

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

**Tuesday, August 8, 2017**

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

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

Councilman George W. Ballou was absent.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager David S. Whitlow; City Attorneys Derek Taylor and Mike Thomas; Finance Director Jewel Lasater; Planning and Inspections Senior Planner Sandi Watkins; Fire Chief Jamie Fulk; Deputy Fire Chief Jack Manley; Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Inspector Dykeman Bailey; Fireman Thomas Pace; Police Chief Bernette Morris; Services Director Daniel Williams; Assistant Public Services Director Dale Price; Parks & Recreation Director Craig Lands; Human Resources Officer Susan Nixon; IT Manager Jon Snyder; and City Clerk Cathy Campbell.

OTHERS: Beth Blake, Editor of The Carteret News Times; Lisa Rueh of Downtown Morehead Inc.; Maureen Wishousky and Lucci McCullough of the Carteret County Literacy Council; Douglas McCullough; John Steele; John McIntyre; Chuck Sewell; Mike Thomas, Holly Fletcher, and Sally Lumpkin.

Mayor Jones called the regular meeting of the Morehead City Town Council to order at 5:33 p.m., on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 in the Municipal Building Council Chambers with a quorum present. Councilman Thompson gave the invocation and asked for a moment of silence for Commissioner Ballou and his family. Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**Recognition of International Literacy Day**

Mayor Jones presented a proclamation recognizing Friday, September 8, 2017 as International Literacy Day in the Town of Morehead City to Maureen Wishousky, president of the Carteret County Literacy Council.

Literacy education serves as a unique and powerful tool to eradicate poverty and is a strong means for creating sustainable societies. Mayor Jones stated that he celebrates the efforts of the hundreds of volunteers, tutors and adult learners who give of themselves from the frontlines, and encouraged all citizens to support the Carteret Literacy Council.

Lucci McCullough, a member of the Carteret County Literacy Board, stepped forward to announce the Literacy Spelling Bee fundraiser that will be held at The History Place on October 20, 2017. They are seeking a few more teams of three to participate. She invited everyone to attend whether participating or not.

*A copy of the proclamation is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.*

## **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 July 11, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Approve the Minutes of the July 27, 2017 Special Council Meeting
- C. Approve the Requests for Release of Overpayment of Ad Valorem Taxes for July 2017 in the amount of \$1,191.15; and Accept the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for July 2017.

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

- D. Re-Appoint Mayor Gerald A. Jones, Jr. to the Beaufort/Morehead City Airport Authority for another two (2) year term to begin 8/31/2017 and terminate 8/30/2019; and to advise the Carteret County Commissioners of this appointment.
- E. Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Request from Spacey Projects Too LLC, PIN #636601184323000, 636601184022000, and 636601183307000, 5.2 acres, zoned R15M (Single-Family Residential/Manufactured Home District) and CH (Highway Commercial District) -- Adopt Resolution 2017-R-29 Directing the Clerk to Investigate the Petition and Resolution 2017-R-30 Setting the date of the Public Hearing for Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 5:30 p.m.

*Resolutions 2017-R-28 and 2017-R-30 are attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.*

Councilman Taylor made a motion **to accept the consent agenda as presented.** Councilman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously (4-0)

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Governing Body Appointments: Board of Adjustment**

Senior Planner Sandi Watkins appeared before the Council to ask that they make appointments for two expiring seats on the Board of Adjustments; the In-City Regular seat held

by Gina Sanderson, and the Extraterritorial Alternate (ETJ) seat held by Diane Gagnon. Council was reminded that Ms. Sanderson was appointed in May 2017 to fill Trey McCarther's seat upon his resignation. Both seats expire on August 27, 2017, and both Ms. Sanderson and Ms. Gagnon would like to continue to serve and are eligible. No other applications were received.

The Planning Committee recommends that Council reappoint Gina Sanderson and recommend the reappointment of Diane Gagnon to the Carteret County Board of Commissioners.

Councilman Walker made a motion to appoint Gina Sanderson to the In-City Regular seat for a three (3) year term to begin August 28, 2017 and expire August 27, 2020; and to recommend to the Carteret County Board of Commissioners the reappointment of Diane Gagnon to the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) Alternate seat for a three (3) year term to begin August 28, 2017 and expire August 27, 2020. Councilman Thompson seconded and the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

### **Consider Acceptance of SAFER Grant**

Fire Chief Jamie Fulk appeared before the Town Council to request acceptance of the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) Grant as was presented at the February 8, 2017 Special Meeting. On August 28, 2017, he was formally notified that the Town of Morehead City had been awarded the SAFER grant. He reminded Council that the SAFER Grant will fund seventy-five percent (75%) of the salaries for two (2) years and thirty-five percent (35%) funding for the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year for three (3) firefighter/paramedic positions. These positions would fully staff Station #1 providing coverage for sickness, vacations, off-site training, and other vacancies.

