

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

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

The Honorable Council of the Town of Morehead City met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 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.; Councilmembers George W. Ballou, Keri V. McCann, William F. Taylor, Harvey N. Walker, Jr. and Diane C. Warrender.

STAFF PRESENT: Interim City Manager Ralph A. Clark; City Attorneys Derek Taylor and Mike Thomas; Chief Building Inspector Robert Davis; Finance Director Jewel Lasater; Fire Chief Jamie Fulk; Police Chief Bernette Morris; IT Manager Jon Snyder; and HR Officer Susan Nixon.

OTHERS: Elise Clouser of The Carteret News Times; Jeff, Suzette and Blake Deaton; Lisa Rueh and Lee Hinson, Downtown Morehead City Inc.; Clarence Oglesby, Lucine Beauchard, Odessa Horton, Flora Whitney, Brenda Felton, Jennifer Lee, Maurice Davis, Jenne Garcia, Dallas Weeks, Trey and Gloria McCarther, Michael Thomas, Robert Collins, Chuck Sewell, Luther Tootle, Holly Fletcher, Sidney Hargrove, Paula Johnson, Al Justice and Debbie Ross.

Mayor Jones called the regular meeting of the Morehead City Town Council to order at 5:31 p.m., on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 in the Municipal Building Council Chambers with a quorum present. Councilman Ballou gave the invocation and Mayor Jones led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of Resolution 2018-R-05 in Honor of Eagle Scout Jeffery “Blake” Deaton.

Mayor Jones presented Resolution 2018-R-05 to Eagle Scout Jeffrey “Blake” Deaton in honor of his accomplishments.

Inspired by his brother, Blake selflessly chose as his Eagle Scout project, “Wings for Autism – Giving God’s Special Angels Wings,” and lead a campaign to raise \$10,000 to create a sensory educational room for autistic and special needs students at Morehead Middle School. He exceeded all expectations when the campaign raised \$30,000, providing enough to fund an additional sensory educational room at West Carteret High School.

Blake's project, which serves as a model for other sensory rooms that will help special needs children for years to come, was selected as the 2017 Glenn A. and Melinda Adams Eagle Scout Project of the Year Award.

Mayor Jones invites all citizens of the Town of Morehead City to join him in congratulating this special young man and future leader.

Blake addressed Council and the audience saying that you never know where an idea will take you. He thanked the business owners and all who helped to make his dream a reality.

Proclamation Proclaiming February as "Black History Month"

Mayor Jones read the Mayor's Proclamation proclaiming February as "Black History Month" in the Town of Morehead City and commended its observation to all citizens.

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 January 9, 2018 Regular Town Council Meetings.
- B. Approve the Minutes of the January 17 and 30, 2018, and February 7, 2018 Town Council Meeting.
- C. Approve the Requests for Release of Overpayment of Ad Valorem Taxes for January 2017 in the amount of \$1,240.58; and Accept the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for January 2017.

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

- D. Adopt Resolution 2018-R-05 in Honor of Eagle Scout Jeffrey "Blake" Deaton.

Resolution 2018-R-05 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference

- E. Adopt Resolution 2018-R-06 Authorizing Execution of Public Beach and Estuarine Access Grant Contract for South 10th Street.

Resolution 2018-R-06 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference

- F. Adopt Resolution 2018-R-07 in Sympathy for Former City Councilmember John F. Nelson, Jr. Who Passed on Monday, January 8, 2018.

Resolution 2018-R-07 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference

- G. Adopt Resolution 2018-R-08, Directing Clerk to Investigate Annexation Petition Received from Clarence P. Oglesby and Resolution 2018-R-09 Setting Date of Public Hearing for Tuesday, March 13, 2018 to Consider Contiguous Annexation Request from Clarence P. Oglesby.

Resolutions 2018-R-08 and 2018-R-09 are attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference

- H. Award Webb Library Building Electrical Improvements Bid to PECO Electric in the Amount of \$84,150.00 as Recommended by Arendell Engineers and Approved by the Public Works Committee.

The bid is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference

- I. Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2018-TWO to Increase Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue by \$60,000 for Spooners Creek Dredging Grant #3 and to Increase Transportation by the Same; to Increase Miscellaneous Revenue by \$277 for Sale of Surplus and to Increase Police by the Same; to Increase Mayor & Council by \$4,221 for Election and Other Expenditures and to Decrease Contingency by the Same; and to Increase Expenditures by \$16,000 for Repairs to Ladder Mechanism on Ladder Truck and to Decrease Contingency by the Same.

