

**TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH
SOUTH CAROLINA**

TOWN COUNCIL GENERAL SESSION MEETING

Monday, February 9, 2026

APPEARANCES

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

John David, Mayor Pro Tem
Jacqueline Gore, Councilmember
Edward Campbell, Councilmember
Carla Taylor - Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:

Carnisha Hennigan, Deputy Assistant Town Manager
Cheryl Pereira, Town Clerk
Leah Moody, Town's Attorney

Town of Atlantic Beach
Town Council Executive Session Meeting -5:00 p.m.
Town Council General Session Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Monday, February 9, 2026
Atlantic Beach Community Center
1010 32nd Avenue, Atlantic Beach, SC 29582

ALL FOIA Requirements Have Been Met

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Legal Matters Update.
2. Personnel.

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

CALL TO ORDER:

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 John David asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for Pending Litigation and Personnel. Councilwoman Carla Taylor made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal – Pending Litigation and Personnel. Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore seconded.

Vote: There being no questions, a roll call was taken. Councilman Edward Campbell, Yes. Councilwoman Carla Taylor, Yes. Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore, Yes. Mayor Pro Tem John David, Yes. The motion carried.

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

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Ceremonial Matters

Mayor Pro Tem John David asked Councilmembers if there were any ceremonial matters. There were none.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem John David asked for a motion for approval of the agenda, Councilwoman Carla Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilwoman Gore seconded.

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

Mayor Pro Tem John David. Council did not have any motions or anything to come out of the executive session and then public time, I don't know if anybody wanted to say anything

Public Time – No comment cards were received.

Mayor Pro Tem John David, I know we were supposed to have a Town Hall meeting after this. If somebody wanted to say something that didn't put in a comment card, we'll let you say something. No, it's not. I think it's been canceled. Yes, if you want to say something, I'll give you the opportunity.

Jay Devine. Thank you. Councilmembers and Administration and Neighbors.

My name is Jay Devine. Most of you know me to invite you to admit that STARS, the nonprofit that formed in the town about three years ago, is holding on March the 7, 2026. We are doing a new restoration where we're going to have the South Carolina Native Plant Society give us money to buy seal plants. These plants are supposed to help re-nourish the dunes from erosion and there haven't been, if I understand correctly, any dune re-nourishment efforts in the Town of Atlantic Beach. since we've had several different hurricanes, so this is a grassroots community effort. It's supposed to be a fun, real good opportunity, time to come out and basically do some environmental stewardship, like take care of our own beachfront and if you don't know, Stars was formed a few years ago, basically initially just in an effort to push back against a development proposal that was being rushed through the town and approved by a developer who had fraudulently put in an application indicating that there were no restrictions on the land that he was proposing to build a high-rise so STARS advanced an effort to push back and push back against that and since then, we decided to take on some other community initiatives, so this environmental one is one that we're gonna do next month. I'd like to ask for the council and administration's support. I would like to see if we could have a council member come and welcome some of the visitors and volunteers that will be planting with us and I'd also like the administration and the council to potentially support us in some capacity with an in-kind donation. of something that we can consider if I have an opportunity to speak with you at a later time.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore. What time will this begin.

Jay Divine, so this is March the 7, 2026 we're going to start at 9 a.m. we are going to have the folks from the South Carolina Native Plant Society talk a little bit about the plants and why it's important that we use these kind of native plants from South Carolina, we are going to have a couple of other advocacy organizations that support small municipalities and nonprofit organizations like ours in their community efforts and we're going to have Ms. Patricia Mallett also give us like history about advancing Beach and why it's important that we have these preservation efforts so we're trying to mix cultural preservation with an environmental and community initiative so we're going to be out there from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We're going to have lunch and we're going to have t-shirts and things like that for the volunteers.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. Why don't you put a proposal together and send it to Town Hall in regards to what we can assist with as far as the re-nourishment project

Jay Divine. Okay, absolutely. I'll have something in your hands before the end of the week.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore asked Jay, have you checked with, what was that place in Town, the Stockland Bureau of Prisons and Stockland inmates, they donate a lot of those plants that's in the Town up over there that's on the side of the street and stuff. They donate a lot of stuff, so therefore you can check with them and they have a greenhouse where they donate plants and we can just go pick them up. It's been so many years, but I'll talk to you because I think I probably know who I can talk to.

Jay Divine. Okay, absolutely, so I'd like to invite now everybody. I know my knees are not going to hold up bending and planting for hours at a time, so if you have nieces and nephews and grandchildren that you would like to have involved, I invite you to have them come on out and spend the day with us at It should be a fun experience and we're going to slowly take our time to try to cover the entire news. This initiative is not going to cover the entire news, but we're going to go as far as we can and then we hope to get this grant every year and be able to do something every year.

Old Business

Mayor Pro Tem stated approval for Town Council minutes.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem John David asked for a motion to approve the Town Council meeting minutes from January 5, 2026 . Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore so moved, Councilwoman Carla Taylor seconded.

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

Mayor Pro Tem John David. Item A. ordinance No. 13-2025 an amendment to Ordinance Number 1-2022 Section 10 of the life safety inspection. and audits, including life safety inspection. Is this what we said that we were going to wait on just now, because we'll table this.

Councilwoman Carla Taylor. Before we do, can we explain to the audience why we are tabling this once again so they can have an understanding of what some of the issues are we're trying to work out in this document.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. The first part is we talked about decreasing business taxes back in our budget meeting, and we talked about decreasing the business taxes in this based off that and the second part was that the life safety inspection is being added to this where it wasn't previously and is this the right place for it to go since this is a business license ordinance and not a life safety inspection ordinance, is it the right place to go, and is this fee an additional fee that will cause a due burden on our taxpayers as well, so our attorney is going to do some research and get back with us so that we can finalize this. Ms. Leah Moody has already been made aware of the questions that have been raised, so hopefully when we come back together again, it'll be a document that we can present to you. and vote on and move forward. - Yes, or if we rewrite our entire business ordinance that includes a lot of the stuff or two included in the right section. Sorry, support, so is there a roll call? I think that was a motion right, you got to make a motion first.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem John David asked for a motion that we table item A. Ordinance number 13-2025 Amendment to Ordinance number 1-2022 Business License Ordinance Section 10, Inspection and Audits, including Life Safety Inspection. Councilwoman Jacqueline Goreso moved, Councilwoman Carla Taylor seconded.

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

Mayor Pro Tem John David item B. Ordinance Number 18-2025, an ordinance purchasing procurement procedures for the Town of Atlantic Beach second reading. Ms. Carnisha Heningan, Deputy Assistant Town Manager, did you have something to say in regards to this.

Carnisha Hennigan, Deputy Assistant Town Manager stated what was added so section 1.04 for the purchasing authority, found that it was added to take counsel over such actions. Section B is the same to make council aware of such actions and the issuing of checks shall require the team authorization signature, anything greater than 5,000 shall not be committed without prior consent.

Mayor Pro Tem John David that is crazy, this ordinance didn't reference the previous ordinance, I think we have one that is dated 3-2002, 3-2002 coordinates number 3-2002, I think this is the one we talked about that had some of the other guardrails or reporting mechanisms such as authorizing statements, detailed descriptions, or affidavits of different things., different records and stuff that we wanted to make sure we included in Here. You could get a chance to look at it before town attorney or from the last month.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore. Was this the one that you all voted to table last month.

Mayor Pro Tem John David, it was, yes.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore and we didn't discuss it tonight, so if you all tabled it last month, we did not talk about it tonight, so don't you think we might need to table this again, because I don't have a clue to what you all were talking about and think I don't have any other questions.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to table Ordinance No. 18-2025, Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore, so move, Councilwoman Taylor seconded.

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

Attorney Leah Moody, so this ordinance that you tabled it says an ordinance purchasing and procurement procedures for the Town so if it was introduced at this is introducing it would repeal any prior prohibition. purchase it works, so I'm just trying to make sure I understand your question, you're saying that we're not including that information in this?

Mayor Pro Tem John David. No, no, No.. I'm saying that when we do a motion, I think the ordinance it says we have to reference the previous ordinance that we did and as well as add the other changes that we wanted in Here to add some guardrails. I think that was just one. I know we talked about previously. Let's go ahead.

Attorney Leah Moody, so you're saying when you move to make this, adopt this ordinance, you should be saying that you need to say necessarily that you are superseding or referring to that ordinance. Well, this one it doesn't refer to that particular ordinance that I can see, but it does have the purchasing and procurement procedures. in this document. I think I'm understanding what you're saying. You're trying to say that all of it should be combined.

