



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 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, Page Dyer, Pat Kwiatkowski and Gerald Arnold; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Public Works Director Chris Clemmons; Police Chief Jeremy Dixon; Budget & Fiscal Analyst Daniel McRaney and Town Attorney Rick Green. Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson participated via conference call.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Town Manager Hewett requested that 7b, Consideration of the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant (PARTF) Contract be added to the agenda. Commissioner Kwiatkowski would like to add Discussion of the Situation that Occurred During Hurricane Ian with the Sewer System Shutdown and Consideration of Remediation Moving Forward as item 11b.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve the amended agenda as amended; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Kwiatkowski to approve (minutes of the Public Hearing/Regular Meeting of September 20, 2022 and the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 28, 2022); second by Mayor Pro Tem Smith; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Bauer provided details on why he opposed the Board approving the PARTF grant contract. He said to ransom a \$3.3 million purchase for \$500,000 that allows no commercial development for 25 years and handcuffs the Town to a white elephant is ridiculous. He added to spend \$1 million on it to make it “safe” is also ridiculous. He said parking is not going to pay for it. He inquired what the cost to insure

the pier is and what the plan is. Mr. Bauer talked about the flooding from Ian. He said to go forward with the bike path without thinking about the impermeable surface area of what it will do to exasperate our already terrible flooding condition is ludicrous.

Town Clerk Finnell said one comment was submitted online. It has been provided to the Board and is available online for the public to view.

The Board agreed to let Irvin Woods speak. He was late to the meeting so he did not sign up for public comments. Mr. Woods said if the vinyl siding item being discussed is about strip vinyl siding, he fully agrees it should be banned at Holden Beach. His house is made with large sections of vinyl material that looks like shingles. His house was built in 2008 and he never had a piece of that siding come loose. He suggested if you are dealing with vinyl, you specify the things that are an issue.

LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY UPDATE – MIKE MCINTYRE, WARD AND SMITH

Town Manager Hewett introduced Mike McIntyre. Roger Gwinn, Joonsoo Yi and Earl Stockdale from the Ferguson Group joined via audio connection. Mr. McIntyre explained Congress has gone home but will go back after the elections in November and will be there until Christmastime to finish up the business of this year. The federal fiscal year starts October 1st. Having not come to a full agreement by September 30th, they passed the Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government operating. When they return, not only will they need to deal with finalizing the overall federal budget, but they will have some specific issues to closeout the calendar year and the two-year Congressional term. One of the items of note in the CR was to put disaster relief money in it, to the tune of \$19 billion. Other provisions included Ukraine and some other technical things that are currently happening. When Congress comes back, the National Defense Authorization Act will be handled right away. WRDA, the Water Resources Development Act authorizes much needed investments in programs and projects of the Corps across the country. There is general consensus that it will be moved with bipartisan support. The Supreme Court just convened on October 3rd and heard arguments in the Sackett versus EPA case. He provided information on the case. He also explained the status of the bipartisan infrastructure law. Mr. McIntyre talked about a hearing held by the House and Infrastructure Committee regarding lessons learned in the 50 years since the passage of the Clean Water Act. With the Inflation Reduction Act, the EPA and Interior Department are having to ramp up staff.

Mr. McIntyre said back in the spring they worked with the town manager, assistant town manager and the mayor. They had meetings and discussions with the Town's Congressional representatives. He explained Congress has gone back to having earmarks. In that process, we got three. There is no other community in this region and it would be hard to find any in North Carolina that got three direct Congressionally appropriated projects approved. He thanked Congressman Rouzer. All three of them have made it through the House and have gotten all the way to the finish line almost, Congress has to pass the budget. He thanked Senator's Burr's office. They got behind one of them in a strong way to make sure it would pass on the Senate side. They had the cooperation of both senators, Burr and Tillis. They feel very good about the position of these. They are talking about \$1 million for the Brunswick County Beaches Project as it was originally known. They are talking about the Holden Beach section. It would be included in the General Revaluation Report (GRR) for what the Corps has to provide to make sure it is doing its part in the GRR for the Holden Beach Project. There is \$2,669,867 for the Greensboro

