



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 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; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Police Chief Jeremy Dixon; Finance Officer Daniel McRainey; and Town Attorney Rick Green. Commissioner Gerald Arnold was unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor Holden presented the invocation and called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Town Manager Hewett requested to add a memorandum of agreement between the Town and EJE Dredging Service for emergency dredging of the Lockwood Folly Inlet and the associated budget amendment in the amount of \$850,000, Budget Ordinance 23-10 as item 10a. He suggested labeling it Dredging MOA and Budget Amendment.

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

Mayor Holden asked if anyone would like to be added to the Public Comment Signup List to comment on item 10a. Nobody requested to be added to the list.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve the minutes as written for the Regular Meeting on April 18th and the Special Meeting on April 20th; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Bauer asked if abbreviations could be clarified when talking about the ordinance. He also would like clarification on the cost of the street drainage project.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIXON

- Was able to swear in the new officer at the end of April. He is working through field training. We are still one officer down. There are a couple of applicants they are looking at.
- Days at the Dock was the last weekend of April. There was a good crowd on Saturday. It was shutdown Sunday due to inclement weather.
- Have been seeing more parking violations, but they expect that as the season is ramping up. Reminded everyone that paid parking is in effect.
- Last month there was a tasker about the no wake zones. Staff is working on that. Hoping to have some answers next month.

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT – INSPECTIONS DIRECTOR EVANS

- Pretty busy. Someone retired, so they are reorganizing. Reviewed the numbers on his report.
- 191 has been removed. Doesn't think we have any other structures anywhere near that condition. The people who own the house at Ocean Boulevard East and Holden Street have permits and were getting ready to do everything to bring it into compliance. They are now reevaluating and may rebuild.
- Planning & Zoning Board is getting information on a pierhead line for canal lots at their next meeting. Meeting with CAMA. They would enforce the pierhead line.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COASTAL RACE PRODUCTIONS REQUEST FOR RUN HB

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson explained Coastal Race Productions is requesting to have a beer garden, have vendors onsite and to place a banner for their race on October 7th. They would like to have two beers per participant.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith that we approve Coastal Race Production's Run HB for October 7, 2023 and the use of a banner and beer garden and a setup for the finish line area; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORDINANCE 23-09, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 22-14, THE REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2023 (ARP FUNDS, AMENDMENT NO. 15)

Finance Officer McRaney said this amendment is necessary to move the American Rescue Plan (ARP) money from the ARP Fund, Fund 11 to the General Fund, Fund 10. It won't be expended this year. It will be rolled forward to next year's budget. The funds will be used for stormwater.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve Ordinance 23-09 amending Ordinance 22-14, Revenues and Appropriations Ordinance to move it from Fund 11 to Fund 10; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

DREDGING MOA AND BUDGET AMENDMENT

Town Manager Hewett said navigation in the Lockwood Folly Inlet has reached emergency status due to severe shoaling of the inlet which has prohibited use of the federal dredges normally used for this purpose. The inlet is so shoaled in that the US Coast Guard has pulled the navigation buoys. Staff has coordinated with Dare County, Brunswick County, the Oregon Inlet Task Force, EJE Dredge Service and required regulatory agencies to obtain permissions and capability required to attempt an emergency dredging of the inlet. Final dredge corridor approval is pending and will be required before commencement of emergency maintenance dredging. The total cost of the project is scoped at a not to exceed amount of \$850,000, with the NC Division of Water Resources providing 75% grant funding and Brunswick County and the Town splitting the other 25% match. With Board approval, it is highly possible that emergency dredging could begin by the end of the week. He provided information on the proposed dredging process. Even though this is a navigation maintenance project, it does have beneficial use of material.

Motion by Commissioner Murdock that we approve the EJE MOA and associated budget amendment (Ordinance 23-09, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 22-14, The Revenues and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023, Amendment No. 16) for emergency dredging of Lockwood Folly; second by Mayor Pro Tem Smith.