2018 Budget Amendment Ordinance TWO is part of Ordinance Book #8 in the vault.

- J. Adopt Resolution 2018-R-10, Endorsing the Junction 311 LLC Run Crystal Coast Half Marathon and Authorizing Action Necessary for the Event to be Held Saturday, March 3, 2018 in Morehead City.

Resolution 2018-R-10 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference

Councilmember Taylor made a motion **to accept the consent agenda as presented.** Councilmember Warrender seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Governing Body Appointment: Planning Board

Chief Building Inspector Robert Davis appeared before the Town Council to present the Planning Committee's recommendation to appoint Lucine Beauchard to the vacant Extraterritorial (ETJ) Seat for a term to expire on August 15, 2019.

Councilmember Walker objected to the recommendation claiming racial bias and the need for diversity among the City boards. Councilmember Taylor, Chairman of the Planning Committee, stated that the recommendation was made based on location not ethnicity. He explained that Ms. Beauchard lives in an area of the ETJ that is not currently represented on the Planning Board. Mr. McCarther, the second candidate, lives in an area that is already represented by two other members on the Board. A map was presented showing where each member of the Planning Board lives highlighting the non-represented areas.

Councilmember Taylor made a motion to appoint Lucine Beauchard to fill the Planning Board's vacant Extraterritorial Seat for a term to expire August 15, 2019. Councilmember McCann seconded and the motion carried by majority vote. *(4-1; Councilman Walker opposed)*

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Update on Katherine Davis Park: Parks & Recreation Director Craig Lands advised of two upcoming public meetings regarding the plans for Katherine Davis Park:

- Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at the Train Depot 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
As part of the Part-F Grant process, the public will be offered the opportunity to provide input on the proposed park plan
- Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at the Train Depot 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
A presentation will be made outlining the work completed by the Katherine Davis Park Task Force. Pictures and charts will be displayed.

Council Budget Meeting: Interim City Manager Ralph Clark recommended that Council schedule a time to discuss the following five topics which are critical to the budget process: Webb Library, street paving, Downtown Morehead City Inc. Budget Request, Katherine Davis Park, and the Charles Wallace Building. Council scheduled a Special Meeting for Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Preparation for New Manager: Mr. Clark advised that he is working to wrap-up or advance current projects to ensure a smooth transition for the new city manager. These include the Katherine Davis Park plan, the Charles Wallace Building, Morehead Marlins lease agreement, performance evaluations, Amtrak bus pickup site issues; FY 2018/19 Budget, and the Planning and Inspections Director and Administrative Assistant vacancies.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMMENTS (2 Minute Time Limit)

Michael Murdoch, 4015 Wildwood Road, Newport, NC: Mr. Murdock appeared before the Council to express his concerns regarding the Bridges Street Extension Project (NCDOT STIP R-5727). He stated that three of the four proposed routes would divide their community and displace the congregation of the Wildwood Presbyterian Church. A resolution of support was presented with request to adopt. Mayor Jones accepted the document and stated that Council would review and possibly consider at the next Council meeting.

Tom Ramsey, 284 Brooks Road, Wildwood, NC: Mr. Ramsey stated that the Murdoch Road option will cut through his property and expressed concerns with the Town endorsing that option as well.

Bill Johnson, 600 N. 35th St. Apt. #901, Morehead City, NC: Mr. Johnson came forward to encourage the Council to address the City's slow response to emergency water leaks during the January snow event.

APPROVE AND SEAL CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mayor Jones opted to hold all closed session minutes regarding the city manager position until the position is filled. At that time, Council will approve and release the minutes of those sessions.

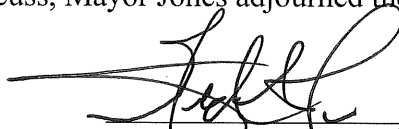
CLOSED SESSION PER N.C.G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(3) TO CONSULT WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING THE MATTER OF KALETTA v MOREHEAD CITY, 17 CVS 1144.

Councilmember Ballou made a motion **to enter into Closed Session at 6:35 p.m. per NCGS 143.318.11(a)(e) to consult with the City Attorney regarding the matter of Kaletta v Morehead City, 17 CVS 1144.** Councilmember Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Councilmember Warrender moved **to return to OPEN SESSION at 6:51 p.m.** Councilmember Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, Mayor Jones adjourned the meeting 6:52 p.m.


Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest: 
Cathy Campbell, City Clerk

