

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 17, 2020

5:00 p.m.

The Town of Atlantic Beach Town Council meeting was held and recorded at Atlantic Beach Community Center, 1010 32nd Avenue South, Atlantic Beach, South Carolina, on the 17th day of February, 2020, and transcribed by Amanda Godfrey, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina.



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APPEARANCES

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor Jake Evans, Chairman
Councilman Lenearl Evans
Councilwoman Josephine Isom
Councilwoman Glenda Williams

ADMINISTRATION:

Benjamin Quattlebaum Jr., Town Manager
Cheryl Pereira, Town Clerk

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1 Call to Order:

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** This Town Council meeting is called to
3 order this Monday, February 17th, year 2020 at
4 the Atlantic Beach Community Center. Roll
5 call?

6 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

7 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Here.

8 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

9 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Here.

10 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore? Councilwoman
11 Glenda Williams? Mayor Jake Evans?

12 **MAYOR EVANS:** Here.

13 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor and Council, Councilwoman
14 Gore called and said she would not be in
15 attendance this evening.

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, thank you. Council, seeking a
17 motion to go into Executive Session for legal
18 and personnel matters.

19 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** So moved.

20 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Second.

21 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's a motion and there is a second
22 to go into Executive Session for legal and
23 personnel matters. Any other questions or
24 comments?

25 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor and Council, the legal



1 matters to be discussed is the ongoing legal
2 matter involving the hospitality tax for
3 municipalities and the County. And the legal
4 action, Tyson Group versus Town of Atlantic
5 Beach. And several personnel matters.

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Any other questions, comments? Roll
7 call?

8 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

9 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

10 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

11 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

12 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted.

14 **Executive Session:**

15 **(Executive Session.)**

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** Council, I seek a motion that we come
17 out of Executive Session into the General
18 Session.

19 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Mr. Mayor, I make a motion that
20 we come out of Executive Session into the
21 regular session.

22 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Second.

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second to come out of the
24 Executive Session into the General Session.
25 Any other questions or comments? Roll call?



1 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

2 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

3 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

4 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Nay -- yea.

5 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

6 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

7 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted.

9 **General Session:**

10 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're now into the General Session,
11 and I want to welcome Ms. Jannie Isom and Mr.
12 John Sketers. And, if you would, stand just a
13 moment for a moment of silence.

14 **(Moment of Silence.)**

15 **MAYOR EVANS:** Pledge of Allegiance.

16 **(Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.)**

17 **MAYOR EVANS:** Ceremonial matters, Council members,
18 anybody? And if not, we're down to the
19 approval of the agenda. I seek a motion for
20 the approval of the agenda as it is outlined?

21 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Mr. Mayor, I make a motion
22 we approve the agenda as outlined.

23 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Second.

24 **MAYOR EVANS:** There is a motion and a second for
25 approval of the agenda. Any other questions,



1 comments? Council members? Roll call for
2 approval of the agenda?

3 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

4 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

5 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

6 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

7 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

8 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

9 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

10 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted.

11 **Old Business:**

12 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to Old Business, Town
13 Council meeting minutes. We have the Town
14 Council meeting minutes from the January 6th,
15 2020 meeting. Council, seek a motion for
16 approval of those minutes?

17 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** So moved.

18 **MAYOR EVANS:** Need a second.

19 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Second.

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second for the approval
21 of the January 6th, 2020 Town Council meeting
22 minutes. Any other questions or comments?
23 Roll call?

24 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

25 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.



1 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

2 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

3 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

4 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

5 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted.

7 **Report:**

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** There is no New Business. Town
9 Manager reports?

