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 2nd day of October, 2023, and transcribed by Travis McLeod, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina.
APPEARANCES

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mayor Jake Evans, Chairman
Councilman Edward Lamar Campbell
Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Isom
Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore

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

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CALL TO ORDER:

MAYOR EVANS: This Town Council meeting is called to order this Monday, October 2nd year 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

(No response.)

CLERK: Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Here.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yay.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Here. Council, seek a motion to go into executive session for Carolyn Montgomery versus Town of Atlantic Beach, supporters for Tysons Ancestral Restrictions with Dees versus Town of Atlantic Beach, South Carolina Morant Properties, LLC and personnel matters. Council, seek a motion to go into executive session for those items..

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: So moved.

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: Second

MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and a second on the floor to go into executive session. Any other questions, comments?

(No response.)
MAYOR EVANS: Roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

(No response.)

CLERK: Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Yay.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yay.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Yay. Motion granted.

(Executive Session)

MAYOR EVANS: Council, I seek a motion to come out of executive session into the general session.

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: So moved.

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and a second to come out of executive session into the general session. Any other questions or comments?

(No response.)

MAYOR EVANS: Roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yay.

CLERK: Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Yay.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yay.
CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Yay. The motion's granted.

GENERAL SESSION:

MAYOR EVANS: We're now down to the general session of our meeting. I want to take this time out to welcome the general public and ask at this time if we have any devices that may disturb the proceedings, would you put those on silence for us at this time, please? And I'll give everybody a few moments to get situated before we stand for a moment of silence. We'll stand for a moment of silence.

(A moment of silence is observed.)

MAYOR EVANS: Pledge Allegiance.

(The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

MAYOR EVANS: Council, we're down to the approval of the agenda. Seek a motion for the approval of the agenda, Council.

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: So moved, Mr. Mayor.

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second for approval of the agenda. Any other questions or comments?

(No response.)

MAYOR EVANS: Roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?
COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:  Yay.

CLERK:  Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM:  Yay.

CLERK:  Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE:  Yay.

CLERK:  Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS:  Yay.  Motion's granted.  We're down to old business, Town Council Meeting Minutes, minutes from Town Council Meeting held on September 11, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

MAYOR EVANS:  Council, seek a motion for approval of those minutes.

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER:  So moved.

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:  Second.

MAYOR EVANS:  Motion and a second for the approval of the minutes from September 11th, 2023, that meeting.  A motion and second's on the floor. Roll call.

CLERK:  Councilman Edward Campbell?

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:  Yay.

CLERK:  Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM:  Yay.

CLERK:  Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE:  Yay.
ATLANTIC BEACH MINUTES

1. CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
2. MAYOR EVANS: Yay. Motion's granted. We're down to new business.
3. NEW BUSINESS:
4. MAYOR EVANS: Item A Ordinance number 9-2023. And this is an ordinance relating to the recovery of collection costs as a part of delinquent debts collected pursuant to the setoff Debt Collection Act. And this is the second reading. Council, seek a motion.
5. UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: So moved.
6. UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: Second.
7. MAYOR EVANS: A motion and a second to adopt Ordinance number 9-2023. Any other questions or comments? This is the second reading. Questions, comments, no?
8. (No response.)
9. MAYOR EVANS: Roll call.
10. CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?
11. COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yay.
12. CLERK: Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Isom?
13. MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Yay.
14. CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
15. COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yay.
16. CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
MAYOR EVANS: Yay. The motion's granted and this is the second reading. We're down to Item B. This is request for approval to contract with Khafra Engineering for services to inventory, document and scan historic artifacts and emphaera which inform and tell the history of the Town of Atlantic Beach in an amount not to exceed $35,000.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor, Council, residents, in January 2023 the Town of Atlantic Beach along with 12 other organizations was awarded a grant from the Gaylord Dorothy Donnelley Foundation entitled Broadening the Narratives. This grant was awarded to fund collection projects that bring forward unrepresented stories. Mayor Evans was quoted in the press as saying the Broadening of Narratives Grant helps guarantee the ongoing oral history harvest from persons who were engaged in the early history of Atlantic Beach, which will be part of a collection of others to see, to make sure that we amplify the story of the Pearl for generations to come. Our town was chosen to showcase the untold story of its resilience as the only beachfront community in the country to
have remained in the hands of African Americans since its founding in 1934. This grant will help to begin the development of archives of the history of Atlantic Beach. The archive is intended to be both physical and digital. We will begin by collection of data, which will be in the form of documents, relics. We will begin the process of collecting, organizing and digitizing our town's history. An RFP was issued on -- in late August 2023, and we received three responses on September 15th. The proposals were evaluated and proposed to award a contract to Khafra Engineering in the amount of $35,000. The respondents to the RFP submitted in August was a company Brownstone out of Columbia, South Carolina, Thompson Associates out of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Khafra Engineering Consultants, Incorporated out of Atlanta, Georgia. An evaluation committee reviewed and submitted follow-up questions to the two top ranked proposers, Khafra and Thompson Associates. Only Khafra responded to our follow-up questions to seek clarification in terms of their proposal. And we're recommending to award a contract to
Khafra not to exceed $35,000. The process for collecting and digitizing this information and scanning will begin through a series of meetings here at the community center. People and residents and the public outside of Atlantic Beach are urged to bring forth artifacts that can be -- that are significant to the history of the Town of Atlantic Beach. In addition, the contract will provide for the engineering firm to go out in the community to also seek individuals that may have relevant artifacts and documents that will enhance our history. Any questions?

MAYOR EVANS: Council?

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: None.

MAYOR EVANS: Okay, Council, I seek a motion for approval of a contract with Khafra.

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: So moved.

MAYOR EVANS: Not to exceed $35,000.

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: A motion and a second on the floor. Any other questions or comments?

(No response.)

MAYOR EVANS: Roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?
COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yay.

CLERK: Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Yay.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yay.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

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

MANAGER'S REPORT:

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor, Council and public. Item A. I attended a meeting about a week and a half ago and found out that the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study Gsats has been proposed a plan to connect North Myrtle Beach to Atlantic Beach at 3rd Avenue. I think starting around 27th Avenue in North Myrtle Breach connecting 3rd Avenue, which runs across by Town Hall. These are only in the preliminary stages being proposed. There are no definitive timelines or budget commitments for it. It's something that's being proposed. And they're asking for the community to comment on that proposal, and they have not ranked them. They have -- I think there were -- it was Item 14 out of 20 some odd -- proposed a
new transportation or improvements to Horry County. Subsequent to that I received a call from a reporter on Saturday morning indicating that there is another proposed plan to connect 30th Avenue on the west side to 30th Avenue on the east side going through 30th Avenue through the taking of 420 and making a roadway through that town. Again, all in the preliminary stage and proposal stage and concept. We're asking residents there's a form you can pick up from my office. See Cheryl. And if you want to comment on those proposed plans, at this point they are just that. Conceptual plans that they're proposing, and I think residents should weigh in on their feeling in terms of support or alternative proposals that we may want to submit as a town. I've been asked to recognize one of our own in the Town of Atlantic Beach for his service in the community. And I'd just like to read this recognition and ask Mr. Kenneth McGiger to stand. He's an honorable member of the Boy Scouts of America, Indian Waters Council with over 35 years of volunteer service to the organization. He began in early 1970 as a cub scout and moved into an explorer
post. He returned to scouting as an adult leader and is wood badge and youth protection trained. For the 2023 National Jamboree, McGiger was diversity, equity inclusion lead for the Scouts of Color. He presented at the 2022 National Order of the conference facilitating (inaudible) on diversity. McGiger is in the 2020 class of Silver Beaver recipients, earned distinction of a vigil honor as a James E. West fellow, and recipient of the Founders Award in the Order of the Arrow. He was presented community service award by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at his 97 general convocation and the Civil Torch Award as presented by United Methodist Church.

