

Town of Southern Shores  
**Minutes of Meeting** - Council Planning Committee (Bennett-Newberry)  
November 7, 2016 – 10:00 AM  
Town Hall Conference Room  
5375 N Virginia Dare Trail  
Southern Shores, NC 27949

Committee member attending: Mayor Bennett

Committee member absent: Mayor Pro Tem Newberry

Other persons attending: Councilman McDonald, Councilman Holland, Fire Chief Limbacher, Town resident Pat Riggan, Town Planner Wes Haskett, Town Manager Peter Rascoe, CPOA President Joannie Rose, CPOA Board member Craig Albert, Town resident Ursula Bateman, Town resident Ann Sjoerdsma.

The committee meeting was called to order by Mayor Bennett. He recognized that since Committee member Mayor Pro Tem Fred Newberry could not be in attendance, no committee action, including any committee recommendations to Council, could be made at the meeting.

Matters discussed:

A discussion of HX Matthew-downed CPOA trees in Gravey Pond Canal was held, with Chicahawk Property Owners' Association President Joanie Rose and CPOA Board member Craig Albert in attendance. Mrs. Rose recognized the downed trees are the responsibility of the CPOA under the Town Code provision, however the CPOA is seeking funding for their removal, and also then intends to clear out the downed trees and others along the canal banks so that such an incident would not occur again. The Town Manager reviewed the agencies he has contacted regarding possible funding for the trees' removal. Mr. Albert mentioned his recent contact with Dare County Soil and Water Conservation, and hopefully a contact with the NC Division of Forest Resources; he also stated the CPOA's desire to possibly stabilize the canal banks owned by the CPOA to prevent further tree loss in the future.

The Mayor recognized the Town Manager who stated he had recommended the Mayor include for today's committee meeting a follow-up discussion of the SSVFD's recent history and organization briefing given at the Council's previous meeting. The follow-up today is to answer any questions committee members might have regarding the SSVFD's legal and contractual relationship with the Town. The SSVFD is continuing the process of analyzing its facility needs for providing fire protection services to the Town. Fire Chief Ed Limbacher reviewed his previous briefing, and mentioned the SSVFD's current facility needs assessment which he hopes to have in hand to share by the end of the year. The concept of a potential land swap with the Town was again brought up, with the mention that the Town's land which currently houses its Public Works Department could come into discussion with such a potential proposed swap by the Fire Department. The Town Manager also informed the meeting that Dare County EMS had recently plotted historical response times and was since taking the position that it preferred to stay located at or in the vicinity of the East Dogwood Trail location owned by the SSVFD which is the current EMS location. The Town Manager stated that regardless of what arrangement the SSVFD

either proposes for assistance, or settles on itself, for a new or upgraded facility, Town staff is committed to working with the County to keep Dare EMS in Southern Shores in a facility suitable to the County.

The Mayor described his efforts to invite certain experts and an experienced elected official to serve as a speaking panel at the Council's planned January 17, 2016 Public Forum on beach nourishment.

The Mayor brought up the idea of the Town possibly developing infrastructure for emergency storm water removal and/or groundwater lowering in certain areas of the Town. He stated it is a question of how much the Town wanted to invest in planning for a flood event that may not happen again in four hundred years. The locations and effects of ponds owned by the Southern Shores Civic Association were acknowledged during discussion on this idea.

The Mayor brought up the idea of the Town possibly developing and implementing an urban forest management/maintenance initiative for the purpose of addressing existing damaged and threatened trees on public property which are susceptible to dangerously coming down either whole or partial as a result of any high wind event. The purpose would be preventive action to avoid potential damages to persons and property as well as post-storm removal costs to the Town.

#### Other matters discussed:

Councilman McDonald brought up his observation that the Town's current Land Use Plan seems to now be outdated and should be updated. He asked the Town Planner when an update is required. The Town Planner stated CAMA does not require a municipality to update its Land Use Plan within any certain time.

The Mayor brought up that the Dogwood Trail Task Force is in the process of developing a final report to the Council, and that his perception is that some type of walkway along S. Dogwood Trail would most likely be recommended by the Task Force.

The Mayor brought up that he, Councilman McDonald, and Mayor Pro Tem Newberry are all currently signed up for the NC Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association's conference November 13-15, 2016 in Wrightsville Beach, NC.

Town Planner Wes Haskett reported that he has received three applications from fulltime Town residents volunteering to serve on the Town's new Historic Landmarks Commission. He stated he hopes to receive two more applications prior to the Council's December 6 meeting.

#### Attending public comment:

Ann Sjoerdsma, Southern Shores resident, commented that she agreed with Councilman McDonald that the Town's current Land Use Plan was out of date. She also commented by asking the Town Manager how the emergency pumping of storm water from certain Town

streets after Hurricane Matthew occurred, and was complimentary of the action. The Town Manager explained to the meeting how the emergency pumping permit was obtained and how the manned pumps were acquired for this action. .... She also commented by asking the Mayor whether he had a preference for the Town's Public Works Department to move to a new location at 28 East Dogwood Trail as a part of any arrangement with the Fire Department for an updated facility for the Fire Department. The Mayor responded he has no preference. .... She also commented that she likes the Mayor's idea of an urban forest management/maintenance initiative and supports his idea, stating it should be done based on education and with knowledge and factual information, rather than based on emotional response.

Ursula Bateman, Southern Shores resident, commented by questioning if the Town was looking at sea-level rise as an ongoing concern for flooding on NC Highway 12. .... She also commented by asking Town staff if the Mid-County Bridge initiative was dead. A discussion of recent published articles ensued.

There being no further matters for discussion, the Mayor adjourned the committee meeting.