TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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Tuesday, July 23, 2019
5:00 p.m.

The Town of Atlantic Beach Town Council meeting was held and recorded at Atlantic Beach Community Center, 1010 32nd Avenue South, Atlantic Beach, South Carolina, on the 23rd day of July, 2019.
APPEARANCES

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mayor Jake Evans, Chairman
Councilman Lenearl Evans
Councilwoman Josephine Isom
Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore

ADMINISTRATION:
Benjamin Quattlebaum Jr., Town Manager
Cheryl Pereira, Town Clerk

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Call to Order:

MAYOR EVANS: This Town Council Special Session meeting is called to order this Tuesday, July 23rd, the year 2019, at 5:00 p.m. Roll call?

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Here.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Here.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Here.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Here. Council, I seek a motion for Executive Session for legal, personnel and contractual.

COUNCILMAN EVANS: So moved.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: There’s a motion and second for an executive session for legal, personnel and contractual. Any other questions or comments?

Roll call?

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS: Yea. Motion granted.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor and Council, the legal matter to be discussed is the proposed acquisition of property at 3000 30th Avenue and Highway 17 in the Town of Atlantic Beach. Contractual matters is a proposal from Insight Digital display to put a billboard sign on the proposed acquisition site.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

Executive Session

MAYOR EVANS: Council, I seek a motion to come out of Executive Session into the Regular Session.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Second.

General Session:

MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second to come out of Executive Session in the Regular Session. Any other questions or comments? Roll call?

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
COUNCILWOMAN GORE:  Yea.

CLERK:  Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS:  Yea. Motion granted. At this time I want to welcome the general public and ask at this time if you have any cell phones or pagers or any devices that might disturb the proceedings, would you silence those for us at this time, please? And if you would, stand for a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence.)

MAYOR EVANS:  Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance said in unison.)

MAYOR EVANS:  We’re down to Ceremonial Matters. Council members, any of you guys have Ceremonial?

(No audible response.)

Approval of the Agenda:

MAYOR EVANS:  No? Okay. We’re down to item 5, Approval of the Agenda. Council, seek a motion for the Approval of the agenda as it is outlined?

COUNCILMAN EVANS:  So moved.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE:  Second.

MAYOR EVANS:  Motion and second for the Approval of the Agenda. Any other questions or comments?
Roll call?

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

Old Business:

MAYOR EVANS: Yea. Motion granted. We’re down to item 6, Old Business. Town Council meeting minutes, we have none. So that takes us to item number 7, ordinance number 3-2019. Council, I seek a motion to amend a couple of sections in that ordinance. And that would be section C and section 1. And we want to amend section C as to where it reads “The Town Council has determined that the purchase price of the property” -- I’m sorry. I’m reading the one where we’re -- item C would read that the Town Council has determined that to purchase the property for an amount that is not to exceed the Fair Market Value. We want to amend section C to -- for it to have that wording. And section 1, we want to amend that section
where it reads, the town manager of the town and the Mayor of the town are hereby authorized to execute and contract for the purchase of the property for a purchase price to be negotiated by the mayor and the town manager. But in no case shall the purchase price exceed the lesser of the Fair Market Value of the property or the $91,000. The town manager and the Mayor may in their digression with the advice of Council as needed, determine the upon the closing on the property shall occur and other such details and matters in connection with the purchase of the property. And the closing thereon that are not in consistent with the provision of this ordinance.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: There is a motion and there is a second for the amendments to ordinance number 3-2019. Any other questions or comments? Roll call?

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.
CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.
CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?
MAYOR EVANS: Yea. Motion granted. Council, I seek to adopt ordinance number 3-2019 with those amendments and this will be the second reading.
COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: So moved.
COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.
MAYOR EVANS: I need a second.
COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Second.
MR. QUATTLEBAUM: You got a second.
MAYOR EVANS: Okay. There’s a motion and second to adopt ordinance number 3-2019 with the amendments and this will be the second reading. Are there any other questions or comments? I did get a motion and a second. Any other question or comments? Roll call?
CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?
COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.
CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?
COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Nay.
CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.
CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

New Business:
MAYOR EVANS: Yea. That motion is granted. We’re down to item number 8, New Business. And there is none. So we’re down to the town managers report.

Report:

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor and Council, public, I received a proposal from a company called Insight Digital Displays, with a proposal to put up a sign on the proposed purchase of the property on Highway 17 and 30th Avenue. It as an 8 foot by 9 foot sign. I’ve asked the owner, Mr. Kirk McNabe to come in and provide to the Council and the public a short presentation on what he’s proposing to go on the property there that we are contemplating purchasing on Highway 17 and 30th Avenue in the Town of Atlantic Beach. I turn the floor over to Mr. McNabe, if he’s in the house. And to give you and public an overview of what he’s proposing.

MR. MCNABE: Good evening.

MULTIPLE VOICES: Good evening.

MR. MCNABE: Kirk McNabe, thank you. What we’re proposing is to build a pretty iconic sign -- I don’t know if you folks have seen the
rendering of the picture -- the pictures. We want to build a sign that’s kind of modern.

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Excuse me, did you bring copies?

MR. MCNABE: I did. I did. I can pass those out. Are we on TV? Well there’s a reason. What I’m proposing is highly proprietary to our company and we’re looking at spending around 140 to 175 thousand dollars. I’d like to keep some things in camera. When we used to work for the Federal Communications Commission, we would propose things and keep them in camera so that it wasn’t public information.

(Inaudible background noise.)

MR. MCNABE: I’m sorry.

MAYOR EVANS: Well, you’re in a public meeting now so they have the right to ---

MR. MCNABE: I understand.

MAYOR EVANS: Okay.

MR. MCNABE: I understand. So the -- I have no problem explaining the gist of it. But there’s part of it that we would prefer -- thank you, sir. There’s parts of it that we would prefer -- because we’re spending our money -- I don’t know what your charter is, I haven’t read you charter. So obviously whatever you charter
says we would have to adhere to. But we want
to build a sign and brand it for the city and
do that at our expense. Something that
coincides with beach, the colors of the ocean
or whatev- -- or what have you. And we’d like
to put a digital sign on it and promote the
city with public service announcements,
community events and we would like to do that
on a long term scenario and we believe that
there would be sponsorships from major brands
that would be interested in events. The reason
that we believe that is I have an experience
with the city of Baltimore. I built a gateway
sign at Penn Station Amtack in 2014. They
currently are using that gateway sign to
promote the city, but they also promote arts.
They promote current events. They promote
public service announcements for the city. So
in that branding -- in that promotion, there
are brands that pay to have those public
service -- as you would say, I don’t like to
use the word advertising, but sponsorship. So
that’s pretty much in a nutshell what we’re
proposing. We’re not proposing anything that
would cost the city anything other than allow
a permit to be issued for your own purposes to put a nice sign up. And then we would handle the construction. We would handle the operation of the electronic digital sign. That would be our responsibility. So that’s our proposal. We can get more granular on the details as needed.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Sounds good.

MAYOR EVANS: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions from --

MR. MCNABE: Do I -- do you need these copies? Oh you have them. Okay.

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Thank you.

MR. MCNABE: Thank you, very much.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you. Ben, you have anything else?

MR. QUATTLEBAUM: No, sir.

Public Time:

MAYOR EVANS: We’re down to -- where’s my agenda at? We’re down to public time. And I only have two public comment card here. And one is for John Sketer.

MR. SKETER: Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR EVANS: Uh-huh.

