

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 6, 2020

5:15 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 6th day of January, 2020, and transcribed by Amanda Godfrey, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina.



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APPEARANCES**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Mayor Jake Evans, Chairman
Councilman Lenearl Evans
Councilwoman Josephine Isom
Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore
Councilwoman Glenda Williams

ADMINISTRATION:

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

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1 **Call to Order:**

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** This Town Council meeting is called to
3 order this Monday, January 6th, year 2020, at
4 5:15 p.m. Roll call?

5 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

6 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Here.

7 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

8 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Here.

9 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

10 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Here.

11 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

12 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Here.

13 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

14 **MAYOR EVANS:** Here. Council, seek a motion to go
15 into Executive Session for legal, personnel and
16 contractual matters.

17 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved ---

18 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** So moved, Mr. Mayor.

19 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Second.

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's a motion and a second to go
21 into Executive Session for legal, personnel and
22 contractual. Any other questions or comments
23 from Council?

24 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor and Council, the purpose of
25 the Executive session for legal is to provide



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1 Council an update on the Hospitality Tax
2 lawsuit, County -- Horry County; potential
3 litigation, demolition of property of Mr.
4 Hubert Williams on 30th Avenue. Contractual
5 matters -- proposed contract with Incite
6 Digital Display. And personnel matters.

7 **MAYOR EVANS:** Any other questions, or comments?
8 Roll call?

9 | **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

10 COUNCILMAN EVANS: Yea.

11 | **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

12 COUNCILWOMAN ISOM: Yea.

13 | **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

14 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

15 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

16 COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS: Yea.

17 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

18 | **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion

19 Executive Session:

(Executive Session.)

21 **MAYOR EVANS:** Council, I seek a motion to come out
22 of Executive Session into the General Session
23 please.

24 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Mr. Mayor, I make a motion that
25 we come out of Executive Session into the



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1 General Session.

2 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Second.

3 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second to come out of
4 Executive Session into the General Session.

5 Any other questions or comments? Roll call?

6 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

7 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

8 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

9 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

10 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

11 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

12 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

13 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

14 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

15 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted.

16 General Session:

17 **MAYOR EVANS:** I want to take this time out to welcome
18 the general public, tell everybody Happy New
19 Year. Thanks for coming out. And at this
20 time, if you would stand for a moment of
21 silence.

22 **(Moment of Silence.)**

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** Pledge of Allegiance.

24 **(Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.)**

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to ceremonial matters.



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1 Anyone have any ceremonial matters at all?

2 We're down to the approval of the agenda.

3 Council, seek a motion for the approval of the
4 agenda as it is outlined?

5 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** I seek a motion to approve the
6 agenda as it is outlined.

7 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Second.

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second for the approval
9 of the agenda, any other questions or comments?

10 Roll call?

11 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

12 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

13 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

14 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

15 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

16 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

17 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

18 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

19 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted.

21 **Old Business:**

22 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to Old Business, Town
23 Council meeting minutes. Minutes from Town
24 Council meeting held on November 12th, 2019 and
25 November 25th, 2019 and December 2nd, 2019 as



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1 well as December 16, 2019. Council, seek a
2 motion for approval of those minutes?

3 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** So moved.

4 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Second.

5 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's a motion and a second for the
6 approval of the minutes in question. Any other
7 questions or comments? Roll call?

8 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

9 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

10 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

11 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

12 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

13 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

14 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

15 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

16 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

17 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted.

18 **New Business:**

19 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to New Business. Approval
20 of the 2018-2019 Town of Atlantic Beach
21 financial audit.

22 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor and Council and public, I am
23 pleased to present the 2018-2019 Town of
24 Atlantic Beach financial audit. Mr. Gary
25 Bailey is here this evening, who conducted --



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1 from Love Bailey, who conducted the audit for
2 the Town of Atlantic Beach, will give an
3 overview and present the highlights of the
4 audit for 2000 -- fiscal year 2018-2019. Mr.
5 Bailey?

6 **MR. BAILEY:** Thank you. Mr. Mayor, Council, nice to
7 be here with you this evening. Happy New Year.

8 **IN UNISON:** Happy New Year.

9 **MR. BAILEY:** It's always nice -- well, I'm from the
10 Upstate so it's always nice -- I got to see the
11 ocean right before the sun went down
12 (inaudible) nice.

13 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Nice.

14 **MR. BAILEY:** You know, just the kind of things that
15 you might take for granted 'cause you see it
16 all the time (inaudible) beautiful. Anyways,
17 it's nice to be here and present. Did you all
18 have a copy of the financial report?

19 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yeah.

20 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yes.

21 **MR. BAILEY:** I'm not gonna go through everything --
22 it's kind of thick -- but I'm just gonna kinda
23 get the highlights of really how the Town was
24 doing. This was a good year for the Town. So
25 we audit the financial statements and we issue



an opinion on the financial statements. And
this year we issued an unmodified opinion which
basically means a clean opinion. That's the
opinion we want to get. The reason I'd say
that's significant is, up until this point, we
(ph) had been issues and growing concern on the
Town. So, the Town had finally gotten into a
neg -- a positive net position. It had been a
negative net position up until this point so
that's a good sign. So now you actually have
an opinion -- the best opinion you can get so
that's a good sign of financial strength the
Town's went through over the last several
years. I -- this is the first time I've been
able to present to the Town so I'm just gonna
quickly go over what an audit is and what an
audit's not 'cause sometimes there's some
confusion as to what -- this is a financial
statement audit, basically auditing these
numbers so ---

21 **MAYOR EVANS:** Can you guys hear him well enough?

22 COUNCILMAN EVANS: NO.

23 FEMALE SPEAKER: Huh-uh.

24 | MAYOR EVANS: NO?

(Trang 35)

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1 **MR. BAILEY:** Sorry, I'm really tall.

2 (**Inaudible background noise.**)

3 **MR. BAILEY:** Is that better?

4 (**Inaudible background noise.**)

5 **MR. BAILEY:** So, when I come and do an audit, the
6 Town's responsibility is two things. One, you
7 -- I'm looking through your internal controls
8 and your assessments. What that means is, does
9 the Town have proper controls? So, if
10 someone's paying a bill, was it properly
11 approved, was there proper sign-off on the
12 bill? Is payroll -- is there certain controls
13 over payroll to keep someone from paying
14 themselves an extra check or to change their
15 payroll, how much they're getting paid? You
16 know, obviously you're a small town, like a lot
17 of small towns in the state. Having an account
18 -- has an outsourced accountant, that's a good
19 control to have. We recommend that a lot in
20 small towns, and more and more towns are doing
21 that, using an outsourced accountant to sort of
22 reconcile the books at month end. Someone
23 that's really not in the town but on the
24 outside is sort of -- it's a good control so I
25 think that's a good control. So, we didn't



1 have any findings there. Everything looks --
2 it's in good shape there. And then the other
3 part is the Town has had good numbers across
4 the audit. So when we come in, you give us the
5 trial balance and we audit that. If we've made
6 a lot of journal entries, that's a sign --
7 basically, if I'm changing the numbers a lot,
8 that's a sign that financial statements are not
9 in good order. With your town, I had three or
10 four journal entries -- that is not a big deal,
11 it's not a finding. And the reason -- just to
12 give you some background, we've done audits
13 where we've come in and had to make 40 or 50
14 journal entries. Why that's significant to you
15 as a Council is if you're looking at the
16 financials every month and using those
17 financials to make a decision on how to move
18 forward with the financial decisions of the
19 Town and the numbers aren't correct, it could
20 lead to a bad decision. So, the good news here
21 is you have good numbers every month that
22 you're looking at to make your decisions. And
23 then once we take all that in -- well, as I
24 said to start with, we issue an opinion. And
25 what that opinion is saying is there's



1 reasonable assurance that these financial
2 statements are materially correct. When I say
3 materially correct, what I mean is this -- we
4 look at a sample (inaudible). We don't look at
5 one hundred percent of every transaction that
6 has occurred because it would -- it would be
7 too expensive and it would be too timely for
8 the Town if, you know, the audit here would be
9 ten times what it is. So, that's every audit
10 you're gonna -- and we do a sample. So, the
11 good news is the Town looks -- the processes
12 are in good shape and, as I will show you, your
13 finances have really improved as well. What
14 the audit doesn't do is we can't tell you how
15 to run your town, I mean, that's why you're the
16 elected officials, to decide which direction
17 the Town's gonna go in. So, sometimes we're
18 asked those kind of questions. All we can
19 really tell you -- say that you're gonna build
20 that \$20 million rec center, I'd probably say
21 that's not the best use of cash and you'd
22 probably get in trouble for that. That's about
23 the extent of decisions as far as the direction
24 of the Town. With that being said, your
25 financial statements -- and I'm gonna say some



1 boring things, but GASB 34 is Governmental
2 Accounting Standards Board. You, as a town --
3 like every town in a state -- as a town, you
4 keep ---

5 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

6 **MR. BAILEY:** --- you create the budget every year,
7 and it's basically a fund balance. Basically,
8 it's the cash inflows, the cash outflows of the
9 Town, and that's the way every governmental
10 entity budgets. GASB 34 said why don't all the
11 governmental entities also create a balance
12 sheet and income statement that's more like a
13 business, accrual basis, so it get's very
14 confusing. So the reason I'm saying that is,
15 when you look at your financials, there's like
16 two balance sheets, there's two income
17 statements, and then there's two
18 reconciliations between those two. To keep it
19 not confusing, I'm gonna focus on the one that
20 you budget off of every year 'cause that's what
21 you're used to seeing. So, with that being
22 said, if you'll turn to page 5, it's your fund
23 balance sheet. And I'm just gonna hit some
24 highlights. You'll see that the cash -- the
25 Town's cash on hand at the end of June 30th,



1 2019 was \$510,000. That's a slight decrease
2 from where it was at the end of '18, which was
3 \$533,000. Nothing alarming there. You'll see
4 that you essentially paid off \$33,000 of
5 accounts payable so that's basically where the
6 cash -- some of that cash went. Your
7 receivables of \$66,000, that's a little bit
8 higher than it was last year at \$46,000.
9 Again, some of that is just timing. It's
10 intergovernmental funds that you've received
11 from the State that came in in July and August
12 of '19 that actually belong in fiscal year of
13 June 30th, '19. I apologize. I know it gets
14 a little (inaudible). Your accounts payable
15 decreased to \$55,000. It was \$88,000 last
16 year. What's significant here is you only have
17 \$67,000 of liabilities on your books and
18 \$510,000 in cash so that's a big, strong number
19 of saying, you know, you're pushing \$89 of cash
20 on hand and only \$1 of liability. And nothing
21 significant there, that's just regular, ongoing
22 business within the timing of a lot of
23 transactions. Your unearned business licenses
24 of \$230,000, basically what that is is it's
25 business licenses that were collected in April,



1 May, June but they're for the next fiscal year.

2 Last year, that number was \$212,000 so it just
3 flows between -- year to year. If you have a
4 question, please just stop me.

5 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Uh-huh.

6 **MR. BAILEY:** I'll go on. Your unassigned fund
7 balance -- if you look at the very bottom, the
8 fund balance is \$296,000. Unassigned portion
9 was \$279,000. What that means is that --
10 that's funds that the Town has collected over
11 the years that you haven't spent. And so, the
12 Council basically has freedom to allocate those
13 funds how you see fit. They're unassigned,
14 they're unrestricted, so you don't have any
15 restrictions there. I'll say this, the -- in
16 2015 -- that's June 30th, 2015, four years ago,
17 that number was negative \$221,000. So it's
18 went from negative \$221,000, which basically
19 meant you needed another \$221,000 just to cover
20 the bills, and you went to \$279,000 positive.
21 That's a \$500,000 swing in four years so that's
22 just showing you the good trajectory of the
23 Town's finances over the last four years.
24 Also, say -- with the cash on hand, the
25 Governmental Financial Officers Association up



1 in Chicago, they recommend you have about two
2 months of cash on hand. I think you should
3 really have three months of cash on hand, just
4 for various reasons. Like most towns, the
5 first three to four months of your fiscal year
6 you don't collect a lot, and then November
7 through March is when you start collecting more
8 funds. You had 64 percent so, like I said, the
9 GFOA says -- recommends 16.7, we recommend 25,
10 you all exceeded that at 64 percent. Basically
11 means you have about seven months of cash on
12 hand that would cover your current
13 expenditures. So that's another strong
14 financial sign. If you'll flip over two pages
15 to page 7, that's the income statement. Up a
16 little bit, but fairly similar to 2018. Your
17 overall revenue is \$803,000 for the year. In
18 fiscal year '18, that was \$755,000. Twenty of
19 that -- \$20,000 of that changed where -- as
20 insurance proceeds from the police car that got
21 totaled. But then the rest of it is sort of
22 across the board. Property taxes went up about
23 \$10,000 collections worth, license and permits
24 were about \$15,000. So, nothing significant,
25 just a nice increase in overall revenues.



1 Total expenditures were also up. They're
2 \$795,000 this year. Last year, they were only
3 \$736,000, and the reason for that, salaries and
4 benefits, that was your biggest increase. That
5 increased about -- so your expenditures
6 increased \$59,000. Salaries and benefits were
7 60 -- a \$65,000 increase. Other than that,
8 retirement taxes were 17 of that 65. I think,
9 outside of taxes and retirement, your salaries
10 and benefits were pretty close to 2017 so I
11 think you maybe had some changes in '18, you
12 had some overtime. Some folks (inaudible) in
13 '18 and full-time in '19 so I think that's what
14 really contributed to the increase. Also, you
15 had \$22,000 more in repairs and maintenance.
16 I think you had roof repairs on this building,
17 you had the Town Hall issues, paint and carpet,
18 and some of that that went on. Other than
19 that, outside of those two, all your other
20 expenses as a whole decreased \$30,000. So, not
21 bad. You ended up with basically (inaudible)
22 come up a little over \$8,000 for the year.
23 When you look at your budget, which I
24 personally think, as a Council, would be one of
25 your most important -- how much money you've



1 got in the bank and then your budget because
2 you voted on that budget, that's the -- and so
3 a budget that actually I think shows why you're
4 staying within the line of what as a Council
5 voted. So you voted basically in fiscal year
6 '19 to break even, basically your revenues and
7 expenses be equal. So you did a little --
8 about \$8,000 more than that so that was a nice
9 increase on your budget. And then, a few other
10 notes -- if you're familiar that -- it's been
11 talked about a lot, and you've probably talked
12 about it here, the pension liability of the
13 State's -- State retirement pension is
14 underfunded. The South Carolina Retirement
15 System and Police Officers Retirement System as
16 a whole in the State's about \$30 billion
17 underfunded right now. So, every year an
18 auditor comes into the State and they allocate
19 a portion of that to every participant, to
20 every town, county or governmental entity
21 that's in the retirement gets a portion so the
22 Town's portion of that liability is \$343,000.
23 You don't see that on your fund balance sheet
24 and it's not something that you're gonna have
25 to start making payments to. Where you really



1 saw the increase is the State -- Chief's
2 increase on how much the Town has to contribute
3 to the retirement. For instance, 30 (ph) years
4 ago in the South Carolina Retirement System,
5 the Town had to contribute 11.56 percent
6 (inaudible). That's now under (ph) 14.56
7 percent. And I believe fiscal year '20 is over
8 15.56 percent. I think it's gonna go up
9 another 2 percent over the next two years, so
10 that's a pretty big -- a lot of towns are
11 seeing significant increases in that retirement
12 caused as a result. The other thing I want to
13 note is, if you're looking at the balance
14 sheet, it looks more like a business
15 (inaudible) balance sheet, you know, good term
16 (ph) there. But you had a large land donation
17 from the Housing Authority. It's valued at
18 about \$482,000. So if you're looking at the --
19 that income statement, you'll see revenues in
20 the -- of \$482,000, so you had to record that
21 as revenue and then it's land that's now in the
22 property's (ph) ownership. That's kind of
23 quick, and sometimes that can be a little
24 boring maybe? Overwhelming ---

25

(Inaudible background noise.)

