# TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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Monday, December 4, 2023 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 December, 2023, and transcribed by Amanda Godfrey, 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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## 1 | Call to Order:

- 2 | MAYOR EVANS: This Town Council meeting is called to
- 3 order this Monday, December 4th, year 2023 at
- 4 5:00 o'clock -- 5:00 p.m. Roll call.
- 5 | CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 6 | COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Here.
- 7 | CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?
- 8 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Here.
- 9 | CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
- 10 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea -- here.
- 11 | CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
- 12 | MAYOR EVANS: Here. Council, seek a motion to go
- into Executive Session for personnel matters
- 14 and Montgomery -- Carolyn Montgomery versus
- Town of Atlantic Beach.
- 16 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.
- 17 | COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Second that.
- 18 | MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second to go into
- 19 Executive Session for those items. Any other
- 20 questions or comments? Roll call.
- 21 | CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 22 | COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.
- 23 **CLERK:** Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?
- 24 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.
- 25 | CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?



	TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH 4
1	COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.
2	CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
3	MAYOR EVANS: Yea. Motion granted.
4	Executive Session:
5	(Executive Session.)
6	MAYOR EVANS: Council, I seek a motion to come out
7	of Executive Session into the General Session.
8	COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.
9	MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second.
10	MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second to come out of the
11	Executive into the General Session. Any other
12	questions or comments? Roll call.
13	CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?
14	COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.
15	CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?
16	MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.
17	CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
18	COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.
19	CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
20	MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion's granted.
21	General Session:
22	MAYOR EVANS: I want to take this time to welcome
23	the general public and ask if you've got any
24	devices that might disturb the proceedings that
25	you silence those for us at this time please.

	TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH 5
1	And if you would, stand for a moment of
2	silence.
3	(Moment of Silence.)
4	MAYOR EVANS: Pledge of Allegiance
5	(Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.)
6	MAYOR EVANS: Council, seek a motion for the
7	approval of the agenda.
8	MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: So moved, Mayor.
9	COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Second.
10	MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second is on the floor
11	for the approval of the agenda. Any other
12	questions or comments? Roll call.
13	CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?
14	COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.
15	CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?
16	MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.
17	CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
18	COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.
19	CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
20	MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion's granted.
21	Old Business:
22	MAYOR EVANS: We're down to Old Business, Town
23	Council meeting minutes, minutes from Town
24	Council meetings held on October 2nd, 2023 and
25	November 10th, 2023 and November 28th of 2023.

	TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH 6
1	Council, seek a motion for the approval of
2	those minutes.
3	COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.
4	MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second
5	COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Second.
6	MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and a second on the
7	floor for the approval of minutes. Any other
8	questions or comments? Roll call.
9	CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?
10	COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.
11	CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?
12	MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.
13	CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
14	COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.
15	CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
16	MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion is granted.
17	New Business:
18	MAYOR EVANS: We're down to New Business, and this
19	is Ordinance Number 10-2023 and this is an
20	ordinance amending the Business License
21	Ordinance of the Town of Atlantic Beach to
22	update the class schedule as required by Act
23	176 of 2020, and this will be the first
24	reading.
25	MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor, Council and public, I'm

1	reading the basic gist of the ordinance.
2	Whereas, the Town of Atlantic Beach
3	Municipality is authorized by the South
4	Carolina Code Section 5-7-30 and Title 6,
5	Chapter 1, Article 3 would impose a business
6	license tax on gross income; and whereas, by
7	Act Number 176 of 2020 known as the South
8	Carolina Business Tax Standardization Act and
9	codified as South Carolina Code Section 6-1-400
10	to 420, the Standardization Act, the South
11	Carolina General Assembly imposed additional
12	requirements and revisions on the
13	administration of business license taxes; and
14	whereas, the Standardization Act requires that
15	by December 31st of every odd year each
16	municipality levying business license taxes
17	must adopt by ordinance the latest standardized
18	business license class schedule as recommended
19	by the Municipal Association of South Carolina
20	and adopted by the Director of Revenue and
21	Fiscal Affairs Office; whereas, following the
22	enactment of the Standardization Act, the
23	Municipality enacted Ordinance Number 1-2022 or
24	January 7, 2022 in order to comply with the
25	requirements of the Standardization Act,
	I Equitomones of the scandardizaction Act,

1	current Business License Ordinance; and
2	whereas, the Town of Atlantic Beach
3	Municipality, the Council now wishes to amend
4	the current Business License Ordinance to adopt
5	the latest standard business license class
6	schedule as required by the Standardization Act
7	and to make other minor amendments as
8	recommended by the Association. This is the
9	first reading of a required ordinance, has to
10	be done as indicated by December 31st to keep
11	the Town in compliance. I'm requesting on the
12	adoption of the first reading that the second
13	reading be held on December the 11th at 10:00
14	a.m. at a special Council meeting so that we
15	can adopt the ordinance before the end of the
16	calendar year, December 31st. Any questions?
17	MAYOR EVANS: Okay, Council, seek a motion to adopt
18	Ordinance Number 10-2023 and this is the first
19	reading.
20	COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.
21	COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Second.
22	MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second is on the floor to
23	adopt Ordinance Number 10-2023, first reading.

**CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

Any other questions or comments? Roll call.

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25 CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE:

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CLERK:

Yea.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

Yea.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor, Council and public, I asked

1 | MAYOR EVANS: Yea. Motion's granted.

Manager's Report:

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

Mr. McIver to come tonight to report on the Fun Run that was held in the Town of Atlantic Beach in November. He could not be in attendance and he asked me to read the following events and reports to the Council and to the public. the Council and the wanted to thank Manager for recognizing me for the work I do in the community serving as a Scout leader. Our troop is one of the only (inaudible) troops in the country. As a youngster, I also belonged to this troop so continuing this legacy is important to me. I also wanted to thank the supporters of the Atlantic Beach with a special shout-out to Mrs. Earlene Woods, Ms. Rachel Langley for their generous support throughout the years, many blessings. The Atlantic Beach Historical Fun Run was а success, with a little more than 40 registered participants, our first time hosting an event like this well, went very paired with cooperative weather and fun environment, the

1	participants had a great time. The course ran
2	from Oceanside of town of the town across
3	Highway 17, continuing back to all of the
4	streets on the east side. The Horry County
5	Police participated with special tribute to Fox
6	Gore, with his family in attendance. The run
7	benefited the American Red Cross with special
8	education information about sickle cell disease
9	in the African-American community and the needs
10	for a diverse blood donor pool. I want to
11	thank the support from Atlantic Beach Town
12	Council and staff, Atlantic Beach Police, Horry
13	County Police, Red Cross of the Eastern
14	Carolinas, our volunteers, our cowbell ringers
15	and the participants. We look forward to
16	adding this event annually to great things
17	happening in Atlantic Beach. Kenneth McIver.
18	Now, I would like to annually, I have our
19	Chief of Police give a report to the Council
20	and the community on crime and overview for the
21	calendar year, January 1st through December
22	2023. Chief Robinson.

POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: I hope everybody can see
 this. Everybody can see it pretty good?

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(Inaudible background noise.)



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POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: The person that put this together is my crime analyst. She's not here today, she had something that she had scheduled so she couldn't be here but she put this right It basically is the statistics here together. of all of the major incidents in the basically the profiling, seeing who we're who we're coming into contact stopping, She has a lot of this stuff stuff like that. in this short presentation so I'm going to kind οf do it pretty fast. If you've got any I'11 kind questions, just stop mе and οf explain anything to you. This one right here is -- she did the total calls from 2016 to 2023. As you know, we're right here in '23. you see, the peak of our calls were 2020, that was around the start of the pandemic. lot of those calls, I want to say checking on people and checking houses and stuff like that but since then it's kind of dropped down. did pick up a little bit after 20- -- 2022 to 2023 in calls for service. This right here is a call to serve by type, the big area right here, 47 percent of our calls for services are traffic stops, those are generated by officers

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out there on Route 17 or in town making a stop on a vehicle. Our next biggest one is building checks, I want to say building checks is the one -- let me make sure -- yeah, building checks and property checks are probably all in one, those are people that are on vacation, the buildings that close at night or stuff that that we check on a regular -- we do call them out for -- we can get statistics, stats, whatever, so when we apply for different types of grants, we show what kind of calls to serve we have. And one of the biggest things that I did notice, and this is not something that we just put together, this is coming from Horry County, the calls and stuff that we do that come into Horry County. And what I tell a lot of people, try to call Horry County 'cause all this data, when we do this at the end of the year, they kind of collect and we can make sure that everything's accurate. One of the biggest things that surprised me about -- is alcohol and drug-related calls for services, we're at I know once I -- when I took over two percent. back in '18, the end of '18, that probably was one of our biggest calls for service, and they

