



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

October 23, 2023

Board of Commissioners Present:

Mike Allen, Mayor
Chuck Bost, Mayor Pro Tem
David Long, Commissioner
Ryan Merrill, Commissioner

Board of Commissioners Absent:

Morgan Mehler, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Athina Williams, Town Manager
Sharon Niemann, Town Clerk
Kerry Wooding, Deputy Finance Officer
Brenda Hewlett, Admin. Support Specialist
Norwood Blanchard, Town Attorney
Kemmy Goodson, Town CPA
Adrienne Harrington, Planning Consultant

Others Present to Address the Board:

Abby Lorenzo, Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Deputy Director
Vanessa Lacer, Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Sr. Transportation Planner
Keith Harris, Councilmember of the Cape Fear Indians

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mike Allen called the October 23, 2023, BOC Regular Meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Welcomed all, a quorum was present.

ITEM # 2 – INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mike Allen led the invocation asking for guidance for our Town, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mayor Allen stated he loves to see citizens and people in the audience.

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to excuse Commissioner Morgan Mehler. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA



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ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Agenda. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #4 – CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of the September 24, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Tax Collector Report
- c. Finance Report
- d. Code Enforcement Report / Street Maintenance Report
- e. **R23-30 Resolution Naming October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month**
- f. Post Storm Report – Tropical Storm Idalia
- g. Post Storm Report – Tropical Storm Ophelia
- h. After Action Report – Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride
- i. After Action Report – Fall Festival

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #5 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

ACTION – Commissioner Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to open the Public Comment period. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Keith Harris, a councilmember of the Cape Fear Indians addressed the board regarding a couple issues. After the events on Saturday (Fall Festival) and Sunday (Intercultural Festival), the Councilmembers decided they should have some documents to mitigate risk and reduce liabilities. Mr. Harris wanted to share a few documents with the Board of Commissioners regarding violation of rights.

The second document a *Memorandum of Rights Pertaining to American Citizens* explained that we (all individuals) have the right to self-identify, advocate, assemble, and should not be deprived of these rights. Title 18, Section 242 Anyone caught denying those rights, shall be fined and perhaps be imprisoned.

The Chief wanted Mr. Harris to convey that he was happy for the use of the park, and thankful to be included in the events. Mr. Harris said the only suggestions were to open up the area a little behind the food trucks so that people would know the native Americans are back there and allow some parking for their vendors. Mayor Allen asserted that he believes they should have a separate cultural event, as it would allow more space for them to expand. Mayor Allen would like to see a Native American Cultural Day. Mayor Allen thanked Mr. Harris and said he believes it is important for them to share their culture, so that others can learn about native Americans.

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to close the Public Comments. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS**



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ITEM #6 – PRESENTATIONS

a. Abby Lorenzo, Deputy Director of the WMPO addressed the board to present the ***WMPO FY 22-23 Annual Report***. Ms. Lorenzo explained the purpose and goals of the WMPO and gave an overview of some of the long-range comprehensive planning efforts, and some of the accomplishments this year. Ms. Lorenzo also described the projects that currently receive funds, and explained the competitive process for federal fund distributions, and gave a synopsis of both the Planning side and Technical side of the WMPO. Mayor Allen and Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost thanked Abby for her presentation and outstanding work.

b. Vanessa Lacer, WMPO Sr. Transportation Planner, presented ***Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050***. Ms. Lacer described the multi-year planning process with all six transportation modes. This plan is fiscally constrained, as it attached funding to the projects for the next 25 years. These projects are more likely to be built than some other plans. Public outreach and input are required to put these plans into place. Vanessa explained the difference between MTP and TIP plans and where the funding comes from. Vanessa was happy we had 106 people at the Belville input meeting, and shared some survey questions with the board, urging others to complete the survey. Mayor Allen thanked Vanessa Lacer for coming in.

Mayor Allen reiterated what Abby and Vanessa said and reminded the citizens that we can help recommend change for improvements by completing the survey, and by giving our input we can affect change.