10 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor, Council, first and foremost
11 I would like to thank the Mayor and Council, my
12 staff and the residents of the Town for their
13 condolences during the passing of my sister.
14 I appreciate Council adapting the meeting to
15 accommodate me. Thank you very much, all of
16 the words and prayers that were sent my way.
17 Just a couple items on the agenda. I'd like to
18 bring your attention -- at our last meeting, if
19 you recall, there was a presentation, a
20 proposal, to put up a sign, digital sign, in
21 the location where our current Town sign is on
22 30th Avenue by Incite Digital. I had the
23 proposal reviewed by our attorney. There were
24 some legal issues that came up under the legal
25 review that we're trying to work through and



1 modify. The proposal for the site -- but we're
2 still negotiating with the proposed owner, Mr.
3 Kirk ... can't think of his last name. Kirk
4 Kirkland. Name just came to me. But we're
5 still talking so it's a possibility that we
6 should -- we come to an agreement and, if we
7 do, I'll have something to -- at the March 1st
8 meeting. Just for informational purposes, the
9 after-school program that was formerly here in
10 the fall has been moved to the church on 29th
11 Avenue. They accommodated the program and
12 they're still pushing to get and recruit
13 students from the Town to participate in the
14 after-school program. I think it's still on
15 Wednesdays at 3:00 o'clock. I invited the head
16 of the program to come make a presentation at
17 this meeting. Her schedule would not permit.
18 She will be coming to the March 1st meeting.
19 We are actively recruiting and trying to get
20 the word out to the community that that program
21 is still ongoing at the -- what's the name of
22 the church on 29th?

23 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** (Inaudible) First Baptist ---

24 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** First Baptist Church on 29th
25 Avenue. That is all I have, Mayor and Council.



1 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay.

2 **Public Time:**

3 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to Public Time. I've got
4 one card here that belongs to Mr. Sketers.

5 **MR. SKETERS:** Yes, sir. First of all, Mr.
6 Quattlebaum, we're sorry to hear about your
7 loss of your family member and (inaudible). I
8 have just a question -- couple of questions
9 that -- I'm not asking for -- to entertain
10 (inaudible) or anything. I just want to know
11 about ... It's my understanding -- I haven't
12 seen anything in writing due to that, that the
13 Council gave themselves a raise some time ago.
14 That -- that is my first question, and I would
15 like to try to understand a little bit better
16 how they merited, or what caused Council to
17 give themselves another roll -- a raise. Not
18 another raise -- I'm sorry. And that I don't
19 know exactly how -- our financial situation
20 here in Atlantic Beach, but I think at this
21 point all of our resources, as far as monies,
22 can be used. And I'm not saying it wasn't
23 merited. And another thing I would like to
24 have an answer to, when is the last time that
25 the employees of Atlantic Beach had an



1 evaluation, an employment evaluation --
2 performance evaluation. This something that
3 I'm just working -- and I'll get (inaudible).
4 But I would just like to have that explained to
5 me. And especially performance raise (ph).
6 And if we haven't ever had one, that's fine.
7 I'm just asking the question. And if we
8 haven't ever had one, most governmental
9 (inaudible) that run, there's a lot of
10 (inaudible). Sometimes during the year, you
11 have what we call a performance rating --
12 that's just rating that employees do -- what
13 they bring to the table. And I'm quite sure a
14 lot of you are already aware of that, but I'm
15 just asking the question. Thank you.

16 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Well, let me just give you first -
17 - on your first question ---

18 **MR. SKETERS:** Yes, sir.

19 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** --- Timing on the approval of the
20 raise -- and correct me, Ms. Pereira on dates.
21 The request for increases for the Council was
22 presented in the September ---

23 **CLERK:** Two ordinances.

24 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Two ordinances ---

25 **CLERK:** Uh-huh.



1 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** --- public ordinances were
2 presented to the public on the issue of
3 increasing the salaries for the Council. I
4 think it was September and October.

5 **CLERK:** Uh-huh.

6 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Okay. Prior to the election. And
7 the rationale was doing it because they didn't
8 know who was going to win the election, whether
9 it was gonna benefit either the incumbents or
10 anyone new coming in. And they wanted to do it
11 before that and not do it after the fact in
12 terms of -- because whoever won the election.
13 So it was presented prior to the election and
14 all of the candidates had eligibility to run,
15 and the raise would take affect January of
16 2020. Okay? So that's the time sequence in
17 terms of how it was presented to the
18 (inaudible) two public meetings. I don't know
19 if you're aware of it. You don't recall them
20 having public meetings?

