# TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH SPECIAL SESSION MEETING

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Monday, June 16, 2025 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Atlantic Beach Town Council Special Session Meeting was held and recorded at Atlantic Beach Community Center, 1010 32nd Avenue South, Atlantic Beach, South Carolina, on the 16th day of Jun, 2025, and transcribed by Amanda Creel Godfrey, Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina.

## <u>APPEARANCES</u>

# COUNCIL MEMBERS:

John David, Mayor Pro Tem Edward Lamar Campbell, Councilman Carla Taylor, Councilwoman

## ADMINISTRATION:

Linda Cheatham, Interim Town Manager Cheryl Pereira, Town Clerk

# ALSO PRESENT:

Kenneth McIver, Community Member

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# 1 | CALL TO ORDER:

- 2 MR. DAVID: Good evening, we'll start this meeting
- on today, which is the 16th of June, Monday at
- 4 5:10 p.m. We'll call to order, roll call.
- 5 | MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 6 MR. CAMPBELL: Here.
- 7 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor?
- 8 MS. TAYLOR: Here.
- 9 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore? Mayor
- 10 Pro Tem John David?
- 11 MR. DAVID: Here.
- 12 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Jake Evans?
- 13 MR. DAVID: With that, we'll have a motion to move
- into Executive Session, then have a read out of
- 15 items that were covered in Executive Session.
- Roll -- is there a second?
- 17 MS. TAYLOR: Second.
- 18 MR. DAVID: Roll call.
- 19 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 20 MR. CAMPBELL: Yay.
- 21 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor?
- 22 MS. TAYLOR: Yay.
- MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro Tem John David?
- 24 MR. DAVID: Yes. Okay.
- 25 (Executive Session)

	TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH 4	
1	MR. DAVID: Okay, I move to come out of Executive	
2	Session into General Session, is there a	
3	second?	
4	MS. TAYLOR: Second.	
5	MR. DAVID: Roll call.	
6	MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?	
7	MR. CAMPBELL: Yay.	
8	MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor?	
9	MS. TAYLOR: Yay.	
10	MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro Tem John David?	
11	MR. DAVID: Yes. Next we'll have a moment of we	
12	didn't have anything that's gonna come out of	
13	Executive Session that I'm aware of and I ask	
14	if everyone would please turn off your cell	
15	phones or turn them down. And we can stand up	
16	and have the moment of silence and Pledge of	
17	Allegiance.	
18	(Moment of silence observed.)	
19	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:	
20	MR. DAVID: Pledge of Allegiance.	
21	(Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.)	
22	CEREMONIAL MATTERS:	
23	MR. DAVID: We don't have any ceremonial matters.	
24	MS. TAYLOR: Um	
25	THE COURT: Oh, go ahead.	

MS.	TAYLOR:	Actually,	Ι	would	llike	to	take	this
	moment	to acknowled	dge	the p	assing	of	one o	f our
	long ti	me property	O V	vners	and	Mr	s. To:	rrey,
	T'm not	sure, what	' S	Mrs. '	Torrev'	s f	irst i	name?

MS. CHEATHAM: Rosa.

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- MS. TAYLOR: Mrs. Rosa Torrey.
- MS. CHEATHAM: Oh, sorry.
  - I -- I met her years ago when she would MS. TAYLOR: come down for weekend visits and attend church at First Missionary Baptist Church of Atlantic Beach. And she always made a point of greeting me and my family because she was my mother's high school Home Ec teacher at Whittemore High So she knew my mother as a teenager School. and always liked to tell stories about that time. But she was a great supporter of the Town of Atlantic Beach and she -- like I said, she maintained a residence here and her main residence was in Fayetteville, North Carolina. But she's been in a nursing home for the past few years and had she turned 100 yet?
  - MR. McIVER: 97.
  - MS. TAYLOR: 97 years old, and even into her 70s and 80s she was driving back and forth to spend time in Atlantic Beach. So just wanted to

1	acknowledge Mrs. Rosa Torrey Torrey upon her
2	passing, a couple of weeks ago? A couple weeks
3	ago.