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1 **MR. BAILEY:** --- numbers being thrown at you. But,
2 I'll be glad to answer any questions that you
3 have. I'll say overall -- sorry -- overall, I
4 think the Town's in much -- has really
5 increased financially (inaudible).

6 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Sir, I just want to ask you
7 to repeat the part where you were saying the
8 Town liability for the retirement or pension
9 ...

10 **MR. BAILEY:** Oh, sure.

11 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Did you say 340?

12 **MR. BAILEY:** \$343,000.

13 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** \$343,000, gotcha ---

14 **MR. BAILEY:** For the -- just to make note again,
15 it's underfunded at the State level by \$30
16 billion. So your portion's -- which is a lot.

17 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Right.

18 **MR. BAILEY:** For the Town. As I said, it's not
19 something that you have to start making
20 payments to, really the State has been trying
21 to correct that by increasing -- one of the
22 ways is by increasing the percentage that you
23 as a town pay for your employees that you --
24 'cause yours actually went down to almost
25 \$390,000 just in '18, so it's actually down to



1 343.

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** Any other questions, Council?

3 (**Inaudible background noise.**)

4 **MAYOR EVANS:** Do you have any questions for him,
5 Ben?

6 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** No, sir.

7 **MR. BAILEY:** If anything pops up, you know, after
8 the fact, I mean, I'll be glad to come back, or
9 e-mail any questions (**inaudible**) have that come
10 up later. I'll take a look (**inaudible**).

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir.

12 **MR. BAILEY:** Yes, sir. Y'all have a good evening.

13 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Thank you.

14 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Likewise, thank you ---

15 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** You too.

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** Council, seek a motion for the
17 approval of the Town of Atlantic Beach
18 financial audit.

19 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved ---

20 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** So ...

21 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

22 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Second.

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** There is a motion and a second for the
24 approval of the 2018-2019 Town of Atlantic
25 Beach financial audit. Any other questions or



1 comments? Roll call?

2 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

3 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

4 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

5 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

6 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

7 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

8 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

9 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

10 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted. Item B under
12 New Business, Council, I'm gonna seek a motion
13 to -- for the Town Manager to enter into
14 negotiations with an agreement with Incite
15 Digital Displays to build and operate a gateway
16 sign on Highway 17 in the Town of Atlantic
17 Beach, South Carolina ---

18 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor and Council and Public, Mr.
19 Kirk McNabb is here tonight. If you can
20 recall, previously he had presented a proposal
21 to the Town of Atlantic Beach to replace our
22 current gateway sign on Highway 17 with a
23 digital sign containing the logo of the Town of
24 Atlantic Beach, and the ability to change and
25 promote Town activities as well as



1 advertisements generated by his company. He is
2 making a proposal to the Town to replace the
3 sign with a digital sign and pay a compensation
4 to the Town as a result of permitting him to
5 build the sign on Highway 17 in the Town of
6 Atlantic Beach. At this point, I will turn the
7 presentation over to Mr. Kirk McNabb of Incite
8 Digital Displays, and he can go over in more
9 detail his specific proposal to the Town of
10 Atlantic Beach.

11 **MR. McNABB:** Good evening. Thank you, Council.
12 Happy New Year.

13 | **IN UNISON:** Happy New year.

14 **MR. McNABB:** Interesting I'm on the heels of the
15 financing. Our proposal -- just (inaudible) --
16 the letters that were given to Councilman (sic)
17 Quattlebaum ---

18 MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Town Manager.

19 MR. McNABB: --- kind of explains ...

20 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Town Manager, not Council. Town
21 Manager.

22 | MR. McNABB: (Inaudible.)

23 | MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Yes, sir.

24 **MR. McNABB:** As it states in the letter, we're
25 proposing a 10-year agreement for a fee for the



1 issuance of the permit -- we'll get to the
2 permit -- to build a gateway sign. The
3 dimensions are mentioned here, but (inaudible)
4 open for discussion. And so one year -- with
5 one automatic renewal of another 10-year
6 period, and a 2 percent compounded annual
7 escalator. I do not know the method -- the
8 actual formula on what it amounts to. It's
9 over the two period -- over the two terms, it
10 amounts to \$180,000 plus the compounded 2
11 percent annual, actually works out to a total
12 of 10 percent. I don't know exactly how the
13 bracket works out (inaudible) \$30,000. There
14 are two renderings. The first rendering is the
15 one that I prefer. The second rendering is
16 kinda -- I think monument. I had submitted a
17 permit agreement, a simple -- simple terms.
18 Don't know if this -- the Town's attorney has
19 had a chance to ---

20 **MALE SPEAKER:** (Inaudible.)

21 **MR. McNABB:** Okay. So, I guess we're waiting to
22 hear from the attorney, and I hope that Council
23 has got a lot of questions and interest in the
24 project.

25 **MALE SPEAKER:** Mr. McNabb, did you bring any



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1 additional copies of the actual photo of what's
2 being proposed, do you have any additional?

3 **MR. McNABB:** You mean for the agreements?

4 **MALE SPEAKER:** Yeah. This photo. Do you have 'em?

5 **MR. McNABB:** I did have additional copies of that,
6 yes.

7 **MALE SPEAKER:** Do you have them with you?

8 **MR. McNABB:** I do.

9 **MALE SPEAKER:** Can you pass copies to the public?

10 **MR. McNABB:** Actually, I have a master copy and I
11 can (ph) hand that out -- it's just got a name
12 on it and -- I only have two ---

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Oh.

14 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Actually, these are extra.
15 We already have what they had gave us ---

16 (**Inaudible background noise.**)

17 **MAYOR EVANS:** We just didn't have that second
18 picture there ---

19 **MALE SPEAKER:** Can you pass these around ---

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** But other than that, yeah.

21 (**Inaudible background noise.**)

22 **MR. McNABB:** The one thing I didn't mention ---

23 (**Inaudible background noise.**)

24 **MAYOR EVANS:** I'm sorry. You can go ahead.

25 **MR. McNABB:** Thank you. We intend to build a



1 structure and showcase the Town of Atlantic
2 Beach with its seal, its logo, you know, in a
3 very prominent position on the structure, and
4 donate the structure to the City. We expect to
5 spend around \$150,000 for the structure.
6 Digital would be maintained by us. It's a
7 piece of equipment that requires constant
8 maintenance so that would be separate as it's
9 discussed in the cover letter.

10 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay.

11 **MR. McNABB:** So that's -- the idea is -- number one
12 is to showcase the City, to create a gateway
13 sign for the City. Number two on the digital
14 display, we would do public service
15 announcements. We would do Amber alerts, storm
16 alerts, public service announcements or events
17 to help promote the City, like get involved in
18 a lot of the events and coordinate with the
19 City with the digital sign. So that would add
20 -- that would add a lot of value as well.

21 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Can you speak to, in terms of the
22 type of advertisers you're looking for, and
23 whatever restrictions that you have in a type
24 of non-competitive ---

25 **MR. McNABB:** Sure.



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1 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** --- of advertisements?

2 **MR. McNABB:** Sure. Traditionally in the out-of-home
3 business and -- and I don't like to just call
4 this a blatant outdoor advertising display. I
5 would much prefer that it's sponsorship. And
6 it's sponsorship -- typically, as a rule of
7 thumb in the advertising business and in
8 digital billboards, static billboards, signage,
9 most people don't put offensive things on the
10 signs. This creates controversy. Such as
11 gentlemen's clubs. Some places are not allowed
12 to put hard liquor on the signs, but wine and
13 beer or -- it just depends on what their
14 restrictions are. Most outdoor operators will
15 not put a gentlemen club's on (inaudible) -- on
16 billboards as well because (inaudible). So
17 we're very sensitive to those kind of things.
18 PETA -- that's another one that has problems
19 putting things on boards, digital boards and
20 static signs. Abortions, stuff like that. So
21 we would be very sensitive to that kind of
22 stuff. As far as sponsorships, I guess
23 specifically I can drill into, you know, when
24 you have the bike rally here, I've spoken with
25 your City Manager about this. When you have



1 the bike rally here, there's sponsors that come
2 -- that come with the event, that come with the
3 vendors. We would like to work with those
4 folks. That's the type of sponsorships we'd
5 like to do.

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Any other questions from the Council?

7 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yeah, I have a question. Before
8 you presented this sign, the numbers was
9 different. What was the numbers on the
10 contract before?

11 **MR. McNABB:** Very good question. Before -- and I
12 don't know if we've figured this out. We're
13 having a problem figuring out who owns the
14 property and, from what I can tell, the
15 existing sign that is there where -- which --
16 after this sign is put up, if this went
17 forward, that sign would come down. No point
18 in having two signs.

19 **MAYOR EVANS:** Right.

20 **MR. McNABB:** My understanding so far -- and I'm not
21 clear on this -- is it appears that the
22 existing sign that's on the street is in the
23 right-of-way on the -- is in the -- which means
24 that the State could come take that property at
25 any time if they want to put a sidewalk there,



1 if they want to widen the road. So that's why
2 the numbers changed because I'm at risk. At
3 any time, that property could be taken. If
4 there is a different situation that I am
5 unaware of, then, you know, we would adjust
6 based on that.

7 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Okay.

8 **MR. McNABB:** It becomes less valuable if I'm at risk
9 of having a \$150,000 piece of equipment has to
10 be removed at any time. We're willing to take
11 the risk because obviously you've had the sign
12 there for quite some time. It doesn't look
13 like there -- the road's gonna be widened any
14 time soon. I haven't seen -- I haven't looked
15 at the past (ph) development from the State.
16 I could be wrong. That's something that, you
17 know, something that we should look into.

18 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** So if we own the property, you
19 can go back to the other numbers. If we own
20 the property.

21 **MR. McNABB:** I would massage the numbers, yes.

22 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Okay, thank you.

23 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

24 **MR. McNABB:** Yes.

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** So, between now and the next four



1 years, we're probably definitely looking at
2 maybe sidewalks on 17 so make sure you leave
3 room to allow that.

4 **MR. McNABB:** And that makes sense. And I spoke with
5 your City Manager, Mr. Quattlebaum. Typical
6 rule of thumb is 10 feet back from the
7 pavement, curb to pavement. That's what most
8 zoning is, and that leaves sufficient space for
9 a sidewalk. And the other thing is nothing
10 overhanging that space. So the reason that I
11 prefer the design -- the first design on the --
12 on this paperwork ---

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Uh-huh.

14 **MR. McNABB:** I just gave it to you. As you'll see,
15 a wedge cut.

16 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Uh-huh, right ---

17 **MR. McNABB:** The wedge cut also allows the fact that
18 you can see through. The second design, the
19 (inaudible) a monument, even 10 feet back could
20 a -- somewhat of an obstruction from line of
21 yield. The one with the V-cut would not be.
22 It's just a -- I think it's more attractive, as
23 I've said, (inaudible) that's my opinion.

24 **MAYOR EVANS:** Any other questions, Council? Thank
25 you, sir.



ATLANTIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

31

1 **MR. McNABB:** Thank you.

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** Council, I believe there is a motion
3 on the floor for the Town Manager to be able to
4 enter into the negotiations for an agreement
5 with Incite Digital Displays to operate -- to
6 build and operate a gateway sign on Highway 17
7 in the Town of Atlantic Beach, South Carolina.
8 Is the motion -- I think is on the floor,
9 Council.

10 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** So moved.

11 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Second.

12 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's a motion and a second for the
13 Town Manager to enter into negotiations with an
14 agreement with Incite Digital Displays. Any
15 other questions or comments? Roll call?

16 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

17 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

18 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

19 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

20 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

21 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

22 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

23 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

24 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted.



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1 Report:

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to the Town Manager's
3 Report.

4 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor, Council, public, residents,
5 I asked the Chief of Police to make a
6 presentation overview of the Police
7 Department's status, to give you, as the
8 community, an understanding of our Police
9 Department, where it's -- it has been, where
10 it's going and what we're projecting to do,
11 providing better police and security services
12 for the residents of the Town. Let me just
13 start in giving an overview, and then I'll turn
14 it over to the Chief. Back in 2015, the Town
15 had one police officer and one vehicle at the
16 time. Then I took over as Town Manager. Over
17 the four-year, four-and-a-half-year period,
18 we've been able to increase the number of
19 police officers to the Town from one officer to
20 a maximum, we've hired four with current
21 funding available to the Town. All of us know,
22 or should know, that nationally there is a
23 shortage of police officers nationally,
24 statewide and even locally. And competing for
25 officers with other larger municipalities makes



1 it quite a challenge, and I think the Town,
2 given its size, given our budget, has done --
3 and the Chief -- under the leadership of Chief
4 Robinson, has done an exceptional job of
5 recruiting and bringing in some fine officers
6 to provide police services to the Town of
7 Atlantic Beach. During that time period, we
8 have not only increased our people power, we
9 also have purchased without any debt any -- on
10 our police fleet. Taking it from one unit to
11 four police cars without any debt being
12 incurred by the Town. All the vehicles have
13 been paid off. Needless to say that in the
14 cycle of replacement, we are going to need
15 additional -- more modernized vehicles because
16 of the unit -- usage that they have over time.
17 But it's something that we are looking to
18 address in our long-range plan for increase of
19 personnel as well as equipment. But let me
20 just say emphatically that I believe that,
21 given our size in comparison to other municipal
22 police forces, comparable size and even larger,
23 we stack up very well with them in terms of our
24 technology, in terms of our capability, in
25 terms of our equipment, materials and supplies



1 that we provide to our officers. Also, I'm a
2 big advocate of training and the Chief is also,
3 and we have sent our existing officers to --
4 and former officers -- to enhance their police
5 skills. My desire is to be able to fund and
6 provide 24-hour police services to the Town.
7 Given all of the mechanics of time off, court
8 time -- the court time that officers and the
9 Chief will get into, have to do, that will
10 require a number of additional officers to make
11 that possible. It also will require us
12 securing additional funding that the Town
13 pretty much could not fund entirely on its own
14 without any additional resources to bring to
15 bear. So, with that, based on the budget
16 numbers and the figures we've had, I've tried
17 to maximize the number of officers we have on
18 staff, and looking to increase it even more.
19 At this time, I would like to bring the Chief
20 forward just to give a general overview of
21 police functions and process, his staff and
22 what we're doing, and programs and initiatives
23 that we are looking into having -- initiated
24 and are looking to initiate to improve police
25 services to the residents that we have. Chief



1 Robinson.

2 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** How you doing, Mayor,
3 Council, residents of Atlantic Beach? I'm not
4 gonna be here long. I'll go over some stuff.
5 Since I took over, probably end -- part of
6 2017, I took over as Interim Chief. Became the
7 Chief in 2018. From 2018 to 2019, I'm gonna go
8 over some statistics that we did since I took
9 over. The first thing I want to go over is the
10 major accomplishments that began (ph) since I
11 took over. Just like the Town Manager was
12 talking about, we did buy four vehicles -- two
13 patrol cars and two SUVs. They are up models
14 -- they were up-to-date model vehicles. We
15 used to have problems with breaking our cars,
16 up at night (inaudible) can't -- couldn't catch
17 you guys if I'm running out of time. Now, we
18 could run over here by the (inaudible), they
19 want to test my police car. You think you're
20 gonna break (inaudible) and run out of here,
21 you've got another thing coming. So we updated
22 that. At the same time, the State went to --
23 they don't do traffic tickets no more,
24 everything's electronic. So now you've got to
25 have computers, scanners and all that in the



1 car. We also have those in our cars so now
2 we've got a lot which the State provides. And
3 that opened grants for us to get other stuff.
4 A lot of stuff we do now, it opens the door for
5 us to get grants. And when I came here, there
6 were a lot of grants that were out there that
7 the Police Department that -- well, we couldn't
8 get it because we didn't have our statistics
9 (inaudible). As of later two -- the middle
10 part of 2018, all our statistics had been
11 reported, and we're constantly report to the
12 FBI, to the state. Saying that, we also got a
13 grant this year for body cameras. All officers
14 will be equipped with body cameras. So any
15 time they're out stopping people or talking to
16 anybody, they will have a body camera on them.
17 One of the things that -- we're waiting for
18 that guy to come and program the recorder (ph),
19 and that should be done some time this month.
20 So by the first of February, all my officers
21 will have body cameras on. One of the other --
22 one of the other things that -- when I took
23 over, the news were badmouthing the Police
24 Department in my -- at the time. As I took
25 over, I felt like we -- we'd kinda mend (ph)



1 that with the media. We don't get that much to
2 talk about, but crime does still happen in the
3 Town. We can't go back on what happened in the
4 past, only thing we can do is move forward.
5 And by saying that, we try to make sure that we
6 do everything by the law. Sometimes some
7 people don't agree with it but, at the same
8 time, it's the law and so we're gonna abide by
9 it. The media -- I do have some media that do
10 reach out to me. The only thing, it makes --
11 it doesn't seem worth going (inaudible) to
12 report something bad just to see if they
13 (inaudible). Some of the media is working --
14 I'm kind of proud of that 'cause when I first
15 took over (inaudible) everything that was
16 coming was the reports on bad (inaudible).
17 Now, we're turning the page on that. Now,
18 they're coming, trying to see what Atlantic
19 Beach is all about, how we've improved. I want
20 to talk about some of our statistics. From --
21 and these are statistics from 2018 and the
22 statistics from 2019. I'm just gonna go over
23 a few of 'em and just kind of get you to
24 understand why the number may have went up or
25 the number may have went down. Domestic



1 violence. 2018, we had 54 calls of domestic
2 violence. 2019, we had 94. That don't
3 necessarily mean we had 94 domestic violences
4 in the Town. That basically means somebody
5 called and reported a domestic violence, and it
6 could've been something simple, for a child
7 arguing with their mother, and didn't want to
8 do it, but we had to go out there and respond.
9 So, our statistics were not for domestic
10 violence because of that, again, high so we had
11 to answer that. One of the biggest things are
12 B&E auto. 2018, it was 11. 2019, it went down
13 to 9. And this -- and one of the main reasons,
14 because our officers are out there and patrol
15 all the time. If they see any blue lights
16 riding the street constantly, they're not gonna
17 try to break into houses, breaking into cars.
18 So that's good. 2018, we had one robbery in
19 the Town, one of the businesses. 2019, we had
20 zero. So we do got a good handle on that,
21 nobody's really breaking into nobody's business
22 in town so -- and a lot of business owners,
23 they come and talk to me a lot of times about
24 they love to see the officers out patrolling,
25 they do property checks. Some of the residents



1 -- I started a program back in 2018 -- they
2 call it vacation watch. You can go to the Town
3 and fill out the paper. If you're going out
4 of town and you want your property watched, you
5 can fill out the paper, and one of my officers
6 will check on it daily, make sure nobody's
7 breaking into your place, nobody's taking
8 something while you're not there. I know I've
9 got a couple residents that participate in the
10 program. Any of y'all in here now that you
11 want to participate in that program, go to the
12 Town Hall or the Police Department, ask for one
13 of the forms, fill it out and we'll be glad to
14 take care of that. One of the biggest
15 compliments -- some people -- all depends on
16 how you look at it. One of the biggest drug
17 spots in Atlantic Beach, we shut that down. It
18 was one of the biggest nuisances in town where
19 people were hanging out, playing loud music,
20 selling drugs, prostituting, all of that. We
21 shut the building down. We're not in the
22 business of (inaudible) somebody's home, but if
23 you don't abide by the law in town, we will
24 come out. It's a different type of police
25 department -- it's not the old one, it's better



1 today. We are -- we're straightforward. We
2 don't cater to every kind -- and no offense,
3 Council and Mayor, we don't cater to you. We
4 cater to the people, we cater to law. You
5 break a law, no matter the Mayor, Council, Town
6 Manager or one of my police officers, you break
7 the law, we're gonna come. Probably -- if
8 y'all see me breaking the law, report it to
9 somebody. Because if I'm not doing my job, how
10 can I expect my officers or anybody to do their
11 job. I want the community to feel comfortable
12 with the Police Department. If any of y'all
13 have a problem, all you've gotta do is call.
14 We -- don't call the Chief. And one of the
15 reasons I say don't call the Chief is because
16 when we go out for grants and try to get new
17 cars, equipment, getting grants for -- to hire
18 more officers, they go off the statistics.
19 They don't go off of because we say we need it.
20 They look at the numbers and say that, oh, you
21 all have got a hundred calls of domestic
22 violence, y'all do need a domestic violence
23 investigator because the number says for a
24 small like y'all, y'all shouldn't be having
25 that big a problem. So now when I go to the



1 State and ask for a grant for a domestic
2 violence investigator, I've got a good chance
3 of getting it. And some of y'all might not
4 understand it, but this -- the Department of
5 Public Safety do a grant every year for law.
6 There's so many different grants out there that
7 you get officers, cars, investigators, a
8 traffic unit, but you've got to show the
9 numbers to match what you're asking for. So
10 that's why we want y'all to report it. If, I
11 mean, you feel like you need to call me, call
12 me -- my phone'll always be open but, at the
13 same time, call 9-1-1 for it to be (inaudible)
14 for we go -- that 9-1-1 call, we get
15 information and we -- we will properly
16 (inaudible) everything that is going on in the
17 Town. One of the biggest things for 2020 -- I
18 made a list of some goals that we -- we're
19 looking forward to in 2020. One of the biggest
20 things -- I'm still working on it, but it's the
21 staffing. Our policy -- depart -- our Police
22 Department policy (inaudible) all of our
23 (inaudible). One of the things, I want to
24 become accredited (inaudible). Right now,
25 we're not. But that don't mean that we don't



1 do what we're supposed to. A lot of
2 departments in the State is not credited, but
3 I want our Department to be accredited because
4 that opens, again, to more grants than one a
5 year for the Police Department and other areas.
6 At the same time, I plan to fully staff the
7 2020 -- fully staff the Police Department by
8 2022. And when I say fully staff, which still
9 has to be approved through the Council, to hire
10 a couple more officers. I'm trying to go to
11 the 24-hour officers so y'all can feel safe,
12 there's somebody out there 24/7. And then you
13 don't have to worry about Horry County, North
14 Myrtle Beach Sheriff's Office. I'm trying to
15 get to the point that we do everything that
16 Horry County or the Sheriff of North Myrtle
17 Beach do, we do it right here in our own town.
18 We don't have to depend on nobody else to come
19 in and work anything around town, which is
20 gonna take time and money. And that's why
21 we're looking -- really hard looking at grants.
22 I am -- some of my guys (inaudible) grants,
23 they have other people looking at 'em. But,
24 we're working toward that. And right now, I'm
25 looking to increase by 2022 at least two to



1 three more officers because we talked about
2 another issue, general session. I know you all
3 seen the report in the newspaper that came out
4 talking about the general session cases that
5 been with dropped from 2015 to 2018 (ph). I'm
6 not gonna speak or blame it on people. Since
7 I took over, we've changed a whole lot. And
8 some of these cases, they're still gonna get
9 dropped, and not because my officers are not
10 doing they job. Sometimes a solicitor'll look
11 at a case and say, well, I don't feel like
12 we've got enough to win so we're gonna make a
13 deal with them now. And my officer could write
14 him 10 different citations, and they pick one
15 out and say you did good with this, forget
16 about the rest of them. So now, I've got 10
17 out of -- one out of 10 so now look -- make the
18 statistics look bad. Looks like we're doing
19 about 10 percent of cases solved. In the
20 overall picture, you've got to (inaudible) but,
21 at the same time, those numbers don't look
22 good. So don't let numbers -- they let --
23 newspapers, they're gonna tell you different
24 things that make it look worse than what it is.
25 You -- if you really ever want to know anything



1 about the Police Department, you can contact
2 me, come and talk to my clerk, set up an
3 interview and come and talk to me, I'll explain
4 it to you. A lot of these cases, when they get
5 dropped, it's like I said, because of the
6 Solicitor. And sometimes they do because we
7 don't have the technology or the manpower to
8 investigate some of these bigger cases. That's
9 why I'm trying to get to the point that we have
10 investigators here that we work all our cases.
11 Sometimes we have to have Horry County and the
12 Sherif's Department of North Myrtle Beach help
13 us out investigating that stuff and, if we
14 don't get the manpower to help us out, you
15 know, it's harder for us to investigate a lot
16 of the cases. So sometimes we don't get the
17 proper paperwork in the proper time because
18 we're still trying to figure out what's going
19 on. And we don't have the equipment, but we
20 are moving in the right direction. By 2022, I
21 hope that we could do everything we want to do
22 by ourselves, not with help from anybody else.
23 One of the biggest things, that community
24 service program, I want to start a neighborhood
25 watch program, and I want to start it in town



1 but it'll take the residents to work with me.
2 I can't -- only thing -- the community tells me
3 what's going on. I can't tell you what goes on
4 if I don't live on your street. We drive by,
5 a lot of them, when they see the police, they
6 run and hide. But everybody's got two eyes for
7 the most part, they're out there seeing what's
8 going on. A neighborhood watch program, if you
9 see something, tell someone. You don't have to
10 give your name all the time. Most of the time,
11 we just want to know where to look at, how to
12 -- what property (ph) is going -- who we need
13 to be looking at. We don't even really need
14 your name and stuff like that, but that's a
15 program (inaudible) I want implement this
16 coming up year. National night out at the
17 beach, that's a program that I want to bring
18 community, the law enforcement and the Town
19 together. We -- we're a small town and we
20 should be a family. We shouldn't be pulling
21 away from each other. The community, the Town
22 Council, the Police Department, all of us need
23 to be together. We need -- we could have
24 cookouts during the summer out here, and
25 everybody get out here and come and tell the



1 police, hey y'all are doing this good, y'all
2 are not doing this too good because without you
3 all, I don't know what we're missing or what
4 we're not doing. Because y'all see (inaudible)
5 through the inside, y'all need tell me that,
6 oh, why don't y'all patrol this street a little
7 more, I need somebody out here around 8:00 to
8 10:00 because that's when crimes mostly happen.
9 If y'all don't come and tell me, I don't know,
10 but if this community (inaudible) would help a
11 lot with information, y'all can come up and
12 talk to me. And matter of fact, you don't have
13 to talk to me at midnight, you could come any
14 day, Monday through Friday, between 10:00 to
15 5:00, you can talk to me about stuff like that.
16 Another thing is movie night out at the beach.
17 The Market Common is doing every night, I
18 think, during the summer for the kids. That's
19 something we've be doing, you know, here in our
20 own town. We want to -- the kids are the
21 future. Right now, all of y'all are watching
22 movies that I wish I was doing. I'm from Lake
23 City. They're killing each other left and
24 right now. They done had two more shootings
25 today, and it's not overcrowded, it's



(inaudible) 'cause they ain't got nothing to do. They don't have no kind of activities to do. If we don't give that to the kids, that's gonna be something (inaudible) soon. I mean 'cause they're taking each other out. So we've got to give the kids something to look forward. During the summer, we could play music out at the cul-de-sacs and let -- maybe have popcorn and have the kids come out, even if sometimes we have it at the Community Center. But that's something I'm looking at to start this year for the summer. Pumpkin carving night, that's something that (inaudible) in November and (inaudible). There are a number of different events that I'm thinking about doing, but Halloween remember -- do a Halloween event and do a Christmas. Any time you want to donate to it, donate to it. I feel like when we have events in town, I shouldn't have to come out and ask everybody to donate. If your heart says you want to donate to one of the events, you can because all the events is for the kids (inaudible). One of the things I think was a -- the Town Manager was talking about hiring -- I don't know if that's that part about hiring



1 a grant writer. Some of these federal grants
2 -- I can write State grants, but when you're
3 talking about federal grants and stuff, I can't
4 write (inaudible) they're not in my job
5 description to write (inaudible). But we are
6 looking at maybe getting a grant writer to come
7 help us secure the grants and get different
8 stuff in the Town. There's a lot of other
9 stuff that we're talking about implementing,
10 but that will come at -- as we go along
11 throughout the year. I kind of did a brief --
12 went over some of the stuff. Our statistics,
13 which we've got the new website that should be
14 coming up online soon, and like I'm hoping that
15 we can start putting some of the statistics out
16 there on the website and you all can go and see
17 -- find out what is going on with the Police
18 Department (ph). We do -- got a Facebook page,
19 Atlantic Beach, our police Facebook page. Some
20 of y'all might not even know it, we've got a
21 Facebook page out there now and we do put out
22 information. I said we're gonna start putting
23 (inaudible) start putting stuff on there every
24 -- try to do it every day. Just can't promise
25 it's gonna be updated daily, but at least two



1 or three times a week, it would be updated.
2 And we're looking for somebody if something
3 happens, need everybody to be on lock down
4 'cause something crazy went off or we're having
5 a Halloween event or any kind of thing, it will
6 be on our website so make sure y'all start
7 looking for the new website, which I hope will
8 be up by the first of February. That's
9 basically all I've got.

10 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Thank you.

11 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** Got any questions, Council,
12 Mayor?

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yeah, well I -- you are Ben one. I
14 think now we have yourself and three other
15 full-time officers?

16 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** Yes, sir.

17 **MAYOR EVANS:** And so, in order for us to have 24-
18 hour coverage, how many more officers that --
19 are you contemplating on us getting, and
20 possibly to have more than one on a shift
21 sometimes, so how many more officers you guys
22 think we're gonna be in need of, just
23 approximately?

24 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** In a perfect world, I'd need
25 10 officers to run a full -- that's a perfect



1 world. I know it's not gonna happen here. But
2 for us to at least get the 24 hours, we would
3 need five officers, not counting me. But most
4 of the time, I'd be here (inaudible). That'd
5 put one officer on shift, and you've got one
6 that's basically on standby. Because you've
7 got people that take vacation, they're sick and
8 stuff like that, so you've gotta have somebody
9 to replace officers if something happens. So
10 to really, fully run 24 hours, we need at least
11 five officers to run it. I would love to have
12 two on every shift, to be honest, because we
13 did have a shooting and a police officer just
14 got killed Sunday, and he was doing a routine
15 traffic stop and he got killed got shot in the
16 head four times.

17 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Oh, my God.

18 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** So I mean it's -- a lot of
19 people think, well, you've got one officer and
20 one person, you never know -- when you're a
21 police officer, you never know what you're
22 walking into. You're getting out -- everything
23 -- you get out of the car, you're gonna stop
24 somebody, we don't know what we're walking --
25 we don't know what that person's thinking. Is



1 he -- he might be saying, well, I don't -- I
2 didn't want to die so I'm taking my chances
3 (ph). Or he could say, well, it could be an
4 old woman saying, well, I didn't -- we're going
5 to church and they stopped me. We don't know
6 what we're gonna run into. So in a perfect
7 world, we would like two, but I know it -- it
8 will take time to get there and I'm -- that's
9 what I'm building towards. And with grants and
10 stuff, I hope we get there.

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, that's fine.

12 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** And that's why we're pushing
13 for grants real hard and trying to get
14 different units and stuff. I -- to be honest,
15 I need an investigator that could do -- my guys
16 get tied up. They work 12 hours then they have
17 to come -- they get off at 3:00, 4:00, 5:00 in
18 the morning then they have to get back up at
19 9:00 to go to the County to get warrants and
20 stuff. And then sometimes that'll take a
21 couple hours so by the time they go back home
22 to get rest, they've gotta come right back out
23 to work. And so we're draining the people we
24 do have here. It's -- I mean it's not like my
25 guys are not working, but sometimes they do get



1 drained and get tired. So, one of the bigger
2 things I'm -- to be honest, six officers right
3 now would be perfect. But I know it's gonna
4 take a little time to get here, and that's why
5 I'm looking for grants. And that's why I'm
6 going to -- matter of fact, I'm going to this
7 grant thing in Columbia on the 13th, they're
8 talking about State grants that are coming up
9 that start on the 13th, so I'm going up to
10 Columbia and meet with them about what the
11 criteria are, what -- to be able to get some of
12 these grants.

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you.

14 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** Did you have a question?

15 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yeah, I have a question.
16 Mr. Chief, in light of what you just said, and
17 in hiring two additional officers, I know you
18 said it may take time. Are you open to other
19 ways to like sponsorship or fundraising or
20 whatever it takes to at least raise the salary
21 for at least one other officer? I mean, I know
22 there are stipulations or certain things that
23 you can and cannot do under the By-laws or
24 whatever, I'm not asking you to, you know,
25 cross over any boundaries but -- boundaries,



1 but what I'm saying is that, other than just
2 relying on the grants, do you have any other
3 ideas or thoughts that perhaps could help you
4 hire additional officers as well?

5 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** When you're talking about
6 fundraising or donations, that gets kind of
7 sticky (inaudible) because now you're talking
8 about government money used use to hire
9 officers.

10 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** All right (ph).

11 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** So that does get kind of
12 sticky a little bit. But at the same time, on
13 my budget -- My budget is -- I don't -- y'all
14 don't know but sometimes my budget goes up
15 throughout the year, but I'm betting it will
16 come down because we started getting better
17 equipment. We don't have to buy equipment
18 every year but, you know, if -- you'll be the
19 first to know, sometimes you're gonna spend
20 more money on the front end while on the back
21 end you'll see a profit, and that same thing
22 will -- my budget -- try to get an officer.
23 I've got a plan to -- a five-year plan that, on
24 the back end, you'll see that we save a lot
25 more money. Our budget is almost lower than



1 the first year, and we've got four or five more
2 officers. I think I've got it up to seven --
3 six officers for good pay, but by us finally
4 remaining in the middle, it comes down because
5 when you start getting vehicles that we don't
6 have to lease -- buy every year. We don't have
7 to pay \$30,000 for a vehicle every year because
8 now we've got this, and this vehicle could last
9 maybe 45,000 (ph) miles. So we don't -- we've
10 done cut down on last year's (inaudible), you
11 know, as we go on.

12 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Gotcha. And I don't want to
13 sound like -- I don't want to sound redundant
14 when I'm talking about the donations, stuff
15 like that. And I'm just gonna say
16 hypothetically, if you had a -- like a place of
17 business or something that's willing to have --
18 and not so much government money is what -- not
19 anything coming from the government. So say --
20 just say for instance -- even if it was a
21 nonprofit, they're raising money and willing to
22 do a pass-through to the police -- well, to the
23 Atlantic Beach -- let's put it that way -- to
24 Atlantic Beach for the use of hiring another
25 police, and not so much -- not really to the



1 Police Department, I'm trying to find out what
2 ---

3 **MALE SPEAKER:** I can answer that. How the Town's
4 taking money, I can't -- per se, how they're
5 taking money ---

6 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Right.

7 **MALE SPEAKER:** --- and how they distribute it out.
8 But the Police Department can't take any money.
9 So (inaudible) our budget comes from the Town
10 anyway so that's something you might want to
11 talk to the Town Manager about.

12 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Okay.

13 **MALE SPEAKER:** If they donate money to the Town for
14 the Police Department, that's something --
15 because I just go to him and give him my budget
16 and tell him what I need. So ---

17 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Gotcha.

18 **MALE SPEAKER:** --- as long as the money ain't dirty
19 money, I'm pretty sure we can take it
20 (inaudible).

21 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Right. And I'm gonna keep
22 asking him 'cause at the end of the day, the
23 weight is on you. If you had wanna go to --
24 ring a doorbell and tell somebody's wife or
25 somebody's father or whoever, hey, this



1 person's not coming back home tonight, or ever,
2 right? That's a lot of weight. And I
3 understand as the Chief, that's something you
4 have to bear in mind as well. So what I -- I'm
5 only asking the questions because I understand
6 that grants may take a minute to get, you know,
7 approved and then there's other things going on
8 too, that still -- that still, you know, calls
9 within the Department, your Department, that's
10 the reason why I'm asking the question because
11 people are here and they may have -- I mean
12 they're all citizens and we're all in the town
13 together. They may have a way as well to say,
14 hey, in the back of my mind, or maybe I can
15 offer a way to raise money. You may have
16 somebody that's sitting out here say I can
17 donate \$50,000. You never know who's in the
18 audience. Never judge a book by its cover but,
19 still, that's where I'm trying to go at with --
20 -

21 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** Honestly, we're open to any
22 kind of donation if you want to donate to the
23 Town ---

24 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Chief.

25 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** But like, again, if you have



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1 question ---

2 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** I gotcha, I gotcha. Thank
3 you.

4 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** --- 'cause the (inaudible)
5 don't close out right in the middle.
6 (Inaudible) anything for the residents ---

7 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** Chief, after we finish -- after Public
9 Time, we're having the little social there too
10 so they can ask you anything they want to ask
11 you at that time ---

12 **POLICE CHIEF ROBINSON:** Oh.

13 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Thank you.

14 **MAYOR EVANS:** You might want to let them know that,
15 you or Ben one.

16 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** You all are doing a great
17 job. Thank you, sir.

18 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

19 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Chief Robinson, let me move
20 quickly. Thank you for your patience sitting
21 through the presentation. In April is when we
22 start the budget process for the next fiscal
23 year. Short answer to your question, Council,
24 we are looking to add one additional police
25 officer this year before the end of the fiscal



1 year. As I said, the challenge is two-fold,
2 not just the fact of having resources to hire
3 someone is to -- finding and competing with
4 other (inaudible). So -- but an -- short
5 answer, yes, we're looking at and hopefully,
6 based on our financial projections, with a new
7 unit -- new housing units coming online, taxes
8 being generated, hoping we're in a better
9 fiscal position come next fiscal year to add
10 on, at least for the (inaudible), two new
11 officers is what I'm shooting for. But let me
12 move on to, in that same vein, as I indicated,
13 and let me just backtrack to the audit. Two
14 things I'm finding on cost, as the audit review
15 pointed out, healthcare costs, pension costs
16 and liability costs. I think in April of 2020,
17 our liability insurance is gonna increase by 20
18 percent. And our healthcare costs, to make us
19 competitive (inaudible) other police officers,
20 is steadily increasing on an annual basis. So
21 those are the things, the factors that are
22 hindering (ph) us. But to that end, it's gonna
23 require additional funding that we don't have
24 from just property taxes and business taxes,
25 and that's why I'm proposing to the Council



1 authorization on Item Number 2 from the agenda
2 to go hire a grants writer. Most of you may be
3 familiar that we were successful without a
4 grants writer, relying on Waccamaw COG to
5 assist us in applying for a community
6 development block grant of \$150,000 to
7 comprehensively refurbish the playground right
8 -- adjacent to the Community Center. Where we
9 are on that, we've submitted all our
10 documentation to the State, and now they are
11 doing due diligence on some requirement,
12 environmentals that have to done, and some
13 preliminary requirements before we can actually
14 start construction. If I had to give a time
15 line for us trying to get a shovel in the
16 ground, we're looking at probably on --
17 optimistically some -- around April, no later
18 than June, in order to start construction
19 'cause all of the red tape in the bureaucratic
20 process you have to go through to get the grant
21 implemented. So I'm asking authorization from
22 the Council to hire a grants writer, not just
23 to sit on staff and bring grants with no
24 result, but tied into positive results and
25 generating some grant dollars to the Town. So,



1 at this time, I just need a vote from Council
2 to authorize me to go out, do an RP for a
3 grants writer and hopefully put one on within
4 the next 60 days.

5 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay.

6 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** I need a motion.

7 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay. Council, I seek a motion to
8 give the Town Manager authorization to hire a
9 grants writer for the Town of Atlantic Beach.

10 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** So moved, Mayor.

11 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Second.

12 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's a motion and a second to
13 authorize -- give the Town Manager
14 authorization to hire a grants writer for the
15 Town of Atlantic Beach. Any other question,
16 comments? Roll call?

17 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans? Councilwoman
18 Josephine Isom?

19 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

20 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

21 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

22 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

23 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

24 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted.



1 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor and Council, Item Number 3
2 on the agenda is just informational --
3 resignation of Committee Chair, Planning
4 Commissioner Orton Bellamy. He had a conflict
5 being council (inaudible) for the County, legal
6 counsel informed him that he could not continue
7 for -- on the Planning Commission so there's a
8 vacancy that we will -- have to be filled,
9 hopefully by next month. So I'll leave that
10 for your consideration. Also informational,
11 the Council meeting for next February 3rd will
12 have to be changed to the following Monday.

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Sure, what's that date?

14 (**Inaudible background noise.**)

15 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** It'd be the 10th -- 9th or 10th.

16 **CLERK:** The following Monday would be the 10th.

17 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** The 10th of February. Council
18 will be attending the Municipal Conference in
19 Columbia that starts on that same date, the
20 3rd, so alerting Council that's -- approve that
21 we can move the Council meeting to the 10th.
22 Is that acceptable?

23 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yes.

24 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Last thing, Mayor, moving to the --
25 serving refreshments, the new year, we are



1 celebrating the swearing in of our new Council
2 person -- or new or renewal Council so asking
3 everyone to partake. Ms. Kim Munja (ph) and
4 also Mike Gore and Cheryl Pereira from our
5 staff are responsible for putting together this
6 repast for you. Just a hint, don't pass up the
7 cake. You'll never forgive yourself. So I'm
8 asking you to stay and partake in that. At
9 this time, I'll turn it back over to Council
10 for Public Time.

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you.

12 **Public Time:**

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to Public Time. I have two
14 comment cards here. One's Hubert Williams.

15 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Yes. Want me to take the floor now?

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yep, it's all yours. For three
17 minutes anyway.

18 **MR. WILLIAMS:** My name is Hubert H. Williams, Jr.
19 I've been involved with Atlantic Beach for
20 over 70 years. That'll tell you something
21 about my age. Public service, said the
22 Manager, serves citizens, responsible for
23 hearing the concerns and requests of their
24 community and receiving mail. Public servants
25 shall act within good faith and honest intent,



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1 without taking an unfair advantage over another
2 person. I'm here to address the unlawful
3 demolition of a building at 512 30th Avenue
4 South, and the removal of a fence and gates
5 which was posted. I heard my name mentioned in
6 regard to a lawsuit that I have no knowledge
7 of. Would like to read the letters, Town of
8 Atlantic Beach, Robert Cox, Building Code
9 Enforcement, Benjamin Quattlebaum, Town
10 Manager, 717 30th Avenue, Atlantic Beach, South
11 Carolina. Enclosed are copies of a U.S. Postal
12 Service certified mailed letters dated November
13 27th, 2019, November 19th, 2019, November 18th,
14 '19 -- 2019 and March 1st. These are copies of
15 letters that were sent to the Town of Atlantic
16 Beach. They are Postal Service certified and
17 returned to the sender unclaimed, unable to
18 forward to sender, Hubert H. Williams. On
19 November -- on December 23rd, the UPS Store at
20 7320 Broad River Road, Irmo, South Carolina,
21 researched (ph) this (inaudible) to the Town of
22 Atlantic Beach to Robert Cox and Benjamin
23 Quattlebaum. On December 27th, these letters
24 were delivered to the Town of Atlantic Beach by
25 UPS and received by the secretary at the office



1 at 1:22 p.m., Friday. Here is a copy of the
2 letter and proof of service for the receipt for
3 tax. Thank you.

4 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Thank you ---

5 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Thank you.

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Williams. Lynda
7 Booker?

8 **MS. BOOKER:** Happy New year.

9 **IN UNISON:** Happy New year.

10 **MS. BOOKER:** I'm just coming up to say, first of
11 all, that I'm one of those people that
12 participated in that program the police have
13 initiated so that when you're out of town,
14 someone rolls by and checks the property
15 (inaudible). So I wanted to just commend Chief
16 Robinson and the Police Department. The name
17 on my ticket's Valentine. I don't think that
18 I (inaudible) so thank you very much. But I
19 just wanted to commend. And also I just think
20 it would be a good idea if the police would
21 just go around town and introduce themselves to
22 everybody else (ph). If I need something in
23 the middle of the night, come back near dawn
24 (ph) so I need to -- I need to know who's --
25 who are the police, okay?



1 (Inaudible background noise.)

2 | IN UNISON: Thank you.

MAYOR EVANS: Council, seek a motion to adjourn.

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Seek a motion to adjourn --

7 MR. QUATTLEBAUM: Mayor, may I please make an
8 acknowledgment of ---

9 | **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay.

10 MR. QUATTLEBAUM: --- and I meant to do it while I
11 was up -- so please bear with me -- to
12 acknowledge the Police Department, Town Council
13 members who participated in our annual
14 Christmas fair here at the Community Center for
15 our young people in the Town and also commend
16 the Council for their initiative on getting
17 decorations in the Town. Councilwoman
18 Williams, Councilwoman Gore taking the lead and
19 also working with our staff to beautify the
20 Town for this Christmas season. And it was a
21 well-attended event for the children, had an
22 enjoyable time, gifts for all, and wanted to
23 acknowledge their efforts. And we're looking,
24 hopefully in the next fiscal year, to do even
25 bigger and better things for our children and



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1 the residents of the Town. Thank you.

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yes. And let me mention as well, one
3 of our long-term residents here in Atlantic
4 Beach, James Howell Simmons passed away. And
5 a lot of you may not know him, but I know you
6 know Rose Stanley here in the Town, and that is
7 her stepson. So, if you guys would, keep Ms.
8 Rose Stanley and the Simmons family in your
9 prayers, and may go by and give her a visit.
10 Those of you who plan to attend, I know the
11 funeral is Thursday and I don't have a whole
12 lot of other details about it so you may want
13 to get them from her. I do know it's at --
14 what's the funeral home?

15 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Ocean View.

16 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Ocean View.

17 **MAYOR EVANS:** Ocean View has the body?

18 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** Yeah.

19 **MAYOR EVANS:** And the funeral is gonna be at Sandy
20 Grove, I think Thursday.

21 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** At 1:00 o'clock.

22 **MAYOR EVANS:** At 1:00 o'clock? Okay. Thanks, guys.
23 So please keep Ms. Stanley in your prayers
24 please. Council, seek a motion to adjourn?

25 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** So moved ---



1 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So -- second.

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

4 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

5 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

6 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

7 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

8 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

9 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

10 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Glenda Williams?

11 **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS:** Yea.

12 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted. This meeting is
14 adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

15 (**There being nothing further, the meeting was**
16 **adjourned.**)

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