



ORIGINAL

**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 16, 2024

Board of Commissioners Present:

Mike Allen, Mayor
Chuck Bost, Mayor Pro Tem
Ryan Merrill, Commissioner
Morgan Mehler, Commissioner
Hunter Smith, Commissioner

Board of Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Athina Williams, Town Manager
Sharon Niemann, Town Clerk
Chad Staradumsky, Town Planner
Jim Bucher, Director Parks and Recreation
Brenda Williams, Finance Clerk
Kerry Wooding, Deputy Finance Officer
Ian McLeod, Event Coordinator
Brenda Hewlett, Admin. Support Specialist
Norwood Blanchard, Town Attorney
Nick Cannon, Smart Moves Consulting

Others Present to Address the Board:

Joe Henson, ABC Board Chairman
Allison Dixon, Principal Belville Elementary School
D. Kamili Anderson, Vice Chair & Publicity/Promotions Manager North Carolina Rice Festival
Cameron Battanides and Larry Dennis, Representing Veterans Creative Arts Program

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mike Allen called the December 16, 2024, Regular Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m., welcomed all. A quorum was present.

ITEM #2 – INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ACTION – Mayor Allen led the invocation asking for prayers for our Belville families and those in Western North Carolina who still need help. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Allen requested to add one item under PRESENTATIONS #A – A presentation from Joe Henson, ABC Board Chairman.



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 16, 2024

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

ITEM #4 – APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of the November 18, 2024 BOC Regular Meeting Minutes.
- b. Tax Collector Report
- c. Finance Report
- d. Code Enforcement Report – Street Maintenance Report
- e. Planning Activity Report
- f. Special Events Report
- g. After Action Report – Belville Classic Golf Tournament

Note - Item g. was approved along with the Consent Agenda, but was not included in the Agenda Packet.

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

ITEM #5 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen asked if anyone wished to speak. Joe Henson, ABC Board Chairman came forward to give the report, told the board about some specials the ABC Board is having, and presented a check in the amount of \$142,480.27. He invited the board to visit the stores and let him know if you have any comments.

Mayor Allen thanked Joe Henson for all that the ABC Board does, and asked him to thank the ABC store Managers and staff.

ITEM #6 – PRESENTATIONS and DONATION REQUESTS

- a. Presentation to Belville Elementary School

Mayor Allen requested that Allison Dixon, Principal of Belville Elementary School come forward along with Town Manager, Athina Williams, and all the Commissioners. The Board presented Ms. Allison Dixon with a check in the amount of \$8,500 the proceeds from the Belville Classic Golf Tournament.

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to approve **R24-47 A Resolution Thanking Belville Elementary School Principal Allison Dixon, Teachers and Students as we Present a Check for the Proceeds from the First Annual Belville Classic Charity Golf Tournament. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Mayor Allen said we are happy to support the Belville Elementary School and do something for our community. We are proud to give them the proceeds from the first annual golf tournament of \$8,500.



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 16, 2024

Principal Allison Dixon thanked the board for this wonderful gift and said she will let the board know how we apply these funds. Mayor Allen thanked the staff for their hard work, and exclaimed that this was a wonderful event.

- b. D. Kamili Anderson, Vice Chair and Publicity/Promotions Manager for the Rice Festival history gave a brief history of the Rice Festival. Ms. Anderson described the Festival, and some of the events, which is scheduled for March 5 – March 8, 2025, and informed the board that rice growing in Brunswick County was known as Carolina Gold. She mentioned that people attend from SC, GA, and Florida as well as North Carolina. Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost suggested we be in the Tillers sponsorship of \$500, saying that we may be able to give in our next budget year. Discussion ensued.

ACTION – Mr. Hunter Smith MADE THE MOTION to donate \$500 to the NC Rice Festival. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

- c. Donation Request – Veterans Creative Arts Program, Cammeron Battanides, President, and Larry Dennis, a retired veteran of the Army and educator in Brunswick County.

