer to better define the Committee's conceptual design with PartF grant requirements (three elements of recreation) and the overall recreational plan in mind. Grant submission would be made near the beginning of 2018 with the grant dedication to follow in late April or May 2018. Parking lots and restrooms are not allowed under the grant, so they will be addressed separately.

Mr. Whitlow then called attention to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the North Carolina Seafood Festival provided for Council's review. He advised that the document addresses the City's manpower and facility concerns.

In a related matter, Mr. Whitlow reported that it is unlikely that the Jaycee Park restroom remodel will take place before November or December due to the heavy summer festival/concert schedule and a commitment to keep the bathrooms available to transit dock clients. Therefore, it will be necessary to rent high-end portable toilets for the Seafood Festival, with the Festival and City sharing the cost.

Again, Mr. Whitlow spoke about House Bill 900, which would allow municipalities to adopt an optional municipal sales tax up to one quarter percent (0.25). He stated that he has not had the opportunity to look at it closely, however, should it appear to be feasible, he requested authority to draft letter of support, as requested by the North Carolina League of Municipalities, on behalf of the Council for Mayor Jones' signature. This letter will be send to State legislators. Councilman Walker made a motion **to authorize the City Manager to draft letter in support of House Bill 900 on behalf of the Morehead City Board of Commissioners for Mayor Jones' signature.** Councilman Taylor second and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS (2 Minute Time Limit)

Sarah West, 601 Bridges Street: – Ms. West came forward to remind the Council and NC Department of Transportation that the area on the north side of Arendell Street near the foot of the Newport River Bridge is zoned R5 and is registered as an historic neighborhood, and encouraged them to consider this when developing traffic patterns for the new bridge.

COUNCIL REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Councilman Taylor extended congratulations to Officer Bruno who, he said, represents the dedication of all City employees. Such dedication is appreciated by the Town Council.

Councilwoman Warrender agreed with Councilman Taylor.

Councilman Walker agreed as well and commended Police Chief Morris for her leadership. In addition, he hoped that everyone enjoys the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament currently underway.

Councilman Ballou thanked everyone for coming and participating in the meeting.

Mayor Jones had no comment.

CLOSED SESSION - Per G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(3) to approve the Closed Session minutes of Tuesday, May 9, 2017, to discuss possible litigation and to receive legal advice from Town Attorney.

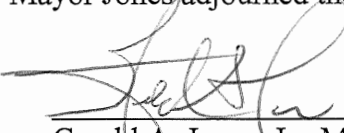
Councilman Thompson moved **to enter into CLOSED SESSION**. Councilman Walker seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Councilman Walker moved **to return to OPEN SESSION**. Councilman Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously (4-0, *Commissioner Ballou excused himself from the meeting as they entered into closed session*).

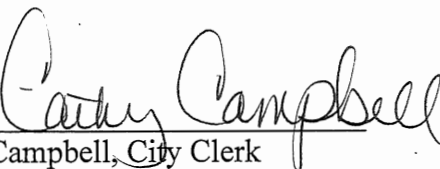
Councilman Thompson made a motion **to accept and seal the minutes of the May 9, 2017 Closed Session meeting as presented**. Councilman Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously (4-0, *Commissioner Ballou was absent*).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, Mayor Jones adjourned the meeting 8:05 p.m.



Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest: 

Cathy Campbell, City Clerk