- MR. DAVID: And thank you for the reminder. We did a proclamation on behalf of the town that was sent on behalf of the town and hopefully was read at her funeral, home going.
- 8 MR. McIVER: I just want to add a couple on this ---
- 9 **THE COURT:** Please step to the microphone, Mr. ---
- 10 MS. TAYLOR: McIver.

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- 11 MR. DAVID: --- McIver. Press the button too.
- 12 MR. McIVER: Kenneth McIver, 29th Avenue.
- 13 MS. TAYLOR: It's on.
- 14 MR. DAVID: Okay. There you go.
- 15 MR. McIVER: Kenneth McIver, 29th Avenue. Just want 16 to also add to Carla, she was my neighbor for 17 a long time and just a wonderful woman. She 18 walked on the beach up until her mid 80s. She 19 used to drive down from Fayetteville all 20 Just a wonderful person. She was a 21 faithful member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. 22 She attended their conventions and everything. 23 And one -- one anecdote is she used to teach 24 with my parents when my parents first got out 25 οf school she was sort of their mentor

1	Whittemore High School, which was the
2	preeminent sort of segregated school in Horry
3	County. And I just want to say that there were
4	several but Whittemore was the one you went to.
5	And she sort of took my parents in as young
6	teachers and mentored them and she always
7	reminded me that she remembered me when I was
8	born, as my parents were very pregnant at the
9	time. She had twins. And she was a good
10	she always remembered reminded me that she
11	remembered me when I was born. So every time
12	I got on her, she always reminded me of that.
13	So just want to acknowledge and remember her as
14	well. I did attend her funeral this past
15	Saturday. It was there was, I think, two
16	other people from the area from Conway and
17	North Myrtle Beach area that attended from
18	around here. But it was well attended, a lot
19	of her former teacher, students and some
20	supporters were also there. So it was great.
21	And I she was a very special person to me,
22	so.

23 MR. DAVID: Thank you, Mr. McIver.

24 MS. TAYLOR: Yes, thank you.

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MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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1 MR. DAVID: Next we'll move -- is there a motion to

- 2 approve the agenda?
- 3 MS. TAYLOR: I move we approve the agenda.
- 4 MR. CAMPBELL: Second.
- 5 MR. DAVID: Roll call.
- 6 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 7 MR. CAMPBELL: Yay.
- 8 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor?
- 9 MS. TAYLOR: Yay.
- 10 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro Tem John David?
- 11 | MR. DAVID: Yes. Next we'll move down -- there's no
- 12 persons that have submitted for Public time so
- we'll move into old business.
- 14 OLD BUSINESS:
- 15 MR. DAVID: We have the meeting minutes from Town
- 16 Council Meeting held on May 20th, 2025. Is
- there a motion to approve those minutes.
- 18 MR. CAMPBELL: So moved.
- 19 MR. DAVID: Is there a second?
- 20 MS. TAYLOR: Second.
- 21 MR. DAVID: Roll call.
- 22 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 23 MR. CAMPBELL: Yay.
- 24 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor?
- 25 MS. TAYLOR: Yay.

MS. PEREIRA:	Mayor	Pro	Tem	John	David?
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MR.	DAVID:	,	Yes.	Next	we'	11	move	into	discussion	οf
	the F	FΥ	2024	Andit	. M.s	3 .	Cheat	ham?		