Mayor Pro Tem John David, no, no, no, no, I'm not saying it should be combined. I'm saying we should, well, represent ordinance, and then we should fix this, like I think when we talked the last time, we mentioned why do we have exempted items in Here on page six, 2.10 so the exempted items allows a whole bunch of discretion to do a whole bunch of stuff. And I think that's why we added the verbiage and make council aware of such actions under section 1.04. so that no spending would be done without consulting counsel first. And that's on page two. That's right.

Attorney Leah Moody. Yes, but it says that on 2.10, it says exempt items. Any add? Council, under recommendation of the manager, may exempt the ordinance item specifically. It's a whole bunch of exemptions. but it still has a dollar amount limitation. So, but y'all tabled this last week. Yes. Last month, we just tabled it. Last month.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore. Yes. We're already tabled it but I'm just saying, so therefore you tabled it last month, but we didn't talk about it tonight, right, so therefore, I mean, I don't see why, because I don't know. I mean I know that's my fault that I don't know.

Councilwoman Carla Taylor. No, we've been talking about it since October 2025.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. Thank you. It's been tabled.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. Item C. Ordinance No. 2-2026. An Ordinance Establishing Requirements for the Attendance of Members of the Town Council at regular monthly meetings of the Town Council second reading.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion for Item C, Ordinance No. 2-2026, an ordinance establishing requirements for attendance of members of the Town Council at regular meetings, monthly meetings of Town Council, second reading. Any questions, Councilwoman Carla Taylor, I move that we pass the second reading of Ordinance No. 2-2026. Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore seconded.

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

New Business

Mayor Pro Tem John David stated Ordinance number 3-2026, an Amendment to Ordinance No. 8-2025 that replaces chapters one through four offenses against the peace

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore. Can I just ask one question. It adds the one section under Section 2.03, camping prohibited, and this was in regard to the beach. I might be saying it incorrectly. I just said it casually, but it was about having anyone sleeping on the beach.

Councilwoman Carla Taylor, I think the police chief presented that in his report and there was an addition to it between the hours of 9 p.m. and sunrise sets a curfew for being on the beach.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. Why, why, why, why, why, when we just did this ordinance in July, and it reads properly, it reads, can't be prohibited, it shall be unlawful to camp or engage in sleeping activities in public on public property, including beaches, sand dunes, sidewalks, parks, any land owned, leased, or controlled by the Town of Atlantic Beach without prior authorization from the Town Administrator or designated. Why would we add between the hours of 9 p.m. to sunrise it is covering all of that now, but it is not saying that was for enforcement.

Councilwoman Carla Taylor. The chief said that we needed to be added so that they could actually enforce it but if it's covered all the time now, you can enforce it all the time, now you can only enforce it between 9 p.m. and sunrise and I think that was comparable to some of the other municipalities

Mayor Pro Tem John David stated because the person, he could come take his stuff at night and sleep in the daytime and put his tent back out there and he can't get a ticket in, whereas, now you can give him a ticket 24 hours a day.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore, so we just want to give people tickets for being on the beach.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. No, no, no, here is a person that's sleeping in the dunes and got a cold tent and chairs and everything.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore, but that's a federal thing, the dunes will help people, the dunes don't belong to us, if you got a problem with dunes, that's not our problem that is a state law, isn't it? It's in our ordinance, but we don't own the dunes.

Councilwoman Carla Taylor, the chief said you may be able to speak to it but from 9 p.m. to sunrise you don't want anybody out there right and they would have to leave at some point in time but it does not prevent them from being on the property or being out there on the beach and they might just be out there enjoying the beach so that if you make it such that it's 24 hours, you're going to get, that's everybody is overbroad in terms of not allowing people to be out there.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. They cannot bring every shower if they have a tent they wouldn't be able to do all that if you don't I think what he was trying to achieve is like making sure the gentleman was not there in the night hours that's what I recall but that's what I thought he was trying to achieve from his report. I know that we have a person that has been, there more than multiple people and there is one person that I do know, if you walk straight down 30, we sent multiple pictures to the Town Manager, to the left a tent where there are all kind of living stuff and whether he leaves at night, he does leave at night and go eat and then comes back but he's still gonna be there in the daytime too. I figured you could, if this was enforceable all the time 24/7 versus somebody that's on the beach.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore. This person is on the beach, so have you made contact with the person.

Mayor Pro Tem John David, he cussed me out one time, but twice so it's only one person.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore, there is more than one person.