Street Lift Station #2 Hazard Mitigation Project. That was included in both the House Interior and the Environment Appropriations bills. There is also the \$100,000 request for the Ocean Boulevard Stormwater Mitigation Project. That was included in the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. They are optimistic that all three projects should go through. For the GRR, they are doing everything they can to advocate for the Town to be treated fairly by the Corps. They spent almost two hours on the phone yesterday to talk about every angle that could be considered to convince the Corps to continue with the project the Town has committed to. If the Disaster Relief Act of 2019 funds can be accessed, it can be applied for 100% federal cost. They are making sure the awareness is strong in terms of what our Congressional delegation can do to make sure the project continues. He knows the Corps offered to come back if the Board has further questions. He encouraged the Board to bring them back to answer any questions if they need clarification. Mayor Holden thanked them for their services.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND GRANT (PARTF) CONTRACT

Town Manager Hewett said based on the Board's direction to pursue grant opportunities to assist with land acquisition related to the pier property, staff submitted a PARTF application earlier this summer which was approved by the state in the amount of \$500,000, the maximum amount eligible for award. The contract is before the Board for consideration. It was the number one ranked application by the regional consultants scoring the applications.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith that we move forward with this grant and execute the contract; second by Commissioner Murdock.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski said this is a \$3.3 million piece of property that for \$500,000 you are seeding it over for in-perpetuity use for only recreation. She does not see \$500,000 is enough against \$3.3 million to give up the right to control the property. Mayor Pro Tem Smith said it was his understanding when we talked to the people who were going to give us the grant, that it didn't tie our hands to do what the Board wants to do. Commissioner Kwiatkowski said that is today, she is talking 25 – 30 years from now. It can only be for things designated as recreational uses. She said whatever is recreational use today by one authority or agency could be changed 25 – 30 years from now. She doesn't think it is enough money to tie the hands of the Town in-perpetuity.

The motion passed by a 4 – 1 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Smith and Commissioners Murdock, Dyer and Arnold voting for the motion and Commissioner Kwiatkowski voting in the negative.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIXON

- There is not much of concern in the September report. It is pretty much normal operating volumes for this time of the year. Crowds are decreasing, call volume is going down a little bit. Spending time trying to get caught up with in-service training. It needs to be completed by the end of the year.
- Reminded everyone the speed limit did not change to 45 MPH this year. The speed limit will remain 35 MPH on the west end of the island for the entire year.

- Pets on the Strand – as of September 10th, the 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. restriction for pets on the strand is no longer in place. The leash law is still in place.
- Festival by the Sea is in two weekends, October 29th – 30th.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski said the Board did designate that there could be parking from 2:00 -5:00 a.m. in the Jordan Boulevard area. She asked if it was a pretty quiet area over the summer. Chief Dixon said they did not have any cause for concern that stands out to him.

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT – INSPECTIONS DIRECTOR EVANS

- Went over numbers on the report. They have 44 active new home permits, 282 other active permits, two permits issued for over \$30,000, 18 permits waiting to be picked up, for a total of 344 permits. There are 11 permits in review, four CAMA permits in review and five zoning permits in review. There were six CAMA permits issued. There were 120 permits serviced for the month and 525 inspections.
- It is time for the contractors’ informational meeting. He provided information on the meeting. It is November 10th this year. Have a representative from every contractors’ board at the meeting. It gives electricians six hours of continuing education.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked about the time of the meeting. Inspections Director Evans replied 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. They find it is very beneficial. When he first came here, they had a real high turndown rate. They use the meeting to educate the contractors. Mayor Pro Tem Smith said what the Inspections Department is doing over there is working. Inspections Director Evans said a part of that is they are fully staffed now. They made a couple of real good hires.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD’S RESPONSE TO THE BOARD’S TASKER CONCERNING FRONTAL DUNES (CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 94.03 FRONTAL DUNE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS)

Inspections Director Evans reviewed the tasker. The Planning & Zoning Board (P&Z) researched five options. The one before the Board is the one that P&Z chose. The option was advertised so the public could have some input. It ended up being some minor changes and to leave it in Section 94.03. It is not recommended to relocate it into the land usage section. Commissioner Kwiatkowski said she didn’t see a write-up on the examinations of what other beaches are doing. She would like a one-page summary of how they came to the decision or minutes for the Board to review.

The consensus of the Board is for Inspections Director Evans to bring more background information on how the decision was arrived at next month.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE UPGRADING OF THE GREENSBORO STREET LIFT STATION

Public Works Director Clemmons said he is seeking the Board’s approval for Green Engineering to advertise bids for the Greensboro Street Pump Station #2 Upgrade Project.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve Green's Engineering to advertise for bids for lift station #2 which is at Greensboro Street; second by Commissioner Kwiatkowski.

Town Manager Hewett commented that we need to move that project forward. There is going to be some integration with funding streams that is required. There is some juggling that needs to go on with timing that will need to be worked into the equation. We will communicate that with Leo Green. The bid will only be good for a certain number of days so we do not want to do it too early. Mr. Green may not be aware there is a Congressional earmark.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION THAT OCCURRED DURING HURRICANE IAN WITH THE SEWER SYSTEM SHUTDOWN AND CONSIDERATION OF REMEDIATION MOVING FORWARD

Public Works Director Clemmons said you can't run a system like the Town's underwater. They started work at 6:30 a.m. that Friday. At noon it was high tide and he thought it would be okay. 45 minutes later, he had never seen water come that fast. God forbid if there would have been high winds too. He feels like they got the system running fairly quick, there was a lot of stormwater. We raised the stations to prevent wiping out all of the equipment and for the length of time it would take to rebuild the station back. It was never said when the stations were elevated that we would be able to stay on the island with two – three feet of water on the street. Public Works Director Clemmons thanked the Fire Department for their help. He is the license holder of the permit. When you are in that type of situation, you have no choice but to shut it down.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski inquired if there are areas on the island that are prone to flooding that a reexamination of altering candy canes would be beneficial. Town Manager Hewett mentioned the Town conducted that exercise three to four years ago and the price was \$1 million. Commissioner Kwiatkowski said she is asking about specific areas, not islandwide. Public Works Director Clemmons replied yes. When they find ones that are damaged, he is working with Inspections Director Evans and they will make them fix it when they are putting them back. He talked about the damage to his truck from the saltwater. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked about protecting Station 4. Public Works Director Clemmons explained that he has a couple of ideas that he is working on.

Commissioner Dyer said when the sewer was shutdown, there was an email blast sent out. She asked if there is another way to notify people. Mayor Holden responded that is something we can try to come up with. Commissioner Kwiatkowski said there were a couple of people who thought there wasn't a lot of update messages. Public Works Director Clemmons stated they are spread very thin. He tried to get the information out as he could, but in that type of situation he needed to focus on the work.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON VINYL SIDING AS IT RELATES TO STORM DAMAGE AND SAFETY ISSUE

Mayor Holden said the purpose of adding the item to the agenda is not to prevent vinyl siding from being used on Holden Beach. It is more of an educational attempt. Vinyl siding is a wonderful invention. He put it on his son's house when they built it about 10 years ago. It was the thick kind and it does well

if it is applied properly. The builder grade lap siding continues to prove it is not worth the money you pay. It doesn't last in high winds. It is up to the contractor to educate someone. A lot of owners find out it is cheaper to do it right the first time than with cheaper materials. Mayor Holden talked to Inspections Director Evans about this subject and is sure the commissioners know as well that the Town has no authority to change the building code in North Carolina. We need to work within the guidelines and to educate our homeowners to please not use the cheap grades of vinyl siding. After every storm, we have siding in the canals. That impacts the dredging work that is being done. It also affects cleanup after a storm. Inspections Director Evans said they will go over that at the contractors meeting. He provided details on siding and information from the building code. Mayor Pro Tem Smith added it is an eyesore and affects the appearance of the island.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON BULKHEADS FROM 796 OCEAN BOULEVARD WEST THROUGH THE 800 BLOCK (PARCOURSE AREA)

Commissioner Murdock said he would like to discuss protecting the Town properties in the 800 block, towards 796 Ocean Boulevard West and possibly the parcourse. The Town just paid to have the wetlands delineated in the 800 and 700 blocks. He inquired how long that is good for. Inspections Director Evans replied it is good for three years. Commissioner Murdock said he thinks every storm we lose land. He asked the Board's thoughts for putting out a request for proposals to see what it would cost to bulkhead the properties and protect them for future use. Commissioner Kwiatkowski agreed she would like to see a cost for bulkheading the 800 block lots and the 700-block lot. Those are pieces of property we want to make use of. She agreed there is a problem in the exercise area. She asked if bulkheading is possible to save it. Inspections Director Evans recommended the Town use the delineation to obtain a permit and it will be good for three years. We can't issue permits to ourselves; they will come out of Wilmington. He said the first step would be to go ahead and get permits. The parcourse was not part of the delineations. Moving forward was discussed. Commissioner Murdock asked if the Town could get proposals and permits in unison. Inspections Director Evans said you could use the delineated line for a proposal.