MS. CHEATHAM: Thank you. Mr. Mayor Pro members of council, and Public, the auditors unfortunately were not able to be here tonight, but we received the copies of the draft audit and here is a letter that they have submitted discussing the audit for FY 2024. I'll just read a few of the paragraphs that the financial statements disclosures on page two are neutral, consistent, and fair. They did not encounter any major challenges which would impact the timeline and the efficacy of the audit. corrected and -- some of the misstatements but they were not considered major. There were no disagreements with management and they asked for certain representation from management that are included in the management letter, which I signed today. And they will be submitting the audit on our behalf as soon as they get my signed letter and your -- well your acceptance of the audit, which you really don't have any choice over. It's just an audit.

this will be properly submitted to this ---

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MS. CHEATHAM: This will be properly submitted. Just for anyone -- so, they did have a few corrective action things that we agreed to. One was reconciling the account balances, during the fiscal year and we agreed that we That we didn't always track the would do that. grant expenditures that we receive. We agreed that we would do that. That we didn't always allocate where the expenses belonged. So that the police expenditures need to be with police, administrative or public works. And we agreed that we could do a better job of doing that. And that we need to change -- if additional revenues are provided during the fiscal year, then we need to change the budget because the budget for fiscal '24 was 1.266 million dollars and we actually spent 1,400,000. But that's because we got additional grant money but we

MR. DAVID: If you get less, do you decrease it to
 less? You suppose the same thing would matter?

never increased the revenue to support that.

MS. CHEATHAM: If you get less, you would need to decrease your expenditures sometime ----

MR. DAVID: Of course.

1	MS.	CHEATHAM:		SO	yeah.
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- MS. TAYLOR: So that would require an amendment to the budget?
- MS. CHEATHAM: That -- yes. There's some public discussion that we -- that the budget is going to be increased and I think we've always talked about it but we've never actually increase -- specifically had an ordinance to increase the budget because of, where we, you know, added the opera money this past year. We never actually increased the money to receive that additional money. So we'll work out the thing to do that.
- MR. DAVID: Are all the things that you noted, you spoke with the accountant to make sure that those things are ---
- 17 MS. CHEATHAM: Yes.
- 18 MR. DAVID: Okay.
- 19 MS. CHEATHAM: To the new accountant, yes.
- 20 MR. DAVID: Okay.
- 21 MS. CHEATHAM: Yes. Yes. Oh, there was one other 22 thing about our purchasing policies and 23 procedures, which we know we need to amend 24 those because they have not been amended since 25 20 -- 2002. We need to increase the amounts

1 and adhere to the policies.

MR. DAVID: Well let's look at that in the next coming months.

MS. CHEATHAM: Yes, that will be done.

MR. DAVID: Okay.

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6 MS. CHEATHAM: Thank you.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.

MS. CHEATHAM: I'll be glad to answer any questions that you might have.

MR. DAVID: And again, everything will be submitted to the State, right?

MS. CHEATHAM: Everything will be -- as soon as they letter that have to get the Ι send them it's tomorrow saying -the management representation letter. As soon as they get that they will submit it to the State Treasurer so we can be on time.

MR. DAVID: Okay. Then we have -- we'll move on the Section C. It says public hearing but I think we already had the public hearing but we may need to -- I don't know if we need to have it again. But FY '25 to '26 proposed general fund budget, Ms. Cheatham.

MS. CHEATHAM: Mr. Mayor Pro Tem and members of council, this is the second reading on the FY

- '26 budget. We are projecting revenues of

  1.753 and expenditures of the same amount.

  I'll be glad to answer any questions if anyone
  has any.
  - MR. DAVID: And just hypothetical again, like you said, if we find out we're getting less than 1.7, we just would do an amendment or talk about the budget.
  - MS. CHEATHAM: We talk about how to reduce it, yes.
- MR. DAVID: Gotcha. Okay. Are there any questions,
  any comments in regards to ordinance -- well,
  any questions regarding the proposed general
  fund budget for '25/'26?
- 14 MS. TAYLOR: No.

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- 15 MR. CAMPBELL: No.
- MR. DAVID: Okay, we'll move to Item D, is there a motion to approve ---
- MS. TAYLOR: Well, do we need to close out the public hearing?
- MR. DAVID: We never --- what? We had a public hearing the first time we did it.
- 22 MS. PEREIRA: Yeah, we (inaudible).
- 23 MR. DAVID: Okay.
- MS. PEREIRA: Yeah, we close (inaudible).
- 25 MR. DAVID: Well, is there -- well we'll move first



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23 MS. CHEATHAM:

MR. DAVID:

MR. DAVID:

MR.

The income and the expenses for Bike Fest are in a separate account.

MR. McIVER: Okay, gotcha.

expenses?

- MS. CHEATHAM: So both the expenses and -- and the income -- although on the accounting statements it will record that, but not in terms of the general fund budget. Does that make sense?
- 5 MR. McIVER: Yes, it does.
- 6 MS. CHEATHAM: Yeah.
- 7 MS. TAYLOR: And you'll be sharing during your manager's report ---
- 9 MS. CHEATHAM: Yes, I'll be talking about that.
- 10 MS. TAYLOR: --- the details from the Bike Fest?
- 11 MS. CHEATHAM: Yes, uh-huh.
- 12 MS. TAYLOR: Okay.
- 13 MR. McIVER: Okay. That's it.
- MR. DAVID: Any other comments or questions in regards to the FY '25/'26 proposed general fund budget? If not, is there a motion to close the public hearing?
- MS. TAYLOR: I move that we close the public hearing
  for the fiscal year '25/'26 budget -- proposed
  general budget.
- 21 MR. CAMPBELL: Second.
- 22 MR. DAVID: Roll call.
- MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- MR. CAMPBELL: Yay.
- 25 | MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor?



- 1 MS. TAYLOR: Yay.
- 2 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro Tem John David?
- 3 MR. DAVID: Yes. Next we'll move to Item D, the
- 4 second reading of Ordinance Number 9-2025, an
- 5 ordinance to adopt a budget for the Town of
- 6 Atlantic Beach for Fiscal Year commencing
- January 1st 2025 ending ---
- 8 MR. CAMPBELL: July.
- 9 **THE COURT:** July 1st, 2025, ending June 30th, 2026,
- 10 second reading. Ms. Cheatham, any comments,
- 11 questions?
- 12 MS. CHEATHAM: No comments.
- 13 MR. DAVID: Okay. If there's no comments, is there
- a motion on the floor to approve the second
- reading of Ordinance Number 9-2025?
- 16 MR. CAMPBELL: So moved.
- 17 MR. DAVID: Is there a second?
- 18 MS. TAYLOR: Second.
- 19 MR. DAVID: Roll call.
- 20 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 21 MR. CAMPBELL: Yay.
- 22 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor?
- 23 MS. TAYLOR: Yay.
- MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro Tem John David?
- 25 MR. DAVID: Yes.



## 1 NEW BUSINESS:

- 2 MR. DAVID: Next we'll move into new business. Ms.
- 3 Cheatham, Item A, contractual extension of
- 4 Robert Cox Building Code Officer.
- MS. CHEATHAM: Mr. Mayor Pro Tem, council and members of the public, the purpose of this amendment would be to extend the contract of our building officer for six months.
- 9 MR. DAVID: Go ahead.
- 10 MS. CHEATHAM: We need to extend his contract.
- MR. DAVID: Okay. Any discussions or comments? Is
  there a motion on the floor to extend the
  contract of the building code officer for six
- months?
- MS. TAYLOR: I move that we authorize the Town

  Manager to extend the contract of the code

  enforcement officer for an additional six

  months.
- 19 MR. DAVID: Is there a second?
- 20 MR. CAMPBELL: Moved.
- 21 MR. DAVID: Okay. Roll call.
- 22 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 23 MR. CAMPBELL: Yay.
- MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor?
- 25 MS. TAYLOR: Yay.

Wright, media

## TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

- 1 Mayor Pro Tem John David? MS. PEREIRA:
- 2 THE COURT: Yes. Next, Item B, the extension of the 3 for Mr. Michael
- 4 consultant for six months?

contract

- 5 MS. CHEATHAM: Yes, Mr. Mayor Pro Tem, members of 6 council and the public, the contract for our 7 media consultant, Mr. Wright, also needs to be 8 extended for six months. He's been doing a 9 very good job with us and working to reduce 10 And so we would propose that his costs.
- 12 MS. TAYLOR: Ouestion.
- 13 MS. CHEATHAM: Yes.

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- 14 MS. TAYLOR: Why can't we go into a new contract
- 15 versus extending it for six months?

contract be extended.

- 16 MS. CHEATHAM: Ask -- I'm sorry.
- 17 MS. TAYLOR: I said, is there a particular reason
- 18 why we're extending it versus going into a new
- 19 contract?
- 20 MS. CHEATHAM: Just because he's not here at the
- 21 moment ---
- 22 MS. TAYLOR: Okay.
- 23 MS. CHEATHAM: --- to talk with us about it.
- 24 MS. TAYLOR: Okay.
- 25 MS. CHEATHAM: So, if you want to -- I mean, I don't

#### TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH 19 don't know 1 \_\_\_\_ I know that that wе are 2 prohibited from going into a new contract but 3 it did -- it does end in June. 4 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. So just give us time to 5 negotiate that ---6 We need to negotiate ---MS. CHEATHAM: 7 MS. TAYLOR: --- prior to the ---8 MS. CHEATHAM: --- what it's going to be, yes. 9 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. All right, thank you. 10 MR. DAVID: Is there a motion on the floor to extend 11 the contract of Michael Wright, media 12 consultant, for six months? 13 MR. CAMPBELL: So moved. 14 MR. DAVID: Is there a second? 15 MS. TAYLOR: Second. 16 MR. DAVID: Roll call. 17 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell? 18 MR. CAMPBELL: Yay. 19 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor? 20 MS. TAYLOR: Yay. 21 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro Tem John David? 22 MR. DAVID: Yes. Next, Item C, an appointment of

Beautification Committee, Ms. Cheatham.

and

Jerry Finney

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the

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Valda

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1	volunteered to be on the Beautification	o n
2	Committee, Ms. Gibson and Mr. Finney. And s	3 0
3	their names have been recommended to become	a
4	member of the Reautification Committee	

- MR. **DAVID:** Is there a motion on the floor appoint Mr. Jerry Finney and Ms. Valda Gibson to the Beautification Committee?
- MS. TAYLOR: I move that we accept the appointment of Ms. Valda Gibson and Mr. Jerry Finney to the Beautification Committee.
- 11 MR. DAVID: Is there a second?
- 12 MR. CAMPBELL: Second.

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- 13 MR. DAVID: Roll call.
- 14 MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
- 15 MR. CAMPBELL: Yay.
- 16 MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Carla Taylor?
- 17 MS. TAYLOR: Yay.
- 18 MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro Tem John David?
- 19 MR. DAVID: Next, Item D, Ms. Cheatham. Yes.
- CHEATHAM: This is requesting nominations for the Architectural Board. One of the members that was appointed a few months ago dropped out 23 and so we have a vacancy and we'd like to propose that nominations be accepted through June 24th, 2025.

- 1 MR. DAVID: Next, Item ---
- 2 MS. TAYLOR: Um, question.
- 3 MR. DAVID: Go ahead, question. I'm sorry.
- 4 MS. TAYLOR: The application for nomination is posted on our website, correct?
- 6 MS. CHEATHAM: It will be.
- 7 MS. TAYLOR: Okay, all right. Thank you.
- 8 MR. DAVID: And if anybody -- if you don't see it on
  9 the website, if you contact Ms. Cheatham or Ms.
  10 Cheryl to get a copy of the application.
- 11 MS. TAYLOR: Okay.

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- MR. DAVID: Next, Item E, nominations for the

  Municipal Election Commission will be accepted

  through June -- until June 24th, Ms. Cheatham.
  - MS. CHEATHAM: Yes. We also will have a vacancy on Municipal Election Commission so we'll be accepting nominations through June 24th, 2025.

    It will be on the website, or you can just write a letter to us saying.
- 20 MS. TAYLOR: Okay.
- MR. DAVID: Next we'll move into the manager's report, Ms. Cheatham.
- 23 MANAGER'S REPORT:
- MS. CHEATHAM: Thank you very much. I think we had a very -- I want to talk about Bike Fest for a

minute. I think we had a very successful Bike
Fest. We had a staff post-op meeting, if you
will, the first of several. We got some very
good suggestions about improvement. We've
asked the Chief to set up a meeting with the
public safety officials. We will do that to
have some discussions with them. All of the
bills have been received that I know of and
have been paid. Our income was about \$86,676
dollars and our expenses were \$53,454 dollars.
But after we've paid the bills, we'll have over
\$100,000 dollars left in the Bike Fest account,
because we have balance from last year. We
were able this year to to make money from
the RV parking, around \$6,000 dollars. We were
also able to park cars to the neighborhood,
around \$3,100 dollars. We didn't pay for any
lodging, which we did last year. We had
auditors who were able to assist us with the RV
parking as well as making sure that all the
people who were vending had vending permits.
Some of our largest expenses were the clean up,
which may need to be increased because there's
which may need to be increased because there's some improvement that is necessary there. The

not have any on the east side as we had requested and hoped for, because I asked for two more ---

MS. TAYLOR: For the west side?

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MS. CHEATHAM: On the west -- I thought was for the west. side, but when they were delivered I it clear didn't make that Ι wanted two So I think we had two extra on the delivered. ocean side that we -- I won't say that didn't need, but we need to take another look at that because it was dark. As well as start talking now about the security that could be We did have discussions with the over here. (inaudible) businesses about what time they needed to shut down because had conversations that if they shut down Bike Fest on the ocean side, people just came over here. And so we needed -- we needed to work together. As I we spent a lot of time talking clean up. We talked about other operational issues. And -- and one of the biggest things is starting earlier. You know, we didn't start until January. And so we want to start August July to begin to look for orentertainment. Wе want to have additional

conversations about clean up and how we want to approach that. Yeah. I'll be glad to answer any questions about Bike Fest, if someone has any. Next on my report, we -- the office will be closed for Juneteenth, on Thursday. So if you need to get in touch with us, you gotta call my cell phone.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

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- MS. CHEATHAM: Upcoming events, we have a Juneteenth Festival this Saturday on June 21st. There are number of vendor slots that are still available, if any business are interested. sent letters to all the Bike Fest vendors I believe Friday, Thursday or Friday, telling them that we were vending. There's gonna be a community health fair on June the 28th at the cul-de-sac. We've got our summer concert series that we've very excited about starting on June 19th, going through November. we've got the Gullah Geechee Festival Labor Day Weekend. Be glad to answer any questions if anyone has any.
- MR. DAVID: Please make sure vendors, if you're interested, make sure to sign up. Or if people know vendors that are interested, make sure

	TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH 25
1	they sign up so that we can make sure we can
2	have as many people there, and many
3	opportunities for them to make money and people
4	to try and sample their goods, crafts and
5	foods. Any questions, comments?
6	ADJOURNMENT:
7	MR. DAVID: With that, is there a motion to adjourn
8	at 6:29 on Monday the 16th of June?
9	MR. CAMPBELL: So moved.
10	MR. DAVID: Is there a second?
11	MS. TAYLOR: Second.
12	MR. DAVID: Roll call.
13	MS. PEREIRA: Councilman Edward Campbell?
14	MR. CAMPBELL: Yay.
15	MS. PEREIRA: Councilwoman Councilwoman Carla
16	Taylor?
17	MS. TAYLOR: Yay.
18	MS. PEREIRA: Mayor Pro Tem John David?
19	MR. DAVID: Yes. Meeting adjourned.
20	MS. PEREIRA: At what time?
21	MR. DAVID: 6:30.
22	MS. PEREIRA: Thank you.

at 6:30 p.m.)

(There being nothing further, the meeting concluded

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify the transcript of the Atlantic Beach Town Meeting consists of twenty-five (25) 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 June 26, 2025.

amarda Q Creel Sox

Amanda J. Creel Godfrey Court Reporter

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