21 **MR. SKETERS:** To the extent?

22 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** For the increases.

23 **MR. SKETERS:** For the public (ph)?

24 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Yeah, two public meetings,
25 September and October. They were public



1 meetings held about the increases. You don't
2 recall?

3 **MR. SKETERS:** No, I don't recall anything. But to
4 cut it short, that's not the question. I just
5 want to see how did they merit it? I mean
6 that's the question I'm asking.

7 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Well, I can't speak to that. All
8 I can speak to is the process, okay? On your
9 ---

10 **MR. SKETERS:** (Inaudible) process (inaudible).

11 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** On your second question about
12 staff evaluations, I evaluate staff annually in
13 the budgetary year, each year that the budget
14 is presented. We start the process in April
15 and budget -- our fiscal year begins July 1st
16 of each year. So prior to budgetary approval
17 discussions with the Council, I present
18 recommendations on increases and staff
19 performance during our budgetary hearings in
20 Executive Session for staff.

21 **MR. SKETERS:** Okay, well said (ph). But that's
22 still not answering my question. And I'm not
23 saying it for the sake of an argument ---

24 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** No, I just -- well, I wanted to --
25 -



1 **MR. SKETERS:** I understand that you did (inaudible)
2 a lot of -- most the time, when you're in an
3 organization and they're supposed to get a
4 raise, they say well, we brought (inaudible)
5 Atlantic Beach. We had a -- what I call good
6 (ph) business and brought into Atlantic Beach
7 that increased the revenue \$500,000, you know,
8 things that (inaudible) supposed to see.

9 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mr. Sketers ---

10 **MR. SKETERS:** Sketers.

11 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** We do do that. Okay, we start --
12 we go through the budgetary process prior to
13 the adoption of the budget where we go in terms
14 of line by line, in terms of categories, and
15 then public hearings on my recommendations to
16 Council. That is done. Personnel matters and
17 discussion of personnel is done in Executive
18 Session for confidential reasons to protect the
19 staff members in terms of their
20 confidentiality. So it's not publicly known in
21 terms of the rating of what they did not make
22 public to the public because there are
23 personnel laws that govern it. So -- but in
24 terms of any increases is adopted in the budget
25 and presented to Council starting in April, and



1 we will have the same hearing process again in
2 terms of going through each department
3 expenditures and income for the time. All
4 right?

5 **MR. SKETERS:** Yes.

6 (Inaudible background noise.)

7 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** I can't speak to in terms of the
8 decision of Council. I don't have the --
9 that's the Council's part in it. I just gave
10 you the sequence of when it was approved. All
11 right?

12 (Inaudible background noise.)

13 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** If you don't mind, I just
14 wanted to interject. When we attended the
15 Municipal Association of South Carolina's
16 conference, when they spoke about the now --
17 now, in this era and time, that the typical pay
18 per municipality for council people was \$500 --
19 \$400 and \$500. And when they discussed it in
20 the area that I was in, in the training area,
21 they had the gentlemen of Rock Hill and a
22 couple other places that were speaking about
23 the municipality and the governing part of it
24 and the financial, you know, what they're doing
25 financially now. I'm just saying that because



1 maybe there is something statewide because the
2 people that was there -- there was over 200
3 municipalities there -- and the ones that did
4 come up and speak, they talked about the
5 typical, you know, what they give the council
6 people that serve in the area, and it was the
7 \$400, \$500 range. Could anybody attest? Maybe
8 that's what it is statewide? I mean that was
9 there as well as documented in the paperwork
10 that we had, that I received.

11 **MR. SKETERS:** So, we're only (ph) falling in line,
12 more or less, with a lot of the other
13 municipalities ...

14 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Right, correct.

15 **MR. SKETERS:** Okay.

16 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** That's what I understood from
17 the meeting, from the training, yes.

