

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO RECORDING

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

KNOWN ATTENDEES:

Councilman Carla Taylor

Councilman John David

Councilman Edward Lamar Campbell



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1 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** So this is not the typical
2 format that we have our monthly town council
3 meeting but we are working with what we have.
4 Okay, so it's 7 p.m. We're going to get
5 started. This is not our normal format for
6 conducting our monthly town council meetings,
7 but considering the circumstances, we thought
8 was important that we greet the public and make
9 them aware of what is going on here. And to do
10 that, we'll begin by introducing ourselves,
11 calling this meeting to order, and then
12 Councilman David will read a statement. And if
13 you have any questions following that, then
14 we'll be more than happy to answer them. So,
15 I'm Councilman Carla Taylor.

16 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Councilman John David.

17 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Councilman Edward Lamar
18 Campbell.

19 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** We were notified today, just as
20 the media and everybody else was probably
21 around 5:50, 6:30, 6:00, something like that,
22 that the meeting was canceled. I talked to the
23 town ma- -- interim town manager and the clerk
24 earlier today. They didn't notify us of
25 anything of sorts. We have heard rumblings



1 that different members of the council's, Mayor
2 Jake Evans and Josephine I- -- not Josephine
3 Isom, and Josephine Isom and Jacqueline Moore,
4 former councilman lady Jacqueline -- Josephine
5 Isom, wanted this meeting canceled. And they
6 have worked all day to try to make sure it's
7 canceled. When they didn't get a stay from the
8 Judge, who ordered that Ms. Taylor was a member
9 of council on Monday, that they canceled the
10 meeting on Monday, they canceled the meeting
11 this afternoon without notice to a lot of
12 folks, especially the citizens that are here
13 now. And we've come to the conclusion that for
14 dereliction of duty and that Orton Bellamy and
15 Duane Green are relieved of their duties for
16 cause, again, dereliction of duties, first.
17 Secondly, mishandling -- misleading and lying
18 to the town of Atlantic Beach regarding the
19 SLED investigation, which SLED said there was
20 no investigation. Number three, for failure to
21 have legal representation at a Court case,
22 Josephine Isom versus the town of Atlantic
23 Beach. No lawyer showed. The town manager did
24 not make sure that a lawyer showed. And that
25 is dereliction of duty. And number four, there



1 have been filings submitted on behalf of the
2 municipal election commission on Monday and on
3 Tuesday. There was no meeting of the municipal
4 election commission. There was no notice of a
5 meeting of the municipal election commission.
6 There was no votes for the municipal election
7 commission. So the town manager and Duane
8 Green are going rogue, and they have been
9 working with certain members of the town to try
10 to keep Ms. Taylor out of her seat. So with
11 them filing those documents without having
12 those meetings, and they also didn't notify the
13 chairman. So again, they're doing stuff that
14 is not in the best interest of the town, and we
15 do not approve of that, so they are relieved of
16 their duties.

17 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** At this time, if anyone has any
18 questions.

19 **REPORTER:** What are the next steps if they are
20 relieved of their duties? I mean, who confirms
21 that? Who ---

22 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** We will have a letter for them
23 tomorrow morning. And we will ascertain their
24 keys and change the lock so that they are not
25 able to come onto the premises.



1 **REPORTER:** What were your reactions in this meeting
2 that was canceled today? Were you surprised or
3 not?

4 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Shocked, dismay. We knew that
5 they had been working on it all day. We knew
6 that they had canceled the meeting on Monday.
7 It's a never-ending saga that for some reason
8 they don't want Ms. Taylor seated, just as they
9 didn't want me seated, and the Judge has ruled.
10 And if the Judge ruled and has an order in
11 place, and we went through all this litigation,
12 why are they usurping the Judge? What is the
13 purpose of this? You know, they just have a
14 total disregard for the law.

15 **REPORTER:** Carla, would you like to explain how you
16 felt too?

17 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** Like I said yesterday or Monday,
18 disappointed but not surprised. For whatever
19 reason they want to maintain control of this
20 town's government, even though this -- the
21 people have clearly spoken that they do not
22 desire their leadership for the town any
23 longer. So why are they willing to risk going
24 against a Court order to maintain that control?
25 You have to ask them. The fact that they won't



1 stand before you to answer these questions is
2 telling in itself. But we're here because we
3 have nothing to hide. We're just here to do
4 the business of the town of the Atlantic Beach.
5 Yes, I'm disappointed, but I'm still working
6 for the town in whatever capacity I can until
7 I am able to take my rightful seat.

