



# CAROLINA BEACH

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES • JULY 25, 2017

Council Chambers

Workshop

9:00 AM

1121 N. LAKE PARK BLVD.  
CAROLINA BEACH, NC 28428

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dan Wilcox	Mayor	Excused	
LeAnn Pierce	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Shuttleworth	Council Member	Present	
Tom Bridges	Council Member	Present	
Gary Doetsch	Council Member	Excused	
Michael Cramer	Town Manager	Present	
Ed Parvin	Assistant Town Manager	Present	
Debbie Hall	Finance Director	Present	
Kim Ward	Town Clerk	Present	

#### II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### a. Freeman Park and Municipal Beach Strand Rules

*(Requested by Michael Cramer, Town Manager's Office)*

Mr. Cramer reviewed the ongoing issues at Freeman Park such as trash, enforcement of rules, and general cleanliness of the beach strand. There is also quite a bit of damage happening to the ropes, both intentional and unintentional.

Council Member Shuttleworth offered some suggestions for these concerns:

- Go to a pack it in pack it out similar to the South End.
- Have the ambassador deny those that leave with empty pickup trucks and come right back with a bed full of people.
- Limit the number of people and vehicles at each camp site.
- If they are hanging items on the ropes, issue them a citation.

Mr. Cramer said he is more concerned about the intentional damage to the ropes. The problem is identifying who to issue the citation to.

Council feels that you should cite the person that is responsible for the reservation, similar to the rules of a hotel room.

Council Member Shuttleworth suggested removing the lids from the top of the dumpsters. He feels that the top of the dumpsters are too high for children or smaller adults to lift the lid to put trash in.

Council Member Bridges feels that Freeman Park is a lot better than it used to be. It is no longer considered the Wild Wild West.

Mr. Cramer gave some recommendations. They include:

- Removing camp sites on the far north end.

- Establish a limit on the number of campers and charge extra for additional campers.
- Closing the park at 11:00 p.m.
- Removing the blue barrels from the park.

Council Member Shuttleworth asked if the ambassadors are handing out trash bags at the booth. He said he has never seen them handing them out.

Mr. Cramer said they are.

Council Member Bridges feels that the Town should hold the person who made the reservation accountable for any trash left behind. He also thinks there may be a language barrier with the Spanish speaking population. They may not be able to read the signs or understand what they are being told.

MPT Pierce said that she is not opposed to removing the camp sites from the problem areas.

Council Member Shuttleworth suggested getting the parking attendant more empowered and doing more interface. He suggested hiring someone part-time to handle the task.

Mr. Cramer said that is difficult to fill these positions.

MPT Pierce asked about the lifeguards educating the public on the rules.

Mr. Cramer replied that they can engage with the people when they are not engaging in life safety issues. However, their primary responsibility should be sitting in the tower watching for life safety issues, not watching for rule violators.

Council Member Shuttleworth said that Council Member Doetsch is going to want to bring up lifeguards helping with educating and enforcing rules.

Mr. Cramer reminded Council that in the weekly updates, there is a section that shows how many times lifeguards make dry contacts, meaning they go and talk to someone on the beach about something.

MPT Pierce asked if there is a regular schedule for trash pickup on the beach strand.

Gil DuBois replied that they go out at 7:00 a.m. every day.

Mr. Cramer concluded that he will continue to work on solutions without over tasking the staff.

b. Mooring Field Rules Discussion

*(Requested by Michael Cramer, Town Manager's Office)*

Mr. Cramer reviewed how the Mooring Field is currently operating. The Town is looking to expand the Dockwa Software Program. Dockwa is the app that is used to make reservations. You can also track the location of the vessel.

The management contract services currently include:

- Enforcement of Mooring Field regulations
- Operation of the Mooring Field
- Collection of fees
- Maintenance of the Mooring Field
- 75% is paid to the contractor and 25% comes to the Town.

Some suggestions moving forward include:

- Move toward 100% Online System
- Utilize Assignment Function to Identify Non-registered Vessels
- Executive Office could manage reservations, Police would help with enforcement
- Town receives 100% of nightly fee.
- Marina Management would continue to manage reservations and enforcement
- Town receives 75% / 25% for contractor

Mr. Cramer reviewed the proposed new layout of the Carolina Beach Marina as designed by SEPI.

MPT Pierce asked if there will be a slip available for the police and fire boats.

Mr. Cramer replied that it would not. The fire boat is currently located in the State Park but the Town is trying to secure a spot near Snow's Cut. The police boat is not being used effectively and it could possibly be traded in for a maintenance type boat.

c. Water Tank Location Update

*(Requested by Michael Cramer, Town Manager's Office)*

Mr. Cramer reviewed the proposal of a property exchange with the Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church. If approved, the Town would construct a 3 million gallon water tank that would sit next to the existing 500,000 gallon elevated tank on Dow Road. The tank would be approximately 50 foot high. There is currently an alley that cuts through the middle of the church property that belongs to the Town. The intent would be to give the church that property in exchange for the land at the very back of the church property. The Town would assume and maintain the stormwater pond at 7th and Dow. There would also be an easement granted by the church on the southern boundary for the outflow pipe.

The next steps include:

- Survey the property
- Present the proposal to the church
- Abandon the current alley
- Getting the easement for the outfall
- Consolidate the properties
- Soil surveys for the construction of the tank
- Figure out financing for the tank

MPT Pierce asked why the soil samples weren't being done before moving forward.

Mr. Cramer replied that they are familiar with the soil since samples were taken when the other tank was constructed. The purpose for taking additional samples would be for the engineering of the tank.

Council Member Bridges asked if this tank would replace the tank on Raleigh.

Mr. Cramer replied that it would. That location could be decommissioned.

MPT Pierce asked about the length of the project.

Mr. Cramer feels that it may take 9 months to obtain the property and 9-12 months to get the tank in place.

**d. Non-Agenda Item**

Council Member Bridges mentioned that he is concerned that people selling golf carts are not relaying the rules to the buyers.

Mr. Cramer said he and the police department have met with the golf cart business to make sure they are giving out accurate information.

MPT Pierce said that there is a lot of misinformation about golf carts.

MPT Pierce stated that she received a call from a vacation rental company that appreciates the flyers that were printed with the Town rules. She would like for the Town to develop a video that explains the rules and that video could play in motel lobbies. She would also like to get a large flyer with the rules that can be posted in the lobbies.

MPT Pierce asked if Council wanted to revisit the fine for dogs on the beach. The Police Chief has 30 appeals on his desk and she is not sure that's how the Chief should be spending his time.

Council Member Bridges said that he feels Council should wait until the end of the season to re-address it.

Council Member Shuttleworth agreed and stated that it should be an ambassador issue. They should be told to take their dogs off the beach and if they do not comply, then they get a ticket. MPT Pierce said that she agreed. The purpose is not to be a revenue generator. He does not want to waste the Chief's time with appeals but he is not quite ready to back off. He would like for the Chief to have discretion on reducing the amount of the fine.

MPT Pierce said that she spoke to Chief Spivey and he stated that he did not have the discretion to reduce the cost of the citation. She would like for him to have that option.

Council Member Bridges feels that the officer should be given some discretion as to whether or not they write a ticket. The Chief should also have discretion on reducing the amount of ticket during the appeal process. He believes where Council sent a mixed message is when the beach ranger was not performing his duties and Council said they wanted to start seeing tickets.

Mr. Cramer clarified that Council wants to wait to address the fine, and he will check with Noel to see if the Chief can have discretion to reduce the fine. Council agreed.

MPT Pierce asked if the \$250 fine was in line with the other ordinance penalties.

Mr. Cramer said that the dogs on the beach fines are much higher than other ordinances. Most ordinance fines are around \$50.

MPT Pierce said that she would like to see the citation very effectively priced and paid so Chief Spivey does not have to deal with so many appeals.

Mr. Cramer reminded Council that they could change rates and fees at any time; it does not have to be during the budget process.

**III. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk

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Date Approved