18 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Oh, you feel that we're getting
19 paid too much?

20 **MR. SKETERS:** No, sir.

21 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Well, what's in question?

22 **MR. SKETERS:** Well -- and I just want to know how
23 did they arrive at that figure. That's all.

24 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Okay.

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** And the other thing, I think, when you



1 sat on Town Council -- and I think that was --
2 we're going way back to say 20 years. You,
3 yourself know there hadn't been an increase
4 with what Council members get and what the
5 Mayor gets in probably 20, 25 years. I kind of
6 researched that as well. I mean it was long
7 overdue and it's definitely deserving, and I
8 mean we're looking at the municipal association
9 laws and looking at what other cities and towns
10 are getting as well. And of course, we know
11 we're a small municipality and we're -- don't
12 want to try to give ourselves as much as these
13 large cities get because they -- we could
14 probably say yeah, they have a lot more action
15 and a lot more to do. But when you're talking
16 city governments in Myrtle Beach and North
17 Myrtle Beach and what they're getting, what
18 we're getting is probably not even a drop in
19 the bucket. So, it is fair and then like as he
20 said as well, this is not something that we
21 have done for ourselves. We've done this back
22 before this administration took place without
23 knowing who was gonna be here at this table
24 because we felt that whoever was up here
25 deserved it.



1 **MR. SKETERS:** Well, to take it back to the
2 beginning, I didn't ask it because I feel you
3 all get too much, and to go back a number of
4 years, it's probably governed by the size of a
5 municipality. When I first came on, house of
6 a hundred children, we got \$25 per month.

7 **MAYOR EVANS:** How many years ago?

8 **MR. SKETERS:** (Inaudible)\$25, but I just used that -
9 - and -- but you know, it's not a position
10 where you get in there to make a living, you
11 get in it 'cause (inaudible) be of service to
12 your community ---

13 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

14 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** We all work.

15 **MR. SKETERS:** --- and we all agree to that.

16 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Right.

17 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Uh-huh.

18 **MAYOR EVANS:** You know, what we're getting ain't
19 gonna make no living either. And what we just
20 raised ourselves to get ain't gonna make a
21 living so ...

22 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

23 **MR. SKETERS:** Times have changed, prices went up and
24 it's just so long. But anyway, that was my
25 question, and I'm not being critical of it



1 because you guys do a lot of work -- a lot of
2 work that people don't even realize that you
3 do. And I understand of that 'cause -- I
4 didn't ask that for the sake of an argument
5 either. Just trying to (inaudible).

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** All right. Thank you.

7 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

8 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** I'm sorry.

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Go ahead.

10 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Not to even -- that's
11 something good that you just said. And you all
12 don't want me going there. When you said that
13 a lot of people don't realize the work that we
14 do, that's why it's good to find some loyal
15 citizens that we have the Town heart at it's
16 best interest and not going to be the ones that
17 -- who a lot of the times we have problems in
18 this small town because it'll be the ones
19 that's inside to take stuff to the outside that
20 cause media and all these other people to
21 always want to come in. And instead of us
22 working together as a unified body -- just like
23 you said, there's a lot of things that we do
24 that the people don't know. That's why we
25 really need some good ambassadors for the Town,



1 for the city, that would say, for instance, you
2 may see someone that really don't understand
3 what's going on and question about it.
4 Hypothetically speaking -- I'm just
5 hypothetically speaking -- you, Ms. Isom, the
6 (inaudible) gentleman that's here, if there was
7 -- if we had good ambassadors, they could be
8 like oh no, you know, it's not that the city's
9 not doing theirs or it's not that just Mr. Q or
10 the Mayor, or one of the next, is not doing
11 this. Just let me kind of explain to you where
12 we are right now because when the ambassadors
13 understand what's going on, then they can help
14 implement it in the Town, and then the Town can
15 grow more, be more unified, and understand
16 what's really happening, you know, overall is
17 what I'm saying because just like you said,
18 there's a lot of things that happen that a lot
19 of people don't know about. But if we had, you
20 know, good ambassadors or, you know, someone to
21 work closer with us and help it grow properly,
22 then that would be a benefit.