ITEM #7 – OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on the Belville Riverwalk Project

Brenda Hewlett, Secretary for the Parks and Recreation Board, updated the Board of Commissioners on the recent and upcoming events at the Belville Riverwalk Park. The Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride had 131 participants, and the Fall festival was a huge event with 3 to 4,000 attendees, and movie night had about 300 people. Brenda also described the Senior Fishing Day and thanked Joe Cranford for organizing this event, residents from Brunswick Cove had a blast catching fish. Mayor Allen thanked the parks and recreation board and town staff for all they do. Town Manager Athina Williams alerted the board and attendees that we are working on some maintenance items at the park, and the trails will be temporarily closed to the public tomorrow, while we install more cameras.

b. Street Repairs and Drainage Repairs

Planning Consultant Adrienne Harrington updated the board on the Stormwater Feasibility Study, we are working on the scope of work for the study.

Step 1. Looking at Existing Conditions

Step 2. Modeling Conditions

Step 3. Recommended projects and priorities



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Step 4. Design and Cost Estimate

This study will help list the recommended projects and estimates for improvements.

ITEM #8 – REGULAR AGENDA

a. Transportation Update –

Widening of NC133 - Adrienne Harrington discussed the widening project and updated the board on the Multi-use paths, in which bids were recently released to the construction companies. The project design is 100% complete, cost estimates will be due a week from today, then we can move forward.

Traffic Signal - On the proposed traffic signal grant application for the park entrance and Belville Elementary School, we submitted an application to the WMPO. We are also including redesign of the parking lot. The TCC did recommend this for funding, so we are hoping to get an award.

Park Master Plan - NC State Coastal Design Labs created a plan for Eagles Island, and they are going to help us with a Site-specific Master Plan for the Park.

Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail Feasibility Study – we had public input at the bike ride and also at the Fall Festival, we encourage the public to take the survey.

Phase II Riverwalk Extension – **Town Manager Athina Williams conveyed that Nov 3rd; we will be doing** the kickoff with construction administration manager. Application is going through Army Corps of Engineers and CAMA application.

Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost thanked Adrienne and the staff for pushing these projects forward and is happy to see them come to fruition. Mayor Allen appreciates Adrienne's efforts helping the Town Staff get the grants. Mayor Allen thinks it will be a great year ahead.

Social Media - Twitter "X" Account – We have a meeting tomorrow to work on coordinating social media. Mayor Pro Tem Bost explained that no one is asking what is Belville doing, we are communicating our events well, and they are being well attended. Mayor Allen said our events are putting Belville on the map.

Town Manager Athina Williams stated that we will be getting an update on the Widening on Thursday at 3:00 p.m., in case anyone would like to attend.

b. Commissioner David Long Departure

– Mayor Allen thanked Commissioner David Long for his long tenure with the Town of Belville and all he and his family have done for the Town. After 19 years working with the Town, Commissioner David Long gave his departure address. David Long said he appreciated the tireless efforts of the town staff, the World Class leadership of the Town Manager, a gifted Mayor Mike Allen who cares and is committed to making our Town as strong as possible, and a dedicated team of commissioners. Commissioner Long has always had a goal of 'giving back to the community' and has tried to have a positive impact to our community, while making decisions he tried to be accountable to each and every resident of Belville. He added that he will never forget this amazing experience.



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ITEM #9 – CLOSED SESSION

- a. N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) – To consult with the attorney including litigation; and
N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(4) – To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of
industries.

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to go into Closed Session. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to come back into Open Session. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #10 – OTHER ITEMS ND REPORTS

- a. Town Attorney Norwood Blanchard –In the Closed session we considered a potential claim, and how we should respond to it. No Action was taken in the Closed session.
- b. Board of Commissioners – None
- c. Mayor Pro Tem - None
- d. Mayor – Mayor Allen thanked everyone for attending.
- e. Town Manager – None

ITEM #11 – ADJOURNMENT

ACTION – Commissioner David Long **MADE THE MOTION** to Adjourn the Meeting. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Minutes Compiled by Sharon A. Niemann

SIGNED:

Mike Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon A. Niemann, Town Clerk

