

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, June 3, 2024

5:00 p.m.

The Town of Atlantic Beach Town Council meeting and Public Hearing was held and recorded at Atlantic Beach Community Center, 1010 32nd Avenue South, Atlantic Beach, South Carolina, on the 3rd day of June, 2024, and transcribed by Amanda Godfrey, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina.



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APPEARANCES

COUNCIL MEMBERS :

Mayor Jake Evans, Chairman
Councilman Edward Lamar Campbell
Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom
Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore
Councilman John David

ADMINISTRATION :

Orton Bellamy, Interim Town Manager
Cheryl Pereira, Clerk

GUEST :

Dwayne M. Green, Esq.

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1 Call to Order:

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** This Town Council General Session
3 meeting and Public Hearing is called to order
4 this Monday, June 3rd, year 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
5 Roll call.

6 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

7 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Here.

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

9 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Here.

10 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

11 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Here.

12 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

13 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Here.

14 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

15 **MAYOR EVANS:** Here. Council, I seek a motion to go
16 into Executive Session for legal,
17 Administrative Amendment Contract to the
18 Interim Town Manager and legal matters, update
19 centralized legal services.

20 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

21 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

22 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second to go into
23 Executive Session for those items. Any other
24 questions or comments? Roll call.

25 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?



1 COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.

2 CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

3 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.

4 CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

5 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

6 CLERK: Councilman John David?

7 COUNCILMAN DAVID: Yes.

8 CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

9 MAYOR EVANS: Yea. Motion granted.

10 Executive Session:

11 (Executive Session.)

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

14 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

15 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second.

16 MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and second to come
17 out of Executive Session into the General
18 Session. Any other questions or comments? If
19 not, there were no other matters discussed in
20 Executive Session other than those outlined on
21 the agenda. Roll call.

22 CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

23 COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.

24 CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

25 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.



1 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

2 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

3 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

4 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No (ph).

5 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion is granted.

7 **General Session:**

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** And coming out of Executive Session,
9 Council, I'm seeking a motion to authorize
10 Attorney Green to follow up with the previous
11 attorney on the subpoenas for the Election
12 Commission, seek a motion, Council.

13 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

14 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second ---

15 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL (ph):** Second.

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second to authorize
17 Attorney Green to follow up with the previous
18 attorney on the subpoenas with the election.
19 If there are no other questions or comments,
20 roll call?

21 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Comments, comments.

22 **MAYOR EVANS:** Comments?

23 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Comments. The attorney here in
24 this case is seeking -- after Attorney Dickey
25 and (inaudible) lawyers investigated 15 or so



1 Town voters, the new attorney is seeking to
2 investigate them again and we've wasted money
3 once, when everybody's shown their ID cards and
4 shown their voter registrations and their
5 driver's license and affidavits that they live
6 here, and now this attorney is seeking to spend
7 money again, wasting our tax dollars
8 investigating citizens. So I just want you to
9 know what everybody is voting yes or no to.

10 **MAYOR EVANS:** Any questions or comments? Attorney?

11 **MR. GREEN:** Your Honor, just to clarify the record,
12 I'm -- and I've been a town attorney for
13 several towns for the past 25 years. Due
14 diligence is just following up on the record as
15 before, it's not an investigation to check the
16 residences or just look at things that are in
17 the record, and I've offered to do that without
18 charging the Town duplicate. So, that's just
19 a part of my due diligence as the attorney, is
20 to make sure if we can get any efficiencies
21 from seeing what was done. If that attorney
22 has recommended sending out subpoenas, that's
23 not an investigation, that's a due -- court
24 process. So, again, I just want to correct
25 that misstatement that ---



1 COUNCILMAN DAVID: And I'm ---

2 MAYOR EVANS: No, no, no ---

3 COUNCILMAN DAVID: And I clarify ---

4 MAYOR EVANS: You're out of order, you're
5 interrupting. He's not finished.

6 COUNCILMAN DAVID: Well, go ahead and finish and
7 then I'll go ahead.

8 MR. GREEN: Yes, if I can finish ---

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: We can't hear him. We can't hear -
10 --

11 MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

12 MR. GREEN: Okay, I'm sorry ---

13 (Inaudible background discussion.)

14 MR. GREEN: The motion on the floor was for us to
15 follow up on previous attorneys who are no
16 longer working for the Town, and one of the
17 recommendations that they said, just so far as
18 closing out that case, so I'm happy to do that
19 as part of my due diligence without charging
20 the Town anything and I will report to that in
21 30 days at no additional fund because I've been
22 charged ---

23 MALE SPEAKER: Excuse me. Could you speak a little
24 bit louder please?

25 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Is your mike on?



1 **MALE SPEAKER:** Little bit louder.

2 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

3 **MR. GREEN:** No other funds will be charged and we
4 will not be investigating anyone. We'll be
5 following up on the recommendations of the
6 previous attorney, and I'll report to that in
7 full openness to the Council next Council
8 meeting.

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you.

10 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** So if the ---

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** Roll call.

12 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** So again, if they have been ---

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Out of order. Roll call ---

14 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** --- being investigated again ---

15 **MAYOR EVANS:** --- we're not gonna go back ---

16 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** --- by another attorney.

17 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

18 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Nay.

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

20 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

21 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

22 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

23 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

24 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No.

25 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?



1 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion is granted. We're
2 down to the General Session of our agenda. I
3 would like this time to -- take this time to
4 welcome the general public and ask that you
5 silence your phones or anything that you have
6 that may disturb the proceedings. And, if you
7 would, stand for a moment of silence.

8 **(Moment of Silence.)**

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

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

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to ceremonial, any
12 ceremonial matters, Council members? Okay,
13 that takes us to the approval of the agenda.
14 Council, seek a move -- a motion for the
15 approval of the agenda.

16 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

17 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

18 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second on the floor for
19 the approval of the agenda. Any other
20 questions or comments? Roll call.

21 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

22 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** No.

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

24 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

25 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?



1 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

2 CLERK: Councilman John David?

3 COUNCILMAN DAVID: No.

4 CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

5 MAYOR EVANS: Yea. Motion granted.

6 Old Business:

7 MAYOR EVANS: We're down to Old Business, Town
8 Council meeting minutes, minutes from Town
9 Council meeting held on May 9th, May 15th and
10 May 20th of 2024. Council, seek a motion for
11 the approval of minutes.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

13 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second.

14 MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second on the floor for
15 the approval of minutes from May 9th, May 15th
16 and May 20th of May -- of 2024. Any other
17 questions, comments? Roll call.

18 CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

19 COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Nay.

20 CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

21 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.

22 CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

23 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

24 CLERK: Councilman John David?

25 COUNCILMAN DAVID: No.



1 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted for the
3 approval of the minutes.

4 **New Business:**

5 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, we're down to New Business, and
6 this is the Public Hearing for Year 2024-2025
7 Proposed General Fund Budget. Council, I'm
8 gonna seek a motion to open the floor for the
9 Public Hearing, but ask when we recognize you
10 on the floor, the questions and comments are
11 concerning the Public Hearing only. So,
12 Council, I seek a motion to open the floor to
13 a public hearing.

