

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 7, 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 7th day of January, 2019.



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APPEARANCES

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor Jake Evans, Chairman
Mayor pro tem Kenneth McLaurin
Councilman Lenearl Evans
Councilwoman Josephine Isom
Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore

ADMINISTRATION:

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

INDEX

	<u>PAGE:</u>
Call to Order..	3
Executive Session	4
General Session.	5
Old Business	6
New Business.	7
Report	11
Public Time..	11
Certificate..	21



1 Call to Order:

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** This Town Council meeting is called to
3 order this Monday, January 7th, the year 2019,
4 at 5:00 p.m. Roll call?

5 **CLERK:** Mayor pro tem Kenneth McLaurin?

6 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** Here.

7 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

8 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Here.

9 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

10 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Here.

11 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

12 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Here.

13 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

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

17 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** So moved.

18 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Second.

19 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second to go into
20 Executive Session for legal and personnel
21 matters. Any other questions or comments?
22 Roll call?

23 **CLERK:** Mayor pro tem Kenneth McLaurin?

24 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** Yea.

25 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?



1 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

2 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

3 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

4 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

5 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

6 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

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

8 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor, for the record, the legal
9 matters to be discussed are potential
10 litigation against property owners with
11 abandoned, vacant properties in the Town of
12 Atlantic Beach. And also legal matters
13 involving Timothy Taylor and personnel matters.

14 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you.

15 **Executive Session:**

16 **(Executive Session.)**

17 **MAYOR EVANS:** Council, I seek a motion to come out
18 of Executive Session into the General Session.

19 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** So moved.

20 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Second.

21 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second to come out of
22 Executive Session into the General Session.
23 Any other questions or comments? For the
24 record, the only items that were discussed in
25 Executive Session were the items listed on the



1 agenda -- the legal and personnel. Roll call?

2 **CLERK:** Mayor pro tem Kenneth McLaurin?

3 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** Yea.

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:** Mayor Jake Evans?

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

12 **General Session:**

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** I want to take this time out to
14 welcome the general public, and ask at this
15 time, if have any cell phones or pagers, or
16 anything that might disturb the proceedings, I
17 ask that you shut those off for us at this
18 time. And who's on the phone? I just heard.
19 I'm not going directly after you, I was just --
20 that's something I say every meeting. At this
21 time I ask that we stand for a moment of
22 silence.

23 **(Moment of Silence.)**

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

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



1 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to ceremonial matters.
2 Council, any ceremonial? If no ceremonial,
3 we're down to approval of the agenda. Council,
4 I seek a motion for the approval of the agenda
5 as it is outlined.

6 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** So moved.

7 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Second.

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second for approval of
9 the agenda. If there's no questions, comments,
10 roll call?

11 **CLERK:** Mayor pro tem Kenneth McLaurin?

12 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** Yea.

13 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

14 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

15 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

16 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

17 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

18 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

19 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

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

21 **Old Business:**

22 **MAYOR EVANS:** Old business. Town Council meeting
23 minutes for adoption, Council, I seek a motion
24 for the approval of the Town Council Meeting
25 minutes from October 1st, of 2018 and November



1 5th, of 2018. Seek a motion Council.

2 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** Mr. Mayor, I move that we
3 approve the Town Council minutes for adoption
4 for October the 1st, 2018 and November the 5th,
5 2018.

6 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** I second.

7 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second for approval of
8 those minutes. Any other questions or
9 comments? Roll call?

10 **CLERK:** Mayor pro tem Kenneth McLaurin?

11 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** Yea.

12 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

13 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

14 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

15 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

16 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

17 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

18 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

19 **New Business:**

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted. We're down to
21 New Business. Approval of the audit for
22 2017/2018.

23 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor, Council and public, I'm
24 pleased to present to the Council our 2017/2018
25 audit. Which was just competed in December.