1	haven't gone away, you'll never get rid of
2	drugs but, by the chart, it'll show that it's
3	been condensed a whole lot, we have kind of
4	controlled it a whole lot more than back in the
5	day, especially the ones that knew what kind of
6	drugs that we were dealing with back in the
7	day, especially around 2018, '19, up in that
8	area, especially before we kind of busted Ocean
9	Apartments. So, we've kind of got that under
10	control, you'll never get rid of it, you all
11	won't see on anybody's chart anyplace, the
12	upscale community's gonna have drug issues,
13	even us, we're gonna have drug issues but I'm
14	kind of glad that we kind of got that under
15	control. Any questions about that slide?
16	MALE SPEAKER: The Ocean Apartments, where is that?
17	POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: 31st it's kind of right
18	across from Evans Motel
19	COUNCILWOMAN GORE: L & J, Mr. Jim Lutz
20	POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: Jim Lutz owned
21	MALE SPEAKER: Yeah.
22	POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: Right here is public
23	contacts, this is basically every time we get
24	out with somebody, we have to by state law,

we have to report it when we make contact with

1	an individual, and they keep it to kind of see
2	if we're being biased with stopping just
3	we're just stopping black people, just stopping
4	white people, we're just stopping women or a
5	male. In Atlantic Beach, most of our 43
6	percent of our public contact, we come in
7	contact with white males, 23 percent of our
8	public contacts are African-American males and
9	white females are 15 percent and black females
10	are nine percent. Others are two and when
11	you're talking about others, they're not
12	Hispanics, it's other nationalities that do not
13	fall under the state coding where they have the
14	state Any questions about that? This is
15	a breakdown of a major category, public
16	contact. Most of our stuff dealing with the
17	Police Department is public contact, when we
18	come into contact with the public. Two percent
19	of our calls are collisions that collisions
20	in the town but a lot of y'all say wrecks and
21	stuff, but the terminology well, terminology
22	what did

OFFICER: Terminology is collisions.

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POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: Collisions. Wrecks, we've

learned this when we went there, wrecks or an



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accident is basically a natural cause (ph) it gets very detailed when they start talking about that but collisions too. We're seeing some warrants, that's basically where we have to get warrants for people or warrants could be anything from failure to report for court, arrest warrants, anything like that and so four The thing is percent. next category citations, those are the tickets that we write to people from out in the -- from traffic stops, or it could be just somebody trespassing and violating a trespassing order and we write ticket, or it could bе domestic violence that we arrest him but, at the same time, we still wrote him a ticket so that's where the citation part comes. So, 29 percent of our operation is citations and 65 percent of it is the public contact so we come in contact with the public the majority of the time while we're out here which is a good thing, enforcement and the public should have good contact and that's a good thing that we've got 65 percent public contact and only 29 percent of citations. Any questions about that? here, is just a chart of Atlantic Beach, we --

up in this red area right here, it's just kind
of a map. The Atlantic Beach Department
responded to 18 crashes, vehicle collisions,
compared to the year 2022, there were only
four, so we did see a kind of uptick in this
area right here from 18 to four in one year
which it is kind of something we might need
to start looking at a little bit more, I don't
know if we're getting more people that's
starting to travel a little bit more in town
but we jumped up basically 12 I mean 14 more
collisions this year than we had last year so
that's something that my traffic guys,
Valentine back there, will be looking into,
DUIs and stuff some of those was DUIs I
believe, right?

OFFICER: I don't believe a single one of the collisions ---

POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: Oh, well -- my bad. None of them was DUIs. Well, that's a good thing, but probably not paying attention to the people in front of them. One of the things that -- some of the bright lights at nighttime might be causing some of these collisions so it's something we are watching out for. Basic

profiling and excessive force. In 2023, the
Atlantic Beach Police Department had no
complaints on bias, racial profiling or
excessive force and, when we say no complaints,
that's when somebody comes in and fills out a
form. Just because you tell somebody, well, I
didn't like how that person do something or
something like that, it has to go on a form and
be reported and once it goes on a form we have
to investigate it in-house and we found some we
had to send out to the Department of Justice
but, as of right now, we have zero for the
Police Department in the past year. Over the
past couple years, there have been zero
complaints of bias or race profile so I don't
want somebody, you know, sometimes some people
tell me, well, I don't like how my officer did
something or did and I always tell them put
it on paper because just telling me is not
gonna go nowhere but once you put it on paper,
now we're gonna do an investigation and go from
there. So right now, we're at zero, racial
profiling complete this year. Excessive force
is zero, that's anything from pulling our guns
on somebody, have to shoot them or have to



1	fight somebody and stuff like that that might
2	be that we shouldn't be shooting or we
3	shouldn't be fighting, that's more when you
4	talking about excessive force. The use of
5	force incidents this year, we did have three.
6	I think it was between three and five, but
7	we're still trying to wait for some more
8	numbers to come in, but three, which that is
9	pretty good. I know we try to keep everything
10	down to zero but we do have some people that
11	just ain't gonna cooperate with the law
12	enforcement so by us just having three, that is
13	great for 365 days, you've only got three out
14	there out of the Police Department this
15	year. Any questions about this? Complaints,
16	they're basically the same thing, we've got a
17	total of four complaints, internal complaints.
18	Internal complaints are more internal in the
19	Police Department, when once those come in,
20	we do internal affairs decides. It's
21	something new that we started here, it's
22	something that we we're working in-house but
23	eventually our if it gets to the point, some
24	of these internal affairs, we might start going
25	outside, just to bring somebody else in to look