14 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

15 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion's on the floor and seconded to
17 open the floor for the Public Hearing for the
18 2024-2025 Proposed General Fund Budget. Roll
19 call.

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.



1 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

2 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Yes.

3 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

4 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted.

5 **Public Hearing:**

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** The floor is now open for the public
7 and questions about the budget.

8 **COUNCILMAN DAVID (ph):** Mayor, I have one question.

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Let's -- let me take care of the
10 public first.

11 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Ms. Cheatham.

12 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

13 **MS. CHEATHAM:** Mr. Mayor and Council, Interim Town
14 Manager ---

15 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yes, ma'am. How are you doing?

16 **MS. CHEATHAM:** --- attorney. And the clerk, Ms.
17 Cheryl.

18 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yes, ma'am, okay.

19 **MS. CHEATHAM:** Good evening.

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** Good evening.

21 **MS. CHEATHAM:** My name is Linda Cheatham and I
22 reside at 512 29th Avenue South. I have a few
23 questions about the budget that -- and I guess
24 my first question is that it's -- it's very
25 difficult to look at when we don't have any



1 actuals for fiscal '24. It tells us what the
2 budget was and then it shows us what the
3 projection was (ph), but there's nothing to
4 measure about how much money we actually
5 received between July and -- pick a date, March
6 31st, April 30th -- so that there's some
7 comparison so we can see how we are doing in
8 order for that calculation of what the
9 projection is, which I'm sure is driving the
10 '24-'25 budget. My other question is that it's
11 my understanding that the County is doing a
12 reassessment of residential property values
13 that will be concluded by October. To the best
14 of my knowledge, I've never known any
15 reassessments to go down, and so my first
16 question is why is the '24-'25 property taxes
17 the same as the projection for '23-'24, and was
18 the reassessment -- where's the reassessment
19 calculated in that?

20 **MR. BELLAMY:** That wasn't our (inaudible) -- I
21 always talk with the accountant, that was not
22 reassessed on that.

23 **MS. CHEATHAM:** I beg your pardon?

24 **MR. BELLAMY:** That was not -- based on my -- 'cause
25 we -- in contact with the accountant, I will



1 follow up with the accountant in regards to
2 that.

3 **MS. CHEATHAM:** Thank you. I'm assuming all of our
4 tax bills are going up, and I would think that
5 if mine's going up, that means there's gonna be
6 some more revenue for all of the town.

7 **MR. BELLAMY:** But there's also a period there where
8 you can -- a period -- a period of time where
9 if you have increasing taxes ---

10 **MS. CHEATHAM:** Uh-huh.

11 **MR. BELLAMY:** --- there's an appeal process also
12 that you can appeal -- you can appeal your
13 taxes based on increases.

14 **MS. CHEATHAM:** I understand, but I don't think
15 anyone's taxes is going down.

16 **MR. BELLAMY:** Right ---

17 **MS. CHEATHAM:** So if they're -- I don't -- I guess
18 my -- I, you know ---

19 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yeah.

20 **MS. CHEATHAM:** --- I don't understand why the taxes
21 are flat for next year based on the projections
22 of the accountant here. The hospitality taxes
23 are projected to be less than '23-'24, then
24 we've got in '22-'23 -- and I don't know if
25 that's based on -- I don't know what that's



1 based on but once again, it's flat, it --
2 there's no increase projected for '24-'25, and
3 we had a much better Bike Fest, I'm assuming
4 that's what your report is gonna say this year
5 because we didn't have the rain that we had
6 last year. It also would be helpful if there
7 would be more detail about what the various
8 categories are and what do they mean. There's
9 something that says all other revenue which I'm
10 -- I don't know what that was. We had 300 --
11 we had almost \$400,000 in '22-'23, there was a
12 budget of 9. We are going to project to get
13 \$57,000, and it stayed flat but I, you know, it
14 would be helpful to know what that all other
15 revenue is.

16 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay.

17 **MS. CHEATHAM:** I have some of the same questions
18 regarding the personnel costs. What personnel
19 are included in that, as well as the people who
20 we pay that are in professional services? But
21 those are my main questions. Thank you very
22 much.

23 **MR. BELLAMY:** You're welcome.

24 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you. Next. You can come to the
25 podium, sir.



1 **MR. FERA:** Good evening and thank you, everyone ---

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** Good evening.

3 **MR. FERA:** --- having us here.

4 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay.

5 **MR. FERA:** My name's Stephen Fera. I live at 3706
6 32nd Avenue. And my question is just a few
7 additional details to what Ms. Cheatham just
8 asked about. She mentioned about the personnel
9 costs. Not people, but position, like what
10 position, what's the wage? I'm sure there's
11 benefits or whatever that are associated if --
12 if we have that information for personnel
13 costs. Under the professional services, does
14 that include the Township Manager or is that --
15 is that position part of personnel costs. And
16 the one big thing that I did notice on here is
17 legal expenses so it seems we've had some jumps
18 in different categories, but I don't see
19 anything for legal fees on here so where is
20 that identified in the budget, does that fall
21 under professional services ---

22 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yeah, professional services ---

23 **MR. FERA:** --- other expenses or what? I mean --
24 and then a specific breakout of what's there
25 because I think with all the court cases and



1 whatnot that we've experienced over the last
2 few years, our legal fees seem to have gone up
3 and there's no way to judge -- it used to be
4 this and this year it's here so ...

5 (Inaudible background discussion.)

6 **MR. FERA:** Thank you.

7 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Thank you.

8 **MR. BELLAMY:** Good evening, how's everybody doing?

9 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** Doing well.

10 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Doing good.

11 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay, professional services is -- for
12 our legal fees, what we've done is streamline
13 the process. We've had -- the last 12 months
14 there were like over \$100,000 in legal fees.
15 What we're doing is streamlining the process.
16 We have an attorney now onboard, Attorney
17 Green's gonna represent the Town of Atlantic
18 Beach and he's gonna go through the other three
19 attorneys that have been billing the Town and
20 look at the hours, rate that they've been
21 charging, and scrutinize each entry on the
22 billing process so these numbers will go down
23 far as the professional services with the
24 attorney -- to answer your question there is
25 that there were exorbitant -- there -- it was



1 a challenge to try to balance the budget out or
2 -- we also have an insurance fund that we're
3 gonna be pursuing and there's -- we're going to
4 look at cases -- frivolous cases have been
5 filed against the Town of Atlantic Beach.
6 Under advisement of our Town attorney, whether
7 we're gonna pursue those individuals who have
8 filed lawsuits against the Town of Atlantic
9 Beach, had to look at the cost-benefit analysis
10 on is it worth the cost to pursue that and the
11 amount of money we have to pay out to the
12 attorney. So, the legal fees are definitely
13 gonna be scrutinized and that's gonna be
14 reduced based on assistance and plan we have in
15 place.

16 (Inaudible background discussion.)

17 **MAYOR EVANS:** You can come up to the podium, sir.

18 **MR. FERA:** Just to follow up on that, so looking at
19 the projection for next year, how do we compare
20 that to what was done previously? So, like if
21 I understand, this past year is when we've
22 experienced all the legal issues, what about
23 from, you know, this '21-'22 of those
24 professional services, how much of that was
25 legal fees and the '22-'23, how much of that



1 was legal services so that we can compare to
2 see this is how much more we've spent this year
3 going forward. And the other thing, what is --
4 what else is in there besides legal fees, those
5 professional services ---

6 **MR. BELLAMY:** That's it ---

7 **MR. FERA:** That's it?

8 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yeah.

9 **MR. FERA:** So all those professional services are
10 legal fees?

11 **MR. BELLAMY:** That's correct.

12 **MR. FERA:** And then the Town Manager and the other
13 employees would all be paid under personnel
14 costs?

15 **MR. BELLAMY:** That's right. What -- we do have a
16 complete -- what's your name? We'll have that
17 report for you. What's your name?

18 **MR. FERA:** Sure, my name's Stephen Fera.

19 **MR. BELLAMY:** And we'll have it ready for the
20 public.

21 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Would it be helpful to have a
22 more detailed report for the entire public next
23 week ---

24 **MR. BELLAMY:** And what ---

25 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** --- so everybody that comes in --



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MR. BELLAMY: --- comes in ---

COUNCILMAN DAVID: Right.

MR. BELLAMY: This is -- was the initial information that we provided to balance the budget and because of time constraints -- we have a specific time to have this prepared, but we will have a streamlined budget with budget line item numbers ---

MALE SPEAKER: Yep.

MR. BELLAMY: --- with the position -- individual position, the individual page, and that information will be in there because we're -- we were in a crunch time to have this prepared. This is only a first reading, there's gonna ---

MALE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR. BELLAMY: --- the second, we'll have that information available for you.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you, sir.

MR. FERA: Thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: Uh-huh.

MR. GREEN: And Mr. Mayor, if I may add a little bit to that. To the citizen's point, one of the things that were discussed today was streamlining and reducing legal costs. In the



1 past years, there's been at least four law
2 firms who provided legal services to the Town.
3 Part of what I'll be doing, and my role, is
4 revisiting those bills, see where those bills
5 are in terms of reasonableness and if any costs
6 can be recouped, we will do that, streamlining
7 it will save the Town costs moving forward.
8 So, thank you for the question and, again, this
9 seems to have been an atypical year in terms of
10 legal costs. I'm new to this town but I've
11 worked with other firms and other towns so
12 where there's a large amount of litigation,
13 that's not something that should repeat itself
14 for years going forward so we're trying to
15 streamline and reduce those costs by doing a
16 review.

17 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** And I know you -- this has been
18 mentioned twice so I do want to point it out
19 that streamlining and cost savings is great,
20 but if we're hiring another attorney, which
21 we're now -- I think Mr. Bellamy called him the
22 Town's attorney -- that we're paying an
23 attorney to look at the other attorneys, to
24 evaluate them. So, if he saves us a whole
25 bunch of money, great, but if not, we're paying



1 another attorney to look at three other
2 attorneys, and also paying him to investigate
3 Town citizens ---

4 **MAYOR EVANS:** We thank you. The floor is open to a
5 public hearing from the public. You come to
6 the podium please.

7 **MS. CHEATHAM:** (Inaudible) there's no one else.

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's no one else, nobody's
9 interested?

10 (Inaudible background discussion.)

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** You can go ahead, you can come on.

12 **MS. CHEATHAM:** I just ---

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** You can come to the podium.

14 **MS. CHEATHAM:** I just wanted to ask Mr. Bellamy a
15 question because I thought I heard you say that
16 the only expenditures in professional services
17 were legal fees.

18 **MR. BELLAMY:** That's to the best of my knowledge,
19 yes ---

20 **MS. CHEATHAM:** So where do the consultants -- where
21 are the consultants paid? It was my
22 understanding that the previous Town Manager
23 was not treated as an employee but he had a
24 contract which means he would've been a
25 consultant. Our accountants are not employees



1 of the Town.

2 **MR. BELLAMY:** Right.

3 **MS. CHEATHAM:** So where are the ---

4 **MR. BELLAMY:** Well, what I will do is that I will --
5 for your -- for the information that you're
6 requesting for, we will have all of that
7 information available from the accountant ---

8 **MS. CHEATHAM:** Okay.

9 **MR. BELLAMY:** --- and we can address all your
10 questions and all. As I said, we'll have a
11 budget line item. We're -- as I said, we had
12 a time -- a specific timeline to be -- to
13 adhere to and we had to scramble to get this
14 together, but we will have that information for
15 you.

16 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

17 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you. Council, seek a motion to
18 close the Public Hearing.

19 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

20 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

21 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second to close the ---

22 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** Oh, I'm sorry.

24 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay, sir.

25 **MR. FERA:** Two comments to -- first, the legal fees.



1 As we look at those, that also is delaying Town
2 business so I heard, you know, we're gonna take
3 another 30 days to look at what has already
4 been done over the past how many months of
5 what's there, which I understand is new coming
6 in, but the Town still goes on so does that put
7 everything that we're looking to vote at or to
8 do on hold until we can figure out if some of
9 those past legal things were okay? So, what
10 happens if we go back and we say, oh, this was
11 probably not right and we shouldn't have done
12 this, does that change anything that's
13 happened? And I guess from a voting
14 perspective, and I'm not sure how the -- how
15 this works on the budget, should we be voting
16 on the budget if we still have these questions
17 that are outstanding?

18 **MR. BELLAMY:** Well, this is a first reading ---

19 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

20 **MR. FERA:** Okay.

21 **MR. BELLAMY:** So, this is the first reading, read
22 into the record.

23 **MR. FERA:** Okay.

24 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay?

25 **MR. GREEN:** And if I may add, this will help your --



1 what I've offered to do is to not charge for
2 reviewing previous invoices. So, I believe
3 that's very lucrative for an attorney to bill
4 for looking at other bills. So, number one,
5 there will not be any charges for reviewing
6 previous invoices and, number two, it will not
7 stop any legal work that those firms are doing
8 in the interim. Where there is an opportunity
9 for us to retrieve funds or get savings, we'll
10 definitely recommend that so that
11 recommendation's coming back in 30 days.

12 **MR. FERA:** Okay. And then, are there still other
13 legal firms besides you that are pursuing
14 current activities.

15 **MR. BELLAMY:** There's three others.

16 **MR. GREEN:** There's three firms that were hired
17 before I was, and so typically what happens
18 when an attorney comes in at -- for a town to
19 review those types of invoices, they'll review
20 it. I'm gonna do that free of charge for the
21 Town, and my understanding is all attorneys do.
22 They'll continue to monitor their cases until
23 further word from the Town (inaudible).

24 **MR. FERA:** Okay, so they are still working their
25 cases for Town Council?



1 **MR. GREEN:** They are still retained, but there has
2 been no ongoing work. So, my understanding
3 after looking at it is there's -- some matters
4 are ongoing -- I'm sure you've had lawyers
5 before that don't work every day ---

6 **MR. FERA:** Right.

7 **MR. GREEN:** Thank goodness that they don't. So,
8 what I'm gonna do is tell them to pause, no
9 further billings until I've had a chance to
10 review what their billings are, and then we'll
11 work in a collaborative fashion to reduce
12 expenses for the Town.

13 **MALE SPEAKER:** Actually ---

14 **MR. FERA:** And I'm still confused about -- are they
15 actually working? Like, does -- do we still
16 have cases that they need to have work on?

17 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

18 **MR. FERA:** So, are they working or are they put on
19 hold?

20 **MR. GREEN:** Again, I just received the names of
21 those, you know, you may have been here last
22 month. Last month was my first ---

23 **MR. FERA:** Yeah.

24 **MR. GREEN:** --- so I'm coming up to speed so -- I've
25 been taught that -- to find out what the lay of



1 the land is ---

2 **MR. FERA:** Absolutely.

3 **MR. GREEN:** --- we just want to know what's there.

4 So, my understanding is that if they're on the
5 case, I would hope they're working on it. And
6 so my understanding is they are but I -- there
7 are not ongoing invoices that I've seen and,
8 again, I've not been hired for their matters --
9 -

10 **MR. FERA:** Okay.

11 **MR. GREEN:** --- so we're trying to get a handle on
12 everything that's out there for the sake of
13 reducing fees for the Town.

14 **MR. FERA:** Okay. So, from Mayor and Council,
15 historical perspective from the business aspect
16 of it, we essentially still have maybe three,
17 possibly four, law firms working for the Town
18 of Atlantic Beach right now?

19 **MR. GREEN:** That is correct. That sounds correct --
20 -

21 **MR. FERA:** Thank you.

22 **MR. GREEN:** Yes, okay.

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir.

24 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** Council, I seek a motion to close the



1 Public Hearing.

2 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

3 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

4 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second on the floor to
5 close the Public Hearing. If there are no
6 other questions, roll call.

7 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

8 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Yea.

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

10 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

11 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

12 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

13 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

14 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Yes.

15 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted. Okay,
17 we're down to ---

18 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

19 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Okay, I had a question about cost
20 generators, or revenue generators, and I don't
21 think for years past we've had enough so I
22 implore the Town Manager and every Council
23 person to try to generate revenue for the Town.
24 One thing that I'm gonna try to do is try to --
25 every municipality in the -- on the Grand



1 Strand is charging for parking. We're the only
2 municipality that does not charge for parking.
3 If you go out to the ocean right now on the
4 different lots, there's approximately 20 to 50
5 cars in a given day that we're not receiving
6 monies for so I hope that we can generate some
7 revenue. I think hopefully when the Bike Fest
8 report is -- comes back that we were able to
9 generate revenue on the RVs 'cause I think over
10 time we were charging \$10 per week for RVs to
11 stay here, and I think that went up to \$250, so
12 I hope that we generated at least 12 to \$25,000
13 in revenues from RVs if all the fees were
14 collected for Bike Fest, which is another
15 revenue generator. Another source of -- we had
16 franchises -- I think we -- how many
17 franchises? We have a Watersports down at the
18 ocean, right?

19 **MR. BELLAMY:** That's right.

20 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** And we also have the Spa of
21 Atlantic Beach, are they a franchise as well?

22 **MR. BELLAMY:** I would have to do the research on
23 that ---

24 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** But we need to make sure that we
25 get all the franchise fee money that we can



1 get, not just give it to somebody because if
2 people don't have a business license, they
3 gotta get a franchise fee. So, we need to make
4 sure we get all those franchise fees.

5 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay. Just to (inaudible), we have --
6 in fact, one of the owners came out last week
7 and paid their fees. We do have outstanding --
8 individuals have not renewed their license and
9 we're gonna -- we're pursuing them and stuff,
10 we're generating more fees, I mean, more income
11 for the Town.

12 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** And I hope next meeting that we
13 can get a report on how many business licenses
14 have been paid ---

15 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay.

16 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** --- and the revenue that we
17 generated and the monies that we need to go
18 after.

19 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay, we'll have that.

20 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** And for the record, Spa of
21 Atlantic has dissolved itself, they don't exist
22 any more so therefore you won't be getting any
23 franchise fees for them so ---

24 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, we're down under A. under New
25 Business, consideration of amendment contract



1 for Interim Town Manager, Council, seek a
2 motion to amend the Interim Town Manager's
3 contract.

4 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

5 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second on the floor. Any
7 other questions or comments?

8 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Discussion -- for discussion, can
9 you explain what the changes are so that the
10 public will know what they are?

11 **MR. BELLAMY:** All right. Initially ---

12 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

13 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay, initially I had signed a
14 contract for the Town of Atlantic Beach for
15 \$100 an hour for -- as a contractor to serve as
16 Interim Town Manager. In reviewing the budget
17 as we worked for the last 30 days, the -- we
18 didn't want to place -- I personally didn't
19 want to place the Town in a hard -- financial
20 hardship because of the lawsuits, and what I
21 did was I submitted a -- an employment contract
22 amendment today to have it retroactive from Day
23 One -- my date of employment was May 10th --
24 and when you receive the invoice -- it's public
25 record -- and when I submit it, it will reflect



1 that from Day One on May 10th, my regular pay
2 was \$50 an hour up until when I -- I haven't
3 filed it yet so it will reflect. And this
4 addendum, I just need to change one thing right
5 here, make it retroactive back to May 10th,
6 okay? So I did change the rate of pay and it's
7 \$50 an hour, and it's public record, we'll
8 provide you copies of it. Okay?

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir.

10 **MR. BELLAMY:** Thank you.

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, we're down to Item B. ---

12 **MALE SPEAKER:** The vote. Need to vote.

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Oh, we didn't call roll? I'm sorry.

14 Roll call.

15 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

16 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Nay.

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

18 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

19 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

20 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

21 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

22 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No.

23 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

24 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted. We're
25 down to B. under New Business, consideration of



1 centralized legal services, and this is to
2 authorize Attorney Green to consolidate the
3 legal cases, Council, seek a motion.

4 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

5 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second on the floor to
7 authorize Attorney Green to consolidate ---

8 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Call for discussion.

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** --- legal cases. Any other questions
10 or comments?

11 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Yes. I think -- I just want to
12 be certain that the public understands we have
13 -- three attorneys were hired -- we'll have
14 four attorneys. This attorney is evaluating
15 the other attorneys -- or -- and hopefully --
16 I agree with the part of saving us money and
17 reviewing invoices, but I don't agree with --
18 we are now having another attorney that may be
19 look -- seeking to take over the cases or do
20 whatever, there's some ambiguity in all of
21 that. And I also would hope that we -- it just
22 seems like a lot, and this -- okay, that's it.

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** Roll call.

24 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

25 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Nay.



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

2 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

3 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

4 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

5 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

6 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No.

7 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted.

9 **Ordinance Number 3-2024:**

10 **MAYOR EVANS:** Council, we're down to Number 7,
11 Ordinance Number 3-2024, adopt the budget for
12 year 2024-2025, an ordinance to adopt the
13 budget for the Town of Atlantic Beach fiscal
14 year commencing July 1st, 2024 and ending June
15 30th, 2025, Council, and this will be the first
16 reading. Seek a motion to adopt Ordinance
17 Number 3-2024.

18 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved ---

19 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL (ph):** So moved.

20 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

21 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's a motion and second on the
22 floor to adopt Ordinance Number 3-2024, the
23 budget for 2024-2025. Any other questions or
24 comments?

25 **MR. BELLAMY:** I do have a comment. Just to remind



1 everyone, on Monday, June 10th, 2024, we'll
2 have the second reading and that information
3 that was requested with the line item numbers
4 and all that information will be available to
5 the public ---

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay.

7 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** All right, Council, motion and a
9 second's on the floor for first reading of the
10 budget. Roll call.

11 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

12 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Nay.

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

14 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

15 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

16 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yes.

17 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

18 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No.

19 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted.

21 **Ordinance Number 4-2024:**

22 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to Ordinance Number 4-2024,
23 ordinance to amend the official Zoning Map and
24 the Land Management Ordinance for the Town of
25 Atlantic Beach, South Carolina so as to amend



1 the zoning for the PIN 392-01-01-0167 from
2 Waterfront District to the Black Pearl of
3 Atlantic WF2 Flexible Design District, and this
4 is the first reading as well. Council, seek a
5 motion to adopt Ordinance Number 4-2024.

6 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

7 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second is on the floor to
9 adopt Ordinance Number 4-2024 ---

10 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Call for ---

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** --- Council, questions and comments?

12 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Yes. How many amendments or
13 changes to the Land Management Ordinance are
14 the Morant condo high-rise skyscraper
15 requesting?

16 **MR. BELLAMY:** I reviewed that, and I think you made
17 a comment to what, 14, you were saying?

18 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

19 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay. Well, what we did was that we
20 followed -- okay, what we did for this -- what
21 we did for this, we did seek professional
22 expertise in this area, prepared the ordinance
23 and submitted, and we submitted it here today
24 for your decision on the first reading ---

25 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Could you tell -- could you tell



1 the public what is happening that we're
2 changing an -- doing a wholesale 14 -- from
3 what I count, 14-plus amendment changes to one
4 lot just for one group to do something? And
5 that's ...

6 **MR. BELLAMY:** That's in the -- wait a minute. All
7 information I've read, in consultation with
8 Leigh -- with the Waccamaw planning group there
9 in Georgetown, South Carolina, we met all the
10 requirements that -- for to -- for the first
11 reading, okay? And Council -- and for the
12 first reading, it's administrative, okay? You
13 go through the process, vote up or vote it down
14 on it, okay? On May -- on May 20 -- I'm sorry
15 -- June 20th, you will have a public hearing.
16 At that time, at 11:00 a.m., okay, so -- anyone
17 who would like to speak, you have three
18 minutes. What we (inaudible) want to do, if
19 you're in support of it, we would like to hear
20 from you; if you're not in support of it, if
21 you have a specific group, please identify
22 folks for that group so that will expedite the
23 process. But it's a public hearing, we want to
24 hear from everyone, okay? So, we ask that you
25 have -- be professional about it, follow the



1 decorum and we'll make sure everyone is heard,
2 okay?

3 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** In the application that Mr.
4 Morant checked, he said that there was no
5 covenants or deed restrictions that prohibit
6 this use, and there are deed restrictions that
7 everybody knows that George Tyson put in place
8 originally. So, if he checked no on his
9 application, how are we to believe that ---

10 **MAYOR EVANS:** Well, we need to move on.

11 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay, well ---

12 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** We're just discussing the --
13 we're discussing the first reading, what do you
14 mean move on?

15 **MR. BELLAMY:** The attorney that's representing the
16 Town, I did discuss that with him, he said that
17 the court will have to make a decision on that,
18 okay? That's a court decision ---

19 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

20 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** So, in the LMO, Section 5-3-6, it
21 states that the Town Manager has the right to
22 -- Town applications for zoning and land
23 development permits or approvals are given by
24 the Town Manager. Were you the person who
25 signed off on this approval so that they could



1 move forward, or was it ---

2 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yes.

3 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** You signed off?

4 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yes.

5 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Okay. And you've had previous
6 experience in November 1st, 2021 where you
7 brought the Morant Group here? So, I just want
8 to make sure there's no conflict ---

9 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

10 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** --- I just want to make sure that
11 it -- I know you've been here less than a
12 month, and this is one of the biggest
13 priorities that you've seemed to try to
14 shepherd forward, even without having a
15 Planning Commission meeting first, which every
16 development that has come through here first
17 has had a Planning Commission meeting versus
18 having the first reading prior to a Planning
19 Commission meeting per the LMO.

20 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay. To address your question about
21 my relationship with the Morant Group, okay,
22 Louis Morant has served on the Georgetown
23 County Council and he represented District 7.
24 I served on the Council from 2018 to 2022. If
25 you -- if you travel down Highway 701 South, we



1 shared the Great Pee Dee River together, that's
2 our relationship as colleagues -- he
3 represented the District 7, I represented
4 District 7 -- and he had asked me about zoning
5 because I was previously -- I served on the
6 Planning and Zoning Commission here in Atlantic
7 Beach, okay? So, I was familiar with the
8 zoning of Atlantic Beach. He asked me
9 questions about it. The only thing I provided
10 to the Morant Group was information. I've
11 never provided consulting, I've never had a
12 contract with them, I never advised them on
13 anything. I provided them information. Okay?
14 And I did meet with them and I -- I think I was
15 at a meeting here Atlantic Beach. But if you
16 go back and search your records, the last time
17 I had contact with them, December 2021, and
18 we'll have Counsel Green come up and explain
19 conflict of interest for you please. And at no
20 time -- I'd like someone to present evidence
21 where you had records, emails or a contract, or
22 exchange your financial records. If I'm a
23 consultant, apparently they paid me, so there
24 should be financial records out there
25 somewhere. I would like someone to produce



1 that and we'll take it to court, simple as
2 that.

3 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir ---

4 **MR. GREEN:** If I may speak on that also very
5 briefly, Mr. Mayor. If there is any -- and
6 again, any issue at all with conflicts of
7 interest or potential conflicts of interest, or
8 alleged, that's something that we could review.
9 The law in South Carolina has put on this by
10 the South Carolina Supreme Court and by the
11 Municipal Association is that a conflict of
12 interest arises where there's a direct
13 financial interest between any member of
14 Council and with someone who's either a
15 dependent of them, living in their household,
16 or they have a direct financial interest. So,
17 in instances where there is a conflict of
18 interest, that's an ethical consideration,
19 they're very important, that's something that
20 the Supreme Court and the Ethics Commission
21 looks at. So if anyone -- anyone in the
22 audience, anyone on Council, has any concern
23 about conflict of interest, there's a way to do
24 that, particularly if someone had an
25 acquaintance, you know, months or years ago.