8 **REPORTER:** This next meeting isn't scheduled until
9 December, which that's actually violating state
10 law.

11 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** We do plan to have another
12 meeting forth with, especially since they're
13 relieved of their duties. They won't have the
14 apparatus to stop us from having a meeting as
15 they've been utilizing for the last two times.

16 **REPORTER:** Can you kind of talk about, I mean, what
17 they left you with here today? The doors are
18 locked, the police are gone, can you explain
19 that?

20 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** I was notified by someone that
21 they told the police to go home, that they told
22 the clerk to go home, and they knew there was
23 a meeting and they shut the doors and made
24 everybody go home so that we didn't have the
25 operations for a meeting. And that's the



1 second time this week. That's again, a reas-
2 -- grounds for being removed.

3 **REPORTER:** On Monday you were saying, you know,
4 they're gonna have to put up with the Courts
5 again if they don't have this meeting today.
6 What is the next steps now in terms of
7 everything for you?

8 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Well, as far as we know, Carla
9 Taylor has been seated and has a Court order
10 from the Judge. If they have some qualms with
11 what the Judge said, they should have a court
12 order to say that she's not seated. And we
13 don't have that. They don't have that.

14 **REPORTER:** What has it meant for you to have so much
15 support here behind you today, even without
16 this meeting?

17 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** It's the reason why I'm doing
18 what I'm doing. You asked the other day, how
19 do I continue to fight after all the setbacks?
20 It's because of the people that you see here.
21 It's not about me, it's about them and what
22 they want for this town that we all call home.
23 And I will continue to deal with whatever I
24 have to, to do what we all know we need to do
25 to make this town be what it should be. And



1 right now we're being held hostage, but this
2 too will pass.

3 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** And again, they didn't notify the
4 citizens. The citizens showed up, they didn't
5 have a notification. So we need to do the
6 business of the town, and if -- the citizens
7 expect us to do the city -- the business of the
8 town. So if they can show up, why can't the
9 apparatus that run the meetings show up? Why
10 is the town manager, interim town manager,
11 Orton Bellamy, canceling two meetings in one
12 week?

13 **REPORTER:** Anything else you guys want to add that I
14 didn't ask you?

15 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** No, only that they, they
16 didn't give us any reasons why they canceled,
17 they canceled the meeting, so we're still
18 looking forward to that as well.

19 **UNKNOWN 1:** You taking questions from the public?

20 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** Yes, go ahead.

21 **UNKNOWN 1:** Do you have the three minute rule still
22 in place?

23 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No, no, no. Go ahead.

24 **UNKNOWN 1:** So I wanted to ask, does this meeting
25 considered formal, do you have to do the



1 parliamentary opening and closing of the
2 meeting in order for it to be considered an
3 actual council meeting since you do have a
4 quorum with the three of you?

5 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** We can. I move that this
6 meeting per the agenda is now in session.
7 Do I have a second?

8 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** I second.

9 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Can we have a vote. All in
10 favor?

11 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** Aye.

12 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Aye.

13 **UNKNOWN 1:** Do you have to have the roll call that
14 we generally hear?

15 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** There's only three of us, but
16 Lamar Campbell, do you approve?

17 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Yes.

18 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Carla Taylor?

19 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** Yes.

20 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** And John David as well. The
21 motions that we have -- do -- I seek a motion
22 to remove the town attorney, Duane Green, and
23 the interim town manager from their roles and
24 capacity within the Town of Atlanta Beach for
25 cause. Do I have a second?



1 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Second.

2 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Councilman Campbell?

3 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Yay.

4 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Councilman Taylor?

5 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** Yay.

6 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** And I vote yes as well. With
7 that, we'll have questions from the audience or
8 if anybody has any comments.

9 **UNKNOWN 2:** You have a, you have a -- make a motion
10 to move ---

11 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** I did both. Any questions from
12 anyone?

13 **UNKNOWN 1:** Just give me a minute.

14 **UNKNOWN 3:** I have a question.

15 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Yes, sir.

