



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021 – 11:00 A.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Special Meeting on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Gerald Brown; Commissioners Brian Murdock, Mike Sullivan, Pat Kwiatkowski and Rick Smith; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson; Fiscal Operations Supervisor Margaret Lancaster; Budget & Fiscal Analyst Daniel McRainey; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Development Services Officer Rhonda Wooten; Public Works Director Chris Clemmons; and Police Chief Jeremy Dixon.

Mayor Holden called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PAID PARKING**

Timothy Hoppengrath from Premium Parking provided information on his company's paid parking service and answered questions from the Board. He explained the expenses are not much. It is basically the labor. They make money for their management fee on the transaction fees. He provided information on their program at Kure Beach. On their platform, everyone would register their license plate and pay in advance. They would do that using a mobile device. He suggested putting a sign at the bridge that there is paid parking. He said instead of putting signs everywhere you could put them on the blocks and at the access points. They could install pay machines for people who do not have access to mobile devices. They are about \$10,000 each. Premium Parking can fund them and amortize it over the term of the contract. They also have a 24/7 call center. With their text/camera pay, you do not need to download an app. He explained how enforcement works. Mr. Hoppengrath was advised that most of the Town's parking is in the rights-of-way. He talked about discount/promo codes. He provided information on implementing a parking program. He discussed citations being issued, reports and the client dashboard.

Commissioner Sullivan inquired if they have been involved with any other communities in coastal North Carolina besides Kure Beach. Mr. Hoppengrath said they bid on Wrightsville, but they gave it to a local guy. They are just getting started in North Carolina. They just landed Virginia Beach. Commissioner Sullivan inquired if they have been challenged on issuing fines and booting automobiles. Mr.

Hoppengrath said they try not to boot. He has not seen any ordinances against booting in North Carolina. They try to use citations. There is an appeals process. They would appeal to the account manager or him. He believes the cost to the Town for enforcement agents would be \$15 per hour for a supervisor and a second person for \$12 per hour.

Mr. Hoppengrath explained they could set up business accounts for people who want to purchase a season pass and transfer the pass to the occupants of their rental homes weekly. They would have to register the license plates in the system and remove the old ones each week. It would be up to the Town on how to charge for that service. He can look to see if there is another solution.

Golf cart parking was discussed.

Commissioner Murdock said at the last meeting it was mentioned that Premium Parking helps to develop and acquire parking lots. He provided information on Block Q, beside the bridge. Mr. Hoppengrath responded that for the right deals, they will work with you on purchasing property. He would need to have their financial people look at it.

Mr. Hoppengrath said he is not sure what the laws are for rights-of-way revenue in North Carolina. In South Carolina they are in the process of passing a bill that basically says that instead of the town being able to say where the funds go, it is the Department of Transportation. He will check into how it works in Holden Beach. They talked about legal requirements for the revenue stream. They discussed on-street versus off-street parking. Mr. Hoppengrath confirmed his company doesn't need to enforce parking, the Town can. Enforcement was discussed. Town Manager Hewett said if the Board wants to look at using the funding to have the Police Department assist with enforcement, he would go to the attorney general, the state auditor and the Local Government Commission for an opinion.

The Town does not need to charge for handicap parking.

Confirming residency was discussed. Mr. Hoppengrath said it is done through the town. He said his company could work with other owners separately. The Town can get a cut from some of the profit of private locations. Mr. Hoppengrath said the revenue can be separated by off-street and on-street parking. All of the accounting would track everything. Premium Parking would own/maintain/manage the equipment. The town would pay until they are paid back. The equipment lasts seven – 15 years. They are pretty durable machines. The collection of fines was discussed.

Mr. Hoppengrath said if the Town wants to move on this, he has a contract ready to go. Commissioner Murdock asked for the contract to be sent to the Town so it can be reviewed.

Commissioner Smith asked if there is an opportunity to contact Senator Rabon to see if there is anything he can do about the revenue regulations. We could use the funds to improve the facilities. Mayor Holden said he has no problem talking to Senator Rabon about it. Trash collection, port-a-johns, things like that could be points of discussion. Town Manager Hewett said the crossover deadline was last week. That is not to say there couldn't be some procedural moves made. It is definitely worth conversation with our legislators to ask for enabling legislation that would allow on-street parking

revenues to be used for any public purposes just as off-street can be used. We are basically running an equivalent of a state park without the corresponding revenue stream.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked about the property in the 800 block. Inspections Director Evans said he thinks the math works out to 32 parking spots. Town Manager Hewett added that would be an example of off-street parking. The 300 block would be considered on-street parking because it is in the rights-of-way.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski suggested sending this to the Parking Committee. The Board talked about the timing of implementation and if a request for proposals (RFP) should be sent out. Commissioner Murdock talked about the need for parking. He said we need to not burden our taxpayers with the costs associated with parking.

Town Manager Hewett suggested that the Board could agree by consensus to pursue the legislation that would allow on-street parking revenues to be used for any public purpose. Also, if there is a desire for a RFP, that is an administrative action. If the consensus of the Board is to do those two things, we can do that administratively. Timing of the process was discussed again. Commissioner Sullivan suggested that the Town could also pursue a decision to determine whether the Police Department enforcement of parking would allow us to assign a certain amount of funds for on-street to the Town even if we don't get legislation passed. Town Manager Hewett said for the advisory opinion we need estimates.

*The Board agreed by consensus.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Brown to adjourn at 1:00 p.m.; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote. 1:00 p.m.*

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J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Heather Finnell, Town Clerk