1 So, as I understand it, I assume that there's
2 some loose allegation or thought that there may
3 -- because you know this person, we would like
4 to know what the relationship is. In my
5 judgment, you know, Mr. Bellamy has done that
6 very forthrightly and there's no allegation
7 unless I hear differently that there was a
8 professional relationship or that somehow Mr.
9 Bellamy is brothers with Mr. Morant and has a
10 financial or familial relationship. So, I
11 understand it's always good to bring up
12 concerns if someone's not knowledgeable about
13 the law and what the conflict of interests are
14 as defined by our Supreme Court and by our
15 Ethics Commission, but in everything that I've
16 reviewed, for someone to serve on a county
17 council, if I'm District 6 and you're District
18 7, and we have a collegial relationship, that
19 relationship, particularly if you're telling
20 someone how to navigate a zoning process, is
21 not a conflict of interest as defined either by
22 our Supreme Court or by the Municipal
23 Association, or any case law that I've seen in
24 the 20-plus years that I've been doing it, but
25 if there's any other concerns, I would be very,



1 very happy to speak to not only any Council
2 member, any Commission member, any member of
3 the public who's aware of something they would
4 like bring up, there's a means to do that and
5 I'm happy to assist with anyone that has any
6 questions along that regard ---

7 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Just two more ---

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you.

9 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Just two ---

10 **MAYOR EVANS:** No, you've recognized the Chair.
11 We're moving on from this. Roll call

12 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

13 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

14 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** She's gonna give away the Town.

15 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** No.

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

17 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

18 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

19 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

20 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

21 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Never (ph).

22 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted.

24 **Resolution Number 3-2024:**

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay. We're down to Item 9,



1 Resolution Number 3-2024, and this is a
2 resolution to designate June 19th, 2024 and
3 recognize the historical significance of
4 Juneteenth Independence Day Celebration to
5 honor African Americans. So, Council, seek a
6 motion to adopt Resolution Number 3-2024.

7 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** So moved.

8 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Second.

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second on the floor to
10 adopt Resolution Number 3-2024. Any other
11 questions or comments? Roll call.

12 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

13 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Yea.

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

15 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

16 **CLERK:** Councilman -- I'm sorry -- Councilwoman
17 Jacqueline Gore?

18 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

19 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

20 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Yes.

21 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

22 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted.

23 **Manager's Report:**

24 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, we're down to Item 10, Mr.
25 Bellamy, looks like the Manager's Report ---



1 **MR. BELLAMY:** (Inaudible.)

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** Bike Fest report.

3 **MR. BELLAMY:** We had a total of retail vendors, 13;
4 we had -- food vendors was 40 and we're waiting
5 on them to final -- financial report from the
6 accountant. Soon as we have the information
7 available, we'll have that available for you by
8 next meeting. And -- but we're -- just to --
9 there were -- during the Bike Fest, there were
10 some questions about areas of responsibility as
11 far as cleanup. We had a contract to clean up
12 the main areas then the property owners have
13 responsibility to clean up their property. So
14 what we'll be doing in the month of August is
15 have a community meeting here, and we're going
16 back -- it's what they call an after-action
17 review, okay? Lessons learned. And we were
18 taking notes while we were going through the
19 process. And comments, we spent a lot of time
20 out in the community, talking to business
21 owners, our visitors and individuals who --
22 vendors. So, we are compiling information, we
23 are providing the information, what we've
24 learned, and we want you to share what you
25 learned from Bike Fest itself (inaudible) how



1 to improve it -- and improve it for next year.
2 The most important things -- was vital,
3 Atlantic Beach -- everybody was safe so it was
4 a very successful operation. Any time --
5 everyone is safe and returns home safely, it's
6 a very successful operation so to that. And we
7 looked at entertainment, there's plenty of
8 beaches, historically was one of the places
9 where the swing was very popular so I was
10 talking to Pat Mallett there, we're gonna do
11 something maybe on a Saturday night, have some
12 beach music, teach the younger generation about
13 the swing dance. We're looking at doing some
14 Motown music on Sunday, maybe some jazz so
15 we're going to have a variety of entertainment,
16 okay? So, for the older generation and the
17 younger -- we'll still have the younger
18 generation with their rap music but we're gonna
19 have a -- more variety of music for our
20 visitors here. But we will have that report
21 for you soon as received by the accountant for
22 our next meeting.

23 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Thank you.

24 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir.

25 **Presentation:**



1 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, we're down to the presentations

2 ---

3 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yes.

4 **MAYOR EVANS:** --- Orton, you have those as well?

5 **MR. BELLAMY:** Mayor ---

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** You need me?

7 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yes, sir, I'll read and you can
8 present, sir.

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay.

10 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

11 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay, what we did is that during the
12 Bike Fest, the staff performed phenomenally, I
13 mean, they worked long 12, 14 hours a day,
14 okay? That was starting on Thursday and often
15 'til Monday and with the number of individuals
16 that were here -- I mean, Saturday, it reminded
17 me of back in the 19 -- I won't go that far
18 back -- say, when I was younger kid coming to
19 Atlantic Beach and back in probably '68 or '69
20 I can remember -- I mean, it was phenomenal,
21 the number of people out on Saturday night and
22 Sunday so it was a major group. So, what I'll
23 do is read the first one, and we're gonna show
24 our recognition to our employees for doing a
25 phenomenal job and I'll just read the first



1 one. Says Certificate of Appreciation. This
2 certificate is proudly presented to Cheryl,
3 Town Clerk. You are commended for your
4 outstanding performance of duty during Atlantic
5 Beach Bike Fest with -- during the period of
6 May 24, 2024 through May 27, 2024. Your
7 significant contribution ensured the efficiency
8 of the administrative support and safety of the
9 Bike Festival participants. Signed by Mayor
10 Jake Evans, Town of Atlantic Beach. They all
11 are effectively the same ---

12 (Applause.)

13 (Inaudible background discussion.)

14 **CLERK:** Thank you.

15 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay, the next one if Michael Gore ---

16 (Inaudible background discussion.)

17 **MR. BELLAMY:** --- Michael Gore.

18 (Inaudible background discussion.)

19 **MR. GORE:** Thank you.

20 (Inaudible background discussion.)

21 **MR. BELLAMY:** Chief. Chief Carlos Costello. Chief?

22 (Inaudible background discussion.)

23 (Applause.)

24 **MR. BELLAMY:** Christian Pearson.

25 (Applause.)



1 (Inaudible background discussion.)

2 MR. BELLAMY: Andrew Valentine. Andrew Valentine.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. BELLAMY: Okay, come on back up and take
5 pictures. Thank you, everybody, that's just --

6 -

7 (Inaudible background discussion.)

8 MR. BELLAMY: Okay, Kim Fort (ph). Thanks for your
9 service.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. BELLAMY: And Carnetia wasn't able to be with us
12 today but ---

13 IN UNISON: Yeah, she's here.

14 MALE SPEAKER: She's back here.

15 MR. BELLAMY: Oh back here, okay.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. BELLAMY: Okay, York (ph). Thank you.

18 (Inaudible background discussion.)

19 MR. BELLAMY: Okay, it's Certificate of Appointment,
20 okay. I am pleased to appoint you to the Town
21 of Atlantic Beach Planning Commission. Your
22 term will commence on 5/2024 and expire on
23 5/2028, Titus Seedman Leakes.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. BELLAMY: Okay. Certificate of Appointment,



1 same citation, commence on 5/2024 and expires
2 5/2026, Angela Metts. Ms. Metts?

3 (Applause.)

4 (Inaudible background discussion.)

5 MR. BELLAMY: Levant Jamir Woods. Is Mr. Woods
6 here?

7 (Applause.)

8 (Inaudible background discussion.)

9 MR. BELLAMY: Also, we'd like to -- Certificate of
10 Appreciation to Atlantic Beach Gullah Geechee
11 organization. The Gullah Geechee organization
12 was recognized by the Horry County Historic
13 Preservation to receive an award. We'd like to
14 recognize Ms. Pat Mallett. Thank you very much
15 Ms. Mallett ---

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. BELLAMY: --- Atlantic Beach Gullah Geechee
18 Committee as a recipient of the Horry County
19 Historic Preservation Award, thank you for
20 preserving, sharing, interpreting the history,
21 traditional cultural practices in the
22 (inaudible) of the Town of Atlantic Beach.
23 Thank you very much for all of your services.

24 (Applause.)

25 (Inaudible background discussion.)



1 **MR. BELLAMY:** All right, okay, Certificate of
2 Appreciation. I hereby express my sincere
3 gratitude to Esco McFadden in recognition of
4 your services as a member of the Planning
5 Commission for the period of March the 2nd,
6 2015 to July 17th, 2023. You have made
7 significant contributions to the municipal
8 governed body on issues, policies related to
9 planning, land use regulations and community
10 development. Signed by Mayor Jake Evans.
11 Thank you for your service, sir.

12 **(Applause.)**

13 **MR. McFADDEN:** Thank you.

14 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir.

15 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

16 **MR. BELLAMY:** Upcoming events, June 13th, 2024 at
17 7:00 a.m., we're having an academic awards high
18 school and college graduates recognition.
19 We've already identified I think two high
20 school students and some of the students here
21 at the -- college graduates, in fact, we have
22 one student that has received a PhD (inaudible)
23 they are from Atlantic Beach, the Booker
24 family, their daughter -- granddaughter
25 received a PhD. So, if you have a family



1 member that's here in Atlantic Beach
2 (inaudible) please (inaudible) provide the
3 information. We would like to recognize all of
4 the students for their academic achievements
5 assessed. Thank you. And that's on July (sic)
6 13th, 2024. As I said earlier, the Planning
7 Commission's at 1:00 p.m. And we'll --
8 Atlantic Beach Community Cleanup and Public
9 Safety, so we'll be starting that at 9:00 a.m.
10 so we'll have dumpsters out, equipment in place
11 and we'll report to everyone who -- we'll clean
12 up at the same time, we'll be doing a public
13 inspection at the same time so we'd like
14 everyone's cooperation in doing that. We have
15 -- on June 27th, we have the Board -- June 27th
16 is the -- at 5:00 p.m., Board of Zoning
17 Appeals. And then July 1st, 2024, Children's
18 Book Drive. I've seen several miniature book
19 stands here, and they -- the history behind
20 that is -- why don't you share the history of
21 the books ---

22 **MS. TAYLOR:** I'll share books during the Public
23 Time.

24 **MR. BELLAMY:** Say again?

25 **MS. TAYLOR:** I'll be more than happy to share about



1 the book ---

2 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay, please do then, okay.
3 (Inaudible.) Well, we have donated -- I mean
4 we're gonna have some books at the Town Hall
5 we'd like to donate, whoever's in charge of
6 that, we have some books that we'd like to
7 donate, we'll bring them here. We'll have a
8 collection for it.

9 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

10 **MR. BELLAMY:** But yes, whoever's -- yeah, thank
11 you, and share it with us then 'cause we do
12 have books we'd like to share with the
13 community. We have ---

14 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

15 **MR. BELLAMY:** While we were out doing the Bike Fest,
16 we were riding around in golfcarts and walking
17 and everything else throughout the community,
18 and we discovered a yard that is awesome.
19 Everybody seen his yard? I mean it should be
20 on National Geographic ---

21 **MALE SPEAKER:** Absolutely.

22 **MR. BELLAMY:** --- I mean it is awesome, (inaudible)
23 greenery, shrubs, inside there at 6:30 in the
24 morning watering his plants, okay? So, we want
25 to appreciate you and recognize you for Yard of



1 the Month.

2 (Applause.)

3 (Inaudible background discussion.)

4 **MALE SPEAKER:** I think you said it's the Rooker's
5 granddaughter, I think his daughter. Rose,
6 that's his daughter.

7 **MR. BELLAMY:** No, no. It's Booker, his
8 granddaughter got a PhD ---

9 **MALE SPEAKER:** Oh, Booker. Oh, I thought you said
10 Rooker ---

11 **MR. BELLAMY:** --- just graduated ---

12 (Inaudible background discussion.)

13 **MALE SPEAKER:** Yeah, we also have Rose Rooker from
14 (inaudible).

15 **MR. BELLAMY:** Right ---

16 (Inaudible background discussion.)

17 **MR. BELLAMY:** Yes, sir. That's -- okay, there's a -
18 --

19 **MALE SPEAKER:** She received a -- she received a
20 Doctor of Physical Therapy.

21 **MR. BELLAMY:** Right, (inaudible) Doctor of Physical
22 Therapy, okay, right. Congratulations. But
23 we'll recognizing those students. If you have
24 more students, please give us a call and --
25 either e-mail that information to the office,



1 okay? Thank you very much.

2 **MALE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

3 **Public Time:**

4 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, we're down to -- we're down to
5 Public Time? We're down to Public Time. I
6 have Stephen Fera. Were you just wanting to
7 speak during the budget or you have -- you want
8 to speak? Okay.

9 **MR. FERA:** I -- no. I ---

10 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir.

11 **MR. FERA:** --- when we talked about the budget.

12 **MAYOR EVANS:** All right, thank you, sir.

13 **MR. FERA:** Thank you.

14 **MAYOR EVANS:** All right, Carla Taylor.

15 **MS. TAYLOR:** Good evening, everyone.

16 **COUNCILMAN DAVID (ph):** Good evening.

17 **MS. TAYLOR:** Mr. Town Manager, in response to your
18 announcement, I just wanted to share with you
19 that in addition to my role as an elected
20 member of Atlantic Beach Town Council, I also
21 serve as a steward for the Atlantic Beach
22 Little Library network.

23 **MR. BELLAMY:** Okay.

24 **MS. TAYLOR:** This partnership with the
25 littlefreelibrary.org and North Myrtle Beach



1 Lion's Club continues to allow us to provide
2 books for children and adults in Atlantic
3 Beach, Horry County and our visitors. This
4 project began with a grant from the Little Free
5 Library's organization, which included books
6 and free libraries. Today, with six Little
7 Free Libraries around our community, the one on
8 the playground here at the Community Center,
9 the one located at First Missionary Baptist
10 Church on U.S. Highway #17, one located in
11 front of the Town Hall, one located at 406 32nd
12 Avenue, one located at our Community Lodgings
13 on 31st Avenue and one located on our
14 waterfront at 3009 South Ocean Boulevard.
15 Young people and adults alike are putting in
16 books and taking out books for their reading
17 pleasure. I'm approached regularly by many of
18 our citizens thanking the team for our work and
19 letting us know that they and their children
20 look forward to stepping -- stopping by the
21 Little Free Libraries to see the rare books
22 available. This is especially important as the
23 nearest public library for our children is
24 located on 1st Avenue in North Myrtle Beach,
25 not in walking distance. As a partner with



1 littlefreelibrary.org, we have access to
2 diverse books for our community, including
3 Spanish language books, and this is especially
4 important as we move into the summer months.
5 This summer, as we did in 2023, Atlantic
6 Beach's Little Free Library network will carry
7 the Horry County Public Schools' reading list
8 and local schools will be made aware of the
9 locations of our Little Free Libraries as a
10 place the young people can borrow their reading
11 books for their summer programs. Additionally,
12 as we are a part of the Little Free Libraries
13 mobile app, visitors from around the world stop
14 by our libraries to give books while on
15 vacation. Thank you to those citizens who
16 continue to donate books to stock our
17 libraries. As books are being banned across
18 the country, the Atlantic Beach Little Free
19 Libraries offer diverse books for our children
20 and friends to read and understand our history.
21 We share books that provide perspective on
22 racism and social justice, celebrate all
23 marginalized communities and incorporate
24 experiences from all identities for our
25 readers. Mr. Town Manager, thank you for your



1 request and your report for collecting books
2 for the young people in our community. It is
3 my hope that we can partner with you and your
4 team on your collection. Thank you again.

5 (Applause.)

6 **MR. BELLAMY:** (Inaudible) have our support, we've
7 already started planning (ph) books.

8 **MS. TAYLOR:** Thank you.

9 **MR. BELLAMY:** And we'll be in -- we'll be collecting
10 what's here on July 1st and we'll (inaudible)
11 'cause reading is fundamental, and it's -- my
12 parents always taught me that you can read a
13 book and travel all over the world, and it's
14 true so broaden your horizon and we're here to
15 show the academic side of Atlantic Beach, and
16 we appreciate your efforts, Ms. Taylor. Thank
17 you.

18 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, we have John Sketers.

19 **MR. SKETERS:** Thank you, Mayor. Before I elaborate
20 here, I want you all to understand that I'm not
21 mad with nobody but I'm just -- disagree with
22 the way that this government is being ran and
23 I'll -- Mayor, I'm gonna ask you a question,
24 that question is what form of government is
25 Atlantic Beach operating under now?



1 **MAYOR EVANS:** Manager council form of government.

2 **MR. SKETERS:** That's correct. Now, under that form,
3 the mayor only has one vote just like each of
4 the Council members.

5 **MAYOR EVANS:** Oh, yeah, uh-huh.

6 **MR. SKETERS:** Thank you. I have noticed recently
7 you have been taking a lead role in that
8 (inaudible) there, and you only have one vote.

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** I only say yea one time.

10 **MR. SKETERS:** I'm sorry?

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** I only say yea one time ---

12 **MR. SKETERS:** Okay, I ---

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** --- that's what I get.

14 **MR. SKETERS:** --- I understand that.

15 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay.

16 **MR. SKETERS:** And to back up a moment, I disagree
17 with the way that members of the Election
18 Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission are
19 being chosen, and I read this, it's a person
20 that have experience in the -- particular field
21 there, and I think it's unfair to the last two
22 candidates that was elected -- or selected to
23 serve on the Planning Commission and the Zoning
24 Commission, and the reason I'm saying that is
25 because -- to -- that is a very sensitive area



1 right now, and that says whether we build a
2 high-rise and things, and I feel that we're
3 being shortchanged because these young people
4 have been selected for that position there
5 don't understand the severity of this and how
6 delicate this is to the Town of Atlantic Beach.
7 My, myself and all of us can see the
8 infrastructure of Atlantic Beach can
9 accommodate but so much, and we've got to
10 always realize that. And in our case here in
11 Atlantic Beach, I want to state this truth for
12 the record, bigger is not always better. If we
13 get too big, we'll probably lose control, I
14 want to make you all aware of that. Some of
15 you agree and some of you don't agree, well,
16 numbers state it all and when you get
17 outnumbered you can't have anything but to give
18 up or go along with the flow. And I will do
19 everything with every fiber in my body to keep
20 Atlantic Beach what it was meant to be for our
21 founders, our founders, here in Atlantic Beach,
22 and I will do everything and I would hope that
23 I have some support. And I'm not keeping
24 Atlantic Beach only for us, but we want to keep
25 control. Look at all of the things that we



1 people of color have lost control of. We
2 welcome everybody to Atlantic Beach, I don't
3 have no problem with that, but for God's sake,
4 we want to stay in control now. And I want to
5 thank you all for listening there, and that --
6 and my feelings and you -- you all are my --
7 our government there, and I trust you that you
8 do things in the best interest of what is best
9 for us as the people of Atlantic Beach. Thank
10 you.

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir.

12 **(Applause.)**

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** We have Molly Fera.

14 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

15 **MALE SPEAKER:** Molly Fera.

16 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** I can't hear you. What did you
17 say?

18 **MAYOR EVANS:** Molly Fera.

19 **MS. FERA:** Oh, that's me. I just wanted to ---

20 **MR. BELLAMY:** Come up to the mike.

21 **MS. FERA:** --- he basically said everything ---

22 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** He already said ---

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay. All right, thank you. Council,
24 seek a motion to adjourn ---

25 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Wait. Just a minute, just a



1 minute.

2 **MALE SPEAKER:** I'm not on there.

3 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** I just want to say one thing,
4 and I respect everybody's thoughts but at the
5 same time, the two young men that was appointed
6 to the Planning Board, those young men are 30-
7 plus years old. Those young men are from this
8 community. If we don't reach out to the
9 future, what, we're supposed to getting
10 somebody that's over the hill, I don't think
11 so. We're supposed to get somebody who is
12 willing to be able to do something in this
13 town, that's how they were appointed. And I
14 want to thank them -- I want to -- I ---

15 **(Inaudible background discussion.)**

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** You're out of order in talking. A
17 Councilwoman is speaking.

18 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** --- and I want to say I thank
19 the three of you all for participating, wanting
20 to be a part of this town, Ms. Angela Metts,
21 Mr. Levant Woods and Mr. Titus Leakes. I thank
22 you all for being a part of this 'cause nobody
23 else really wanted to sign up that was
24 qualified. So, I'm gonna thank you all for
25 them being -- well, we didn't vote for them, we



1 voted for those three ---

2 (Inaudible background discussion.)

3 **MAYOR EVANS:** You're interrupting, you're
4 interrupting. Let her speak ---

5 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** --- and we thank you guys.

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Council, seek a motion to adjourn.

7 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** And so moved.

8 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** So moved.

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Second -- motion and second, we got a
10 second? Roll call.

11 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

12 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** (Inaudible.)

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

14 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

15 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

16 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

17 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

18 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No.

19 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted. Meeting
21 adjourned at -- what time is it?

22 (Inaudible background discussion.)

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** 7:10. Thank you.

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



CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the within hearing consisting of sixty-four (64) 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 June 14, 2024.



Amanda J. Creel Godfrey
Court Reporter

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

