TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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Monday, October 4, 2021
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 4th day of October, 2021.
APPEARANCES

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mayor Jake Evans, Chairman
Councilman Lenearl Evans
Councilwoman Josephine Isom
Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore

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

GUEST:
Valentino Bates, P.E.
KHAFFRA Engineering Consultants

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Call to Order:

MAYOR EVANS: This Town Council meeting is called to order this Monday, October the 4th, year 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Roll call?

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Here.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Here.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Here.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Here. Council, I seek a motion to go into Executive Session for litigation with Hubert Williams, personnel and some contractual.

COUNCILMAN EVANS: So moved.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Second ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second to go into Executive Session for litigation, personnel and contractual. Any other comments or discussion? Roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?
COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion is granted.

Executive Session:

(Executive Session.)

MAYOR EVANS: Council, I seek a motion to come out of Executive Session into the General Session.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: So moved, Mayor.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and it's been seconded to come out of Executive Session and enter into the General Session. Any other questions or comments? If not, roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion is granted.

General Session:

MAYOR EVANS: I want to take the time out to welcome
the general public and ask at this time if you have any cell phones or anything that might disturb the proceedings, we ask that you put those on silence for us at this time please. And if you would, stand for a moment of silence.

(Moment of Silence.)

MAYOR EVANS: Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.)

MAYOR EVANS: Council, we're down to ceremonial matters. Any ceremonial matters from any Council members?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: No ceremonial matters but I want to say one thing for the Beatification Department, you all have did a terrific job on those trash cans and the benches and the signs, we -- I think we already mentioned the signs before, but the trash cans are just super nice and the benches, love it, just wanting to reach out to that.

MAYOR EVANS: Yeah, everything looks good, thank you, guys.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yeah, real good.

MAYOR EVANS: Council, seek a motion for the approval of the agenda.
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COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and a second for approval of the agenda. If there are no other questions or comment, roll call for approval of the agenda.

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion is granted.

New Business:

MAYOR EVANS: We have no Town Council meeting minutes, and New Business is the proposal by KHAFFRA Engineering Consultants to provide grant writing services related to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: I'm gonna ask Ms. Gibson to introduce.

MS. GIBSON: Good afternoon. To those of you who don't know me, I am Denise Gibson. I am the
daughter of John T. and Gertha Gibson, and I have resided on Atlantic Beach with my parents for the whole 65 years of my life. My father and my mother poured all they had in this community. Many of you have referred to us or heard of us as the Gibson (inaudible). I am so grateful to be here with you today, and I'm grateful for the efforts of Jim Dewitt and the neighborhood association for bringing us together and sharing so much information about what was going on. Out of that conversation, Ms. Alice and Ms. Gloria shared about so many opportunities that are available through FEMA. As my sister and I thought about those opportunities, we reflected on the fact that we had seen Atlantic Beach when it was in its glory, when the streets were so full we couldn't move around, when in fact we couldn't even sleep at night, we just swayed to the beat of the music. And we also have seen it when Atlantic Beach has been at its lowest, when we were afraid to go into our house but we stood there anyway. And we've seen the times when people have come to offer us things to take advantage of us and we've -- we've sort of
looked at what our resources are we're very fortunate that we have in our family a person who works with communities like ours, he develops grants all over the country, and we thought what in the world have we been thinking not to bring our own family to the table. And tonight I am delighted to bring -- many of you've heard me say, I'm delighted to bring my favorite brother-in-law to the table to be able to describe the services that his engineering firm offers. He'll tell you all the fabulous things about himself, all the successes he's had in his firm. I just want you to know that we are here because we love Atlantic Beach. And when he married into our family, he married into the Atlantic Beach family, and he's here to share how he can help and bring resources to Atlantic Beach so that we can become the thriving community that so many of us have envisioned over the years. So I'm gonna turn it over to Val Bates and let him talk about himself and about KHAFRA and the wonderful things that he has done for other communities and that he has prepared for us. You're gonna see things that look just like your street
because it is your street, and then he's gonna
tell you about how he can bring resources over
several different years, several years, to
change your street to look something like you
want it to look like. So I'm just delighted to
introduce my favorite brother-in-law to my
Atlantic Beach family, Val Bates.

(Applause.)

MR. BATES: I'm the favorite brother-in-law. All
right, as Denise stated, I'm with KHAFRA
Engineering, as a matter of fact, I'm the
president of KHAFRA. I started the firm in
1986, just myself, and I've grown the firm now
to 104 individuals. And I'm here to present a
proposal about doing grants to beautify the
community here at Atlantic Beach but, first,
let me give you a little history about our
firm. As I said before, the firm started in
1986, it's a full-service engineering
architectural firm. We meet client needs, we
meet client design standards and we meet their
schedule and budget. We have offices in two,
four, six, eight -- in ten different areas.
Our headquarters is in Atlanta, Georgia. We're
in Baltimore, Maryland, Birmingham, Buffalo,
all the way to Washington, D.C., so primarily we're on the eastern side of the Mississippi River except for our office in Dallas, Texas. And this is a listing of the staff, we have 104 people in our firm. We do about 10 million dollars in revenue per year. And here's what we're planning -- oh, and these are the services that we do: facilities design -- primarily -- 75 percent of what we do is municipal water and wastewater but -- and there, we plan, design, construct, operate and maintain water and wastewater treatment facilities, but we also do grant writing and grant administration which is what we're here to talk about tonight.