Commissioner Murdock said it is the worst he has ever seen it and the Town shouldn't wait for an accident to act on the inlet. He said the inlet is one of the most important things the island has; it is an avenue to the ocean. He said we need to look at a long-term, more permanent solution. Mayor Pro Tem Smith suggested that maybe we need to join with other nearby islands to get a dredge to use on a permanent basis. Mayor Holden explained this also has a positive environmental impact.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS

Irv Woods said he was concerned about the possible expansion of the Inlet Hazard Area. He talked about his conversation with Ken Richardson, NCDEQ.

TOWN MANAGER'S COMMENTS

- Congratulated Assistant Town Manager Ferguson on obtaining her master's degree in public administration.
- The proposed expansion of the Inlet Hazard Area has been put on hold for at least another year to 18 months.
- \$2.7 Million Grant from EPA on Greensboro Lift Station – we have made the initial contacts and sent the preliminary documents to them. Even though the grant is congressionally directed, we still need to apply for the money and meet all the criteria that goes along with it. This first decision will dictate if we need to do a full NEPA review or qualify for an exception.
- Bathroom Trailer – was delivered to the pier last week, Public Works is prepping the hookups and layout. Will probably be a couple more days before it opens.

- Food Trucks – seeing inquiries increase. Have two lined up and one is interviewing.
- Beach Rangers – start summer season next week.
- Concerts – start May 28th.
- Repairs at 796 are underway. The carpentry work will probably be finished next week.
- Tide Ridge Paving – preparation work is slated to start next week.
- Stormwater Assessment has kicked off with some underground camera work. They have finished Jordan Boulevard and Mullet Street, with two more to go. The data we are finding is illuminating and useful.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

- Starting to feel like summertime. Traffic is picking up. Excited that summer season is here.
- Have an upcoming hurricane meeting with the county. Will be moving ahead with the Town’s preparations.
- The Bike Path Project is still on go.
- Construction on the island is good.
- Appreciates everything everyone is doing to help keep this place beautiful. Thanked the Beautification Club. Town Hall looks wonderful. It is a great place to live and be.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Smith

- Thanked Rhonda Wooten for her years of service to the Town. She was an asset to all of us. Hopes we can get someone up to speed and fill the position.
- Thanked staff for the installation of restroom trailers at the pier. They are doing an excellent job building a ramp. Public Works Director Clemmons and his staff are doing an excellent job. The inside of the trailer is exactly what he and Commissioner Murdock envisioned.
- Good to see work being done at 796. They are making progress.
- Town maintenance staff also cleaned up the Halstead Park gazebo.
- Golf Carts/LSVs – if you have been listening to the news, you heard of the tragedy of what happens when an automobile hits a golf cart. Asked that the Police enforce the seatbelt laws in NC and speed limit.
- Dogs - talked about a situation where dogs were loose. Need to do something. Thinks it would be a good idea to have some presence on the beach.
- Glad to see everyone moving forward with the inlet. Truly enjoys getting into the ocean. Right now, we aren’t able to get out there.
- The island looks great. It is the best he has seen it look in a long time. Thanked homeowners.
- Bike week is in effect. Please be careful.
- Thanked everyone for being here tonight. Good to see everyone. Thanked everyone online.

Commissioner Murdock

- Thanked everyone who came out tonight and everyone listening.
- Thanked staff, especially Inspections Director Evans who is grinding to get through a retiree that we all love and miss.

- Beautification Club had their plant sale at his shop. They had a really good sale. Enjoyed having their company.
- Cross your fingers for the inlet. It is a blessing if we get this done. Doesn't know what the summer would be like if we can't access the ocean.
- Bathrooms at the pier are just about done. Port a johns will hopefully be removed. They are a nice improvement.
- Enjoy the last of the spring weather. Thinks the heat is coming. Stay safe and enjoy the summer.

Commissioner Dyer

- Staff is working hard. There are a lot of projects going on, the pier, Block Q, stormwater. Especially wants to thank everyone for the inlet. Thinks the emergency dredging is much needed.
- Not allowing dogs on the beach from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. is a safety thing. Dogs feet will get burnt. The timeframe will help keep them safe. Also, dogs who are white will get sunburned and can get cancer. It is not a punishment. It is not safe in the summer to have them on the beach.
- Hopes everyone can have a happy, safe Memorial Day. Pleaded with the public to keep the bathrooms clean.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to adjourn at 5:44 p.m.; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk