



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Rick Smith; Commissioners Brian Murdock and Page Dyer; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson; Police Chief Jeremy Dixon; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Finance Officer Daniel McRainey; and Town Attorney Rick Green. Commissioner Gerald Arnold was unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor asked for a moment of silence and called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to remove item 9 from the agenda (Discussion and Possible Approval of Ordinance 23-11, The Revenues and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024); second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith that we approve the minutes of the May 16th Regular Meeting and June 1st Special Meeting; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Sylvia Pate provided feedback on the proposed canal ordinance. She suggested stepping back and also checking with homeowners for feedback before proceeding with a public hearing.

Brent Shaver provided his feedback and urged the Board not to rush on making changes to the canal ordinance.

Will Carter made suggestions to the proposed canal ordinance. He read information from CAMA's regulations. The Board approved two extra minutes of time for Mr. Carter to comment.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIXON

- Into the summers months and business as usual. Focusing on traffic enforcement, seatbelts, low speed vehicles (LSV). Trying to keep the roadways safe. Starting to see more parking issues.
- Reviewed the report.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith said there seems to be no enforcement of LSV violations. Some are speeding, they don't have seatbelts and are overloaded. Commissioner Dyer said she saw four pulled over last week. She said she knows the rental companies are getting the word out. She mentioned creating an educational process. She asked about numbers on the report. Chief Dixon provided details on the warnings issued.

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Still busy.
- Reviewed numbers.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked if there is a big difference in today's numbers from 2022. Inspections Director Evans replied they are seeing a lot of renovations and a lot of substantial improvements. He explained when the economy fell off, Holden Beach didn't drop. Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked if there are any updates on the permits for the pier property. Inspections Director Evans answered that the applications are completed and scheduled to be submitted by the end of the week.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SCHEDULING OF A DATE TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON HOLDEN BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 157.025 BULKHEADS ON LOTS

Inspections Director Evans explained he presented the information at the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Meeting. They researched it. The only one they could find was the one at Ocean Isle Beach. He modified it but provided the wrong one for the packets. He listened to public comments and suggested the Board send the topic back to P&Z to spend more time on it. The Board discussed moving forward, CAMA's involvement and current experiences.

The consensus of the Board was to send the item back to P&Z for further review.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SCHEDULING OF A DATE TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON HOLDEN BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 157: ZONING CODE (LOT COVERAGE)

Inspections Director Evans went over his slideshow. He provided background information and reviewed proposed changes. He answered questions from the Board and the audience.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to schedule a public hearing on July 18th at 5:00 p.m. at the start of our Regular Meeting in July on changes to Code of Ordinances, Chapter 157: Zoning Code for lot coverage; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SCHEDULING OF DATE TO HOLD INTERVIEW FOR VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS

The consensus of the Board is to schedule a Special Meeting for 4:45 p.m. on July 18th.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SECOND SEASON OF PAID PARKING

Commissioner Dyer said she thinks the paid parking is working in general but there are some ongoing issues. People are parking on private property. One issue is that people are advising people to park at vacant homes on social media. Be respectful of private property. We had to put new signage up for LSV spots. People with cars and trucks are parking in LSV spots. People are parking in illegal spots. People are using private walkways.

Jim Varner provided information on citations for parking violations. Right now, there is a 4% violation rate. He said that is high. We are trying to educate the public. We have signs out. Rights-of-way and contractor parking were discussed. Enforcement was also discussed. Chief Dixon explained it is not an issue to call 911 when you see a violation. They handle all of the dispatching for the county.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS

Rick Paarfus provided suggestions on proposed changes for the canal ordinance. He also thanked Commissioner Murdock for his email perspective on the lot coverage ordinance.

Jim Bauer said he thinks the installation of bike lanes needs to be considered when looking at changes to the permeable area. He asked if anyone has done a study on increasing the size of the mains instead of adding another water tower. Mr. Bauer said he has never seen a parking person. He asked if they have uniforms and suggested brightly covered enforcement vehicles.

Keith Smith asked about no wake zone signage. He stated the CAMA permit process is confusing.

Will Carter asked if the Board could approve a placard for homeowner parking. He provided more comments on the canal ordinance.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Miss Katie is heading back to Dare County after spending three and a half weeks here. Mission accomplished. Showed a picture of the dredge's success. We have requested the Coast Guard to get buoys back out. We hopper dredged in the neighborhood of 50,000 cubic yards. The yardage was placed in the nearshore in the area of Winding River. We are adding to the bulk of the beach. The intent through littoral drift is that it will migrate east to west.
- Met with EPA folks this afternoon on the lift Station at Greensboro Street. The NEPA study categorical exemption has passed its first level of review. The ruling on exemption will be fundamental in determining if we need to undergo a full NEPA review or can qualify for the exemption. Hoping to bypass that and go to borrowing in the next couple of months. Hoping to meet a schedule in the September timeframe with bid solicitation and construction beginning later in the winter and completed before next season. It is a highly complex process.

- Met with the Corps on the 50 Year CSDR Study. Modeling is underway. Will have monthly meetings from here on. Next major milestone is in March 2024 when the alternatives will be identified.
- Tide Ridge paving is complete. Public Works and Shane Lippard from Right Angle Engineering have performed an inspection. A few minor cleanup details remain.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Had several comments about fireworks on the fishing pier. Everybody likes to see it, but there is liability and expense. Promised he would bring it up.
- Embers will be under the bridge on Sunday. Always a crowd favorite. Put on your dancing shoes and try to come.
- The HB Chapel is doing well with full house congregations at 10:00 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Smith

- LSV Enforcement – knows the Police Department is doing all they can, especially with the amount of people on the island. Would appreciate it if they could make some headway on issuing citations or get the county or state to come in to issue violations.
- Thanked fellow commissioners. Worked together on the budget, as well as the staff. Thinks we came to a good decision on our tax base. Thinks worked really well together and appreciates everyone's input.
- Dogs on the Island – visitors don't seem to be informed on when they can have dogs out.
- Holes on the Beach – rangers need to remind people to fill in the holes when they see the big holes.
- Hurricane Preparedness – have a good hurricane plan. One out there now, a tropical storm. Keep an eye on that. Another one behind that. Keep an eye on the weather and be prepared.
- The island is full. Please be careful, especially with all the children. Take your time.
- Wake Zones – watched boats the past few days. Seems nobody is paying attention to the no wake zone. If we can do something about that it would be great.
- Miss Katie did a great job. Great to see the inlet open again. One of our best resources is that ocean.
- Have a good 4th of July.

Commissioner Murdock

- Thanked staff for their hard work. They continue to push through it to get things done.
- Canals – CAMA has rules, like a riparian setback. For permits he received to build a dock in the canal, they tell you what you could build. They are responsible for what is put out there. Thinks it will be a tough situation to solve but it needs to be solved. There needs to be a clear path for every property owner to get out on a canal. Talked about examples of issues on the canals. Glad it was sent back for a further look.
- Everyone seems to be enjoying the season. Took a couple of days off to go to the Outer Banks. They were packed too.

Commissioner Dyer

- Summer is in full swing. We have lots of people. Remember to support local businesses. Enjoys seeing Sunset Slush on the beach. Thinks they are doing a good job. Hasn't seen trash. Local businesses work hard. A lot of these people work long hours. Have some young entrepreneurs on the island, selling lemonade. Support them, they are learning to run a business at a young age.
- There are a lot of people on the beach. Be kind, be respectful of private property and the beach. Takes trash bags with her. Cover holes. We don't want the turtles falling into holes. If you can dig, you can fill it in.
- Have a great summer and a happy 4th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. by Commissioner Murdock; second by Mayor Pro Tem Smith; approved by unanimous vote.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk