

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro Tem John David, called the meeting to order at 5:01 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. There were none.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilwoman Taylor so moved, Councilman Campbell seconded.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. Yes. Councilwoman Carla Taylor. Yes. Councilwoman Gore. Yes. Mayor Pro Tem David. No.

Mayor Pro Temp David stated Council did not take any actions coming out of Executive Session.

Public Time – No comment cards were received.

Old Business

Mayor Pro Tem stated approval for Town Council minutes.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to approve the Town Council meeting minutes held on November 18, 2025 and February 9, 2026. Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilwoman Taylor seconded.

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

Mayor Pro Tem David. Item A. Ordinance No. 13-2025

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. Amendment to Ordinance No. 1-2022 Section 10. This is the ordinance pertaining to the life safety inspection that the town has adopted for all residents to receive this life safety inspection with the cost that will be allocated during the time of the purchase of the business license or in your property tax. This is the second reading on this life safety inspection. This inspection is geared toward making sure that the residents of the town of Atlantic Beach have the proper living accommodations according to state and federal law. It is simply to make sure that the town is in line before, because this has a direct effect on how we promote the health and safety and welfare of the general public.

Mayor Pro Tem David asked and how much was the fee for this life safety now versus what it was before,

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. The fee is \$150.

Mayor Pro Tem David. I think that this is an additional tax on the residents of Atlantic Beach. We talked about last April and May and then in November and December 2025 about actually, decreasing the tax but we have not and it was not included in this document and as the document reads, it says it's an additional \$150 increase, which is another tax on top of our already high business taxes. Number two, again, this is a new tax on businesses and we already have one of the highest business taxes in the state. Number three, inspections should only be conducted by licensed professionals, not by business license or authorized agents, as we enter premises of business license holders to inspect audits and books and that's what this thing I've talked to the lawyer before and said that this conflates two different things. Inspection should only be done by conducted by licensed commercial inspectors, not the town. The only time the inspection costs money is if the audit reveals false information at the time it was licensed in this ordinance and then we're adding on top of that an additional life safety inspection at the time of the cost of the audit if it's needed for the cost of license. Section 10 says that the license shall have the authority to make inspections and conduct business audits, not life safety inspections. If we do life safety inspections in business licenses, it does not work. In a business license order, it does not work. Doing life safety inspections to inspect a town code violations, this is vastly different than financial audits and books, which is the original section of Part 10 that was referenced. The ordinance applies to conducting business, not places or structures. You cannot do a life safety inspection on a person or a business as defined in this part of the ordinance because this is business, not a physical structure and the last two things that I have to say in regards to this. The town already adopted the International Business Code. We already have a mechanism to do inspections on structures and code violations. Inspections should be compliant based as there are in other jurisdictions. We passed ordinance number 15-2025 on September the 22, of 2025 and

we have listed in there a fee of \$175 for a life safety inspection and this ordinance is charging \$150. We are putting something that is wrong and confusing in two different places. So, Adrian Jones, Town Manager. Can you clarify for the public and this body the purpose of the life safety inspections and the \$150 fee because it's my understanding that covers our costs for conducting the life safety inspections that have been done historically in this town for decades.

Adrian Jones. Yes, I want to piggyback off a couple things that Mayor Pro Tem stated, he started out stating that we could not conduct inspections because we had to have licensed personnel to do so, which we do and in the end, he said the town can't do inspections, but I think he was titantotting toward the fee that was associated. What I want to state is the town has always had a life safety built into this ordinance. This is nothing new. We didn't draft this since I came here. It has always been in place. If I'm not mistaken, 2019 is when this ordinance was drafted and it wasn't a big push about it until, I guess, maybe we went from 175 to 150, maybe the pain associated with it, or maybe because there was some negotiation going on about how we should approach the business license and why it's attached to the life safety. Well, I'll say this. We are a municipality, and as a municipality, we have limited services that we provide on our own. We don't have our own code inspectors or personnel that are certified to be, as Mayor Pro Tem stated, code enforcement agents. So therefore, we have to solicit those services and so for those contractors to come out and provide those services on those inspections, they come with a fee and that fee is \$150 a visit. The town is not trying to get rich off of this. I mean, we make the money, we pay the consultant to come and do the work that's not an up-end for us but we want to make sure that the residents and the people that come and stay, you know, for the short term and short term rentals, whether that's the Airbnb or hotel, we want to make sure that the town is doing its due diligence as far as making sure that these people are in a safe environment, whether it's for the health or the safety of the general public at large. It's always been in place, but the \$150 fee is just associated with the cost that comes with us being involved in this very vital service.

Mayor Pro Tem David. I say, I'm not against the life safety inspections that we've always had, what we've had for a while now, I'll put it like that but I do think that we are hitting the wrong avenues, everything we're touching now, we're talking about going up on the property owners at \$75, at the business owners, I'm sorry but at \$75 and I understand what you're saying, that this takes care of the inspection. Well, \$75 is always, no, I'm not saying that. I'm saying \$150 to me is you're paying your business license, and then you're paying an extra \$150. It was \$75 plus your business license. I don't think we should be increasing the inspections to \$150. I think we should stay right here at \$75. What we're doing right now, if I was getting ready to come in this town, I would look in the news and I would say no wrong place because they can't get it together there and every time you turn around, we're increasing the fees on them. Something isn't right. We got to find money from the other way versus trying to take money from the taxpayers. Every time you turn around, we're increasing something for them to pay, the business owners or whoever. I think \$75 is comfortable and how that goes, you get your business license if your life safety passes, if they don't pass, then it don't go until they get corrections. That's how it was always in

place, and I think I'm not going with the \$150. I'm just pointing out one thing in ordinance number 15-2025, it used to be \$75, and we went up to \$175 and that was back in September 2025 and the thing that I'm saying is that this tax right here is an additional tax.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager, usually people get life safety inspections when they have a new bill. Once a year and they don't even get it once a year. It depends on if they get a new bill if they got sprinklers, different things for different businesses but this is targeting every business, every they come in and that's an additional task. That is good because, like we said, we have all these Airbnb's or what have you around here and throughout the year, devil's wear and tear on those buildings. Now, if something happens in that building that didn't get correct, now you got a life section coming on so therefore you'll be able to correct that because we need to, like you said, look out for the visitors that come into our town so therefore life inspection, whenever you get your business license, is how it was designed, so therefore everything will be corrected.

Mayor Pro Tem So \$150, though, I'm not with that. I'm down for the \$75, and I agree with the life safety once a year.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager said, so you agree with the inspection but not the fee.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Well, not the fee.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. So you're okay with the town going in the hole.

Mayor Pro Tem David. How is the town going in the hole whenever and this is how it was done. Matter of fact, Ms. Cheatham is sitting out there.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. The business license that is due on April 30, 2026. Well, how they normally do that at \$75 and that man coming in here, everybody getting their license at that time, \$75 times 10 or whatever, that's going to be pretty good for him for that whatever. So therefore, well, I'm just saying, I'm just putting a number there, 10. If I could get 10 of that, \$75, I'd be doing pretty good. Then I'd wait and try to get the other 10 next week because that we got to understand one thing. Everybody that comes in here may be at that point where they have that kind of, when these folks in here was pretty subtle of who they were and the laws and stuff helped us in here and I know times have changed and things goes up, but guess what? Everything is going up everywhere. We're trying to keep up as a town, and I don't think every time something goes wrong, we're trying to get revenue from this, for that, whatever, to make it happen. It's not going to happen like that. We've got to find revenue from somewhere else, I do think. If I may just add for you all's information, the previous inspector that was doing inspections, he was doing the town's inspections, but he was also charging more to the business owners who needed to do the inspection, so this is actually a reduction in the amount of what you got.

Let me piggyback for a bit because I want to clarify a few things. One, the town does not make a dime out of these. It doesn't make a dime. And it is not designed to make a dime. But it's not designed to get in a deficit item. It also posts to. So, therefore, there has to be a trade-off. \$75. The cost associated to the inspections is \$150. So, if we pay \$150 and we already make \$75, That is the town paying for a resource that you generate revenue because the life safety inspection comes from those people that are having businesses, so to speak, that you generate revenue off of. We have to have a... Now, at the end of the day, you guys make legislation, right. I am just here to enforce what's on the books. My job is to advise you on the direction that we need to go. I don't set federal wages or federal law when it comes to how much to increase or how much to decrease. I just sit behind a desk and I see that if our revenue is taking a hit in one area or another, it's my job to bring it to your attention. I want to say this. We had an inspector in here. I don't know what we have now, but at the same time, that inspector was only charging \$75 to come here, actually, he worked for the town, and we paid him. Look, let me tell you something. When we're paying the consultants, we're saving about 13%. Well, listen, we have— and the consultants don't go back and get a check from him. Hold up because he was going back getting checks from residents after we paid because the residents didn't call him in. That's how come, but see, you can't tell him that he can't collect from a property owner but we can't pay him to go back to a resident to do something for the resident. All inspections have to come through the town. Y'all got some deep pockets and everybody's pockets are not as deep as y'all.

That's all I got to say because that's what appears to me so therefore and again, the life safety inspection and ordinance number 15-2025 says \$175, and that's for businesses.

Mayor Pro Tem. Explain that one so you're double charging, and the prices are different and you're putting, you're adding, you're double taxing. Like double rolls. I guess that. Have we checked with the surrounding towns and see what their life statement is yes, so are we in comparison to them.

Adrian Jones We are much cheaper.

Mayor Pro Tem David. We should be cheap, cheap, cheap but at the same time, because I mean, I just feel like we're running off potential business owners for our actions and stuff and every time you turn around, they we are increasing something so because I thought I'm not really sure that here's somebody saying something about increasing the millage, or did we say decrease the millage?

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. We decreased it last year.

Mayor Pro Tem David. That's what I'm talking about. We were talking. This actually has a page two, three and four and we talked about decreasing the business taxes, again, because we pay on ours. For the first \$2,000, we pay \$100 and then for the next \$1,000, we pay \$28, which is some of the highest in the state.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. I would say that you guys have the authority to decide on whichever direction you want to go. I just need clarification.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Yes, so the fee that we're charging for life safety inspections is \$150 or \$175 and ordinance number 15-2025 that we approved on September 22, 2025. It says life safety inspection \$175. Who approved that.

Councilwoman Taylor. We did. We approved it.

Mayor Pro Tem stated they did. Not me and now we're trying to put life safety inspections on the business license. which doesn't go there, with an additional \$150. So in green.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. There's not an additional. The life safety inspection is one life safety inspection and that's \$175

Mayor Pro Tem David, based on 15-2025. So what are we voting on tonight.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. This is what you're voting on tonight.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Is this lowering of the business. The thing about it is you want. It appears to me you're trying to jumble the life safety inspection into the lowering of the building license, which is what we should not be doing because I feel that this ordinance right here is totally misplaced. I've always felt that it was misplaced.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. This was taken out of the context of the lowering of the building license. which I have always stated, you know, we shouldn't be approaching lowering business licenses right now at this junction

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. I want to give you some clarity. This ordinance here is for the lowering of the business license. That's what I'm saying. This section, this little piece here has been taken and been made to be the fall gap.

Mayor Pro Tem David. We've already passed the life safety, so I don't know why it keeps getting put with the business. So again, I asked the town attorney if we could rewrite our whole business license. Sure. That is that we gave her the number for and we can rewrite the business licensure without including the life safety in here. because again, this section is for inspection audits of books for businesses, not for life safety inspections. Yes, that was because of, particularly you which is why it's still in here, because it was trying to be attached to the business license, of the law of the business license and I have been an advocate of saying this has nothing to do with the business license. Business licenses are on page 10, not on page 6. Yeah, we've exited.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to table Ordinance No. 13-2026. Councilwoman Taylor so move. Councilwoman Gore seconded.

Vote: Councilman Campbell. No. Councilman Taylor. Yes. Councilman Gore. Yes. Mayor Proton David. Yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Item B. No18-2025 -Ordinance No. 18 – An Ordinance Purchasing and Procurement Procedures for the Town of Atlantic Beach – Second Reading.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. This is just an ordinance to put in a purchasing and procurement process and procedure for the Town of Atlantic Beach, which the town has left for many years when it comes to the purchasing and procurement process of how the town goes about purchasing material.

Mayor Pro Tem David, to what amount, what procedures council the one in place for the town manager and so forth. We have a current ordinance in place and this ordinance should supersede that ordinance because we increased the fee. I think the Town Manager told us that the old amount was \$1,000 versus \$5,000 and the petty cash was \$300 versus \$500 so do you have it at your disposal the ordinance that's showing that you have a procurement process of receiving it? Yes, and why should it supersede this to your dollars?

Adrian Jones. I'm not saying it should supersede, but it should reference that.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Well, your statement was it should supersede this. I want to make sure that we're identifying that correctly on the record because we didn't get that in our package. So, question, if passed tonight, this ordinance would supersede the old ordinance. That is correct.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager, I mean, the old ordinance is the language in it, the procurement process. it doesn't have a process in place like this one does and I think everybody would agree it doesn't allow the town manager to conduct its functionalities on a day-to-day basis because the old ordinance still have language in there where anything over \$100, I have to get council approval.

Mayor Pro Tem David. I don't know why that supersedes \$100. The old ordinance is ordinance number 3-2002. So it hasn't been amended or rectified in no way and it says, you know, \$2,500 when I thought it was and here it still has \$5,000 and it has, the town manager shouldn't exceed \$100 and \$300 in petty cash but I think this is raising to \$500 and we never seen any receipts for petty cash or anything and that goes to use petty cash.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager, we never really used petty cash,

Mayor Pro Tem David. I remember you said we hired a day laborer with petty cash.

Adrian Jones. You talk about petty cash, we don't have it on hand. We don't have the petty cash account. Of course, that's right, we don't have it at the town hall but we have a petty cash account where we have someone that performs a day labor function, we can pay them out of the petty cash.

Mayor Pro Tem David. I don't see that the language in there that describes that ordinance and I'm sure you look through it thoroughly.

Adrian Jones. There are too many restraints on how town managers can go about conducting business because if I have to wait till we have a council meeting and spend \$100 we will get nothing done in town \$100 dollars to be able to spend,

Mayor Pro Tem David. I don't think it should be as much as \$5,000.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager, that's a contract and it's calculated that he would still advise us before going. So \$5,000 is I can't go into no contract negotiation with anybody without the council that exceeds \$5,000 with some of the contracts because we were abreast of some of the contracts over \$5,000 or we didn't vote on them. Well, that depends on what you are talking about. I know sometimes that it takes quick thinking, so we have to make sure that we're focusing generally on the things that we're talking about and addressing today.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Today we're addressing that the town manager cannot exceed \$5,000 in contractual agreements without council's knowledge. What has happened to this point has happened due to the fact council giving the town manager the right to go into negotiations with contracts, so what we're doing is setting the precedence now on what that is and the limitations on that.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to approved Ordinance No. 18-2025. An Ordinance Purchasing and Procurement Procedures for the Town of Atlantic Beach. Councilwoman Taylor so moved. Councilman Campbell seconded.

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

Mayor Pro Tem David. Item C. Ordinance number 3-2026.

Andrian Jones, Tower manager. This ordinance is to address what has been brought to my attention of the homeless people sleeping in the dunes, the reason why we are amending this ordinance because it didn't clearly state in this ordinance where anyone or time frame specific to where it was prohibited to being on the beach. Now, in this ordinance, it does say that in the dunes, period, it's prohibited. But at the same time, you cannot criminally trespass someone if the town doesn't have a curfew in place to align with it so if the beach is open 24 hours, 365 days, 24-7, like it's painted onside that wall over there, it's kind of hard to enforce a criminal trespass when there's no limitations on when the beach is open or closed so after doing my due diligence and talking with surrounding municipalities, we found that it would probably be best if we set a curfew on what hours that it was permissible to be at the beach from 9:00 p.m. to sunrise so during those times, if the guy happens to be in the dunes, then that gives us the legal ground to criminal trespassing. Well, honestly, they are not suppose to be in the dunes at all.

There is no, all up and down the coast you don't get it wrong with the shelter or whatever. So, therefore, we shouldn't have to go too far and deep for that but at the same time, that 9 o'clock to 6 o'clock, that is perfect because from my understanding, I know in Virginia Beach and all that, you cannot go down on the beach at the 9:00 p.m. so I think we'll be right in line with that.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem David asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 3-2026. Councilman Campbell made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 3-2026. 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.

New Business

Bike Fest discussion 2026

Councilwoman Gore stated, it was brought to her attention that she was receiving a number of inquiries pertaining to Bike Fest 2026 and the price that are associated with it so she wanted to have the opportunity to express some of the grievances that she's been hearing and for the town to take a second look at the bike fest decision. We are by far the highest festival fees in the country and this isn't going by nothing nobody told me. Nobody had to tell me. I know because I've been across country and I've asked questions and Titus himself has gotten some comparisons and we are not talking about the new fees, the fees from last year. I have asked this council to take it back to what it was last year because, I don't know if you all know, the Bikefest has never been what we had to really save it for a rainy day thing. It was something that we had to consider our own.

This was our festival. It birthed here in Atlantic Beach and long as it didn't cause Atlantic Beach any money, then we were fine, if it made something, we were more than happy, but if everybody was safe come Monday morning, we all had good fun and we were in Atlanta Beach where a whole lot of people come here and they find out where Atlanta Beach is. They get to see who Atlanta Beach is and I just feel like these rates that we have is just outnumbered by far and then when they come down to the property owners, I don't know if you guys know or not but without the property owners, there is nowhere for us to have a festival but yet we're being charged. I take that back. I'm not saying we because I don't have anything. It's not about me but it's about my mother who is a property owner, so that's why I said we but it's really not about my mother. It's about anybody that pays taxes in Atlanta Beach.

We're already paying some of the highest taxes in Horry County. Now, in order for me to try and make a couple of dollars to pay my taxes, I got to pay the town, was it \$350 or whatever for a cleanup fee but see, that's what I'm saying. Now, I made a suggestion that for a cleanup fee and I really don't know what y'all are talking about when y'all say cleanup fee because our property is always cleaned up by us for as long as I ever known, all the property owners that's renting their

properties clean their own property. Now, for an absentee property owner, of course, if it's nasty and they were not there, they didn't make any money, then the town will have those properties to clean it up and that's never been a problem that's how it's always been but for the town to charge the property owners \$325, I don't think that's right and if it was up to me, I would say no dealings on that. I don't think we should be charging the property owners a dime. If anything, after it's all over, we should give them a percentage for letting us use their property and then with the fees for the vendors, like I said, we got to do something. We could take it for granted. Now, if we don't want Bike Fest in Atlanta Beach, this is the best way, the fastest way to get rid of it. We don't have to worry about it no more after this year right here because nobody is going to come.

Right now, gas is \$3 a gallon, \$3 a gallon, a dozen of eggs. Like they like to talk about in the news. Well, that affects us too. Those high eggs, that affects us here in Atlanta Beach and the vendors and stuff that's trying to come for them to buy their product, they got to come and they got to buy their permits, they got to take and get here with their rooms and stuff, pay their help. I don't know what y'all think that these folks make. They aren't making it like that and whenever you're not a vendor and you don't know, then you can really say it like that and it sounds real easy because you don't know so it makes a difference.

I think it is so important for these fees to be relaxed to what they was last year and then we find another way to make money because bike fest, don't let nobody fool you, they can say what they want to say the numbers don't lie. We had at least 73 vendors last year that comes up to around \$58,000, but I think we had a little more than that.

I don't know how many parking lots. Parking lots is something that you can't go wrong with it, we make good money off parking alone if we didn't do nothing but park, we'll be fine. I don't know how we end up with what we end up with, the bottom of the toe. I mean, it's like if somebody just decided to give off tips and we end up. Can I ask how much we made off Bike Fest for the parking last year. Is that okay to say here? It was publicly.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager, we made \$3,000 off parking.

Councilwoman Gore. That's impossible and I don't want to say, and I hate saying stuff like, as far as stealing, so I'm not going to say stealing but somebody put something in their pocket that didn't belong to them because, for the simple reason, there is no way we had about at least five parking lots that made \$3,000. I don't know what happened, but this festival is entitled to having the truth be told and it's also the folks out here, the property owners needs to know what's going on. It's not that this festival don't make money. This festival makes money but yet you've got to find a way to hold whoever is taking the money for parking accountable. You have to have tickets. You can't just trust somebody with cash money. We've got to have something in place, a system in place but if you go to an event somewhere else, you never go nowhere, and they just take your money and not give you no receipt. You never do that over here so we got to find some way to track the money for those parking lots, and then we'll be able to see a big difference. I

think that we don't need to rob the vendors blind. We want them to come because without them, we don't have no event. We need to find another way to get money. I don't think we need to hit them like that. That's all I have to say. I want to go on record Councilwoman Gore stating that I was not here last year so I don't know what happened with I'm not saying you, I'm not, and I'm not accusing anybody, but I know somewhere out there that I was going to spend some money, make that clear that, you know, I had no dealings with how the bike fence was ran last year or what was what was what we have people tuning in from all over the world. They don't. I want to make sure that they understand that, you know, that happens. I understand. Like I said, I'm not pointing at nobody. I'm just saying what has taken place. I don't know who. Don't want to accuse nobody of nothing but I know for sure I'm not accusing nobody of nothing, regardless of who it is up there in the administration last year or whatever. I'm not accusing nobody but I will say this much, the money is missing because those parking don't have no receipts to them. That's what I'm saying.