1 I'd like to call your attention to a summary on
2 page 8 of our revenues and expenditures. Year
3 end June 30th, 2018. The Town of Atlantic
4 Beach took in \$755,805.00 dollars in revenue.
5 The source breakdown are property taxes,
6 \$222,487.00. Property taxes \$288,512.00.
7 Licences and permits, 67,326. Franchise fees,
8 63,181. Special taxes, 39,327. Rentals
9 facility, 1,750. Excuse me -- 1,750. Court
10 fines, 9,384. Bike fest, 59,208. For a total
11 of 755,805. Budgeted amount for the year was
12 641,000 dollars. Expenditures, general
13 government expenditures, 300,000 -- 380,070.
14 Public safety, 245,069. Special events such as
15 Bike Fest, 54,539. And capital outlays 47,323.
16 For total expenditures of 736,001. The net
17 surplus from that fiscal year is 19,804. If
18 you turn to page 31, you'll see a detailed,
19 itemized listing of expenses by line item. I
20 won't go through each one of them. I do want
21 to highlight on professional services. We
22 exceed the budget line on professional services
23 by 39,457. Mayor and Council, that was
24 basically due to -- we did not budget in -- for
25 a contract with Waccamaw Cove, who has been



1 working with the planning commission to develop
2 our land management ordinance for the past
3 year. And at -- was not a budgeted expense.
4 So we exceeded in that line item. Repairs and
5 maintenance exceeded. We had a number of
6 unexpected expenses. Primarily our phone
7 system and internet cable had to be major
8 upgrades to the services in Town Hall. And
9 exceeded the budget amount by 12,578. Salaries
10 are underbudgeted by 28,767. And overall you
11 see the other various line items. If you have
12 any questions, we'll entertain them at this
13 time.

14 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Is there anything in the budget
15 for Council travel? Is that there and I'm not
16 seeing it.

17 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Yes. Council travel is included
18 in the overall travel line. It is not broken
19 out, itemized specifically. I can get you that
20 information for Council. But that's staff as
21 well as Council travel.

22 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Okay.

23 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** It's in that line right there.

24 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** I would like to have that
25 whenever you get time please, thank you.



1 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Yes, ma'am.

2 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

3 **MAYOR EVANS:** Any other Council Members have
4 questions?

5 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** No? That's it? Okay, Council, seek a
7 motion for the approval of the 2017/2018 audit
8 -- financial audit?

9 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** I seek a motion for the approval
10 of the 2017/2018 audit.

11 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Second.

12 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay. There is a motion and a second
13 for the approval of the 201/2018 financial
14 audit. Any other questions or comments? Roll
15 call?

16 **CLERK:** Mayor pro tem Kenneth McLaurin?

17 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** Yea.

18 **CLERK:** Councilman Lenearl Evans?

19 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

20 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Josephine Isom?

21 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Yea.

22 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

23 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

24 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted. We're down to



1 the Town Managers Report.

2 **Report:**

3 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor and Council, the only thing
4 I have to report is we had a very successful
5 holiday celebration with our residents in town
6 -- a meet and greet. And also our annual
7 holiday Christmas celebration attended and
8 sponsored by some of the businesses in the
9 town. And it was very well attended and the
10 children really enjoyed the Christmas
11 Celebration. Council is proposing to uphold a
12 meet and greet for business license residents
13 and the city town of Atlantic Beach in
14 February. The third Thursday in February here
15 at the community center. All business license
16 owners are invited to attend. But detailed
17 information will be going out ---

18 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** The third week of February?

19 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** --- to the businesses and the
20 public. That's all I have, Mayor.

21 **Public Time:**

22 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** We're down to public time. And I
23 do have -- I thought I had two. And we have
24 Mr. Donnell Thompson?

25 **MR. THOMPSON:** Yes, sir. Mr. Mayor, Council, thanks



1 a lot for that great job that I hear that
2 you're doing. I certainly appreciate
3 everything that you're doing. Living here and
4 knowing that the things that you're up against
5 from time to time -- it sounds like you're
6 doing a wonderful job and I just want to take
7 a moment and tell you thank you. I'd like to
8 start off by telling you that -- that by
9 talking with you about some of the things that
10 as a homeowner here -- that I think that
11 probably is very very low hanging fruit. Some
12 stuff that I think we can take care of in
13 house. I'll share with you why I say this, so
14 you'll know I'm asking you to consider -- not
15 demanding, asking, to please consider. Over
16 the last several weeks -- well several months
17 -- there's ocean front land that we've looked
18 at purchasing and we're very very close to
19 doing it. I had the investors in town a couple
20 of weeks ago and they mentioned some stuff to
21 me and shared some pictures with me. And asked
22 me to come up in front of you guys and say,
23 share this with the Town Council and see if in
24 fact, will the Town Council order these things
25 to be addressed if you so deem so. I'll start



1 with some of the photos that that they sent me.
2 And if I could just walk up to you -- if I pass
3 them down -- some of the photos that they want
4 to address. And I kind of bundled them, if I
5 could -- so that they'll be in bundles. This
6 -- I can start with you. Mayor you -- I'll
7 start with you and if you'll pass them down.
8 Then the other photos where they talk about
9 some code issues, that as they invest -- if
10 they're going to invest -- they're going to
11 invest a bunch of money into the town. I've
12 almost got them there. These are a few other
13 photos that they noted. And -- it's small
14 stuff. Most of it is just more or less -- and
15 that they've also shared with me about. They'd
16 be willing to sit down and talk about a fund to
17 set aside to take care some of the blank. By
18 blank I mean some of the buildings that need to
19 be torn down. And it's not that many of them.
20 Some of the low hanging stuff that, you know,
21 when you pull in on 31st Avenue. So when you
22 walk in -- and nothing personal at any body --
23 it's just that we're trying to get money to
24 come to the town. And we we're at the
25 doorsteps of getting done. What I want to talk



1 with you about, what these people are
2 interested in -- and if if you're not
3 interested in it, it's fine with me. I'm just
4 sharing information hoping that we can get
5 something done. I'll pass this to you. These
6 are some of the drawings that that they are
7 certainly interested in building beach front
8 homes. Starting at about \$1,000,000.00
9 dollars. Every home would have a pool right in
10 front. And I'll share this with you. Just
11 pass these on. What what they'd like to do --
12 I think it's about nine lots. And they like to
13 be able to start out with seven lots. Put all
14 seven houses in at the same time to create some
15 excitement here at the beach. There is a
16 couple of lots in the second row, they'd like
17 to build town houses on the lots of that second
18 row. We're currently talking to some land
19 owners now. That own some land and they're
20 open -- they told me they'd like this to
21 happen. We've got contracts going out for
22 their land as soon as we get this deal done.
23 Hopefully by the end of this week, this deal
24 will be signed and done. We can come back to
25 you and say, listen, we've got the lines -- the



1 lands signed contingent upon this body saying
2 they will agree with what the thoughts are that
3 I'm sharing with you. Or we don't like this, we
4 like this better. You'll input, so it'll be a
5 smooth transition, if in fact that it could
6 happen. But some of the stuff is just really
7 simple. It's just getting from the landscape
8 that's on 29th Avenue. When they pulled up
9 there and we made that lefthand turn, heading
10 down at the stop sign, you'll see big ole
11 rocks. Well that's encroaching into our space.
12 Me as a business owner, I can't put my use here
13 to talk about the easement of the landscaping
14 group. If -- I mean, if there's an easement,
15 they've also got an (inaudible) parking space
16 into our easement. And it's on and on and on.
17 I mean there's -- these things could be taking
18 care of with a simple letter to the landowner
19 telling him to comply. If you don't comply,
20 fine him. This would cost us no money to have
21 90 percent of what I just shared with you, that
22 their concerns were -- is a simple letter from
23 your office saying that you must comply to our
24 zoning ordinances. And if they don't we have
25 to fine them. I think that this body has done



1 such a great job at what they've done so far.
2 This is going to be very easy to have done. I
3 -- I'm not going to take any more of your time.
4 I just wish that we could get it done. And I
5 pray that we continue to do the good job that
6 you're continuing to do because I know what
7 you're up against. Thank you, very much.

8 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you and appreciate your comments
9 very much.

10 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** What did he say? What is
11 he talking about -- how he was going to go in
12 and do something?

13 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** (Inaudible)

14 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mayor?

15 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yes, uh-huh.

16 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Mr. Thomson, in your presentation
17 you talked about investors potentially
18 assisting the town with immigration?

19 **MR. THOMPSON:** Yes, sir.

20 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** Ligate property?

21 **MR. THOMPSON:** Yes, sir.

22 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** I would like to have a further
23 conversation with you about that.

24 **MR. THOMPSON:** Absolutely.

25 **MR. QUATTLEBAUM:** (inaudible) -- that Council has



1 set fourth. This was discussed in Executive
2 session, about moving towards that end.

3 **MR. THOMPSON:** Well I shared with you that that we
4 did a deal not too far for the year. There was
5 a land owner that owned some land and it was --
6 it it was just -- didn't go with what we were
7 doing. We purchased the land. Gave the land
8 back to the city. It should have paid us some
9 of that money back, but the city gave us tax
10 credits. I think we paid 40 thousand for it.
11 They gave us 100 thousand worth in tax credit.
12 Yep. Y'all can do the same thing. Thank you.

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** These ours?

14 **MR. THOMPSON:** Yes, sir. Those are yours.

15 **MAYOR EVANS:** All right. Thanks.

16 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Let me see that one, Jake?

17 **MR. THOMPSON:** And if anybody needs me to have them
18 send them to you, if I can get your email
19 address, I'll send them to you. Okay?

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay. Thank you. John Skeeter?

21 **MR. SKEETER:** Good evening Mayor and Council,
22 Administrator. I want to commend y'all for the
23 festivities that throughout the holidays that
24 y'all put on for the kids and the residents of
25 Atlantic Beach. You brought the whole town



1 together for these festivities and that's to be
2 appreciated. And Mr. Quattlebaum, we
3 appreciate you and your office here, for what
4 y'all are doing for this town. A lot of you
5 are doing work that the general public don't
6 understand or don't know about. But I want to
7 commend you so far for what we're doing. And
8 now the bad part. I I want to ask you, in the
9 beginning of this year, have prioritized
10 anything or any mission that we're going to try
11 to do for this year, 2019? I can roll back to
12 2018. The beginning of 2018, what had y'all
13 prioritized and what have you gotten completed
14 in that area up to this point? And I find it
15 a necessity when an organization is set up, to
16 set a goal. And it's up to every individual in
17 that office to help achieve or help reach that
18 goal. And that's why I'm asking you. Have we
19 set up at least three priorities. And Mr.
20 Thompson, touched on some of them that I have
21 in mind too. And that's the dilapidated
22 buildings that plaguing Atlantic Beach. Now
23 Council has the power to do something about
24 that. Such as, if they're not in compliance.
25 The property belong to somebody and consult



1 that person who the property belongs to, and we
2 should all be able -- as a team together -- to
3 get it done. We're in this together. And it's
4 not such a thing as the manager looking bad or
5 the superior or the clerk or the councilmen.
6 The whole town looks bad and everybody who
7 lives in that town looks bad. So I think that
8 with us coming together, we can sit down and
9 stratigize and make Atlantic Beach what it
10 ought to be. Atlantic Beach was founded back
11 in 1934. This was all about destination.
12 People of color. We didn't have any choice but
13 to come here. So we're going to cherish that
14 and our fore founders, that founded Atlantic
15 Beach, we're going to try to make what they set
16 out and envisioned they had for the beach. And
17 it's going to take all of us to do that. And
18 we can do it. So we all are going to cooperate
19 together and try to make this happen. Thank
20 you for your time.

21 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thanks for your comments, Mr. Skeeter.

22 Council seek a motion to adjourn?

23 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved Mr. Mayor.

24 **COUNCILWOMAN ISOM:** Seek a motion to adjourn the
25 meeting?



1 **MAYOR EVANS:** Did I get a second?

2 **COUNCILMAN EVANS:** Yea.

3 **MAYOR EVANS:** Roll call?

4 **CLERK:** Mayor pro tem Kenneth McLaurin?

5 **MAYOR PRO TEM McLAURIN:** Yea.

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:** Mayor Jake Evans?

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Motion granted. This meeting in
14 adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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

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