

Town Council General Session Meeting – April 13, 2026

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem John David called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Present were Councilman Edward Campbell, Councilwoman Carla Taylor, Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore, Mayor Pro Tem John David. Absent was Mayor Jake Evans.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for items under Executive Session. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilwoman Taylor seconded.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion carried.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to come out of the Executive Session. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilwoman Taylor seconded.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion carried.

Welcome: Mayor Pro Tem David welcomed the public asking that all cell phones be turned off.

Moment of Silence: Town Council and the public in attendance stood up.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ceremonial Matters

Mayor Pro Tem David asked Councilmembers if there were any ceremonial matters.

Councilwoman Taylor stated that she wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of Ms. Etta Dewitt, many of you remember Ms. Dewitt as one of the business owners of the Town of Atlantic Beach. She and her family ran the Dewitt Motel in Town. She was an educator of Horry County Schools, she passed away on March 16, 2026 of this year. She leaves behind her daughter, Nicole, her husband J.B. Dewitt. Ms. DeWitt as you know, she was also the mother of our late Councilman, Jim Dewitt. Thank you.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilwoman Gore asked for a motion that we approve the agenda and remove 2 amendments on the agenda. One is to table item B and move item A down to the end of the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem David stated to not table item B but remove from the agenda.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion carried.

Public Time – 3 minutes

Naim Vaughn stated. Good evening. I just have 5 questions that I want to ask and hope someone can assist in answering some of these questions.

1. **Internal Conflict:** Noted apparent disarray and internal disagreements within town government, asking how council plans to resolve issues for community betterment.
2. **Councilman Campbell's Legal Issues:** Asked about his ability to serve given ongoing legal matters and potential impact on the town.
3. **Weekend Events and Trash:** Praised recent events but expressed concern over excessive litter; requested a plan to maintain beach cleanliness.
4. **Police Force:** Asked when the town will reinstate a police force.
5. **Transparency of Salaries:** Inquired about where community members can access government worker salaries on the town's website.

Leon Bailey discussed:

Presented update on a project underway since October 2025.

Final hurdle involves stormwater management system for LMO permitting.

Requested status update and whether any council members have opposition to the project.

Directed question to town manager for administrative input.

Good Evening. Council and neighbors. I wanted to ask a question today for those that know that I've been working on a project for Atlantic Beach since October of twenty twenty-five and at this particular point as I was just having a conversation with Ashley Cowen she was copied on it, the last hurdle that we had was our stormwater management system for our LMO which is to be our current LMO to be able to get the permits I want to find out where are we in the status at, at this time. I also wanted to find out if any of the council people actually had any opposition to the project that we're doing, and any questions that I can answer at this time because I see the Town Manager and I was going to ask him as well because I know he's the one that you say is administrative regarding that.

Town manager, would you be able to answer any questions on what's is the status with my project to be able to get the permits at this time.

Lisa, a first-time speaker, reported severe problems in her neighborhood, including homeless encampments in alleys and dunes, drug use, vandalism, unauthorized parking on private property, and threats of violence when she asked trespassers to leave. Despite visible police presence, no interventions occurred, and she emphasized her vulnerability due to poor health, calling for consistent law enforcement.

John Sketers. Good evening. My name is John Skeeter. I'm a resident of the town, and I have been since 1952. There's all this stuff that's going on now to protect us people. You all need to take a deep breath and see what we can do to fix the problem here. Atlantic Beach have more problems now than I can remember since it was incorporated as a municipality. It's up to us to fix this problem and I'm not happy with a lot of things going on. I'm not happy with the city

government, but we can discuss this thing here and come up with some way that we're going to fix this situation and I want everybody to remember too, this is the only beach of color left in the United States of America and Atlantic Beach is here because of hardcore segregation back during the day and now looking back, we can't agree with each other to make it lasting for our next generation of people. I want to thank you for listening.

Sonia Houston proposed a family-friendly daytime spade card game event at the community center, with sign-ups, sponsorships, and prizes. She was advised to coordinate with Titus (community engagement) to secure a permit, similar to past events like bingo and movie nights.

Derek Gore presented a plan to boost Atlantic Beach's economy by creating a tiered vendor system, shifting trash cleanup costs to vendors (\$100–\$200 each), and organizing large festivals modeled after Myrtle Beach's food festival. He emphasized collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Titus to develop a formal event schedule and noted previous outreach to Mr. Booker went unanswered.

Patricia Mallett described a chaotic weekend with over a thousand young people drinking, smoking, and potentially carrying guns on the beach and dunes. With no police or lifeguards present despite the crowd size, she raised liability concerns and questioned why only five or six county officers responded after she contacted Councilwoman Taylor and Mr. Booker.

Councilwoman Gore clarified that the town council did not disband the local police department. The town manager did. She stressed the importance of calling 911 during emergencies and expressed community desire to restore the local police force to improve safety and trust.

Charles Russell agreed youth should be welcomed but emphasized the need for supervision due to dangerous behaviors such as riding on car hoods, hanging out windows, and driving on sidewalks. He urged immediate action to prevent injuries and reaffirmed residents' right to safety. He also noted the presence of North Myrtle Beach police and called for restoring the local police force.

Jay Divine. Hello, council members, administration, and neighbors. I actually didn't plan to speak, but I wanted to clear up a couple of mis statements that were made. I wanted to share with everybody that most of you know that I've organized the organization STARR, and that stands for Supporters of Tyson's Residential Restrictions on the Deeds. It's no secret that STARR we basically went out and looked for any of the property owners and, folks that live in Atlantic Beach that wanted to see the Tyson deed restrictions enforced so we would be hypocrites if all of a sudden now we decided we don't want to see them enforced because of a development project from some of the neighbors. Any of the neighbors either going to have a position that says we'd like to see them enforced and that the rules apply to everyone. So it's not about restricting development, it's just about seeing that the environment is done in such a way that majority of the consensus would like to see, which is residential development which is the scheme of

development that the founder, George Tyson, had indicated was what he'd like to see for the town. So it's not a bullying effort. It's not isolating an individual family or person. It's just about following the law. The law says that the ordinance requires the state law and the Atlantic Beach ordinance says that you have restrictions that you have to follow. So all of us have to follow them and it's not the municipal leaders who have to determine whether they're followed. It's the developer and the people who are impacted by those restrictions, which are us, the community.

We learned that when we all, all of us collectively, put our money together and got an attorney to help us identify how do we get restrictions enforced, and that's the advice we were given. So what is done is done, as John indicated, the law. It's not John's position or the municipality's position. It's a court order that when the developer goes and goes to the court and determines that these restrictions can be removed and gets a favorable outcome from a court, then they can bring that court order to the municipality, and then they're re-removed. Outside of that, there is not an opportunity to remove the restriction because we decide we'd like them gone, or we have our attorney say we'd like to have them gone, the restrictions are there because they've been there since the '30s, and the restrictions just indicate that the development along many of the parcels in the town should be restricted to residential development. Most of the consensus from the community members, indicated that they would like to see that occur. They didn't want to see high-rise and heavily multiple-plex development, and particularly along our oceanfront. Our oceanfront parcels are what makes Atlantic Beach one of the unique places along the sixty-mile Grand Strand. So why would we alter the thing that makes us unique? So I just wanted to point out, you know, the Morant's had the same issue. Anyone else that has a development plan that conflicts with the restrictions had the same issue, and that would be for all of us that have a restriction on any parcel that we own. Thank you.

Attorney Bill Monckton stated. We've been in litigation. You know how that's gone so far. We don't want to fight anymore. We ask that you do not vote in favor of this ordinance, this ordinance is nothing more than trying to put this business out of business, to think anything other than that is not truly looking at the ordinance and what it wants and whoever's backing it. I'd ask that you not support this ordinance. This business has been here for a long time, paid a bunch of money to this town, helped with the charity base in this town. So I ask respectfully that you deny this ordinance. Thank you.

Old Business

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion for approval of the minutes March 2, 2026. Councilwoman Gore seconded. Councilwoman Taylor seconded.

Vote: Councilman Edward Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. Motion carried.

New Business

Vote for Settlement of Town Manager Contract for \$10,000

Councilman Edward Campbell. Question. He's not here. He left. Is he going to come back.

Mayor Pro Tem David asked Council if they wanted to table it. Councilwoman Taylor stated no, but to move it to the bottom of the agenda and we'll give him a few more minutes, but otherwise we'll move on.

Resolution No.1-2026 – Censuring Mayor Pro Tem John David.

Motion: Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to table Resolution No. 1-2026. Councilwoman Gore seconded. Mayor Pro Tem David stated and remove.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes, Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem. Yes. The motion carried.

Resolution 2-2026 – Fair Housing Policy. The resolution to adopt a non-discrimination policy based on disability status, in compliance with state law and the town charter.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager returned to the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem David asked the Town manager, you got anything to say. Mayor Pro Tem David then read Resolution No.2-2026 and stated that we normally approve this resolution every year.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2-2026 Fair Housing. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilwoman Taylor seconded.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion carried.

Ordinance No. 4-2026 – An Ordinance Establishing Sexually Oriented Business Licensing Requirements and Regulations within Atlantic Beach – *First Reading*

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for approval for Ordinance No. 4-2026. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilwoman Taylor seconded.

Vote. Councilman Edward Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Carla Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore. No. Mayor Pro Tem John David. No. The motion failed.

Ordinance No. 5-2026 – An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 4-2021 Hospitality Fee Tax

Mayor Pro Tem David stated. I'm going to move to table this and I will explain why. This was put on the agenda, but it's not clarified and ready for prime time because we have to compare the other ordinance data, and they have to do some more collection of data to see what we actually pay and what we get back, and then what we want to do. I'll move to table ordinance No. 5.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David made a motion to table ordinance No. 5-2026. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilwoman Taylor seconded.

Vote: Councilman Edward Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem John David. Yes. The motion carried.

Bikefest Ordinance Reducing Fees related to Property Owners & Vendor Permits

Mayor Pro Tem David stated, we have Bike Fest ordinance for fees related to property owners and permit vendor permits. We are seeking that these fees be moved back to what they were last year and one of the reasons why I was supporting this is because, you know, we have gas prices are high as heck, the economy is moving in a different direction than when we looked at this and we were told when I voted to support this, we were going to have 3 comparisons of information, and we never got those comparisons to go. There's been a lot of complaints from the vendors and the people out here and I want us to make money, but I also want the vendors to make money too and the economy has changed. Is there a motion. Anybody else.

Motion: Councilwoman Gore made a motion to move and return the fees back to 2025. Mayor Pro Tem seconded.

Vote. Councilman Edward Campbell. No. Councilwoman Carla Taylor. No.

Discussion. Councilwoman Jacqueline stated wait, I would like to say that Councilwoman Taylor, you can't vote on this because you are part of the Bike Fest committee, so therefore you all made these rules. You all came to conclusion the fees was set or the rules are made for it, and therefore I think you must recuse yourself from this. You being a part of the Bike Fest committee. Councilwoman Taylor stated Councilwoman Gore, the rules were made before the committee was formed. They were made through a unanimous vote with Mayor Pro Tem David, Councilman Edward Campbell, and myself. so the rules were enforced by the committee, but they were not devised by the committee. Councilwoman Gore. I have emails from you and you know, a text message from you telling me that you all discussed the fees and that you would pass along to me the recommendations, therefore with that being said you must recuse yourself. No. You can't be a part of the committee and vote on the fees yourself. Councilwoman Taylor asked. Are you a vendor, unlike us. Councilwoman Gore stated, I am not out there voting. Councilwoman Taylor stated you don't have a conflict of interest Councilwoman Gore stated. I just may, but at the same time, this right here, under this capacity right now, and with you being a part of the Bike Fest committee. Councilwoman Taylor and you being a vendor.

VOTE CONTINUED

Vote: Mayor Pro Tem stated we're going to continue to vote. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion failed.

Vote to appoint a staff person to attend the GSATS Study Team meeting for the Town.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David made a motion to appoint Titus Leaks and Carnisha Hennigan to represent the Town on the GSATS Study Team (handling infrastructure finding) when the Town Manager is absent. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilwoman Taylor seconded.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion carried.

Approval of Administration Contracts and Settlements

Mayor Pro Tem David stated. I think we did not receive the contracts, so we could not look at them or do anything.

Attorney Leah Moody stated, I will get them to you.

Mayor Pro Tem David stated we'll get those and hopefully have those at Council next meeting April 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. next week Tuesday to discuss the budget as well as other items.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to table contracts and settlements. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilwoman Taylor seconded

Vote: Councilman Edward Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem John David. Yes. The motion carried.

SCDOT/USDOT Grant for Highway 17 sidewalks/medians project

Mayor Pro Tem David stated SC/US DOT grant for Highway 17 sidewalks and medians project. we've had SCDOT has come here once, twice, and then we met them in North Myrtle Beach, and we went to talk to them whenever we went up to the, municipal meeting in January, and we were able to talk to them, the town would get sidewalks on the beach side of Highway 17, which we don't have. The town would also have medians, which some people are for and against, but we were able to get a straight cut-through on 29th, so people can drive directly across without a median in the middle. and there's short turn lanes in each one. There'll be short turn lanes at 30th as well, but again, you know, we don't have a four-way stop. All we have is a three-way stop, so there will be turn lanes in there. I think 150 ft., so that people can drive in the lanes and not be hit or done anything like that or just driving. We fought hard for 31st a median would be there.

32nd, we fought hard for the same thing on 29th but they came back and said that there was a bunch of crash data for rear-end data, and they did agree to do turn lanes into each one on both sides. 32nd but there will be a slight median area in there, which you still can drive across if you want to, but I won't tell you to drive across there, but it will be there just so people don't go across directly. So those are the things we were able to get after fighting and fighting and fighting it and I'm not even sure if they're going to do it because we were supposed to sign this

back in February. But we're hopeful, if that's the case and we had pictures here, I think last month. If you want pictures, we can make sure you get those for that.

Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to approve SCDOT/USDOT Grant for Highway 17 sidewalks/medians project. Do you have questions.

Councilwoman Gore stated. I, honestly do because my problem is the sidewalks, looking ideal, but I have a big problem with the median being in the middle of the road. We've had somebody here, one year. Memorial Weekend, with the turnoffs and all that stuff, but somebody died. Timing was at a very important point and with the median putting there, I just don't agree with that, the sidewalks and stuff, and we only have four blocks here. I think that would be such a bad idea with the median being out in the road. and that's my opinion. I don't like the idea of it and I don't think it's going to be something that speeds before the town's people. Now, you're talking about whenever you go out, and we got the light there where you could go out or whatever. But with that being, I think that's not such a good idea. I don't think it'd be good and fair to the business owners, because once you pass something, if I pass something on the right-hand side, and they got to go back around this way to get to it, nine out of ten, I'm not even going back to it. I'm going to keep going because, you know, this is my turn off. So therefore, I would go with the sidewalks part, but for the median, I'm just not down for that part.

Mayor Pro Tem David asked. Do you want to table SCDOT/USDOT Grant for Highway 17 sidewalks/medians project for the next Council meeting April 21, 2026.

Councilwoman Gore stated Yes.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to table for Council next meeting April 21, 2026 Councilwoman Gore seconded and stated if we could put it on the website and make sure everybody has it to review and the emails that you got, and then make copies for the citizens when they attend the Council meeting on April 21, 2026.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes, The motion carried.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem David stated. Next, we have again a vote in regards to the Town Manager's contract. Can we just table it. Councilwoman Taylor asked to return to Executive Session for a few minutes and we won't be long.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David made a motion to go back into Executive Session to discuss the Town's Manager Contract. Councilwoman Taylor so moved. Councilman Campbell seconded.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion carried.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Taylor seconded.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem David stated as a result of Executive Session to discuss the Town Manager contract who was not present for most of the meeting and Council made a decision as a result of Executive Session.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David Yes. I make a motion that we accept the settlement for Adrian Jones and make a payout of \$2,000 dollars and his salary paid up to April 20, 2026 effective immediately. Councilwoman Taylor so moved. Councilman Campbell seconded.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. No. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem David stated we don't have a Town Manager report in.

Adjournment

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilman Campbell seconded.

Vote: Councilwoman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.