Motion by Commissioner Murdock to pursue the CAMA permit and to also put out a RFP (Request for Proposals) based on the delineation we have, the footage of the bulkhead to get a price for actually putting it in those areas.

Inspections Director Evans explained the height and depth will determine if you need an engineer. Town Manager Hewett stated the Town does have an engineer of record, Right Angle Engineering, that could be directed to provide the Board with a probable cost of construction. As a simultaneous, parallel effort you could get the CAMA permit, separate and apart from obtaining the engineer's probable cost. Before you go to construction you would need to bid the project, but you could get an answer from the engineer on the probable cost of construction. Inspections Director Evans explained his guess is you would need an engineer.

Commissioner Murdock would like his motion to be to get an engineer for pursuing the CAMA permit down to the pricing of the construction of the bulkhead. Inspections Director Evans clarified it would be for the areas delineated in the 700 and 800 block.

Town Clerk Finnell read the motion as she understood it: Motion by Commissioner Murdock to get the engineer to pursue the CAMA permit and pricing of construction of the bulkead for what we have delineated in the 700 and 800 block. Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconded the motion after verification that it was phrased right. The motion was approved by a 4 – 1 vote with Commissioners Murdock, Dyer, Kwiatkowski and Arnold voting for the motion and Mayor Pro Tem Smith voting in the negative.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SOLICIT ENGINEERING FIRMS TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL NEED AND COST FOR ADDITIONAL WATER STORAGE CAPACITY FOR HOLDEN BEACH

Commissioner Kwiatkowski stated the Board had on a priority list for a couple of years reevaluating the question of a second water tower. She proposed that the Board should proceed with a study to evaluate the need and if the need is confirmed, the options for moving forward. Issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) would be the first step.

Motion by Commissioner Kwiatkowski for the town manager to put together a RFQ for a study to evaluate the need and options for moving forward for a second water tower; second by Mayor Pro Tem Smith.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith would like everyone to understand that the Board is not just wanting to put up a second tower for pressure issues. Public Works has explained if we are in the peak of the summer, we spend all night trying to fill ours up. By the end of the day, we are pumping water as fast as we use it. We still have another 700 – 1,000 homes that can be built on the island. One aspect is to look towards the future to make sure we have enough water to run the island. It is also for fires. He added it is for our own protection more than anything else.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF EARLY END TO PAID PARKING THIS YEAR

Town Manager Hewett has been in conversation with Mr. Varner with Otto Connect regarding the possibility of ending paid parking a little early, October 28th and allowing free parking for the festival weekend, October 29th and 30th. Mr. Varner explained his system does not have the capability to stop paid parking in just one area. He said the other consideration is if the Town wants his company to continue monitoring parking violations in other areas. The Board and staff discussed how to move forward.

Motion by Commissioner Kwiatkowski to suspend the paid parking season and Otto enforcement as of the 28th of October; second by Mayor Pro Tem Smith.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated Otto Connect has done a great job this summer. Everyone was very professional. He added we appreciate their efforts. Mr. Varner said with over 60,000 parked vehicles throughout the summer, there was a violation rate of less than 3.5%. From his perspective that is fabulous.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS

Marti Arrowood thanked Mr. Varner and the Police Department. The east end was so much more pleasant this year as far as parking goes. For the PARTF grant she sees it as the lots are being saved in-perpetuity for the people who live here. She never saw it as saving a pier, but as we are saving land that cannot be built on, that the people who live on Holden Beach could use. She thanked the Board for accepting the grant.

Irvin Woods stated he was here for Ian. He commended the people who built the beach with the last nourishment. The fact there was a crown on the east end was extremely helpful in protecting the dune. He thinks that end of the beach has as much sand now as it did prior to Ian. Mr. Woods would like the Town to consider using three 2 x 4s when installing sand fencing next time. He talked about his experience with vinyl siding.

Jim Bauer said there was a huge area canvassed where the majority of the people didn't want to purchase the pier, but it was done anyway. He said the grant was a last-minute addition to the agenda. He reminded the Board about the United States and North Carolina constitutions and said they are not supposed to make decisions by themselves. He said decisions should be made based on the opinions of the majority of the people that live here. Mr. Bauer pleaded with the Board to reconsider. The grant is tying the Town for a small amount of money, for a long time and you never know when rules will change.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Hurricane Ian – Believes we had little to no damages sand-wise on the east end and the engineered beach. Along the whole span of the island, our vegetation got a pretty good rinsing and we took a pretty good amount of sand fence hits. The event was more of a repositioning of the sand by pushing the sand from seaward to up on the hill. His guess is it would be in the \$300,000 range to repair the sand fence and vegetation to an as before condition. We are still working on evaluating that. The west end did have damages caused by erosive processes. Many dunes and private walkways were adversely impacted to the extent that they had to be condemned. Does not intend to survey for strand losses. Will not be a FEMA declaration for Category G. Will defer to the long-term trend analysis that is laid out in our Beach Management Plan. ATM will be presenting the annual status as of spring 2022 at the November meeting. There has been a declaration for Categories B and Z damages. Won't mean much for us. We are evaluating the costs to see if we meet the thresholds for reimbursement. We see strand equilibrium actively in process. Thanked Chief Doug Todd, Todd Robbins, Tyler Johnson, and Ken Hall of Tri-Beach Engine 872 whose mobile stormwater management assistance greatly contributed to the Town's full and rapid restoration of the island's sewer services.
- Budget Report – reviewed slides (hereby incorporated into the minutes). We are not at the point in time that we collect the main collections like ad valorem tax, canal dredging, etc. so those values are almost nothing, which is normal at this time. Occupancy tax is strong at or near 70% for the first quarter. Depending on the time of year, our capital debts have to be paid. At this time, we have only paid less than 10%. Our capital debt, notwithstanding the FEMA projects, is collectively about \$3.69 million. We just made the first few debt payments of \$364,000. From a centralized

cash perspective, we are about \$500,000 ahead. Went over numbers in the chart on the slides. The numbers are normal for this time of year. General Fund, Water and Canal funds are in the red, which is a typical performance for the time of year. It underscores the need for healthy fund balances. We do post the full report at hbtownhall.com.

- Have been informed by DOT that they have run into some issues with permitting of the resurfacing of Ocean Boulevard and the bikes lanes with CAMA. Will require additional work to obtain the permit and execute the contract. Conversations with them were inconclusive on the impact on the spring paving schedule. They are attempting to get it reconciled so we can do it before Memorial Day, but it is an issue they will need to deal with. Specifically, we are talking about the hydraulics of the road resurfacing bike lane project. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked if we mentioned to DOT that we reduced our speed limit so we can start negotiating getting more walkways. Town Manager Hewett replied the hang-up is CAMA related. Has not had a conversation with them on specifics of where the locations will be.
- The storm canceled Run HB that was supposed to happen October 1st. Working on a new date.
- NC Mountains to Coast Bike Ride ended on Saturday October 8th without event.
- The Veterans Day Luncheon will be held November 10th. Specific information will be forthcoming. Mayor Pro Tem Smith mentioned that is the date of the contractors' meeting.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Thanked the Good Lord for letting us get through hurricane season without the damage we could have received. Pray for the people in Florida. Said over and over if there is not one in sight on October 15th, we are probably okay.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Smith

- Was his first experience with the Emergency Management Team. Learned a lot. Learned how ready the Town gets, that nobody knows about. Staff does a great job of getting things together. We were a little late on getting the information on how bad it will be, but thinks under the circumstances we did a good job. During observations of the storm, the pier persevered well.
- Had a lot of people ask when we can get the pier open for fishing again. It gives the people who don't have the blessing to live here a place to come and enjoy the beach.
- Thanked Public Works Director Clemmons, Public Works Supervisor Cunningham and staff. The guys who have come aboard seem to pitch in and help out. They worked tirelessly to make sure the island got back to operating normal. We couldn't do it without dedicated employees like we have in our maintenance department.
- Thanked Chief Dixon for the safety message for low-speed vehicles.
- Received a lot of calls about moving forward on the projects we are working on, some with hesitation. Thinks as a town we are moving forward and have a great group of commissioners. Glad Judge Gerald Arnold is with us. Thinks he will be an asset to the group.
- Thanked Jim Varner. One of his greatest fears is we were going to run people off. People still came and had a good time. Changed the chaos we had with parking into some part of normalcy.