at

this,

four

internal

they're

on

at it so we won't be biased and just -- because if one of my officers does something and I feel like he did it and I found him not quilty, you know, then it basically goes away but I don't want to be an overall judgment on that, I want to bring somebody else in from another police department, maybe somebody from the Council, maybe somebody from the community, and have a panel with them, wе all look investigate it, what's going on in the Police Department and make sure everybody's accord and if enough votes say, well, this is something serious that we might need to something with it, then we'll work it up the chain but as of right now, we've got complaints and I can tell you all these four complaints, just because they're complaints don't mean they're major, some of these could be -- I could tell you -- I know --I think all four of them are real minor but I tell my guys if they have any kind of complaint put it on paper so I can investigate it and everybody's doing what make sure Any questions about supposed to do. Vehicle pursuit, we had zero for this year and

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that means we didn't have to chase no cars in town, and that's kind of shocking, it like we're always in a chase, but we haven't chased any cars this year. Lawsuits, another haven't had thing, any lawsuits filed wе against the Police Department this year, which always is great any time -- 'cause people sue the Police Department for any little thing nowadays so for us having zero, that's very -deadly force, another great statistic, we have zero. I don't -- I think we've pulled our guns out on one person this -- for the whole year so haven't got any deadly forces so always a good number to have. All three of these, by having zero, they help with our insurance (inaudible) because when we're not getting none of these liabilities that's -that makes our premiums a little bit better every year. Hopefully, it should anyway. And this -- this is the end of it and she put up -please visit our website. If you go on our website, there's lot of information, a Ι promise you all. Anything you want to know about the Police Department, we try not to hide nothing. Everything's on the website, even the

new policies that we're putting out, once our
officers read them and acknowledge that they
read them, we put them on the website so if one
officer they follow these policies you
all have got policies right in front of you,
you don't even have to ask me if he's following
the right policy, it's right there on the
website and all you've got do is go to the
townofatlanticbeach what? Go to the
townofatlanticbeachsc.com, click on Police;
when you go on the Police, it's a whole lot of
different categories. It tells about events
that we have in town, talks about court, dates
that the court has, it tells about the services
we provide, programs, the division and it talks
about Atlantic Beach and where we're looking at
now, where we're looking to go forward. So
any questions for me? Anything from Council?

19 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: No --

POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON: That's all I've got.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Just one bit of information, we're going to be publicizing an RFP for entertainment for Bike Fest 2024, it should be



appearing in public notice on our website as 1 2 well as in the -- as required in the local 3 media for entertainment groups to provide entertainment for 2024. 4 That's all I have, 5 Mayor.

MAYOR EVANS: Okay, thank you.

Public Time:

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MAYOR EVANS: We're down to Public Time, John David. MR. DAVID: (Inaudible) the public. letter In a 11/17/23 from Plowden Richardson dated Richardson Plowden, Joseph Dickey, which stated that Town of Atlantic Beach the Municipal Election Commission \_\_\_ which is counsel, Richardson Plowden, Joseph Dickey from (inaudible) which was the Election Commission's seems perplexing to me that lawyer. Ιt letter dated 11/17 would say that when there was no Election Commission because at the time οf it (inaudible) the Municipal Election Commission was fired from 11/10, and they were partially reinstated on 11/28 so it's most perplexing that letter from the Election а Commission can be submitted to the Supreme Court when there such Election was nо Commission. So I hope that the case that we

have on December the 13th that's coming up for the Council position that has been vacant since the election in February will have no waiver or conspiratorial type situation where we're not properly represented because, again, had lawyers of record that submitted briefs, we had lawyers of record that was supposed to provide briefings during the 13th hearing and now we have a lawyer that is now representing the Town of Atlantic Beach Town Council that fired the Election Commission and now is representing the Election Commission that fired that was (inaudible).

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you. Council, seek a motion to adjourn.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

17 | MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second ---

18 | MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second on the floor to

19 adjourn. Roll call.

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20 | CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

21 | COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.

22 **CLERK:** Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

23 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.

24 | CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

25 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.



	TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH 25	_
1	CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?	
2	MAYOR EVANS: Yea. Motion granted. Meeting	
3	adjourned at 6:26 p.m.	
4	(There being nothing further, the meeting was	
5	adjourned.)	
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#### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Town of Atlantic Beach Meeting was held on the 4th of December, 2023. Said meeting consisting of twenty-five (25) pages, is a true and correct transcript of the record given at the meeting; said meeting 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 December 28, 2023.

amarda Q Creel Da

Amanda J. Creel Godfrey Court Reporter

Notary Public for South Carolina My Commission Expires: May 27, 2031