By way of PowerPoint presentation, Chief Fulk presented data expressing the need for the additional personnel. He noted that his department experienced 1706 occasions of overlapping calls in 2016 (38.67%); they have responded to 62 calls to the new assisted living facility since February 2017 and that an additional 150 unit apartment complex will be opening soon; and that the number of incidents in which Naloxone (Narcan) was administered has increased from 36 doses in 2016 to 38 doses already in 2017.

Chief Fulk presented the following cost breakdown stating that the costs include benefits and that the total annual cost of an EMT-Paramedic including benefits is approximately \$68,000 to \$70,000.

(3) Firefighter/Paramedics Dec 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Safer Grant 75% \$93,632.15      Town 25% \$31,210.72

(3) Firefighter/Paramedics July 2018 - June 30, 2019

Safer Grant 75% \$164,849.85      Town 25% \$54,949.95

(3) Firefighter/Paramedics July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Safer Grant	\$116,607.86	Town	\$109,084.77
(3) Firefighter/Paramedics July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021			
Safer Grant	\$4,495.14	Town Portion	\$227,201.40
Total SAFER Grant \$379,585.00			

Council was reminded of the Fire/EMS staffing goals established in order to meet State standards:

3 Engines staffed with (3) firefighters per day	Total of (9) Firefighters
3 Ambulances staffed with (2) EMS Personnel per day	Total of (6) EMS Personnel
1 Firefighter/EMT per shift for backfill (cover for leave)	<u>Total of (1)</u>
	Total of (16) per shift

In the event Town Council approves this grant, the employees would start in December 2017. The town would be responsible for 25% (\$31,210.70) of employee salaries for the FY 2018-2019. The grant acceptance deadline is August 28, 2017.

Councilman Taylor recommended that a special work session be held within the next week for the purpose of briefing the Council on several capital projects. The SAFER grant decision could be made at that time with an awareness of other upcoming expenditures. He asked that the following be part of the briefing:

- Five (5) year Fire/EMS staffing and equipment plan to ensure compliance with federal/state standards
- Detailed status report on Katherine Davis Park
- Critical path study of Charles Wallace Building

Council agreed to the meeting by consensus, and City Manager Whitlow was asked to assist in scheduling the meeting.

After further discussion as to whether it was necessary to delay a decision on the SAFER Grant, Councilman Thompson made a motion **to accept the SAFER Grant in the amount of \$379,585.00 to fund three (3) firefighter/paramedic positions as stated for the Fire/EMS Department to be hired in December 2017, with the City responsible for funding \$31,210.70 in FY 2018-2019.** Councilman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

At this time, Mayor Jones asked to amend the meeting agenda to include a Closed Session immediately following this meeting in order to update the Council on the executive search. Councilman Walker made a motion **to amend the agenda to include a Closed Session Per G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(6) to Discuss a Personnel Matter.** Councilwoman Warrender seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

As this was City Manager David Whitlow's last town council meeting, he thanked Council for opportunity to work in this beautiful community filled with wonderful people. He shared an emotional story to express his deep appreciation of the faithful city employees who he called heroes because they go beyond the call of duty to take care of the citizens of Morehead City. He noted several instances and commended employees who work in nearly every department of the city. He also acknowledge employees who fulfill demanding duties with a smile on their face and a can do attitude, such as the building inspectors, fire marshals, finance department employees, and the Human Resource Officer, as well as the public service and utility workers who respond around the clock as needed. He noted that city employees love the community and give their best to it and make it a wonderful place to live. Mr. Whitlow closed saying that he leaves with sweet memories.

Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Whitlow for his service saying that Morehead City is a better place now than when he arrived.

### **CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS (2 Minute Time Limit)**

There were no citizen requests or comments.

### **COUNCIL REQUESTS/COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Warrender stated that she believed from the beginning that Mr. Whitlow was the right man to educate the council for the projects that lay ahead. She asked all to recognize his accomplishments with a standing ovation.

Councilman Taylor said that he was a better councilman because of Mr. Whitlow's patience in answering his many questions.

Councilman Walker stated that Mr. Whitlow did a great job, and that he would be missed.

Councilman Thompson thanked Mr. Whitlow saying that he was a fair and honest man, and that he made Morehead City a much better place.

Mayor Jones closed saying that he looks forward to Mr. Whitlow's return visits.

### **APPROVE AND RELEASE MINUTES OF THE JULY 27, 2017 SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION MEETING**

City Clerk Cathy Campbell presented the minutes of the July 27, 2017 Closed Session for review and approval. After a review of the minutes, Councilman Taylor moved **to Approve and Release the minutes of the July 27, 2017 Special Closed Session meeting.** Councilman Thompson seconded and the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

**CLOSED SESSION** - Per G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(6) to Discuss a Personnel Matter.

Councilman Walker moved **to enter into CLOSED SESSION.** Councilman Thompson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

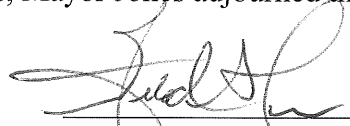
The city clerk was excused from the meeting.

Councilman Thompson moved **to return to OPEN SESSION.** Councilman Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to discuss, Mayor Jones adjourned the meeting 7:15 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Campbell, City Clerk