MR. SKETER: Good evening, Mayor and Council and the
general public. Good evening to all of you. What I was going to address -- I think the horse is already out of the barn, so I’m not going to elaborate on that. Such as the sign that the general just alluded to. Now it would be good if the Council, when somebody comes to put something in our time -- it would be good if the Council would require a working month so we can be in on the decision too. Because we trust y’all to make decisions for us. But the bottom line is, you are making decisions for us and the Town of Atlantic Beach. And some of the decision that have been made before -- I’m not mad -- but I’m not satisfied with a lot of decisions that’s being made for the Town of Atlantic Beach. And being a long time resident of Atlantic Beach, it is usually the respect of the Council to give respect to the citizens of the town. And I want to let all of you know I respect all of y’all’s positions. I respect that. And it’s not an easy job. But what I have identified since we have this young Council here, it’s a lot of things that they are inexperienced in. And they are not seeking outside help. Now, mind you, they don’t have
to. But I think for the better of the town and
the citizens of the town. If they would seek
other advice. And again, we’re not angry with
anybody. We are just going to find a better
way and a more productive way to do things in
the Town of Atlantic Beach. It’s a lot here --
we have a lot at stake. We have new housing
going up. But I’m not going to give this
Council credit for the new housing going up.
You know why? People purchased that property
years ago. Years ago. It’s nothing that y’all
reached out there and got brought into the town
to make it officially in the Town of Atlantic
Beach. They’re dream was one day when they got
able, that they would be able to build a house
of in the Town of Atlantic Beach. And now, we
have a very big shortage of commercialism in
Atlantic Beach. And I have never seen a town
be so successful without a certain amount of
commercialism. That’s where your big bumps
come from. You tax the residents to death
trying to make ends meet. It’s not fair. And
Mayor, I thank y’all for being patient with me
and all. But I hope that we will rethink a lot
of our decisions that y’all are making. And
again, I appreciate your service and I know the people in the town appreciate your service to them. But the only think I’m asking this government to be is more accountable. We are trying to run a municipality off of guess work, and it’s not gonna work. I have spoke with someone who’s in the town. I have never seen a work order and I never seen a job performance of anybody -- Council member, town manager, or anybody. I’m used to some type of accountability in order to operate a successful town. That way, everybody is accountable and everybody has the same in scope. Because we are included in this together. Okay. And anyway, again, I want to thank you for listening to me. Mr. Quattlebaum, Council members I want to thank you. And I appreciate it. Hopefully that we will consider a lot of things when we are making a decision. Even though in the governmental affairs if you don’t like something but it’s the best for the people, I think that’s the way that you heed to. And Thank y’all for listening.

MAYOR EVANS: You’re welcome.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Thank you.
MAYOR EVANS: We have a Perl Carson?

MS. CARSON: Mr. Sketer did so good. Hello, how are you?

MAYOR EVANS: Hi.

MS. CARSON: Thanks for having me. Remember I met you Mr. Quattlebaum. And a few people I’ve met here, Mr. Sketer, the honorary (inaudible) correct? Do I have that correct?

MR. SKETER: Not officially.

MS. CARSON: Not officially, but that’s how you introduce yourself.

MR. SKETER: (inaudible) -- 15 years. (inaudible) ---

MS. CARSON: Thank you. I’m honored to be here. I met several of the residents already. I’m a future perspective resident. I heard about the Town of Atlantic Beach last week. Believe it or not I was born and raised in Lake City, South Carolina. And I was just floored. I was just absolutely floored. I got here last week to see and meet so many great people. So many kind people. So many people that are just so proud. Proud people of color it was -- it was really overwhelming for me and I really enjoyed it. So I just want to say thank you to
everybody that I’ve met and came in contact with. I’m looking forward to learn more about as I hang out with Mr. Sketer more and he educates me on Atlantic Beach. He really loves this City. Mayor Evans, I’ve heard great things about you. You’ve brought the city to a really great place now and I look forward to the work that you guys are doing.

MAYOR EVANS: Thank you.

MS. CARSON: I just wanted to say thank you. I’m super excited.

MULTIPLE VOICES: Thank you.

MS. CARSON: You’re welcome.

MAYOR EVANS: That’s it?

CLERK: That’s it.

MAYOR EVANS: Council, seek a motion to adjourn?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Second.

MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second to adjourn. Any questions or comments? Roll call?

CLERK: Councilman Lenearl Evans?

COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?
COUNCILWOMAN GORE:  Yea.

CLERK:  Mayor Jake Evans?

MAYOR EVANS:  Yea.  Motion granted.  This meeting is adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

(The meeting was adjourned.)