I guess council has this opportunity to address whether they want to amend those prices or if they find those prices suitable to proceed for Bike Fest as we are approaching Bike Fest rapidly. Two things having been here from the first Bike Fest to the present one of the things, I mean

Adrian Jones, Town Manager said Jackie everything you said was correct but one of the things I've always said, the town lets things happen to it very rarely are we proactive and get ahead of things and one of the things that I think we need to get ahead of is making this festival beneficial for the town, it should be a place for people to come and have a good time and reminisce and come back year after year but not at the expense of the town and I think any way that we can improve the conditions of the town using this festival, I think we need to explore. At the same time, the Bike Fest committee meets on Wednesday.

Councilwoman Taylor. We meet again next Wednesday coming up. We will meet on Wednesday. I think as a committee, we can discuss it and make a recommendation to the council,

Councilwoman Gore stated but the thing about this right here and I understand I was in at the last meeting they had, there's nobody on there that know anything about a festival more or less we could sit back and we could look and all those vendors coming in here they aren't just coming in here just they're coming here to patronize us they of course they want to make the money or whatever but like I said, do you understand me when I'm saying to you. Gas is at \$3 a gallon for regular gas. Those vendor fees takes care of all of that. We may not have nothing on the end of it. Well, you sit there and you roll your eyes, but what I'm trying to tell you is that it's not fair for us charging the vendors to come in here. We're trying to get back off of them. They aren't coming.

Well, like I said, the committee meets on Wednesday but they don't supersede us and we will make recommendations to the council. So now, listen, this is why I'm saying, so we're going to

wait until Wednesday, then we come back to a meeting on the 16th. Do you not know that folks are making plans to go other places? We are in the only place to have an event, you know so it don't really matter, though, because whenever you aren't a vendor, you can't understand what they're doing. That's what I'm trying to tell you.

Councilwoman Taylor. We get more for less than we do with... Jackie, I hear you. I hear everything you're saying, and I stand by getting the committee to make a recommendation to council, and at the next meeting. We are the board right here. The Bike Fest committee is the one that's planning the event.

Councilwoman Gore. Wait, wait, The Bike Fest Committee is doing what.

Councilwoman Taylor. I said the Bike Fest committee is helping plan the event. I think they should have a say in it.

Councilwoman Gore. This is really crazy to me, there's a Bike Fest committee, evidently and that Bike Fest committee is going to meet. When is the meeting.

Councilwoman Taylor. Wednesday, 5.30.

Councilwoman Gore. One more question. How do you get appointed for the Bike Fest committee. I've never even heard about it, that's what I'm saying. We need to get somebody who knows what they're talking about. Just to put somebody in place to say they're holding a position, that is not right that don't work for this right here. So therefore, how did this committee get signed up. Who, where did this committee come from? Who? BikeFest is a town-ran function. Most of them, so the town manager, I'm just asking, you appointed. Is the administrator. You appointed the Bike Fest because the town administrator pulls the purse strings to the Bike Fest account.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. The committee is a group of people that mostly have expertise about Bike Fest that participates within the conversations of how Bike Fest is run, just like the Gullah Geechee committee. I don't know about that town appointed that committee as well, but there was one for that.

Councilwoman Gore asked so there are committees that are appointed that are outside the preview of the council. The council puts the board of zoning, the council puts the planning and zoning commissions together, but that's about as far as the council goes.

Adrian Jones. This is an administrative task, so the administrative team puts together a team to work for the administrative functions of the town.

Councilwoman Gore. Okay, that's not what I'm asking you about, though, because the reason why I'm asking you this, that's about, like, okay, saying that I'm going to show you and tell you everything that you need to know to get off alcohol but I can't be so good at that better than he

can because he's been there. I put that on me. I've been there. I change around. I'm just trying to make an example, though, but I'm just saying I'm going to do an even better one. How? I can't tell a whole lot how to get out of the streets. I'm just trying to make it for everybody to understand what I'm saying, okay? I can't tell a lot how to get out of the streets for the simple reason I aren't been out there in the streets, but I can tell you something what I've done. I know about a festival. I know about this again. That's all I'm saying. I'm just trying to and so, you know,

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. I don't know. I've never had been to Bike Fest. That's how come. and I've never ran a Bike Fest, which is why there is a committee put together of people that have been here, people that ran the bike fest, people that have knowledge of the bike fest. For that committee I am just a sponge and then I allocate if the resources that are being spent for that bike fest, I am merely an administrative figure to make sure that what is being requested, what is being spent, is the money going in the right place, is the money coming back to the right place. That's the full throttle of what I'm overseeing. The way things are being put together, the pieces and all of that, the committee is fully capable of doing that and like you said, I can't sit back and say what needs to happen and what does not need to happen because I've never been to a bike fest. I've never oversee a bike fest so with it being an administrative function, it behooved me to put together a committee of people that have ran bike fest and have been a part of Bike Fest so that they could guide me, since this is my eighth month on how Bike Fest activities go and with the town leadership and town personnel that has been here. Ms. Cheryl has been here 26 years.

Councilwoman Gore. Oh, I'm very aware. One more question. They understand so it's not we just putting a committee together of who's who are title-bearers. that this is a committee of people that have read it, they understand it. No, wait, don't, don't, please don't sit there and say that because that's not true either but at the same time, that statement right there is definitely not true. But at the same time, him and Booker, but at the same time, I want to say this right here. Who made the recommendations for the fees? Where do those fees come from?

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. I don't make the legislation.

Councilwoman Gore. No, no, no, no, no, no, I'm asking who? This is my question. Now, this is my only question right here, right now, for this part right here. Who came up with the fees, the \$4,000, the \$2,000, the \$2,500?

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. I did research. Titus, can you tell us what it was that you came up with for the fees. The highest \$650 for Myrtle Beach. At the end of the day, we don't have middle-beach revenue but we would look but that's the problem. You got to hear me out. You got to hear me out. I do not pass legislation.

Councilwoman Gore. You pass the fees, sir.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. I can come in here and bring to you any time of the day of what I got an idea of, you and the rest of the council as a body make the decision on whether you agree with it or not so I don't want the perception to be the town manager came in with these high fees because the council that is very rooted in the community can say no. Not that rooted at \$4,000, \$2,000, \$2,500. That is ridiculous. The council saw fit that it should be increased so I don't want the narrative to be the town manager. Well, whenever you aren't because at any time that I bring anything to the council, and many times I bring stuff to the council, it don't fly and that happened to fly because nobody on this board has ever been in Atlanta Beach. Maybe that's what it is and we're going to wait for that right there but y'all YouTubers, we're going to see what happens at the next meeting. I'm trying to get love back for y'all so you all can come here and not go other places in the country. So that's all I'm trying to say right there. We have a community update.

Good evening, everyone. My name is Titus Leakes, and I'm going to give a community to update today. To start off with our solar project, our solar project is almost complete. We now have 14 solar-powered poles along Ocean Boulevard, each equipped with a light that runs entirely on the case of energy. The project also includes five security cameras and full Wi-Fi capabilities, bringing both safety and connectivity to the area while we are finishing up a few minor equipment adjustments, the system is nearly ready to shine when you get a chance, just come check out how sustainable technology is lighting up our community. Do we have any questions.

Councilwoman Gore. I do. I got a big question. A lot of questions on that right there. You might not be knowing the answer and I want to know how is it that we agreed from last I heard these lights was coming up 30th Avenue. Am I right? Wasn't supposed to be coming up 30th at one time it was. So how we end up with now the taxpayers that some people in the town don't never go down there. They'll never ever enjoy the white eye. They won't even get to see the street lights. Wait, wait. Can you understand what I'm saying. See what? Look at the lights. Why don't you go down and look at the lights and from the guy that was installing the service, he said that the Wi-Fi may reach you guys right there, that road right there but it won't do nothing for nobody else in the town.

I'm trying to figure out, and you tell me whether or not y'all taxpayers out there think it's okay for y'all to help pay with the service fees because that wasn't in the grant so is it fair for the taxpayers that live across the highway over there. Is it fair for them, not across the highway even, just period? Is it fair for them to pay their taxes and pay service for something just down there for everybody else's benefit, my next question was going to be the tightest was, have you all monetized the Wi-Fi so that the fee is being charged for everybody that utilizes it and you use that. I'll take that question.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. Yes. Number one, to set up the services to monetize them is an additional financial burden on the town. This project was, I'm going to choose my words. There was not a thought process put into what was going to all be incurred by the town. This was sold as a cost the town nothing product. That's what part of it. At the end of the day, the town has to pay for the insurance of these poles.

Councilwoman Gore. How much is that.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. Can I finish. We have to pay for the insurance on the poles. We have to pay for the maintenance that these poles have to be maintained every two, twice a year. These poles have to be maintained, that's an additional cost but the only way we can keep the warranty is if we provide that maintenance, which is an untold cost. It's going to be very expensive. My point is that. Also, we have some scenarios where I don't fully agree with, you know, that if we're going to have Wi-Fi that's going to be available for all over the beachfront, it should be available for everybody. Let me state that but secondly, I want to also say that we can't keep getting into these endeavors of monetizing things that don't make sense to the town. I mean, we can't sell Wi-Fi. and we should not be able to put ourselves in a position where we, like, when you realistically think, how many people are going to come to the beach and buy Wi-Fi from Atlantic Beach because I got Wi-Fi on my phone. It totally goes against the reason of logic. It's just like, why would somebody come and pay for parking and the street is free. These endeavors, we have to stop keeping ourselves with these bright ideas, so to speak and I'm not leveling that on any one individual. I'm saying collectively, we make these decisions and we have to stop doing that. We have to make these decisions according to, are they going to be, are these decisions going to profit, is the town as a whole going to benefit and so paying for a vendor to handle a payment, I mean, car service, that's an additional cost.

Councilwoman Gore. Asked how much is that cost.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. We haven't gotten there yet. It is nothing but \$50, it's too much but they benefit the ones that live up as free. If it was a dime, it's too much for us to be paid for somebody that's probably not going to pay for no Wi-Fi. You can use Wi-Fi on your phone. People pay for Wi-Fi everywhere but it comes with your service. You have to monetize it. You can't do it if you don't monetize it. Monetize it costs. We have to pay those service fees. We have to maintain the banking for those service fees. How much is the cost? It's not going to be what we make because we were asked for costs, right, It's not going to be what it wasn't we never got is not in the grant that you service in the next so therefore that's going to hit the text but you also are making money off of solar lights you would decrease the lights from so a safety. How we gonna know is that gonna be okay for you for them to say they're gonna be cut. Yes, she got a part with that and that don't make no sense Again, that's why you have We don't have numbers at the end. At the end of the year when we get those numbers, then we'll worry about monetizing. Exactly. Until we get some money to monetize it, we don't need to be planning on monetizing anything that we don't have the money for.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager stated. I move to the North Myrtle Beach Waterline Project update. As of right now, we don't have too much information on it. We know that construction would not begin before June 1st, 2026. The storage of any materials or equipment on the land of these would not be permitted prior to this date. North Myrtle Beach would continue to keep us informed of any updates related to the project, including any potential impacts on our community. We do not have... Yeah, that's all the updates we have. Is that going to be brought to a vote of council because or have you all already gave the right away or do we have to, we need to vote on the right away and the franchise amount that they're paying for that.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Didn't they already give us money.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. They already gave 60 something. Yes, let me address this. We don't, we're not in a place in the third quarter to try to renegotiate a contract that we've already approved back before I came, there was a payment paid for the right away, \$60,000, \$70,000. and so there was never any agreement. There's not a contract of whether they were going to do this and do that, it was a lot of word of mouth. There was a lot of talking. We have the emails, nothing was in stone. So, and to make this perfectly clear, the North Myrtle Beach has eminent domain with that waterline. They could come just running and they don't need to negotiate with us about anything. We don't have no other choice so I want to make that perfectly clear so with the steps that have already been taken, the money that has already been taken, it behooves the town to go ahead and proceed with the agreement that was originally put in place that.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Was it voted on by the council.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. It was not voted on by the council.

Mayor Pro Tem David. What was the new amount.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. The new amount is \$43,000, \$275, which was agreed upon in the original plan.

Mayor Pro Tem David. What original because this is new.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. That is not new. That's the second part of the whole thing of the whole project. That is the second part of the whole project, which was negotiated prior to me getting here and the town just followed the procedures and the process of what was already in place prior to me getting here. I don't know nothing about a road. There's no documentation.

There's no legal ledges of where we were going to be getting a street or sidewalks or any of this stuff here so if I can just say the easement. I'm sorry. The easement, the deed of easement. So there's like two parts to it and apparently there was an amount that was agreed upon, which you initially told me, shared with me, that it was \$7,000 so the second part of that easement

completing the work is the 43-275. So that's on the other side of it, and that's completing it. The gentleman that might have been in the meeting retired, and there was, I think you was asking to have an MOU, but I guess back in when the first portion was received, there wasn't an MOU gentleman, so that gentleman has left the City North Myrtle Beach and they have a different Public Works Director. Yes, Public Works Director and a town member so this was the second part as I understand it, the second part of completing the original project so the \$47,000 has been deposited into the account as part of the balance.

I'll move to inspections. All inspections have been proceeding smoothly. Inspections are scheduled once per week, typically on Thursday or Friday. Please keep in mind that there must be a minimum of seven days between the date of inspection is requested and the date is performed. This time frame allows us to properly coordinate scheduling and ensure availability. We have adopted a structure scheduling approach for financial and operational efficiencies. By grouping multiple inspections on the same day, the town is able to reduce costs associated with travel time, administration, coordination, and inspector availability.

In the past, inspections were scheduled individually on a per request basis, which resulted in a high overall expense and less efficient use of resources. This current system allows us to maintain consistent service by being responsible stewards of the townhouse plans. Any questions about inspections.

Councilwoman Gore, we're talking about a life-safe inspection still. Is that what we're talking about. We don't have any inspections. So, government inspections. Oh, you're talking about you want to get a power pole in, there's nothing to do with the businesses.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. Yes, ma'am, all of them requested through the same company, and we just found it better if we group them together and have one-to-one inspections versus just one person at the time. The next is the business license reminder. All business licenses are due by April 30th, 2026. Penalties for late renewals will begin May 1st, 2026. It's the responsibility of all business owners to remove their license on time to avoid these penalties.