- Thanked our attorney for doing the hard work he did to end the ludicrous shark fishing tournament. How can we promote the Town as a family friendly beach if we have a shark tournament. We took the brunt of the cost.
- Going to have a pancake breakfast Saturday morning of the festival. Please come by and support the Chapel.

Commissioner Murdock

- Thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Thanks to everyone listening.
- Public Works Director Clemmons- amazing job; you and your guys, long hours, no way to overcome that situation. It was totally unexpected. There is absolutely no way you could keep that system running under conditions like that, with bike lanes or without bike lanes, it will not matter. The waterway and the ocean in some places did connect. Had a couple breaches in the dunes. Knows the candy canes were breached, saw several of them. The system was inundated. Proud to live here. During that storm and after people were helping others. This island got put back together pretty fast. Never saw people pitch in quite like that in a long time. It was good to see people picking up \$200 RPZ covers and valve boxes, getting trash out of the street and vinyl siding off the street. It is a great place to live.
- With Mrs. Arrowood and a lot of other people on the pier. It is not just the pier. It is a property. He and one of his best friends, Gerald Brown who is no longer with us, grew up here and have been around this beach for a long time. They weren't about to let that piece of property go. Will fight the fight that it takes to maintain that piece of property. Hopes anybody who follows this board or any board in the future will have a little compassion for that piece of property. We saved it not only for us, but everybody on the other side. That parking lot is full all the time. If the Town hadn't bought it, you wouldn't have a place to park in. Parking was an evil that came out of that, but it afforded us the opportunity to have the money without putting the burden on the taxpayers. Commended Jim Varner.
- Advised Inspections Director Evans that the Inspections Department is still doing an awesome job.
- Wished Chief Dixon luck. Going to try to get some incentives or whatever we need to do to get the Town running.
- Take care of yourself Public Works Director Clemmons. We will do what we need to do to get this thing under control.
- Festival is coming up. Glad to see cooler weather. Enjoyable time of year for him.

Commissioner Dyer

- Thanked Public Works Director Clemmons, Public Works and the first responders. They did a fabulous job. Thinks a lot of people took for granted that the storm wouldn't be bad, but when it turned back and came towards us, it was a pretty impressive storm surge. Living on the canal, we have learned to get flood ready. Thinks we need to stress in situations like this where it turned and got worse, it is better to be ready and pick all that stuff up, than to have it floating everywhere. We get a lot of nice things in the canals, but we also have to pick up a lot of trash. Everyone is pretty good. We try to get stuff out and get it back to the owners, but it is best not to see all that trash floating around. Get storm ready. Instead of spring cleaning, we do fall hurricane cleaning. It was good to see neighbors working together. That storm surge was a heck of a storm surge and she appreciates all the work they did.
- Looking forward to the festival. Let's enjoy our wonderful beach and have a great weekend.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski

- Appreciates how many people came out and stayed through the meeting today. It is nice to see at the end of the meeting almost everybody is still here.
- To the people complaining that we don't have plans. We put out RFQs for the pier and Block Q. The engineering firms were picked. There was a special meeting to talk about the pier property with the engineering firm. They will be bringing things to us in the upcoming weeks/months. You have to get the firms in place, then we will see things that people can look at and appreciate. It is not that there aren't plans. There are not documents to look at, but they are in progress. On the pier property, there is the document the Board endorsed from earlier this year that goes through how the Board made the decision and what the premises were for moving forward. Thinks it probably won't look much different than that, except for how long it will take. Concepts were already there. Let's be patient for a little while and let these firms get going and get things on paper so the citizens can start seeing how this is going to look. We will have a stormwater RFQ out soon. We will be getting a project done. Infrastructure is important. All of these things are piling on top each other and it will be put into the perspective of a long-term Town plan as the pieces come together overnight. Doesn't happen overnight, but we are working on it.

Commissioner Arnold

- Honored to be part of this board and to have a voice in the collective decision making in which he has been very impressed with for some time. There are lots of good things happening and that have happened at Holden Beach. It stands out because of all of the good things he has heard spoken here, things the staff does. Concurs on the comments he has heard. It is a great place to live, it is a blessing.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11(A)(3), CONSULT WITH THE ATTORNEY AND NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11(A)(6), PERSONNEL

Motion by Commissioner Murdock to go into Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.; second by Mayor Pro Tem Smith; approved by unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

ATTEST:

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk