# TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

\*\*\*\*\*

Monday, September 9, 2024 6:00 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 9th day of September, 2024, and transcribed by Amanda Quigley Williams, 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 Councilman John David

#### ADMINISTRATION:

Orton Bellamy, Interim Town Manager Dwayne Green, Esquire, Attorney for Atlantic Beach Cheryl Pereira, Town Clerk Paul Klein - Accountant for Atlantic Beach

#### ALSO PRESENT:

Jonathan Brown - Police Officer
for Atlantic Beach
Gerry Shea - Field Representative
for Congressman Russell Fry
Luke Sharp - Adaptive Surf Project
Ann Huyler - South Carolina Forestry Commission
Dianne (ph) Hill - Speaker from the Public

John Skeeter - Speaker from the Public

# INDEX

CALL TO ORDER:	PAGE:
	4
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:	. 5
CEREMONIAL MATTERS:	
Jonathan Brown	. 5
MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA:	. 7
OLD BUSINESS:	. 8
MOTION TO APPOINT ANGELA BROWN AS	
MUNICIPAL JUDGE:	
	9
NEW BUSINESS:	10
MANAGER'S REPORT:	11
PRESENTATIONS:	
MR. SHARP	17
MS. HUYLER	17
UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:	3 9
PUBLIC TIME:	4 0
MS. HILL	4 0
ADJOURNMENT:	4.8
ADDOOMNIERI.	40
Certificate	5 0

#### 1 CALL TO ORDER:

- 2 | MAYOR EVANS: Counsel, I seek a motion to come out
- of Executive Session, into the General Session.
- 4 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.
- 5 | MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Second.
- 6 MAYOR EVANS: Motion and second on the floor to come
- 7 out of Executive Session into the General
- 8 Session. Any other questions or comments? If
- 9 not, roll call.
- 10 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 11 | COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yay.
- 12 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro-tem Josephine Isom?
- 13 | MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Yay.
- 14 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
- 15 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yay.
- 16 | MS. PEREIRA: Councilman John David?
- 17 | COUNCILMAN DAVID: Yes.
- 18 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Jake Evans?
- 19 MAYOR EVANS: Yay. Motion granted. Now I want to
- 20 take the time to welcome the general public and
- 21 ask at this time if you have any devices that
- 22 might disturb the proceedings, put those on
- 23 silent for us. Silence those for us at this
- 24 time, please. And we want to stand for a
- 25 moment of silence and prayer. And as we do we

- 1 state.
- 2 MR. BROWN: According the Constitution of this
- 3 state.
- 4 MAYOR EVANS: To exercise the duties of the office
- 5 to which I have been appointed.
- 6 MR. BROWN: To exercise the duties of the office of
- 7 which I have been appointed.
- 8 | MAYOR EVANS: And that I will to best of my ability.
- 9 MR. BROWN: And that I will to best of my ability.
- 10 MAYOR EVANS: Discharge the duties thereof.
- 11 | MR. BROWN: Discharge the duties thereof.
- 12 | MAYOR EVANS: And preserve and protect.
- 13 | MR. BROWN: And preserve and protect.
- 14 | MAYOR EVANS: And defend the Constitution of this
- 15 state and the United States.
- 16 MR. BROWN: And defend the Constitution of this
- 17 state and the United States.
- 18 | MAYOR EVANS: So help me God.
- 19 MR. BROWN: So help me God.
- 20 MAYOR EVANS: As a police officer of the Town of
- 21 Atlantic Beach.
- 22 | MR. BROWN: As a police officer of the Town of
- 23 Atlantic Beach.
- 24 | MAYOR EVANS: I will equally, fairly, and
- 25 impartially.

So moved.

25

COUNCILWOMAN GORE:

- 1 | MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Second.
- 2 | MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second on the floor for
- 3 the approval --- the approval of the agenda.
- 4 Any other questions or comments? Roll call.
- 5 | MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 6 | COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yay.
- 7 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro-tem Josephine Isom?
- 8 MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Yay.
- 9 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
- 10 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yay.
- 11 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman John David?
- 12 | COUNCILMAN DAVID: No.
- 13 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Jake Evans?
- 14 OLD BUSINESS:
- 15 | MAYOR EVANS: Yay. Motion granted. We're down to
- 16 old business, town council meeting minutes.
- 17 The minutes from town council meeting held on
- June 3rd, June 10th and August 5th of 2024, as
- 19 well as August 29th of 2024. Council seek a
- 20 motion for approval of those minutes.
- 21 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.
- 22 MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Second.
- 23 | MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second on the floor for
- 24 the approval of minutes. Any other questions
- or comments? Roll call.

- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22 appoint Angela Brown ---
- 23 COUNCILMAN DAVID: I moved for a discussion ---
- 24 Excuse me, sir. There is a motion and MAYOR EVANS:
- 25 a second on the floor to appoint Angela Brown



report in preparation for (inaudible) '25/'26



(inaudible).

MR. KLEIN:

23

24

for having me. My name is Paul Klein. I'm the
accountant here. I'm coming from the upstate.
I work for an accounting firm called Love
Bailey and Associates. I've been with the town
since February 1st, approximately. So anyway,
recently you all just approved a budget for
2024-2025. And for those of you, especially
citizens here, y'all are probably used to a
calendar year life cycle, right? January to
December. But when we talk about governments,
we're going from January 1st to June 30th,
right. And another unique feature of
government accounting is that unlike a
business, right, maybe where you're expecting
revenues to come in evenly or spread out
throughout the year, revenues in a town
typically are think about season
seasonality, right. Think about you've got a
seasonal business and maybe several months is
when you do all of your maybe 80 percent of
your revenue. Well, in a town like this,
obviously tax revenues, property taxes,
business licenses make up the bulk of your
revenues. And so we're waiting until January
through April for that to happen. Of course

we're just one month in. You heard me say that
July 1st to June 30th is your fiscal year. So
we're one month in to the new year and so we're
looking at trying to project, well, how are we
gonna look June 30th. Well after one month,
it's kind of difficult to tell. And so between
now and January 1st what we want to do is try
to conserve our expenditures as a town. And of
course, we've got responsibility, we've made a
budget. That budget I believe was passed some
time in June. You have two budget meetings.
And so we talked a little bit in our Executive
Session about trying to conserve those
expenditures until January 1st come around.
There's some extenuating legal fees, so that's
sort of the big issue that we talked about. We
talked about some other expenditures that we're
trying to conserve, but I don't have much more
to tell you other than that's kind of the goal
of the council over the next four or five
months, while we await kind of our busy revenue
season, right. And so we're required to pass
a balanced budget and so that's a zero at the
bottom, right. So it'd be if you've got a
business, that would be net income zero. Of

course, you may not be happy but you wouldn't
be paying any taxes, right, on that. But we're
required to a net zero balance. But that
doesn't mean that every month is zeroed out,
right. So in the case of a typical city or a
municipality, that's gonna mean that July,
August, right, September, that if you're just
looking at one month at a time, you're gonna
see negatives and you might look at that and
say, well we're performing poorly. What's
wrong here? Well, like I said, we're waiting
until January for that property tax dump to
come in, right. And then we're gonna wait
until April and May for the business license
dump to come in. So as you're looking at
financial reporting for a town, I just want to
kind of keep that in mind that we're gonna see
some negatives, right. But what's important is
that we try to project that throughout the rest
of the year to see if we're gonna stay on
target. And so that's kind of what we talked
about in our preliminary meeting, talked about
some extenuating expenditures, and trying to
keep those under control until we get to the
spring months. So anyway, anything else I can

do? Any questions I can -- I can answer?

2 | MAYOR EVANS: Nothing.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

COUNCILWOMAN: That's it.

MR. BELLAMY: (Inaudible.)

MR. KLEIN: Sure. I guess one thing -- and I'll go back and look a little bit more on this. This gonna affect our budget and also gonna affect citizenry. You guys may or may not --I don't know how you do it here in Atlantic Beach or Horry County. So I'm talking about So I'm from the upstate. property taxes. Ι live in Laurens County and every two or three years I get a nice something in the mail from the county that congratulations, says your property value has gone up. Have you guys ever got one of those?

MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: (Inaudible.)

18 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Oh, yes.

MR. KLEIN: Yeah, right. So on one -- on the one hand you open the mail and if you're wanting to sell your house you're thinking, wow, this is great. And the other hand you look at it and you know that your assessment, right, is based on your property value. And so every few years that -- that tends to inch up. And so I

believe there's a small increase -- or is it affective '24/'25 or '25/'26?

**MAYOR EVANS:** '24/'25.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

20

21

22

23

25

MR. KLEIN: '24/'25, so that would be January. So that's gonna help with some revenues. And I don't think we even budgeted for those in our original budget, so that's gonna be helpful when we're looking at our overall budget this year. So anyway, it's -- I get the same things in the mail. So I get them in the mail and I don't know if I'm happy or sad. I guess if I was wanting to move from my location I'd be happy. But I get them in the mail and I guess it is what it is. But that's gonna be some increased revenues for the community.

**COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Okay.

17 MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Okay.

18 | MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

19 MR. KLEIN: Yes, thank you. Thank y'all so much.

MR. BELLAMY: Okay. At this time we would like to bring up Gerry Shea. He's the field representative for Congressman Russell Fry.

He'll give us a quick update from the U.S.

24 Congressman.

MR. SHEA: Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, council for

having me today. The Congressman just has us come as the field representative to attend your questions answer any for meetings, constituents. If you guys have any questions we can meet offline. But I appreciate y'all's Thank you for what you do. service. Ιf need anything from us, I'll be here after the meeting.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Thank you.

#### PRESENTATIONS:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. BELLAMY: Okay. At this time we we'll have -we would like to bring up Adaptive Surf
Project, Luke Sharp, and he's gonna give us an
update. We have -- okay. Come on up.

MR. SHARP: All right, Mr. Mayor, Councilmen, Mr. Manager, and guests. I want to -- I'd like to first of all begin by saying it is an honor to be here speaking at the Town of Atlantic Beach council meeting because this -- this community believes in accessibility and it believes that beaches are for everyone. I -- my name is Luke Sharp and I am the director of Adaptive Surf Project. We take individuals that happen to have disabilities surfing and in order to surf

you have to get on the beach. But in order to
get on the beach, if you have a disability, you
need a little help and you need a community
that's willing to give that help. And not
every community is willing to do that. But
this community, when we went to when I met
with Manager Bellamy, they're willing for us to
put an assess mat at the beach access, so
individuals that happen to have a disability
can like my friend Jessica who just rolled
in here, look at that. Perfect timing,
Jessica. Jessica lives here in Atlantic Beach
and she gets around with a motorized
wheelchair. And now because of the matting,
she can roll on to the beach. But once you get
the end of the matting, you still it's still
difficult to get on the beach because that
those things don't roll in the sand. So we've
been able to donate this beach wheelchair for
the community also. And that way if a visitor
comes and needs a wheelchair, it's there. And
we got this through a grant, the Craig H.
Neilsen Foundation Grant that we applied for to
help with beach accessibility and I've been
meeting with city councilmen and managers up

and down the Grand Strand. And this $$ and
I'll tell you this right up front on the news
and everything, you guys were the most this
council, this government was the most open to
it. And that's beautiful. It's beautiful to
believe that beaches are for everyone, that
everyone should be allowed to get on the beach
and I just love that. And I want to say
something personal real quick. This community
of Atlantic Beach is also special to me because
one of the best humans I know lives here, and
that's Mr. Kenneth McLaurin who's sitting right
there in the hat. I worked for this guy and I
tell you, he he's one of the he's the
greatest human I've known, he's just a nice
man. And I just you guys are lucky to have
him in your community. I just I love that
guy. I understand he won yard of the month,
but for me he's like he was the boss of of
a lifetime. And I just I'm just proud to
know him. So I want to want to acknowledge
him while he's here. But also, thank you guys
for believing that accessibility. And to that
end, our next big event is gonna be here.
October 5th we're gonna take probably about 60

70 individuals or that happen have to disabilities surfing. And we're gonna need 140 volunteers. People are gonna come all -- from all over the east coast and as far -- some people come as far as Nebraska and other places and fly in here to participate. And we're gonna have the event in Atlantic Beach. actually -- and so it's our first time having We've been doing this for 12 years and for the first time ever we're gonna be doing it right here in Atlantic Beach at that beach 12 access with the new matting and all that. And 13 again, I'm just honored to have it. Is there any questions I can answer or anything that about our event? All right, well thank you very much for listening to me. And once again, thank you, Atlantic Beach, for believing that beaches are for everyone. Thank you, 19 guys.

#### (Applause)

**BELLAMY:** We would like to, on behalf of the Town of Atlantic Beach, would like to present to your organization, Adaptive Surf Project, a certificate of appreciation.

MR. SHARP: All right.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

14

15

16

17

18

20

21

22

23

24



(Applause)

24

25

applause.

## 1 (Inaudible background noise.)

2 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

come on up.

8

15

16

17

18

19

- 3 MR. BELLAMY: Thank you. Thank you very much.
  4 Thank you very much.
- 5 MAYOR EVANS: Orton, is there another presentation?
- 6 MR. BELLAMY: Okay. Yes, another presentation,
  7 South Carolina Forestry Commission, Ann Huyler,
- 9 MS. HUYLER: I'm gonna speak loudly because I need two hands.
- 11 MR. BELLAMY: Oh, okay. We can bring a ---
- MS. HUYLER: As a tree, I tend to bring a lot of paper. I know that you will be setting a small bond fire after I leave to get rid of this, but
  - COUNCILWOMAN GORE: You could rest it right here.
  - MS. HUYLER: Yeah, no, no, no. Yeah, I'm good -I'm gonna give you a bunch of this if you guys
    are (inaudible). But if you'll hold this. So
    I'm an urban forestry specialist ---
- 21 MR. BELLAMY: If you would speak into the microphone. Okay.
- MS. HUYLER: All right. I am the urban forestry

  specialist for the South Carolina Forestry

  Commission. There are three of us throughout



the state. The state is divided up into three
section, each about 14 counties each. I get
the Pee Dee, everything from North Myrtle all
the way to Pawleys and then essentially up to
Lancaster County. Everything eastward is mine.
And I recently met Mr. Bellamy a while ago,
just trying to get to every single incorporated
city. There's 64 incorporated cities in my
area so I've got everybody but Mount Croghan
and Paxville, but any who, so we work on urban
forestry. So we aren't doing forests out in
the wilderness, we're not doing timberland
inside. There are 350 people do, do that.
There are three of us that work on your trees
in your city. For multiple reasons, one is
that trees are there to do work. That is it.
We want them to do work. Benefits have to
outweigh the costs, right. They are a part of
the infrastructure just like your storm drains,
your sewer lines, your sidewalks, your electric
lights, all of that. Removing pollution,
removing particulates, helping children with
the asthma, your storm water, green screen from
Highway 17 going by, definite beautification.
We really a lot of communities along the

Atlantic coast, they want to be cool and green
and treed, and not look like Phoenix with 97
percent humidity, you know. Trees are here for
multiple reasons. We were sitting outside
talking and all of those water oaks provided
wonderful shade. If those water oaks were not
there that front door would be too hot to
touch. So we are here to help cool the area
down. But again, trees need to work. The
benefits need outweigh the costs, just like
your storm drains and your roads and your
electric lights. They have to be placed
strategically, the right tree in the right
place and this is what we are here to help
people city administrations do. So we have
oodles of paper, pamphlets, tree care. We have
fire adaptive landscaping. Remember when Horry
County went up in flames a while back? We have
that. Backyard buffers, urban and community
forestry, all of this. And Mr. Bellamy is
gonna have to carry this back. All right. And
then I will hand all of these out. I know
heads are gonna be nodding pretty darn soon
after I get into this. A little bit less heavy
eyelids if you're looking at something at the

same time. But feel free to go to the
recycling bin afterwards. That's what trees
are for too, recycled and reused. So, all
right. One of the main jobs that I have is
bringing benefits from the Forestry Commission
to the cities. That's that's it, flat out.
So what we have in the fall, the Forestry
Commission produces grants, tens of thousands,
hundreds of thousands dollars to cities to help
them with their city trees, to help manage,
because trees cost money. Anybody hire anybody
to prune or remove a tree knows they can cost
thousands of dollars, right. So that's why we
work to make the right tree in the right place.
And the Forestry Commission provides grants for
that. We recently had a grant for the
Inflation Reduction Act. That was a huge grant
under the Biden administration and the senate,
5.1 billion dollars to disadvantaged
communities to help with their trees. It was
help with the canopy map, ordinances, tree
planting campaign, they would plant not 50
trees, 100 trees but hundreds of trees in a
city. And that the money would go to that.
The city would pay for nothing, right. We

would hire to people to do that work for them.
That was the Inflation Reduction Act.
Unfortunately it's a 5000 population limit,
which in the Pee Dee area is about 80 percent
of all the cities are 5000 and less. So the
larger cities can get it at this point but I am
working to get smaller cities to get back for
that. We have a food forest grant. That's
where public land is used in disadvantaged
areas, food deserts, to grow food, collect food
and distribute it to people who are in food
deserts. That is also what we do. There is
two in Charleston, USC Upstate has also applied
and received it. We know Georgetown, Lake City
have also applied for it, Greenville. So these
are food forests for the life of the city. And
then we have a bunch of technical assistance,
community grants. So so we have the
technical assistance is number one and if you
look at this flier on the back, the first bunch
of grants on it are technical assistance.
These are grants that are solving a specific
problem, tree inventories, an entire tree
canopy map that gives you an the percentage
of canopy, tree canopy in your city, 42

percent, 36 percent, 21 percent, and then it
tells you what it costs to raise or maintain
your canopy, and where you can plant. All
right, that's a tree canopy map, tree
inventory, ecosystem services. It goes down.
So this is very specific problems. It's a
grant there for a very specific solution. So
those are just some of the grants. The IRA and
the food forests have already come out. The
technical assistance ones will come out in
October and you can apply for them in November.
That, I think, Atlantic Beach would do great.
The first one you would start with would be
tree canopy map because it would tell you where
your trees are and where you can put your
trees. That is the main thing. And they
and this is one thing I'm handing this out to
city council so everybody knows about these
things, so it doesn't land upon one person in
a city, who then sort of juggles all of this.
City council needs to know and needs to have
their hand in on this so they can guide this.
So this is also is just an online the PDF
version of the application that will probably
come out in November. All it is, is asking

what you've already got. It's not an
application like you're trying to sell yourself
as a resume, just to tell the grant readers
what you got and what you need, so they can
best know which grant you can get. Okay, so
that's it. We offer grants. The other thing
is our website has tons of free webinars, storm
plan, how to write debris contracts, FEMA
contracts, all of this. We have - it's all
free on the Forestry Commission webinar site.
We have tons of information. Yes, lots of it.
Not gonna go into it. We just did a storm
planning series for communities. I don't know
if Mr. Bellamy was in on it. You might have
been, I don't know. But you can get free
YouTube, tree risk assessments, standing
contracts, so your contracts are already
written out before Debbie comes along. You've
already go everybody lined up. You already
know what FEMA wants and you don't have to
figure it out while you have no electricity,
can't flush your toilets, right. It's already
done before hand. And also, where are you
putting your debris? I don't think Atlantic
Beach has a bunch of public land that they

1 could dump trees.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: No.

3 MS. HUYLER: No, so then who do you contract with

this? Is this the County, another city?

5 MR. BELLAMY: The County.

6 MS. HUYLER: Yes?

7 MR. BELLAMY: We had a meeting about ---

8 MS. HUYLER: Yeah.

9 MR. BELLAMY: --- about three months ago with the

10 County.

4

11 MS. HUYLER: Yeah.

12 MR. BELLAMY: Yes.

13 | MS. HUYLER: So that's how you manage it?

14 MR. BELLAMY: Right.

15 MS. HUYLER: And then how do you document all your

16 dump trucks going to the debris site, because

17 FEMA wants actual documentation. You just

can't say that's our pile and get money back.

19 They want documentation. So we have a lot of

20 that on the webinars. People who do this work.

21 So webinars. Okay. So grants and webinars,

22 that's what we mainly do and we, on the last

paperclip, is Tree City USA. Yes, Abor Day

24 Foundation, we're working on that. It is a

25 recognition that the city is actively managing

its trees. And you have to do you have a
public tree ordinance in there, which says
essentially, these trees are protected, if you
damage these public trees, this is your fine,
this is enforced and this is where the money
goes, right. They want to stop people from
taking your crape myrtles down to four feet off
the ground, right, et cetera, et cetera. It's
a public tree ordinance. We just had a private
tree ordinance go through Kingstree because
most of the trees in Atlantic Beach belong to
private property. You only have a tiny amount
of public land here. But those tree are here
for the life of the city. Homeowners turn
over, but those trees are gonna be here ten,
fifteen, fifty years, a hundred years, two
hundred years, and they benefit all the
citizens, all the visitors, so all of the trees
need to be protected. If all you had were
public trees, you would have no trees. They'd
be sad trees in the median or around your town
hall. That would be essentially it. And
that's not it's not good to walk down side
walks with no trees for shade. No no
screening out the sounds, and you've got

1	nothing sucking water out of your flooded yard
2	because tap grass isn't gonna do it, turf grass
3	can't do it. So we promote public tree
4	ordinances, private tree ordinances. You need
5	a tree board. You need three, five, seven
6	people whose entire job is to assist y'all.
7	That's it. On how to manage the trees.
8	Volunteer, it is built into the ordinances. So
9	in the ordinances it will say, official tree
10	board, right. Volunteer, you don't get paid,
11	but you're here to assist. So you need a
12	public tree ordinance, you need a tree board,
13	you need to spend two dollars per capita on
14	trees, which is very, very, very easy to
15	do. This is the list of every single thing you
16	could use of your two dollars per capita on
17	trees: mulch, volunteers, buying a chain saw,
18	staff going out to pick up limbs, leaves, all
19	of that goes into it. It is it is again,
20	you hire a landscape contractor to remove a
21	tree, that's \$1000, \$2000 dollars, you're most
22	of the way there. And that's one tree.
23	Chesterfield, some person charged them \$5000
24	dollars to take down one tree and groom
25	another. No competition. There was not a

single arborist around it could bid on for
that, \$5000. So it is scary easy to go over
two dollars. Most most cities are eight
dollars per capita, just to get some job done.
And we know SCDOT, if anybody's here, ain't
doing the work. Most of your roads are SCDOT.
They ain't pruning them. They ain't pruning
them. Call them up and see how far you got.
Before I was here I worked in Columbia as their
reforestation program coordinator. We planted
about 500 trees in the right of way every
single year. Maintaining was a little
different but we could put them in the ground.
But SCDOT, it was it was a headache. So any
who, we'll go on from there. So that's this.
So this is in here, you will have a sample
public tree ordinance, you will also have the
public tree ordinance for Briarcliffe Acres.
They just became a tree city last year, 2023.
First year. And you will see how identical it
is. Arbor Day Foundation gives out sample
public tree ordinances. Briarcliffe Acres
pretty much and many communities copy and paste
and then adapt to the city, change the wording,
et cetera, et cetera. Okay, so that is that

1	is that. You don't need to rewrite the play if
2	the play works. Don't need to do that. So
3	public tree ordinance, tree board, two dollars
4	per capita, and the last thing is celebrating
5	Arbor Day, that's it. There is an official
6	proclamation, one of the last things there. It
7	was written when Arbor Day Foundation started
8	the program in the in Nebraska. The Mayor
9	just needs to read it out, sign it, declare
10	that day to be Arbor Day, and you are
11	essentially done, you document it. You don't
12	even need to plant a tree. Most people do, but
13	you don't need to do it. That is the official
14	Arbor Day celebration, a bargain basement
15	celebration right there. Many cities celebrate
16	with schools. That's it. And you have gotten
17	your Tree City USA. And then once you've done
18	the hard work, it's mostly copy and paste,
19	unless something changes. So that's Tree City.
20	You get a banner, you get metal signs, you get
21	awards. That I know, not very flashy, but
22	you do get it. They do have South Carolina.
23	They have a poster online. You go to Arbor Day
24	Foundation. One of the things is the Town of
25	Nichols just won the smallest city, 272. They

1	got their first Tree City 2023. Patrick has
2	been winning that smallest city for 16 years
3	prior at 275, which, you know, doesn't take
4	much to move the needle on small cities. So
5	they've got it. So this this is something
6	Atlantic Beach, with your city council, will do
7	with a snap of the fingers. You guys got more
8	resources. That's essentially that,
9	proclamation and the little PDF if you wanted
10	to look at it and fill it out. So, I know,
11	more paper than you guys really, really want to
12	deal with or look at. But so, grants,
13	webinars, Tree City, and I want to say also,
14	when I was talking with Mr. Bellamy, I am a
15	certified arborist. A number of cities that
16	don't have certified arborists, and most do
17	not. They're lucky they have a person with a
18	lawnmower. So I can inspect city trees for
19	free, give recommendations with zero force of
20	law, but if you need somebody to arbitrate, I
21	can do it. Surfside Beach had a poisoning of
22	a Laurel Oak on private property. So I came
23	and spoke to the police chief, (inaudible) what
24	I saw. You have sewer lines going in
25	Georgetown, I walked the engineers and I said,

you can remove this tree, don't remove that
tree. Recommendations, no force of law, but I
can inspect trees, any of that. That is free
of charge as a state employee. So if you have
questions about where to plant, what to plant,
when to plant, there's lots of information on
that. I can come and assist. I can not do
private property but I can speak about the
crape myrtle bark scale, which is an insect
now, which is eating up our crape myrtles.
It's everywhere from Maryland, Washington D.C.,
South to Florida, west to Kansas, to New
Mexico. In Columbia I was there and we stopped
planting it the year I was there. I actually
found it, Clemson Extension was notified,
through a historic building, then we stopped
planting crape myrtles that year, 2019. No
more. The young ones would just get buried
over with the insects within a year. If you
want your crape myrtles, they're gonna have to
be pesticided for life. Crape myrtles live 20,
30 years, you're gonna have to pesticide them
that long because infestation in the area. I
can speak on that. So there's a number of
things, Clemson Extension and I some of our

knowledge overlaps and Clemson Extension 1 is 2 stunningly wonderful to call for assistance. 3 But yeah, so I am here. I hope to bother Mr. 4 Bellamy continuously for Tree City and for 5 grants coming up this year. I can assist in 6 Yeah, I think I -- I don't know how many that. 7 heads are down, people are nodding off. 8 (Inaudible) falling asleep, the bond fire will wake you back up. So ---9

- COUNCILWOMAN GORE: I got a question for you.
- MS. HUYLER: 11 Yes.
- 12 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: With the crape myrtles.
- 13 MS. HUYLER: Yes.
- 14 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: When you say they had a bunch of
- 15

- 16 MS. HUYLER: The scale is an insect. It sort of --
- 17 it looks like a fish scale is what it in mature
- 18 form, it gloms onto. It's very, very, very
- 19 teenie tiny. But once you see it, you can
- 20 identify it. There's nothing to do but
- 21 pesticide.
- 22 MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Pesticide.
- 23 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So you just treat them versus --
- 24
- 25 **HUYLER:** MS. Yeah, you treat them with a soil

drench, you pour the pesticide in water and essentially when the leaves are opening up in the spring, you drench the soil and that can hold them off.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Oh, okay.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MS. HUYLER: But you would need to do it for life. And the problem is, the pesticide is а neonicotinoid, which I don't know -is implicated in honeybees colony death. Ιt doesn't kill them outright, but it weakens them because the soil drench gets into the tissues of the tree and into the pollen. And so the bees take -- the honey bees take the pollen back to their colony and they feed their larva it and so they have fewer living over winter. So that's -- that's more the issue is you can save your larger fancier crape myrtles but this isn't something to do for a whole city's worth of them because that's a lot of neonicotinoid getting into it. So -- but, and again, you can ask me any question, contact me and if I don't know the answers, I will find the smart people anything, yeah, you can who do. So ask anything about trees or anything like But I think Atlantic Beach would look lovely

1	with trees in the corner there. There's not
2	much you can do around in the entrance, but
3	some wonderful landscaping down the median, you
4	can get some of the private homes to put some
5	trees in, possibly a tree giveaway, help them
6	plant, something like that. Because it can be
7	pretty scary planting a tree. Normally if you
8	give away, free giveaways they just sort of sit
9	in the pot for three years and then they die.
10	You know that. There's it's yeah, yeah.
11	It's what happens, so. We all have good
12	intentions, but getting it in the ground and
13	maintaining it is work.

- COUNCILWOMAN GORE: What was your name again?
- 15 MS. HUYLER: Ann Huyler ---
- 16 | MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: She's on the agenda.
- MS. HUYLER: --- and I unfortunately never carry --
- I have my cards. But I do have -- I don't
- think it's -- I think it's Cheryl Pereira's?
- 20 MS. PEREIRA: Uh-huh.

14

- 21 | MS. HUYLER: I have her email. If you want any
- 22 other email, I can keep you on the list for the
- 23 webinars, the grants when it opens up, it'll be
- 24 a huge webinar. All the cities in South
- 25 Carolina will be onboard to learn about the



webinars, learn about the grants being offered and how to apply. But you can pass it on to -- any way, tell Mr. Bellamy what to do or -- yeah, I do have the cards, I just never bring them inside. So, but I can send an email to Mr. Bellamy and you guys just answer back if you want to be a -- get on the Forestry Commission's urban forestry emails.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Okay.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

MS. HUYLER: Okay. All right. All right. Thank

12 you.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

MAYOR **EVANS:** Thank you. We're down to announcements for upcoming events and activities, and then public time is what we've got left. Monday, September 23rd, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - Bike Festival after action review and lessons learned. Thursday, September 26th, 2024, 5:00 p.m. - planning commission and BZA training. Saturday, October the 5th, 2024 -Adaptive Surf Event. And of course, Monday, October 7th, 2024, 6:00 p.m. is the town council meeting. Monday, October 21st, 2024, 11:00 a.m. is the 2025-'26 budget workshop.

# PUBLIC TIME:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MAYOR EVANS: We're down to public time and who do I

have here? Dianne (ph) Hill?

MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: She's here.

MS. HILL: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, council, Bellamy, community members. First of all, have some voter registration forms that I'd like to give to anyone who needs them. who is not a registered voter for the State of South Carolina, you can fill these out become a registered voter, before or prior, at least 30 days prior to the next election. And this is of particular interest to anyone knows of a -- an offender or someone who has been incarcerated, they can get their right to vote restored by registering to vote. But they must do this. And of course, all elections are important. We have an upcoming one that is ultra important for the democracy of this country if we are to remain a democracy. So please, if you know anyone who has not registered in this state or an offender who has been released and does not know that they have to re-register in order to vote, please notify them. That's one thing. The next thing is, I

have a question for council if you would
indulge me, and that is, I would really like to
know or get an update on the status of the last
of our last election. The mayor's election,
if you could tell me, us, any information about
that, it would be greatly appreciated. What is
the status of the mayor's race or the mayor's
election? And, Ms. Taylor, who was duly
elected and, I believe certified to be a
council member, can you tell us anything about
when she might be able to take her seat or what
the status is of that? Thank you so much.

MAYOR EVANS: Okay, thank you. I think it's a whole lot of legal ramifications as far as the election goes. But as far as reporting about anything that has to do with the election, I'm gonna leave that to the professionals and the attorneys. So if there's something that the attorney needs to say or ...

MR. GREEN: Yes, good evening, everyone. My name is

Dwayne Green, Attorney. I'm retained by the

Town of Atlantic Beach. We do have a couple of

court hearings pending, which will decide the

election issue. There was a Common Pleas

hearing, two hearings regarding motions filed

by Carla Taylor as to whether or not she can sit pending these election contests. There is two hearings coming up that are consequential. One will be in September and that's one of the appeals of the contests and mayoral race. Secondly there is a rid of mandamus that's a request for the South Carolina Supreme Court to look at whether or not there were illegal votes cast that determined the election. So what the Court has ruled twice, on request by Ms. Taylor, is to allow all legal proceedings to finish before those decisions will be made legally. So a judge will be hearing one and the Supreme Court will be hearing likely in the other. And when those are resolved, then we'll have answers on everything.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you, sir.

18 MALE SPEAKER: What day ---

19 MAYOR EVANS: Do we have ---

20 | MALE SPEAKER: What day ---

21 MAYOR EVANS: Excuse me, sir. Hold on a second.

Answer, he's asking a date or something from

you.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

22

23

24

25

MR. GREEN: Yes, there's only been -- there's only

been one date set so far. I believe September



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

18th for the first one and that's regarding the mayoral election. The writ of mandamus has not been set a date yet. So that's been filed but typically about 30 to 60 days before we'll know what a date is on those. So those are the two pending legal proceedings that have to be decided before those matters are put to rest.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you. I have John Skeeters.

MR. SKEETERS: Thank you, Mayor and council. have some concerns that I'd like to share with you and not fussing, not fussing at you or with Some thing that I think that need to be brought to all οf our attention here t.o the beautification of the continue citv of Atlantic Beach, and that is in the Public Works Department. And I know that all of us have noticed a lot of overgrown lots that need trimming, cutting, or whatever it take to do to bring them back in control. Well, two, and is part of our city ordinance, that's built in. So I can't find many excuses for not asking the owner οf these properties to maintain the properties better, okay. And in our city ordinance I have noticed a lot οf things that is not being in compliance, but a

city ordinance is not etched in stone. If we can make an amendment to the existing city ordinance to correct something to conform with whatever try -- we trying to do here in the City of Atlantic Beach, I think that we should consider that highly there so we can bring the beautification not only a few structures, but it's everybody responsibility here to make this happen. And I think with us talking about what we need to do and agreeing to do it, it's only one thing left, go ahead and lets do it. Thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Um...

15 **MAYOR EVANS:** Councilwoman?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: With those being -- just second. There is ordinances that's out of I'm not mistaken, that we've place, that if sent letters -- not me, but the town hall staff sending letters out to people for overgrown lots, as well as the cargo containers that sits in the town that don't supposed to be there too. So our ordinance is really overwhelmed with things that's going on in our town that wasn't addressed, but I -- if I'm not

1	mistaken they're on the list to be addressed
2	now, the overgrown lots, as well as the cargo
3	containers. So all that stuff is supposed to
4	be addressed and it's in our ordinance. They
5	all supposed to be gone?

- MR. SKEETERS: And will you give me some insight on what ---
- 8 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: No, I can't. He can. But I was
  9 just letting you know what ---
  - MR. SKEETERS: Well, and I don't want to drag this out. But when you say cargo containers, what are we talking about?
  - COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Those trailers that come off of trucks that's called cargo containers that's sitting around in the town, that's don't supposed to be here. Those should have been gone and from my understanding, there were notices being made up to ---
- 19 MR. BELLAMY: We (inaudible) ---

6

7

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

20

21

22

23

24

25

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: I'm not talking to you. There were notices ready to be sent out to address those matters. So therefore there is overgrown lots and there is other little things that's in the ordinance that's got to be torqued out that he's working on because he's new, so.

- 1 MR. SKEETERS: Well, just one -- not even a ---
- 2 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: (Inaudible) trailers to the --
- 3 trailers that coming in are ---
- 4 | MAYOR EVANS: It's -- it's ---
- 5 MR. SKEETERS: Are you talking to him or me?
- 6 MAYOR EVANS: It's public time, let him talk.
- 7 MR. SKEETERS: Yeah, yeah. Are you talking
- 8 about the container that people -- hold on, I
- 9 listened to you.
- 10 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: I didn't say nothing, I said
- 11 yes.
- 12 MR. SKEETERS: Yeah, that people are using for
- 13 storage building and that's legal. It's
- 14 nothing in our ordinances that against that.
- 15 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yes it is.
- 16 MR. BELLAMY: Okay.
- 17 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: It is.
- 18 MR. BELLAMY: Just to answer your question ---
- 19 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: I'm not disputing you, I'm just
- 20 saying, those ordinance is ---
- 21 MR. BELLAMY: Okay.
- 22 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: I'm not disputing what you're
- 23 saying.
- 24 MR. BELLAMY: Okay.
- 25 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Those stuff has to be looked at.

I'm just saying that there is certain ordinances that we've spoken about ---

MR. BELLAMY: Yes ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: --- that's he's supposed to be

5 getting on ---

3

4

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. BELLAMY: We ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: --- so that's what I'm saying.

MR. BELLAMY: Thank you for bringing it Yes, sir. to our -- can everybody hear me? Thank you for bring that to our attention. We have been -we have sent out letters to the property owners to remove vegetation, cut back the trees. Wе would like to thank the, let me get this right, Association, is Landowner's that right? Landowners -- Property Owner's Association. They've been working with us. I had a meeting when I first came on board. They have been contacting other property owners and we have And we have received response from them also. and they are going out and cutting the lots. And there is some that we have not received response back but we want to continue to pursue And you are correct, we are pursuing that. that but we would like to thank those -- the letters ones that wе sent the out and

- 1 immediately they contacted our office and start
- 2 removing the vegetation and trimming the trees
- 3 back. We really appreciate their service too.
- 4 But at the same time there is some that has not
- 5 been responsive. We are definitely going to
- adhere to policy and are going to enforce it.
- 7 MR. SKEETERS: Okay. Thank you for your time.
- 8 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: (Inaudible) cargo containers ---
- 9 MR. BELLAMY: Yeah, that's correct, yeah.
- 10 **ADJOURNMENT:**
- 11 MAYOR EVANS: Council, seek a motion to adjourn.
- 12 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.
- 13 MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM: Second.
- 14 | MAYOR EVANS: Motion and second on the floor to
- adjourn. Any other questions or comments?
- 16 MR. BELLAMY: No, no, go ahead.
- 17 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 18 | COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yay.
- 19 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro-tem Josephine Isom?
- 20 **MAYOR PRO-TEM ISOM:** Yay.
- 21 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
- 22 | COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yay.
- 23 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman John David?
- 24 | COUNCILMAN DAVID: Yes.
- 25 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Jake Evans?



	ATLANTIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL 49									
1	MAYOR	EVANS:	Yay.	Motion	granted	l, meeting				
2	adjourned at 7:03 p.m.									
3	(There	being n	o further	question	s, the	deposition				
4	conclud	ded at 7:	03 p.m.)							
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										
17										
18										
19										
20										
21										
22										
23										
24										
25										

## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify the transcript of the Atlantic Beach Town Meeting consists of forty-nine (49) pages. This transcript was prepared by me without the benefit of my being present during the meeting. Additionally, this transcript was prepared from a audio recording provided to me.

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 this September 16, 2024.

amarda Quel Da

Amanda J. Creel Godfrey Court Reporter

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