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. BATES: This computer's -- dates back to 1986 so it's a little slow. All right, this is the -- can you see that written out there? This is the entire community of Atlantic Beach, and this grant proposal that I want to talk about tonight -- or actually, three different grants, is to address the needs on every street in the community. I'm trying to go to the next slide here. All right. And this is starting at
Ocean Boulevard. On the left-hand side of the street, that's a picture of Ocean Boulevard at like 3:30 this afternoon so this is the latest picture. And this slide over here on -- this is how Atlantic Beach could look, and I'll just -- and this is something that my firm developed and this is a rendering for what Atlantic Beach Ocean Boulevard could look like. All right, what you see here are different low-rise shops that could be built along Ocean Boulevard. These, of course, are the existing homes, and these are areas -- right now, we have this nice opening here to allow community to come in, and what I'm proposing -- let's go to the next slide here. This is how it looks right now. You have the little shower there and the pavers, and I'm proposing that you add bathrooms there and put pavers, sidewalks and everything along that street, Ocean Boulevard, would be paved parking, which you could have paved parking there so that you can create a revenue stream for the parking there and for the people to use those various shops. And I'm proposing that this access, as in the last slide, be done at each one of the streets so
you have four different access points to the beach. Now, this wasn't in your land ordinance or your comprehensive plan, this is something that I'm saying that this would be an opportunity to gain business opportunities along Ocean Boulevard and for the people that go back and forth to the beach, which my sister-in-law allows me to come up and stay every now and then, and we have to come back over to the house to get our refreshments but, you know, you were allowed to do those beachfront low-rise ice cream parlor or hamburger stand or something that, that's what could be there. Now, this is 17th Street, and this picture was taken like 40 minutes ago, and this is what 17th -- or 17 Highway could look like afterwards, going in there, streetscape it, sidewalks on either side, get all of that, put the light poles and everything down, and bury that underneath this -- underneath the sidewalk and the street, and you would have a nice, clean-flowing street there, and we've actually done this for each street within the community. So this is the 2nd Avenue and then pave -- repave 2nd Avenue, put sidewalks along
2nd Avenue and have parking along the side of the street. This is 3rd Avenue now, on the left-hand side, and this is what 3rd Avenue could look like in the future. This is 4th Avenue and that picture was taken, again, 40 minutes ago, and this is what 4th Avenue could look like after you do the streetscape thing, remove all of the overhead telephone poles, electric poles, put those under, put in sidewalks and pave the streets with sidewalks. This is 29th Street -- it's 29th -- well, 31st Street. Go back to 29th. 29th Street now, it's primarily residential on 29th Street. Again, put sidewalks in there, trees along the side, which there's trees along there now, sidewalks and repave the streets and beautify the community. Same with 31st Street. This is 32nd Street, I took that picture coming out 32nd Street about 3:00 o'clock this afternoon, and this is South 32nd Street which, again, is primarily residential, to streetscape that area, sidewalks, lower the utilities underneath the street and you'll have a beautiful community. All right, and how much is all of this gonna cost? To bury the utilities within
the community, 17th Street, that would be 8.2 million dollars, to redo the traffic signals is 1.2 million, to do the sidewalks is about 3 million, to do the streetscapes, which is all the curb and gutter, all the storm sewer facilities and paving all the streets, that's 16.7 million, and to do parking along Ocean Boulevard, that's another $250,000, for a total capital cost of 29.4 million. The engineering is 10 percent of that so that comes to a total of 32 million, and then the grant administration fee would be a total of almost 34 million dollars. And I'm proposing to do this with at least three particular grants. The first grant would be a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant. The Hazard Mitigation Grant would allow you to bury the utilities and redo the traffic signals. If there is a -- a major storm would ever hit this community, the possibility is that the power poles are gonna get knocked down, the transformers will get knocked down and -- New Orleans, you're all familiar with what happened in New Orleans. They are still without power in portions of New Orleans because all those utilities were above
grade. FEMA has grants to allow that -- the -- for the burying of those utilities. And in addition -- and this is just part of the hazard mitigation that you can do. If you need an emergency generator at this building or your police station, that can be thrown into the grant, so this grant can go up higher based upon the needs of the community for emergency management, that's what this grant would be. But right now, just to do those two things is 9.4 million, then engineering is 10 percent and then the grant administration fee would be $519,000. The next grant would be a Community Development Block Grant. Community Development Block Grants allow you to do parking, sidewalks -- that's again, 3 million dollars for the sidewalks, the parking along front -- Ocean Boulevard, so that grant total with the engineering and grant administration fee is about 3.7 million dollars. And then the last grant, and this is one that the Biden Administration has out right now, and that's to do streetscaping, put all of the curb and gutter, all of the storm sewers and bury all that stuff beneath the street and have a
beautiful, pristine community and neighborhood. So that's what I'm proposing that we would do for you. And with that, are there any questions of the illustrious group?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: If we was to approve this right here -- say we was to approve of this today, what would be the time frame, I mean, how long would it take where we could see something that's actually -- not saying finished so much, but where would see where we start breaking ground?