We have identified a number of businesses operating in the town without a valid license. Some have never held a license despite operating for years. This is not acceptable. We are taking steps to ensure all businesses are brought to the clients. Additionally, underreported income to reduce license fees will no longer be tolerated. All business license advocates are now required proof of income to guarantee that each business pays the correct amount. This ensures that Atlanta Beach receives its fair share and that every business contributes responsibly to our community. Compliance is not optional and we expect our business owners to take the necessary steps immediately.

Mayor Pro Tem David, so therefore you're saying that we require audits for each business. Is that what we're saying.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager stated before, you can just come to the town hall and tell them a number and you get a business license. No, wait a minute. If y'all could attest to it, if that's sold, that's new because for the simple reason I worked in this town before and they had to bring in their income tax statement. That is how they paid it so it wasn't just a word of mouth, it was from them showing proof of what they did with the IRS so, Councilman, the state implemented a new standardization as a form, and that helps with the taxation, and that helps the state, the local county, as well as town of Atlanta Beach, so they're filling out a form and those fees and all of that stuff are due so the audit piece that you're talking about, that is something new in that new tax standardization act so everybody's adopted that, and that's the taxation that the state has put in place when they turn in their information, if there's some question about it, which we can check at the county, that's how people get audited.

Mayor Pro Tem David. I thought that's how they did it the whole time, from your income.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager, It's a new act so it's just something that we're adopting in this incorporated. We adopted it, but the act came from the state legislation so we're in compliance Councilwoman Gore, as long as this is something that we're in compliance with, but I'm just saying that, you know, it's just how everything just seems to me is all about money, money, money and these folks can't even put their feet on solid ground before you're asking for another dollar and it's just crazy. I mean, it's not about a million. Department of Revenue, that's what they wanted. No, and I understand by all means, whatever way it says that we should do it to make sure we have revenue right. Yes, I'm just talking about the taxpayers. Every time you step behind and you empty your pockets, it's not fair to them. That's all I'm saying. I just want to be transparent for everybody, and everything is level for everybody. I mean, we got to remember one thing, that their little money increase or whatever revenue is not going to help this town like people think it is. It's going to have to take other resources. It's not going to be that, and it's not going to be bike-fist, people. It's not going to be that so we got to come up with some other plans because right now we kind of zero to one because it's not working.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. Yes, also piggyback off of that, it's not fair for the town to not get their fair share like I said, we've had numerous businesses that are underreporting or not reporting at all and so this is something that we had to do internal research and to identify these businesses and try to get them in compliance so it's not something that's new, but it's just something that hasn't really been enforced and some of these businesses have been going so long with getting away with it, they don't even respect the standards we have in place so it's putting things in place to make sure that they're paying their fair share.

Adrian Jones. Next is the comprehensive plan. Ashley has been meeting with the Planning Commission regarding the comprehensive plan. We encourage anybody with questions or concerns to attend the next Planning Commission meeting. The next meeting will be held on March 19, 2026 here at the Community Center. Next, I move to movie night. Mark your calendars. Our next movie night will take place on March 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. right here in the

Community Center. Come out, relax, and enjoy a fun evening your neighbors if you watch a great movie together with your friends, family and good vibes it's the perfect way to spend the evening connecting with the community and lastly the computer support we still have computer support available it's offered every Tuesday and Thursday here at the Community Center, please contact the town hall to schedule an appointment or if you have any questions

Councilwoman Gore, when was movie night again, March 13 2026 or next Friday and what's the movie

Titus Leaks, we haven't

Councilwoman Gore. What time is movie night.

Titus Leaks. It is 6:00 p.m.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. Do you all have any more questions. Thank you.

Councilwoman Gore. I have one question for administration, though. I want to know, I went on the website looking for something. I don't know what it was, but as I was up there, I noticed something that kind of shook me because we had, and everybody else might say, well, it don't really matter, but it matters to me because this is the way that we identified who we are. We are a town with five council people, and we had our pictures on our site, but now all of a sudden they're gone, and I'm just trying to figure out why aren't they there. I mean, we've had them there for years, I mean, right down to where I just felt like I wasn't even looking at the right site so I'm just trying to figure out, and there may be a good reason, so I'm just trying to figure out why aren't they there, and why were they removed.

Adrian Jones stated that was one of the items I was going to get to in my manager's report. I'll start out by saying hello to everybody. Hello to the council again. Thank you, everybody, for coming out. I want to start by saying that we have – thanks, Titus, for the presentation. We have some stuff that's going on. I want to piggyback on the things that Titus stated. We have identified because I don't know what the processes and procedures were prior to getting here but it has been very difficult to track the businesses and their compliance procedures. It takes a lot of digging through files. It takes a lot of checking to make sure that this has been done and it's tedious work when we're operating that way. Throughout the years there have been some businesses that have benefited from these procedures, so to speak and then they've been allowed to make agreements with the town. They've been put on payment plans. some of them have been on payment plans for years, some of them don't honor the payment plan and I feel that if we put these mechanisms in place, this will stop to piggyback off what Councilwoman Gore is saying. We don't have to look for extra funding, the funding is there. We just need to put the mechanisms in place so that we can receive the funding that's already allocated on the books. I guess I don't know where the targeting conversation or the creating new business, the creating new coordinates. I am simply enforcing everything that's already on the books and now, I have nothing to do with who

enforced them and who did not enforce them. This administration will enforce them and I want the residents and business owners to know this is, we're not creating, we're not inventing a will. The will has already been invented. We're just smooth into that so the only people that I can see that would be upset about is the people that have been benefiting from it.

Councilwoman Gore. Wait a minute, hold on, hold on. Can I ask you this question, benefit for what. What are you talking about.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. I am saying from not being able to pay their business license and making agreements with the town and not honoring it, not giving the town that full disclosure of the revenue being made within the town by simply sending an email or making a phone call saying, hey, I am not making \$2,000 this year and we don't have nothing eligible to say that they did or they didn't which in my from my perspective that's an injustice to the town so from now on we'll be enforcing what's already on the books you need a schedule C or schedule E you can black out the information that is not privileged to us but that's the only way you're going to receive a business life moving forward in time so that we are properly tracking so I can properly relay the information to the residents of what revenue is coming into the town so I work hard to be transparent about our financial situation so that leads me right into the budget. You can put it on page 5 out of 11.

I want to start out by saying our budget is budgeted versus action actuals from July 2025 when I came aboard to February 2026 which was last month. As you can see property tax in our income was budgeted at \$410,733. In all actuality, our show that to this point we have received \$397,451 with a remaining of 13,282 that has yet to be collected. If we move down to the parking program, the Pivot Parking Program was budgeted at \$105,267. In all actuality, that program, we only made \$7,863. I'll repeat that for you. The program was budgeted. It was built into our budget for \$105,000, and we only made \$7,000, which left a balance of \$97,404 that is remaining on our budget that we've got to somehow figure out where that's going to come from so, with those things pinpointed out, because that was built as far as our income, we were budgeted for 1.7. and actually we came out to like \$924,182. So that's still a \$829,000 difference that we're experiencing right now due to what was budget and what has originally been received.

