



**Town of Southern Shores  
Council Meeting  
April 19, 2016**

The Town of Southern Shores Council met in the Pitts Center located at 5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2015.

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Tom Bennett, Mayor Pro Tem Fred Newberry, Council Members Leo Holland, Chris Nason and Gary McDonald.

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Town Manager Peter Rascoe and Town Clerk Sheila Kane. Other Town staff present were Finance Officer Bonnie Swain, Police Lt. Jon Slegel, Public Works Director Rachel Patrick, and Code Enforcement and Planning Director Wes Haskett.

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and held a Moment of Silence.

**AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Council Member Holland moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nason.

**MOTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Newberry moved to amend the motion to include a second public comment period. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDonald. The motion passed with Mayor Pro Tem Newberry, Council Member Holland, Council Member Nason and Council Member McDonald voting YES; Mayor Bennett voting NO.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Bennett called on public comment and the following citizens offered comment:

Anne Sjoerdsma, Southern Shores property owner – commented against buying property at Rt 12 / E. Dogwood Trail for use in remediating the stormwater problem there; commented that cut thru traffic will start again as the Tall Pine Bridge will reopen soon.

[Clerk's Note: A copy of the Public Comment sign-up sheet is hereby attached as Exhibit A].

**1. Discussion of a Draft FY2016-2017 General Operating Budget**

The Town Manager presented a draft of his upcoming to-be proposed budget. He stated it calls for no tax increase (22.0 cents per \$100 of taxable property value) and no transfer from the Town's unassigned fund balance. A penny on the tax rate is equivalent to \$128,539.

The Town Manager reviewed the summary of revenues as well as projected expenditures for each Departmental budget, line by line, for the General Fund, the Cemetery Fund, and the Capital Reserve Fund. Accompanying him were each of the Town's Department Heads (Finance Officer, Police Chief, Public Works Director, and Code Enforcement and Planning Director) who supported their Departmental budget requests with specific line-item explanations and answers to Council questions.

Following discussion on the budget draft, the Town Manager stated he plans to file the proposed FY 2016-2017 Budget and Budget Message at the Tuesday, May 3th, 5:30 p.m. Council meeting, and recommend to the Mayor a Public Hearing be set for the June 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

The Town Manager stated some of the following highlights before going over the revenue and expenditures summary:

- The draft budget is a balanced budget (all the revenues that are shown are accounted for in the expenditure side of the budget).
- No tax rate increase
- No transfer of Unassigned Fund Balance to balance the budget
- Decrease of General Fund Budget by amount of \$1,144,349
- No expense for debt or debt service
- Continued funding of Capital Improvement Plan for remaining failing Town streets
- Funding for potential physical survey of South and East Dogwood Trail/encroachments
- Funding for completion of contract obligation for modernization of Town Code
- Direct appropriation to the Capital Reserve Fund for future capital needs

[Clerks Note: Once the proposed FY2016-2017 budget is presented to Council at the May 3, 2016 meeting, it will become available for viewing the next morning on the Town's website and copies will also be available at the Town Hall.]

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Bennett called on public comment and the following citizens offered comment:

Anne Sjoerdsma, Southern Shores property owner – commented she is not in favor of Council going into closed session to discuss possible terms of purchasing property at Rt12 / E. Dogwood for use in remediating stormwater problem there.

#### **2. STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH NEW SOLID WASTE COLLECTOR EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016-CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Town Manager recommended Council authorize him to seek termination of the current Dare County solid waste collection contract due to the unanticipated continuing rise in expenses, and enter into a five (5) year unit-price residential and set-price commercial pickup contract with Bay Recycling & Disposal effective July 1, 2016. This new contract will save approximately \$56,500 in residential and \$5,220 in commercial pick up services. The new contract could increase annually with a CPI increase. Collection days will remain the same.

**MOTION:** Council Member Holland moved to authorize the Town Manager to seek termination of the solid waste collection contract with Dare County, and to then enter into a solid waste contract with Bay Recycling & Disposal with a termination clause. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDonald. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

3. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION-ROADWAY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Town Attorney Gallop stated that the purpose of going into a closed session is to protect the minutes reporting the possible amount of offer the Council may make on the property. Already disclosed on the meeting agenda are the owner's name, property address, and purpose of the possible property acquisition.

Council discussed the matter of the Town possibly acquiring the property for use as a retention and infiltration pond in partnership with NCDOT on a project to remediate the standing stormwater problem along NC Highway 12. Council Member McDonald and Mayor Pro Tem Newberry were not in favor of going into closed session on this matter and are not currently in favor of acquiring the property for any purpose. Council member Newberry stated nearby residents are not in favor of the lot being used for this purpose. Council Member McDonald stated the problem is a DOT problem.

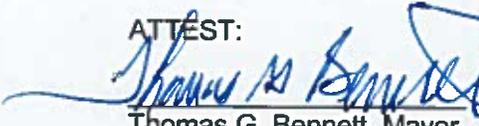
Council Member Nason stated this is a budget meeting and although the Council may not be willing to commit to making a decision about this issue Council should leave the money in the proposed draft budget as presented.

No action taken.

**ADJOURN**

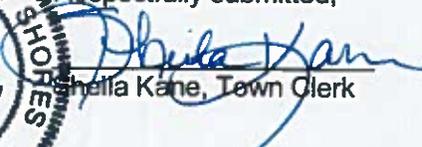
**MOTION:** Council Member Holland moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDonald. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). The time was 12:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Thomas G. Bennett, Mayor



Respectfully submitted,

  
Shellia Kane, Town Clerk