MR. BATES: Okay. First of all, we've got the -- my firm is proposing to do the grant proposals ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Right.

MR. BATES: --- so that grant proposal for the last grant, the BRIC Grant, that has to be done by December 30th or January 3rd, somewhere in here at the end of the year so -- and that grant has to be submitted to the State of South Carolina then the State of South Carolina is in turn going to lump all the grants in from all the different communities and apply for the grant on behalf of the -- all the people in the State of South Carolina. Now, if you get that grant -- I'm not sure how long that -- what that --
what the time frame is to review the applications and get that grant, but if you were to win that 16 million dollars for that BRIC Grant, then to do all of the work would probably take two and a half years -- 'cause the first thing that needs to be done, we need to win. That grant and the Hazard Mitigation Grant -- 'cause the first thing that needs to be done is to take all of the power lines, telephone poles, telephone lines, cable, anything that's overhead, that needs to be done first and put that all underground and then come in there and do the rest of this -- sidewalks -- so you're not tearing up the street twice. And I will say again, for all of that to be done, is probably a two-and-a-half-year period for the engineering, design and the construction.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: I don't think they can hear you. I've just got a sense that they can't hear you.

MR. BATES: Okay.

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. BATES: I can hear them.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Are you all hearing the presentation on the line?
MR. BATES: Okay. So the question was asked is how long that it -- would it take to get all of this work done. To get the grant done, the grant has to be put in to the state by January 1, and then we have to wait on the state and the federal government to approve that and, if the grants are successful, then it'll take probably two and a half years to get all of the utilities redone and then do all the streetscape work.

MS. BOOKER: I have a question. I just want to know if the Town has any financial liability for any of this.

MR. BATES: That's a very good question, and that's why I'm suggesting that we apply for multiple grants. The BRIC Grant, which is the one that -- Building Resilient Infrastructure for Communities Grant, that grant requires ---

MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Mr. Hill ---

(Male speaker and councilwoman Isom talking over each other.)

MR. BATES: The question was is there a financial liability for the city in any of these grants. The answer to that question is yes. The
Building Resilient Infrastructure for Communities Grant requires that the city or the town come up with 25 percent so 16 million dollars, the community has to come up with 4 million. You get that 4 million by winning the Hazardous Mitigation grant, and so you will have way over the amount of money that you are -- that is necessary in order to pursue that BRIC grant, and you will meet your financial obligation in that way. And there are certain other activities that the city can do. Because we're doing a streetscape project, there are safety concerns -- and I'm sure you've seen this along building construction sites, what they -- they will have ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: They're confused. I think ...

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. BATES: Okay ...

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Okay, you can hear now. They can hear you now.

MR. BATES: All right, you can hear me. Again, the question was what was the financial obligation of the city in these grants ---

MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

(Inaudible background noise.)
MR. BATES: Can you hear me now?

MALE SPEAKER: Yes, we can hear you ---

MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. BATES: Ah, okay. Question again is what is the financial obligation of the city or the town in these grants. In the Building Resilient Infrastructure Grant, which is the gigantic grant which I'm proposing to do for the town, which is 16 million dollars, that grant has a 25 percent match by the city so the city would have to come up with 4 million dollars. The way I'm proposing that we get that 4 million dollars is to apply for that federal FEMA grant which is 9 million dollars. Nine million dollars is greater than 4 million dollars so you will have the money for the BRIC Grant. So it's a combination of all of this stuff together that will make this work.

MS. GIBSON: You also want to say that there are opportunities in the grant process to -- for the government ---

(Inaudible background noise.)

MS. GIBSON: --- opportunities as well to show that there may be some hardship on the Town.

MR. BATES: Okay. Other questions?
MR. BATES: Is there another -- yes?

MR. BOOKER: Are there other requirements of the Town other than that financial requirement, and what needs to happen if you're working on this?

MR. BATES: You'd just sign a contract with my firm to do the work, that's what's required and, other than that, there's no other requirements from the city -- or from the town ---

MR. BOOKER: So follow-up question, so if none of these grants are approved, then what is the Town's commitment and obligation to you, your firm?

MR. BATES: Just the application fee for the grant which is $2,500 per grant. So, the city is only out the $5,000.

MR. McIVER: (Inaudible.)

MR. BATES: Yes?

MR. McIVER: If the grants go through, would your firm have to be here to administer the grant to make sure it's done correctly if that should --

MR. BATES: That's what I'm here for. Now, that's -- that's the 10 million dollar question. If you go back to the slide that talked about the
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engineering and the grant administration,
that's what I want. I'll do the grants all day
and all night if I can get the engineering and
the grant administration fees.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: And you will be bringing jobs
for local people as well, right ---

MR. BATES: Yes. Well -- and to go back to the
gentleman's question, are there other
requirements? Yes, and that is to hire locally
to maintain minority, women's business
participating, hire within the communities,
those are requirements in the grant as well.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Oh, great.

MR. BATES: And again, we would be administering
that, and you would hire your first minority
firm by hiring us.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Right, great.

MS. EVANS: Is there a cost the Town has to pay your
firm?

MR. BATES: Yes, let me go back to that. Think
(inaudible) sharing that?

CLERK: No.

MR. BATES: You took it off. All right.

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. BATES: Okay. Here it is in my notes. This is
what is in it for our firm, the engineering for that 16 million dollar BRIC Grant and the grant administration fee. Now, this grant administration fee is something that can be shared among the city and town -- or the town and our firm. If the city would like to hire -- and there's money here -- to hire a grant administrator, that's something that you can do and add staff within the city with that grant administration fee. Otherwise, our firm could handle administering that grant. Did that answer your question?

MS. EVANS: I can't see the cost that's being paid to your firm.

MR. BATES: Okay, the total streetscape grant we're applying for is 16.7 million dollars. Engineering fees are 10 percent of that so 1.6 million. The grant administration, the federal government allows you to have a 5 percent grant administration fee so that grant administration fee is $920,000. And again, that's money that could come to our firm or that's money that could be -- that could go to the city to hire a grant administrator as well, or it could be a shared responsibility between the city and
our firm. But again, the feds will allow us in this grant to get $920,000 to administer the grant. Did that answer your question?

**MS. EVANS:** Yes, you're saying that the grant would ---

**MR. BATES:** And all of this.

**MS. EVANS:** --- of your participation in?

**MR. BATES:** Right.

**MS. EVANS:** Okay.

**MR. BATES:** All that money is in the grant to do that. Mr. Quattlebaum will not be raising property taxes.

(Inaudible background noise.)

**MR. BATES:** Well, I guess it would be the Mayor and the Council that would be raising -- Mr. Quattlebaum would just be doing what they tell him to do. Yes, sir?

**MR. DEAS:** The property on Ocean Boulevard, who owns it and who determines what businesses open (inaudible)?

**MR. BATES:** I believe the -- on the ocean side, that property is owned by various ---

**COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Individuals, yeah.

**COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Uh-huh.

**MR. BATES:** --- and I believe that that property is
now zoned commercial so when they come in and apply for a building permit, this group here gets to determine whether or not they're gonna build an ice cream parlor or a hamburger or a hotdog stand, the community will be determining that with the building permits.

MR. DEAS: The other question, in a perfect world, when all this grant money comes, you have an excess of 5 million, where does that go?

MR. BATES: You have an excess of 5 million?

MR. DEAS: Well, the -- if -- based on what -- the numbers I'm seeing, unless I'm seeing 'em wrong, 'cause you were saying you could take --

MR. BATES: Yes, let me go back to another slide. All right, this Hazard Mitigation Grant, that's 10 million dollars, so that would cover the amount of money that you owe for the BRIC Grant, but it's gonna cost 8.2 million dollars to bury those utilities. There's no money that's gonna go into anybody's pocket here. This is all work that's gonna be done, all of those utilities are gonna come down, go up underneath the street, those traffic signals are going to be redone, you probably need --
what's that street right out there, 32nd? You probably need to add a traffic light along 32nd Street, but that's included in that traffic signals grant. So the -- there's no free money here. Well, it's grant money that's coming from the government but there's no money that's gonna go into the coffers of the city unless, of course, the city hires a grant administrator and then the city would be taking some of those funds to do that. Did that answer your question?

MR. DEAS: Yes.

MS. MALLETT: Any of our prior history would harm us from getting any of these grants?

MR. BATES: What was that?

MS. MALLETT: Any of our prior history would harm us from getting any of these grants ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Prior history from our past ---

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Our past.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: --- harm us about these grants?

MR. BATES: I ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: I don't think so ---

MR. BATES: --- I just married into the family. I don't know exactly. I don't know.

(Inaudible background noise.)
COUNCILWOMAN GORE: We've got all our audits and stuff done now. That's what I thought -- we've got a clean slate.

MS. MALLETT: We've got a clean slate?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: We've got a clean slate.

MS. MALLETT: Well, thank you, Jacqui.

MR. MONTGOMERY: Now, we've gotten -- we've gotten many grants in the past.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Right.

MR. MONTGOMERY: Right.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: We've gotten some ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Right, and everything that has lingered on us was really the audit. They're all taken care of now so we're up to par so we can roll on.

MS. MALLETT: Thanks, Jacqui ---

MR. BATES: And I think Mr. Quattlebaum told me that the city has -- or is about to receive some CARES Act money which is grant money. So if something was wrong ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: That wouldn't have happened ---

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: We wouldn't be getting that ---

MR. BATES: You wouldn't be getting that money. So I married into to a good family. Yes, sir?

MR. BOOKER: So you've talked about grants, but are
there any particular requirements, I mean, she talked about hardship, that sort of thing, but are there other factors which would influence our ability to get grants?

MR. BATES: I -- it's all need-based. And again, this is an ocean community so the potential for a catastrophic failure of a hurricane resides each and every day during the hurricane season, and you've been blessed to not have one. Was it 1974 one ... 