If you look at our expenses, I want to point out, because I know there has been some conversation about police department and we were budgeted for police and where they at and what's going on with that. I gave you a quick synopsis of one major hiccup and that was the Pivot Park and the budgeting part. All of that goes into where we are. With

Personnel, that's with everybody that works within the town of Atlantic Beach, they were budgeted for \$810,000. Right now, in actuality we've only spent three hundred and sixty one thousand and forty eight which leaves us with four hundred and forty eight thousand nine hundred fifty two which puts us at a plus sixteen on where we at when it comes to personnel and what we have budgeted and I want to say that because due to some inconsistencies in the budget

and due to the current shape of the police department, our police department has been out of compliance for some time, for years, more than five and when a department is out of compliance, we pay higher fees just to have the fees and so that comes with higher insurance rates, that comes with higher costs. We have older vehicles. We have a lot of stuff that we need to fix on the ground.

I understand that there is concern with the citizens about where is our police department but my question would be to the citizens, the resources that we have allocated are far more exhausted for the services that we receive from the current situation of the police department. Basically what I'm saying is, we have several areas in the budget that I've had to make decisions on to keep us from facing deficits in the area and that cost that was affiliated with the police department right now just does not fit well with this budget. It was not completed. There should have been a budget for just the police department. It shouldn't have been locked into every person, all this personnel because when you're dealing with police department, you got a high insurance that they have to pay for officers. You have a, you have another burden that you're going to have with the vehicles that are hot club outdated. When you look at it, to break it down, I guess just to stay service level, because I don't want to get too far in depth because we are in audit and we are having a forensic audit done by SLED on the town of Atlantic Beach. I want that to be, so if I don't get too deep in the weeds, that's because I don't, I can't go too far with what's going on for when you add up the insurance, the maintenance of vehicles, the out of compliance fees that the town inherit, that comes out about \$268 an hour per officer.

Right now with us using Horry County I pay \$56 an hour per officer and I'm not utilizing gas, maintenance on vehicles or any of that. Horry County provides us with criminal statute service means that if anybody out here breaking the law you call them they go to jail. What Horry County does not do is enforce our land management ordinance. They don't go around making sure that people are picking up trash or people sleeping on beaches. They're not going to do that but what they are going to do is protect the citizens of Atlantic Beach from any criminal activity that goes on within the walls of this town. I just want to tap on that briefly because there are some things that are still going on pertaining to that. I also want to say that there are some net positives right now for us because again, like I said, we're running that plus positive 16 on our budget when it comes to personnel. We're actually saving the town money and still providing the resources necessary for the town to function and the security. for the TAP. It's going to take some labor for us to get that police department in compliance because it's been a number of years since they've been out of compliance.

They've been allowed to operate but just at a higher rate. Like our officers, we pay insurance, we're the highest in the state of South Carolina probably on what we have to pay for our officers to the fact of compliance failures and that comes from, you know, from my perspective on me, that comes from an administrative side making sure that the department is functioning right so that it's not a financial burden to the town so right now we have two officers coming daily to the

town of Atlantic Beach. They're visible, they're present, they're providing service and it's two times cheaper for us to operate under that condition right now until we see what washes out of this audit and I'll be very transparent because I think I'm one of the first town administrators to start posting our financials on the website because I want everybody to see where we are and where we're going there is no hidden agenda about why we don't have police and where they at. Well, we got to make sure we can pay the qualified people to come in to do the qualified work.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Are you saying that you made a decision without talking to council about not having police in the town that were budgeted for and right now, just because you made that decision. We are at 448,000 plus on personnel. We're at 55 plus on repairs and maintenance. We're at \$66,000 plus on insurance and miscellaneous expenditures. We're at \$195,000 minus all the payments for Horry County and other costs that we have associated with Atlantic Beach does not need to have its own police department. Are we hiring. Are we looking for someone. Are we trying to be in compliance because again it's important that we have our own police department and

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. I totally understand that Mayor Pro Tem and just to help you correct your wording, I talked to the council as a body. We discussed where we were with the police department. I don't know where you were. You were physically there, but I don't know that we were able to transmit. I mean, totally but we have talked to the council, and I'm sure the other members can attest. There was not a sole decision on my part to not have a police department. I'm sure you're aware of that. You're aware of the dynamics that are surrounding the current police department and I would have liked to have been brought up when I took the job that they were totally out of compliance and these were some things that you had already identified but since I came and identified them after the fact, it's, we're in the process of hiring, but we're more so in tune in being in the process of making sure the department is where it can function properly to where we want to encourage those high fees to operate a police department. I mean, I know the town needs a police department, but do you want a police department so bad to where they're totally out of compliance and you're incurring the highest fees in the state or do you just want a police department to just be able to say you have one but I think you've been here months, and we can hire police that are in compliance, and that's the job of the administrators.

Mayor Pro Tem. Yes, of course. Yes. So why are you pushing because I'm asking you, are we hiring police officers. I have one question so therefore, we don't have no account, police account. Thank you,

Adrian Jones, Town Manager, you mean we don't have a broken out item of this is what it takes to run a police department. Well, what I'm asking you is as far as the bank accounts. I mean, because we don't want to. I just don't want to get the town messed up with co-mingling funds and that's my concern because, see, that don't just affect one person, that affects council and I don't want to be up in there at all so that's what I'm asking about, you know. Yes, so the police has its municipal bond and all that. That's separate. Those are separate things. The funding when it

comes to personnel and the maintenance of the vehicles and the insurance, those things should be separate as well and not lumped into the overall budget of the personnel when you look at personnel so operating expenses should be itemized. Well, the police department was once set up, I don't know how it is now, if I'm not mistaken, I don't want to say something that's not right either but I was under the impression that the police department, their pay, their salary, and everything that pertained to the police department came out of one account, not the general account. Am I right. I mean, I don't know what happened prior to that. I'm saying, is that not how it is now. I mean, is there not a separate account that whenever, say you had a police department, they were not getting paid out of the police account. Where were they getting paid from. The personnel. Oh, how that was supposed to be. Is that how that happened. I've never seen it like that, I know people do it, but me personally, I've never seen it that way so when I came in and I seen it built that way. They're supposed to come out of the police account but we're going to fix it this year.

We're going to make sure that it is itemized. We're going to make sure that it's allocated for, so the police department, which is our biggest financial burden, is operating the expense. It needs to be itemized so that we can track it thoroughly and properly so when we're building a budget, it's there and you can see, this is what it costs to tackle because right now, citizens don't know what it costs to run a town, to run a police department.

They hear, we have a budget for police department, and they think it should be there but they don't actually know what that's associated with running the police department because what I feel is once we build this year's budget and it's broken out, it's itemized, that will give the general public an idea of what it really costs for the town to have a police department. an out of compliance police department versus out of compliance versus an in compliance because all I can do now is show you how much it costs to run out of compliance, I don't know how it runs to be in compliance so for five years we've been running a police department that was out of compliance is that what you're saying basically well we can talk about that and that needs to be ran back around us because that's something that I'm sure these right here didn't know that whenever they came on. I definitely didn't know it.

Yes, I mean, at the end of the day, the town hires the chief of police, and the chief's job is to make sure that the town is in compliance. That's his department. I'm not a law enforcement agent. He comes in, he assesses the condition of the department, and he makes sure that we're fully federal, state, and compliant. We're in compliance across the board. And if he does not do that, then he puts us at the sway of, mostly at risk of what we have to incur and one, my main thing that sticks out to me is the cost that we pay for at the police department. Okay, and I understand what you're saying totally so we've been out of compliance for at least five years, not one and a half to two years, but for five years and I'm asking this for a reason, it's because we had a chief here that went to his training and did all this and did all that and I don't know what it was that we were taking care of, but we're supposed to be taking care of his monthly state. I'm

just saying, I didn't call him in. I'm just saying, the follow-up as a chief, therefore, that wasn't being done.

Mayor Pro Tem David. That's what you're saying

Adrian Jones. I wanted to address that because I know that's a major talking point and rightfully so because as citizens of the town of Atlantic Beach, if you, especially you taxpayer citizen, you're a resident, you should know where your resources and your funding is going. I pride myself on being a good steward of town resources, which is why we're at a plus 16 right now, because I'm not just going out hiring police to fill a void so we can have officers running around town that's totally out of compliance.

Mayor Pro Tem David, but don't we hire, if you were the new administrator, you would hire in-compliance officers, right. It's the department. It's the department that's out of compliance. It's not the officers. I think you're misconstruing the two. You said the word. I'm listening to it. and then one other thing, what is Axion Enterprise. How many of you want to tell us about that, we spent about \$50,000 over the last year.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. That's a grant, it was a body camera grant that we got funded and they deposited the funds into our account. Prior to becoming. That happened prior to becoming the Town Manager.

Mayor Pro Tem David. I see the expenditures were here in January and February so that money is just sitting there or the cameras are just sitting there and they will be there for the new officers. What you're saying is that the money that was allocated for the cameras is what brought the cameras, and they're there. We have cameras. Is that what you're saying. \$5,000 and please don't think we're asking questions just to be bothering you because we're not. I know for sure I want to know what's going on so that's why we've never heard of an out of compliance and we've been here for our reason. Yeah, that's the crazy part to us. We've never heard of that, it would have been nice if you'd told us that we were out of compliance because we didn't have no clue to that. That's never been brought by us.

Adrian Jones, Town Manager. You don't walk in knowing that, Mayor Pro Tem David.

Mayor Pro Tem David, but when you find out, you need to let us know that's what a chief does but when you find out. Councilwoman Taylor You got something for us.

Councilwoman Taylor stated and I would like to bring forth before the body of the council resolution number 2026 for your vote this evening and read it out.

It's a resolution of the town council of the town of Atlanta Beach censoring council member, Mayor First Man, John David, for violation of the council manager form of government. whereas the Town of Atlanta Beach operates under the council manager form of government pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws 5-13-90 and Town of Atlanta Beach Charter, which vests legislative authority in the town council and

executive and administrative authority exclusively rests in the town manager. and whereas under this form of government, individual council members have no authority to direct, supervise, instruct, or otherwise interfere with town staff, department operations, or administrative functions outside the official council action and whereas the town council has a duty to uphold and protect the integrity of the council manager structure on behalf of the residents of the town of Atlantic Beach and whereas on or about Council Member John David did interfere directly issue instructions to town staff by passing the town manager and interfere with administrative operations and attempt to direct or supervise town employees outside of an authorized council action. and whereas such conduct constitutes a direct violation of the council manager form of government as established by the town of Atlanta Beach Charter and is contrary to the duties and limitations of the office of council member and whereas the town manager did report said conduct to the full council pursuant to charter section and law and the council has had an opportunity to review the facts and whereas the town council finds that the conduct of council member John David undermines public trust, disrupts staff operations, and sets a harmful precedent inconsistent with effective municipal governance. Now, therefore be it resolved by the town council of the town of Atlanta Beach as follows. Section 1, findings. The town council hereby adopts and incorporates the foregoing recitals as findings of fact. Section 2, censor. The Town Council hereby formally censors Council Member John David for conduct that violated the structural boundaries of the Council Manager form of government, specifically by interfering with town administration. Section 3, public reprimand. This resolution shall constitute an official public reprimand entered into the permanent minutes of the Town Council and shall be read aloud in open session. Section 4, directive to comply. Council Member John David is hereby directed to immediately cease and desist from any conduct that interferes with the administrative functions of the town manager or town staff and to conduct themselves in full compliance with the town charter, state statute, and applicable ethics standards. Section 5, Additional Measures, Includes Applicable. A, Councilmember John David shall be required to complete South Carolina ethics training, council manager government training within 60 days of adoption of this resolution, and provide proof of completion to the town clerk. B, council members shall be removed from Mayor Pro Tem effective immediately. C, this matter is referred to the State Ethics Commission for review. Section 6, no admission, nothing in this resolution shall be construed as a waiver or any further rights or remedies available to the town council or town under applicable law. Section 7, effective date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption. Passed and adopted by the town council of Town of LA Beach as duly noted, notice public meeting held on March 2nd, 2026. I move that we vote to approve this resolution.

Paul Curry from the Public Audience called for a Point of order. Is that on the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem David stated. It is not and secondly, with it not being properly seconded, I would like to have due process. It was not announced or anything. No council member. You just got that from somebody over here that wrote this, so y'all have been planning and coordinating. and I'm going to, I have in my rebuttal of due process. On 2-3-26, I requested an investigation from SLED. I requested an independent investigation from SLED to ensure the town staff, business owners, contractors, Mayor Pro Tem John David are not systematically threatened, bullied, coerced, cursed at, harassed, targeted, retaliated against. Many of these previous

statements were provided to council and were not addressed or ignored. This censure vote or attempt is retaliatory because I requested an investigation. I requested it on behalf of business owners, myself, property owners, numerous people that I listed and provided this investigation to SLED. Everyone has turned their head and they went behind my back to try to do censure me.

My friends and my people that I thought were close to me. Hold on. I didn't say you, but the person who read it.

Councilwoman Taylor. This is not behind your back. I told you today.

Mayor Pro Tem David. This is retaliatory.

Councilwoman Taylor. What? What? What?

Mayor Pro Tem David. I will file mine with ethics. I've already filed it with SLED. I will file it with ethics as well so thank you very much. You knew exactly what was coming so there wasn't a second. Okay. We'll move on and it wasn't on this agenda. We got guests in our house. I'm interested in the truth and they've done it to protect the town managers. Uh-uh. It's not.

Councilwoman Taylor. No, it was done to protect the town so let's go. We can. Is there any other mentions since you forced them to do it? There wasn't one. I was most properly second. Lamar seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem David, he did not. I didn't hear him. Second and again, it wasn't on the agenda, so it's not properly recognized. You can't put nothing on there that was not in executive session or on the agenda. So it's not recognized.

Councilwoman Taylor. It was discussed in executive session and it was brought to you. There was no vote.

Mayor Pro Tem David. Exactly and then when we came out of executive session, council to make motions to take actions on matters of executive session. None of those were mentioned. You're not here. You're the attorney. I make the motion. Again, and they didn't either. Okay. I just made it. It's not on the agenda, and you can bring it up the next time, and I'll make sure my lawyer's here as well as the rest of the folks because I'm here. I'm not taking this stand down, and this is totally retaliatory just because I requested a SLED investigation for harassment. False.

Motion: Councilwoman made a motion for Resolution 1-2026, Councilman Campbell seconded.

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

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem asked for a motion to adjourn again, Councilwoman Gore so moved. Councilman Campbell second.

Vote. Councilman Campbell, Yes. Councilwoman Taylor, Yes. Councilwoman Gore, Yes. Mayor Pro Tem John David, Yes. The Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.