Mayor Pro Tem John David, there was somebody behind Dr. Williams' house as well.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore, So I think we might, instead of us just saying, let's take and make an ordinance where we get them locked up so they'll be out of our hair, I think we need to see whether or not we can assist them in any kind of way. Can we get some help for them. Can we get them down to a homeless shelter. We can't just take these human beings. We can't just say, look, get out of here, whatever, where are they going to go, I mean, I know that's not our problem either but just because of the eyesore, you don't know nobody's situation. I'm just saying.

Councilwoman Carla Taylor. The Chief, in his last report, did mention providing aid if possible, but that we needed to add this verbiage to this ordinance to help with the enforcement of the ordinance but he did talk about giving people warnings and trying to work with them as much as the manpower in the Town would allow so, yes, also, in Part A, well, it says it on public digits. don't want to sit on the public bench. No, I'm saying it has the same time frame for public

benches, because that's the public at 9 p.m., everything is shut down, everybody is going home. It's not sitting. It's laying down. Right.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem John David asked for a motion for Ordinance No. 3-2026. Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore so moved. Councilwoman Carla Taylor seconded.

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

Mayor Pro Tem John David stated we have Town Council meeting rules and procedures and information provided statutory authority according to South Carolina law.

Attorney Leah Moody. This is in regard to the agenda change that occurred on January 5th, 2026 and I provided counsel with PowerPoint and the memorandum that discusses what is a forum and what is necessary for a vote so you all have been provided that document and what I've shared with you is that for that meeting, it was three members because your council consists of five members the majority to conduct business was three members to vote and achieve action, the requirement is two to one and that's the majority, so it is a simple majority.

I think one of the issues that I think you might. The note is adding to the agenda requires two-thirds vote. adding to the agenda. This particular situation was removing, I believe it was the Town Council's Report. - Yes. in the context of what happened, that's what's required, two required, two votes required, not a majority of the pool council okay and I can give you the other list of other items but that's one the adding to pitch and the word required you have that information also the Town Manager provided the document from the Municipal Association which is consistent with the rules that should be followed as well as Robert's rules of order. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. Would you please reflect on what requires a simple majority versus a removal and more. Particularly in that instance it was amending the agenda to take that one report off that requires a simple majority.

Attorney Leah Moody, I think what you showed I don't have that document, I don't have that particular document, but you asked me what other things, the only thing I can think of as to an agenda is when you're trying to add to the agenda that will require two-thirds vote and then certain things I reached out to the municipal association search things that require a positive majority and again we have more than a positive we have four versus three now uh new fees under code 6-1-330 development impact fees business license taxes accommodations hospitality. There are certain things in the state law that do require a positive majority, which is three of the five votes. But for that particular instance, what you were talking about, that's what we need to fix on the record is that for that agenda item, for that item to amend the agenda to remove that report off you needed two to one to achieve what you want so that's I think, yes and then we did vote on yes so you just need to note that for the record, a simple majority is needed for that

action and what we read off, there is a difference between a simple majority and a positive majority or super majority for different things within the municipal association or the state law.

Mayor Pro Tem John David stated there are two (2) nomination for one vacancy on the Planning Commission and reappointment. We have Miss Erica Vaughn who volunteered to be on the Planning Commission and Mr. Timothy Vereen who asked to be reappointed.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore. I have an add-on that will be turned into the office tomorrow but this is just for nomination night. You already appointed, this do not say appointment. This is appointment, it says nomination day, though that's it. I guess it's a typo, so if I guess it, it says nomination right there, we're nominating that person, so therefore, is that a typo, nomination means you nominate.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. Yes, because we have the actual applicant that applied, so we're nominating her to take the position and reappointing Mr. Timothy Vereen, who asked to be reappointed.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore stated these folks can't be removed until their time is up. Is that correct. Yes, but we could remove some people. everybody isn't to be if they're expiring no we got one that was removed without being described but we'll talk about that later.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion for the nomination of Miss Erica Vaughn and reappointment of Mr. Timothy Vereen to the Planning Commission, Ms. Erica Vaughn to a four-year appointment and Mr. Timothy Vereen to a two-year appointment to the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore so moved. Councilwoman Carla Taylor, second.

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

Mayor Pro Tem John David, stated we have the Town Manager report,

Ms. Carnisha Hennigan, Deputy Assistant Town Manager said, I just wanted to say on record that Mr. Jones cannot be here tonight because he is under the weather and I do not have a report.

Mayor Pro Tem John David. That's her report. Okay.

Adjournment

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem John David asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore, so moved. Councilwoman Carla Taylor second.

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

Mayor Pro Tem stated meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.