23 **MR. SKETERS:** And let me just ask this question.
24 You will see the need sometimes for our --
25 (inaudible) citizen, sort of like an oversight



1 committee ---

2 (Inaudible background noise.)

3 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** You said an oversight?

4 Repeat that. Repeat it, repeat it.

5 **MR. SKETERS:** Do you said a need for an oversight
6 committee? I don't know everything and you all
7 don't know everything, but if our efforts --
8 combine our efforts together, we can do a lot
9 of things that are probably unmanageable.

10 **MAYOR EVANS:** I mean that would be nice if we had
11 enough citizens interested in doing that
12 because, I mean, just to piggyback a little bit
13 on what she's saying is that you don't have to
14 be sitting to this table, be a mayor or
15 Councilperson, to bring something to the table
16 and help the Council out. And we find
17 ourselves sometimes being more argumentative
18 about what the Mayor and Council are doing
19 rather than actually -- and I'm not saying you
20 -- rather than just bringing things to the
21 table that can help. We welcome ideas from,
22 you know, the citizens of the Town of Atlantic
23 Beach, and we gladly, you know, prefer that.
24 You know, if that's something that you've got
25 or an idea that you think would work, we want



1 to hear that. I mean you don't have to be
2 sitting up here with us to bring something to
3 the table for the Town of Atlantic Beach.

4 **MR. SKETERS:** Another thing. When are we gonna --
5 when are we going to install an official
6 historian for the Town?

7 **MAYOR EVANS:** That's something we're working on.
8 That's something we've talked about and that's
9 -- we are actually working on.

10 **MR. SKETERS:** I mean, it don't have to be me 'cause
11 I mentioned that ---

12 **MAYOR EVANS:** Well, I mean not as far as actually
13 even installing a person or a historian, I mean
14 the historic Town of Atlantic Beach, we all
15 know it's a historic town and we're working on
16 getting the recognition that we should get from
17 being one of the historic towns in the State of
18 South Carolina.

19 **MR. SKETERS:** I understand the historic town. A
20 person to represent as a historian the Town of
21 Atlantic Beach ---

22 **MAYOR EVANS:** Well, if the majority of this Council
23 sees fit to hire a particular person for a
24 historian, we would definitely do that when we
25 get to that point. But right now, we're just



1 working on actually establishing ourself in the
2 State of South Carolina and being recognized in
3 the State of South Carolina as a historic town.
4 We have -- we've got to -- we're taking baby
5 steps here. We want to handle that first.

6 **MR. SKETERS:** Let me get something -- you say hire a
7 historian?

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** No.

9 **MR. SKETERS:** A historian is usually a volunteer
10 person.

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** No. I didn't say anything about
12 hiring -- I said -- I didn't say anything about
13 a person at all. I said we're working as Mayor
14 and Council, working ---

15 **MR. SKETERS:** I ---

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** --- with the State. No, not to hire
17 anybody. To be recognized as a historic town
18 in the Town of Atlantic Beach, we're working
19 with the State of South Carolina and high-
20 ranking officials in the State of South
21 Carolina to actually -- to consult and help us
22 get the recognition we deserve as being a
23 historic town. And we've been courteous to you
24 tonight. You're supposed to get three minutes.
25 You got ten. How about that?



1 **MR. SKETERS:** Ms. Jannie Isom yielded me her time.

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** All right.

3 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

4 **MAYOR EVANS:** All right, well, thank you. Council,
5 seek a motion to adjourn.

6 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** So moved.

7 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Second.

8 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** She has ---

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second to adjourn.

10 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

11 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** So moved, Mr. Mayor.

12 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Second.

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** There was a motion and a second to
14 adjourn. Roll call?

15 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

16 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

17 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

18 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

19 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

20 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

21 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

22 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted. This Town
23 Council meeting is adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

24 **(There being nothing further, the meeting was**
25 **adjourned.)**