(Applause)

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Also we all are excited and we received posted in the Sun News on the 28th of September, the National Geographic names this historic county beach town as one of the best for the Fall. And I am delighted to announce that on September 27th, 2023 edition of the National Geographic Travel Section shared the US beach town which are even better in the Fall, along with Cape Maine, New Jersey, Revere
Beach, Massachusetts, Canon Beach, Oregon and others was Atlantic Beach, South Carolina. We will share the article with you on our town website and hard copies of it. But we're very excited to be named in this national and receive this national recognition. Thank you.

(Applause)

MAYOR EVANS: We're down to public time.

PUBLIC TIME:

MAYOR EVANS: Linda Cheatham.

MS. CHEATHAM: I'm working on a technical issue. I pass.

MAYOR EVANS: William Booker.

MR. BOOKER: Good evening, Mayor Evans and Council, Quattlebaum, Clerk, Community. I'm here representing the property Association of Atlantic Beach Property Owners. And we want to inform the community primarily that the Association of Atlantic Beach Property Owners again is sponsoring a candidate forum for those candidates who are seeking offices in the November 7th election. We have two candidates seeking the mayoral position and four for the two council seats. And this is the second time that we have sponsored this event. It's a non-
partisan event. All the candidates have been invited. It's the opportunity for candidates to talk to the community about their plans, their visions, things they'd like to see as well as the community to ask the candidates questions about things that are important to them. It's going to be moderated by Reverend Andy Anderson who has worked with the town before, primarily with the Housing Authority Board. There will not be any interaction between the candidates and the community. All the questions will go through the moderator. So if you have things that you want to have the candidates speak about, think about what those questions are, write them down, pass them in to the moderator and he will ask the questions. Each candidate will have equal time, opening comments and some closing comments, and then some questions. It's open to the public, it's open to the media and we hope that you'll all come out and participate and have a chance to interact with our future leaders so that we can see what's ahead for our community. Thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: John David.

MR. DAVID: Hello everyone. I also had a chance to
go to the Gsats meeting that was held on
September 20th at the North Myrtle Beach City
Hall. I would like to encourage everyone to go
to the next Gsat meeting, which will be online.
The policy meeting which will be October 16th
at 10:30. The website is Gsats.org. So it's
G-S-A-T-S dot O-R-G. So if you can attend and
make whatever comments you have. Also the last
date for making comments is October 12th. So
I have a few flyers here, and I think Mr.
Quattlebaum may have -- and I have one comment
sheet here. They can make copies at Town Hall.
Please feel free to fill out a comment card
prior to October 12th because, you know, it's
perplexing to hear that they have made plans
for us that we didn't know about. So if we can
try to repurpose that money maybe. We talked
about doing stormwater drainage, they talked
about doing sidewalks, they talked about doing
road repavement. So those are some of the
things that maybe we can ask for that money to
repurpose. And it was puzzling to see in the
paper that they had a second proposal for us
which was gonna run through second to the one
that run all the way 3rd Street connect to
Myrtle Beach. That was the first one that we saw about. But the second one to run all the way from 30th into North Myrtle Beach through Whyle Street. So and I think in the paper it may have listed that they had, like, 1.97 million dollars. So if we can repurpose that money to things that we actually need in Atlantic Beach it may work to our favor. So anybody and everybody that can fill out a comment, we scan and do a comment off of the sheet or you can go online and do a comment or you can do one through the office as long as you submit it October 12th. Thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: Council, seek a motion to adjourn.

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: So moved.

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second on the floor to adjourn. Roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yay.

CLERK: Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Yay.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yay.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
MAYOR EVANS:  Yay.  Motion granted.  Meeting over at 6:20 p.m.

(There being nothing further, the meeting concluded at 6:20 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the within hearing consisting of eighteen (18) pages, is a true and correct transcript of the testimony given by said witnesses after being duly sworn; said hearing was reported by the method of Stenomask with Backup.

I further certify that I am neither employed by nor related to any of the parties in this matter or their counsel; nor do I have any interest, financial or otherwise, in the outcome of same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal on October 26, 2023.

Travis McLeod
Court Reporter

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: January 3, 2027