16 **UNKNOWN 3:** How do we record this?

17 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** It's recorded by our recorder,
18 Paul and Jay, and the news media. And we, we
19 can upload this or post it as well.

20 **UNKNOWN 3:** So the minutes can be ---

21 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Pulled from that, yes.

22 **UNKNOWN 3:** Did I hear you say that Carla was a
23 council person effectively Monday of this week?

24 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** She was. The -- Judge Seales
25 actually ordered her to be a council person



1 effectively October 30th. He said immediately
2 in his email to the town. His order actually
3 states November 1st, but it was signed on
4 November 4th. So I take it immediately was
5 October 30th when he said immediately. I take
6 him at his word, and we have been thwarted from
7 having everything since then. And again, I can
8 read off the reasons that we have for cause for
9 the folks that are being removed. If you want
10 to have it officially for the meeting. They're
11 relieved of their duties due to dereliction of
12 duties, mishandling, mishandling and lying to
13 the town in regarding of a SLED investigation
14 that was not, and SLED said it was not. Both
15 of them. Both of them failed to have legal
16 representation at the case of Josephine Isom
17 versus the Town of Atlantic Beach. We had no
18 legal representation for that case. If there
19 wouldn't have been a lawyer from another side,
20 the Town of Atlantic Beach elections commission
21 would have lost that case. Number, let's see,
22 the next one is submitted legal filings on
23 behalf of the MEC without a formal notice of
24 the MEC. They also did not notice the --
25 notify the chairman of such meeting or



1 correspondence they have been submitted to the
2 Court. And they did not have a formal vote.
3 And they've submitted two legal documents,
4 appeals, on behalf of the MEC when the MEC has
5 not suggested anything. I have heard that
6 Josephine Is- -- not Josephine, Jackie Gore and
7 her mom, Carolyn Gore, and her boyfriend, Derek
8 Stevens, all had -- all had a statement signed
9 after the fact that they wanted this file. But
10 that was signed today when they did two Court
11 filings on Monday and Tuesday. Any other
12 questions?

13 **UNKNOWN 4:** Yes, are we gonna keep all of the
14 members of the MEC on the Doard?

15 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** We hope to -- when we have our
16 next meeting, we hope to replace at least one
17 member of the MEC and move forward.

18 **UNKNOWN 1:** Will you have any kind of enforcement
19 opportunity? Like, there seems to be no
20 consequence for bad behavior from people who've
21 been displaced as a result of resigning from
22 the council seat and being displaced by the
23 Judge's order. If they just won't, which they
24 seem to be, not willing to adhere to the laws,
25 what are your options? What entity or legal



1 body do you go to to help you get the
2 enforcement you need?

3 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** We hope that Judge Seales will
4 review what has happened over -- since he
5 signed his order, or since he submitted his
6 order, and hold these folks in contempt, or if
7 not some criminal charges, because again, Ms.
8 Taylor hadn't been seated over a year, and for
9 what reason? And I also hope that the, the
10 State legislature and the Governor will sign a
11 bill to end the holdover status law for
12 municipalities. This town has utilized that
13 holdover status to keep people in office and to
14 keep Ms. Taylor off -- off -- out of office for
15 years, and I think it's just an injustice.

16 **UNKNOWN 1:** I'm concerned about the actions of the
17 police that they took orders directly from
18 non-members of the council.

19 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No, I think they were directed
20 from what I heard from the town manager, which
21 is ---

22 **UNKNOWN 1:** Who they listened to.

23 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** --- they got directions from the
24 town manager. So, they did what they were
25 supposed to do. It's the town manager who



1 hasn't done what he's supposed to do.

2 **UNKNOWN 1:** Okay.

3 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Yes.

4 **MR. REPORTER:** Okay, anyone?

5 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** If there's no further questions,
6 I move for a motion to adjourn.

7 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Second.

8 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Roll call. Mr. Campbell?

9 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Yea.

10 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Ms. Taylor?

11 **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** Yea.

12 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Yes, John David. Thank you all
13 for coming. Have a great night.

14 **(Video ended.)**

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify the transcript of the hearing consists of fourteen (14) pages. This transcript was prepared by me without the benefit of my being present during the hearing. 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 November 12, 2024.



M. Sean Cary
Court Reporter

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: May 2, 2033