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: '89 we had Hugo ---

MR. BATES: '89?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: --- we didn't have a lot -- we just hadn't had nothing to his us since, what, Hazel?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Hazel ---

MAYOR EVANS: Hazel.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: '57, '60 -- fifties ---

MALE SPEAKER: Nothing before ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Right. But we haven't had -- we've just been, like you said, blessed. But we sit above sea level too so that's one good thing.

MR. BATES: Yeah.

MR. DEAS: Say you get the BRIC approval but don't
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get the other grants, what happens next?

MR. BATES: Then we gotta figure out a way to get the 4 million dollars, and that is, as Denise was saying, we'll apply for some hardship just -- I understand that there's not a lot of deep pockets in this community except for yours.

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. DEAS: Find extra money to lower our taxes.

MR. BATES: And there are hardship measures to offset that, and we will look at that as well.

MR. McIVER: I just want to get the terminology right, two of them are FEMA grants, right? And one of them is a grant for infrastructure?

MR. BATES: Yeah ---

MR. McIVER: Right?

MR. BATES: --- the BRIC Grant, Building Resilient Infrastructure for Communities Grant, that's the 16.4 million dollar grant. This grant, this Hazard Mitigation Grant, that's a FEMA grant.

MR. McIVER: And then what's the other?

MR. BATES: And the other one is a Community Development Block Grant ---

MR. McIVER: Oh, right ---

MR. BATES: --- the Community Development Block
Grants are everyday, all the time, Congress appropriates money each and every year for Community Development Block grants.

MR. McIVER: I just want to make sure 'cause I'm -- I just -- I'm just a little -- with the BRIC Grant, that -- the funds are available or is that pending that infrastructure ---

MR. BATES: No, just -- Biden has a -- has signed a bill for that grant, and I believe he's increasing it to 5 billion or ... So the amount of money that's in that grant is going up so now is a good time to ---

MR. McIVER: So my question is that infrastructure bill that's supposed to -- that'll hopefully pass, is there additional funds that may come out of that grant as well, out of that funding?

MR. BATES: The Building Resilient Infrastructure Grant is the 16 million that we're applying for.

MR. McIVER: No, I was wondering, all right, there's another bill that's pending ---

MR. BATES: Oh, this infrastructure grant?

MR. McIVER: Right.

MR. BATES: That he's got? No, that's not part of that.
MR. McIVER: So that could be another source of funding may -- hopefully?

MR. BATES: Yes.

MR. McIVER: Okay, okay ---

MR. BATES: Yes.

MR. McIVER: All right.

MS. LANCE: Kenneth, this is the grant that I talked about at the last meeting, the City of Princeville, North Carolina, the oldest municipality -- black municipality in the country, they just received from last year's funding, 2020, 11 million dollars so the grant period is from September 30th -- it starts again on the 30th ---

FEMALE SPEAKER: That's passed.

MS. LANCE: --- up until, like Mr. Bates said, January 1, but we want to get it in as quickly as possible because Conway just put in for the grant and they did not have a certain paperwork. (Inaudible) saw this on the news, on local news, so now Conway has to go back and (inaudible) Conway had, and they have to go back and submit it again, the whole package, to the State of South Carolina. There is (inaudible) here and so we have to first get
over that hurdle then hopefully have all the paperwork in that the federal government needs. I must stress because Alice and I are really aware you must put in the documents that are requested. This goes back again to this, you know, gotta start all over like Conway. (Inaudible.)

**MR. BATES:** And that's why you're hiring our firm --

**COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Right (ph).

**MR. BATES:** --- to dot all the Is and cross the Ts to make sure that you have everything that's necessary when that grant goes in.

(Inaudible background noise.)

**MR. BATES:** Other questions? Yes, ma'am?

**MS. GORE:** So are you saying that if you do it then we won't have to worry about nothing (inaudible)?

**MR. BATES:** That's what I'm saying. I'm going to, you know, do my professional best to make sure that everything -- that all the Is are dotted and all the Ts are crossed for that grant so we don't have a hiccup. But I'm not perfect. I will do my level best to make sure that that happens.
MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor and Council, I'm recommending that the Council approve an agreement, contractual agreement, with the Consulting Firm KHAFRA to pursue the FEMA Hazard Mitigation and the BRIC Grant as a priority to a contract not to exceed $5,000 in the timeline that Mr. Bates indicated in submission of the grant applications, the BRIC and the Hazard Mitigation at this time.

MR. BATES: Do I need to leave the room.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: No.

MAYOR EVANS: Okay, Council, I seek a motion to accept the proposal by KHAFRA Engineering Consultants with the BRIC and Hazard Mitigation Grants not to exceed $5,000?

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Yes, sir.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: There's been a motion made and a second. Any other questions or comments? If not, roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?
COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion is granted.

(Applause.)

MAYOR EVANS: Okay, we're on the agenda ... Okay, proposal to provide legal services to the Town of Atlantic Beach, South Carolina by the Charleston Group Law Firm. Ben, I think this is something that we're wanting to table until we get some more information.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Yes, sir.

MAYOR EVANS: So, I seek a motion to table Item B. under New Business.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: So moved ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Second ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Second. So moved.

MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and a second to table Item B. under New Business. Any other questions or comments? If not, roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?
COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion's granted. We're down to Item C. which is the Beautification Committee request to utilize 1020 30th Avenue South for a temporary community park.

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. McIVER: So I'm Kenneth McIver with Beautification Committee, and I do want to thank you for acknowledgment of the benches and the trash cans at the beachfront. Also want to thank all the committee members and thank you, Linda, for kinda putting all that together, I mean, she raised a lot of the money that was donated that the Town had gotten (inaudible). It's looking good. We've got still some tweaking to do. There's some more benches to come in so hopefully we'll get that project finished a little bit later. There's some -- still some work we have to do with the signs, but just love the colors and just want to thank everyone for their hard work that was -- that we're still working on that project. What I'm
coming to you today to ask for a green space, and I want to make sure that we get the wording right. It's not a park. We're not committing anything 'cause ---

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. McIVER: --- anything in terms of permanent structures at the place. And what we want to do is create a green space. So the green space is located -- and I'm not sure, Mr. Town Manager, that address is correct. The -- it should be lower, in the 300s.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: It's 305.

MR. McIVER: 305, okay. And then that's one other thing we're -- needed that I know that our committee is working on is trying to get some of the numbers better so -- for -- both for safety reasons, to make sure all the structures are labeled like in case of a fire or anything that needs to be addressed in an emergency standpoint, but it's the structure of the -- the space that used to be with the Housing Authority is, west of Seaview Street across from Wango Tango restaurant and bar. Do you all kinda know where I am? It's like where the Housing Authority used to be?
MR. McIVER: I don't think it's a club, but this is where there's a restaurant. I'm just trying --

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: (Inaudible) I don't even know where Wango Tango is ---

MR. McIVER: Yeah ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: --- I know where there was ---

MS. BOOKER: It's in front -- it's in front of where ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Right. So right there on that corner right there, yeah.

MR. McIVER: You all know where I'm talking about?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: I know where that is.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Uh-huh.

MR. McIVER: Okay. And that ---

MR. McIVER: So what we're asking for is use that space as a green space but in the -- what I did ask with the Town Manager is that, you know, we'd be able to ornament that space with maybe some benches, chairs, trash cans, flowers, garden and/or other items to enhance the peacefulness of the space. This space will not
be given to us, we will not rent it, lease or
anything else like that, it is still in the
possession of the Town but we just want to sort
of decorate that space and be open for the
citizens of the Town of Atlantic Beach.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Just something more like -- just
like the cul-de-sac, you can go down there and
---

MR. McIVER: Yes. Yes, it is not anything -- it is
not a park, it's not anything else like that.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: And we're not trying to get any
CRT grants, or whatever you call it, no grant
-- no money is gonna come ---

MS. BOOKER: Right.

MR. McIVER: And we hope to reutilize some of the
benches that we've taken up. We still have
those.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Uh-huh.

MR. McIVER: So we're gonna use the benches and
maybe some trash cans and just, you know, maybe
a community garden or some flowers or things
like that. Is there any questions or anything?

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. McIVER: Tell me, am I explaining that okay, or
...
COUNCILWOMAN GORE: It's fine.

(Inaudible background noise.)

MAYOR EVANS: Okay, and the address you said is 305 30th Avenue?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: 305.

MAYOR EVANS: Okay, thanks. Council, I seek a motion to accept the request from the Beautification Committee to utilize green space at 305 31st Avenue ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: 30th.

MAYOR EVANS: --- 30th -- I'm sorry -- 30th Avenue South in Atlantic Beach.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and a second to accept the request as a green space. Any other questions or comments? Roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion is granted.

(Applause.)

Manager's Report:

MAYOR EVANS: We're down to the Manager's Report.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor, Council, residents, public,
I would like to thank all the ---

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: --- efforts in beautifying and
enhancing the Town and working with us,
administration, to make improvements, and I
appreciate the efforts and the commitment that
residents have shown in this process and I
thank you very much. Item Number A. in my
manager's report, effective -- the State of
South Carolina voted that all municipalities
will be on a uniform submission time frame for
business license renewals. Different
municipalities have different fiscal years,
some in April, some that are July 1st -- ours
is July 1st. The State Legislature voted that
all business license collections will be done
starting May 1st, 2022. By January 1st, 2022,
the Town has to submit an -- a revised
ordinance complying with the new regulatory
requirements on business license collections.
The ordinance has to be revenue neutral, meaning that they cannot substantially increase or tax businesses more than what they're paying now on a percentage basis, it has to remain the same. Our Business License Ordinance I think has not been up -- or the last time it -- the ordinance was in 2002 if I'm correct, Cheryl ...

CLERK: Yes.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: 2002. With the state law requirement that is uniform, we will be presenting at the November and December meeting an ordinance to revise our business license renewal fee schedule as well as the process. In addition to collection through the Municipal Association, they're making it possible for businesses to pay their business license fees online in addition to -- we thought initially everything would have to be paid online through the Municipal Association, but businesses have the option of paying their business license fees online or paying them directly to the Town be -- coming May 1st. We have joined what they call the repositioning, submitting all of our paperwork to the Municipal Association, the
State, in terms of our business license collection. Businesses will receive a business license number that will be utilized to identify your businesses and the category that your business is in within the Town, and they will be designated whether you are manufacturing, whether you are retail, whether you're rental property -- all of that will be classified and designated and coordinated by the State. So I just want everybody to be aware, beginning in November you'll receive our revised requested ordinance with the business license change and fees. Any questions? Okay. Number 2 -- B., all of you may recall that we were in litigation -- we along with other municipalities were in litigation with the County on the collection of hospitality fees. That settlement was on -- that litigation was done in April. As I informed you, the Town will be receiving its portion of those funds that have been escrowed since 2019. As of this week, the Town has received its portion of the settlement fee from that lawsuit. This week we were -- transferred into our $20,739 from the
settlement of the -- hospitality tax settlement lawsuit, $20,739. Business hospitality taxes and fees are now collected by the County as it was prior to 2019, and they are optional to pay directly to the Town, which most of them are doing online portals or paid directly to our administrative offices. Any questions? Item C. Playground. At our last meeting, I reported that the Waccamaw COG, who is leading the procurement effort in us expending funds to revitalize the playground adjacent to the Community Center with the CDBG Grant of $150,000. The Waccamaw Regional COG, along with us, and we posted just last week the bid advertisement for the renovation of the park. The return date is November the 8th. Bids are posted -- specifications are posted online on our website and we have done direct mailing to those contractors who are specialized in playground renovation and equipment. The return date, again, is November the 8th. Bids will be accepted on the 20th of October. We will have a pre-bid meeting here to go over with those proposed contractors interested in bidding on the renovation of the park.
playground. Any questions? Yes, sir?

MR. SIMMONS: I have a question about the Community Center in general, this park and playground. There's a lot of kids in general and, like with the basketball court, many of these (inaudible) kids that's now growing in this era, there's not a lot of amenities like -- with that right there, that's one thing, but when I grew up here we had where -- community, we had a community center as like learning of how to interact with each other as kids and stuff like that, we had different, you know, the playground's one thing, but the kids in a whole is a major thing, you know, we had that side over there with a tennis court -- at times a tennis court but it was a basketball court first. And when we grew up -- when I grew up down here, that's what we had. And to -- in terms of the tennis court, you know, that basketball court there has a lot of gravel so it's hard for them to play basketball because of that. We have the one across the street, it's different, we all grew up there but it has -- not the amenities that it needs, you know? Playground stuff, people just want to -- but
with playing basketball, that's how we lived --
I lived down here and that right there, the
kids have something -- some outlet to do and
amongst a bidding war on swings, you know, I'm
just being honest, sir ---

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: No, I hear you ---

MR. SIMMONS: --- and my thing is I just want the
kids to have a better future than I have and I
had down here because that's what I remember,
and the kids now, they have nothing but
computers, you know, with something that they
can do with the community so they'll learn who
the kids are and be more of a community amongst
the kids.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Well, I -- all I can say is in
terms of your suggestion ---

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, sir.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: --- it is something that if the
community supports and wants to see, it's
something that we can apply for additional
funding ---

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, sir.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: --- I'm reporting out grant money
that we have already been committed and
received ---
MR. SIMMONS: Yes, sir.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: --- and it's for the revitalization of this park. This park, the age that is targeted to service is two to 13. I hear your point ---

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, sir.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: --- it is something that the Council would have to consider, and the community, in terms of other playground areas or park space that they want to see in the Town. So something we can consider in the future.

MR. SIMMONS: All right. Thank you.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: All right. The last thing I want to report on the -- to the Council, Officer Matthew Hobbs (ph) has resigned and accepted employment in the Town of Loris as an officer so we're down one police officer. We have one officer that has passed all of their written and other requirements to attend the academy and will be attending in a couple weeks ---

POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: October the 10th.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: October the 10th and will be six weeks ---

POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: I think it's eight
MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Eight weeks and, if she's successful, we will have another certified officer. We're down one officer at this time. Last thing I want to report is today that I had to terminate Maintenance worker Charles Canty. It's a personnel issue and matter. I'm letting you know that Mr. Canty has been terminated effective today. Thank you, Mayor and Council.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

Public Time:

MAYOR EVANS: We're down to Public Time and I guess Mr. Hubert Williams, is he online or where is he? He's online, isn't he?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yeah, he's online, uh-huh.

(inaudible background noise.)

FEMALE SPEAKER: Mr. Williams, you have to unmute yourself. There you go ---

MR. WILLIAMS: Am I unmuted now?

FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes, you are now. We can hear you now.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Did you want me to proceed?

MAYOR EVANS: You can proceed, yes, sir.

MR. WILLIAMS: I received a letter dated September
30th, 2021 from the Town of Atlantic Beach that stated a lot at 513 29th Avenue was in violation of Section 12-1-7 of the Atlantic Beach Ordinance Number 4-2003(e)-1204 (inaudible) 12 Public Nuisance Ordinance. I cannot find that on the -- listed in the Code of Land Management Ordinance or anything other ordinance for the City of Atlantic Beach. The letter stated that this matter must be adhered within 15 -- within five business days. On the other notices, the time given was 15 days. The adjoining lot on 30th Avenue was completely fenced in with locked gates until the City of Atlantic Beach had the existing fence and locked gates removed. The top of the existing septic tank is now open due to the actions of the City of Atlantic Beach. My family has owned this lot on 29th Avenue for over 70 years. Trees and scrubs have existed on this lot during the years owned without a problem to the city. This lot is completely fenced in with locked gates. The interior of this lot is clear and open. The interior of this lot is cut at least three times a year every year. I take exception to this notice due to the fact
that some of the lots on 2nd and 37th -- and
32nd Avenue side across from Highway 17 on
Virginia Street, Carolina Street, Atlantic
Street and Tyson Street have never been cut
and/or maintained from the City of Atlantic
Beach. When George Tyson bought the land to --

MAYOR EVANS: Make it short, Mr. Williams. Your
time is up ---

MR. WILLIAMS: --- thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you, sir.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: We have Lamar Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Good evening, everyone.

IN UNISON: Good evening.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mayor, Council and citizens of
Atlantic Beach, for starters I would like to
apologize for (inaudible) Atlantic Beach's
local -- my flyers. It was an honest mistake.
For the record, the Town of Atlantic Beach does
not endorse or promote my candidacy in any way.
To the constituents of Atlantic Beach, I would
like to end by saying please vote to elect
myself and Jim Dewitt for Atlantic Beach Town
Council. We both need your support. If
there's anyone here that have any questions, just like to -- or just like to meet, I'll be out front after the meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MAYOR EVANS: And we have Joe Montgomery.

MR. MONTGOMERY: He said what I ---

(Inaudible background noise.)

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: He corrected himself, right ---

MR. CAMPBELL: --- a correction.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Right.

MR. MONTGOMERY: I appreciate that.

MR. CAMPBELL: Oh, you're welcome.

MAYOR EVANS: Okay, thank you. Just a little small follow-up, I guess, guys, we've got an election before the next meeting, isn't it?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yep.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor? Mayor, let me just make one statement ---

MAYOR EVANS: We've got one meeting before the election?

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: We didn't respond to Mr. Williams 'cause Mr. Williams filed a lawsuit against the
Town and we're in litigation so we did not respond.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

MR. MONTGOMERY: Well, just since you mentioned, I will mention the election is Tuesday, November 2nd so we want all of you all to come out and vote ---

(Inaudible background noise.)

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Also, let me thank Ms. Gloria and Gibson for bringing this recommendation to the Council and to the Town that benefits -- one of the issues that I've struggled with as an administrator here as the Town Manager, to have the adequate capacity to pursue major grants for revitalization of the Town. I want to thank you all for your recommendation and support in terms of doing something to benefit and enhance and improve the Town. Thank you, ladies.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. LANCE: Mayor, can I say something (inaudible)?

MAYOR EVANS: Yeah, you can go ahead.

MS. LANCE: It's gonna be short.
MAYOR EVANS: Well, know the roll, you know when -- you know why I look at you like that, you know better than anybody else in this building that I'm not supposed to be doing it, but go ahead.

MS. LANCE: Thank you, Mayor. But I wanted to tell Mayor and Council and the Town Manager and staff it was because of Jim Dewitt who got the property owners together, and we Zoom the first Thursday of every month. And so it was just not Denise and Gloria, it was everybody on that team. I just saw the grant because I saw my administrator on TV talking about it, and I knew that we -- it could be a benefit to our community. And so Ms. Graham and I, because we work for FEMA, I was like, okay, we can get some of this funding, hopefully. And Denise contacted us and we were so delighted in order to have Mr. Val here, to be her brother-in-law, her favorite brother-in-law. Also, just last week, Mayor and Council and the Town Manager, you got an accolade from a friend of Alice and I from Charlotte, North Carolina. This young couple lives in Florida, but as a young kid they used to come from Charlotte, come here and visit. And he wanted to say to us for the
ambience of Atlantic Beach. And I said, wait
a minute, let me get the Town Manager because
that's his -- that's his (inaudible), got him
on the line with Mr. Q. Mr. Q. was excited
that somebody was giving him thanks. So it's
the city that got involved in order to make
these changes along with the Beautification
Committee and the citizens so I wanted to make
sure that Mayor and Council was aware of that.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Little Jim. Little Jim, we
really want to thank you, Mr. (inaudible), all
of you all that had something to do with this.
This has been a long time coming for us, we
just didn't know how to get there, but thank
God, I think we did now. Yeah, so therefore,
thank you, Little Jim 'cause we know that your
heart is definitely in Atlantic Beach. And Ms.
Gibson and Ms. Lance, everybody who's got their
hands in this right here, yes, thank you, all.

MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: Thanks. Council, seek a motion to
adjourn.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.
COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: Motion and second to adjourn. Roll call?

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Yea. Motion granted. This meeting is adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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