Mr. Dennis gave a testimony of how the Veterans Creative Arts Program is helping those with PTSD in visual arts, culinary, online writing and the program supports the veterans community. Ms. Battanides explained some of the programs' assets, and told the board about a mural they are painting, and that they intend to expand in Brunswick County. While they requested \$4,000, the board explained that our designated monies for donations have been depleted, but we can give something. Mayor Allen asked Gerald Decker, also a veteran, to come forward. Mr. Dennis and Mr. Decker discussed how much the program is helping veterans.

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost MADE THE MOTION to donate \$1,000 to the Veterans Creative Arts Program. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost opined that we should give the NC Rice Festival a matching amount and increase the donation \$500, to \$1,000. Mayor Allen asked if everyone was in favor.

ACTION – Mayor Allen MADE THE MOTION to increase our donation to the NC Rice Festival which will now be \$1,000. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

- d. Presentation to Jim Bucher, Parks and Recreation Director

ACTION – Commissioner Ryan Merrill MADE THE MOTION to approve R24-48 Resolution by the Belville Board of Commissioners Acknowledging Jim Bucher's Ninth Work Anniversary with Sincere Thanks and Appreciation. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

Mayor Allen told the board how much we appreciate Jim, that he is not afraid to take on a challenge, and has done so much for the park, and hopes that he stays longer.



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 16, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost and Commissioner Hunter Smith both commented that they certainly appreciate Jim's hard work.

ITEM #7 – PUBLIC HEARING

Town Manager Athina Williams explained that our Planner, Chad Staradumsky is out as he just had a baby, and we congratulate him and his family. He has been going over these text amendments for a few months with the Planning Board who recommended approval, and provided a consistency statement. The amendments are regarding certificates and the process for preliminary plat approvals. She explained that our town surveyor has also looked at the language regarding sub-dividing properties.

ACTION - Commissioner Morgan Mehler **MADE THE MOTION** to Open the Public Hearing. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

There was no one present who wished to speak.

ACTION - Commissioner Hunter Smith **MADE THE MOTION** to Close the Public Hearing. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen **MADE THE MOTION** to approve **Ordinance 2024-10 Ordinance to amend the Ordinance for the Subdivision Ordinance which had text amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance Section 303.2.1, Section 303.3.1 and Section 306 and Article VI regarding Subdivision Certificates.** **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Consistency Statement associated with this Ordinance. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #8 – OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on the Belville Riverwalk Project

Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Bucher gave a synopsis of work going on in the park. Work continues on the new garage, we are adding some shelves to that garage, so we can get more organized, and have been busy setting up lights for the Christmas display, which will now be open until 10:30 p.m. at night.

1. Upcoming Events

Ian McLeod, Events Coordinator gave an update on the recent events. Ian revealed that the recent Christmas Festival, with 35 vendors and food vendors was enjoyed by all, and our new feature the train ride had a lot of positive feedback. Ian also described this weekend's Christmas trip to Savannah, which had 2 buses and 70 people. Everyone really enjoyed it, and it was quite successful. We had dinner at The Pirates' House and Buc-ees, and the hotel had good reviews. The next trip to New Orleans is scheduled for March 24-28. That trip will be a bus ride to Charlotte, and then direct flight to New Orleans. Town Manager Athina Williams mentioned that the Savannah riverfront downtown with the hotel and Convention Center is nice and similar to what Belville is envisioning, and we should take a look at this.



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 16, 2024

Commissioner Hunter Smith mentioned that the staff and volunteers really worked hard with the preparation for the Christmas festival event, working in the cold, and he appreciates everyone's efforts.

Our next event is a Movie Night on March 22nd. We are also planning a Community Yard Sale April 5th and an Easter Egg Hunt. We will send you the list of events and finalized dates for 2025 soon, and we have a couple new events to present to you. Athina Williams mentioned that the date for the golf tournament will be October 27th. She will send a calendar of events for 2025 soon.

b. Town Hall Relocation Update

Mayor Allen commented that we are hoping to move by the end of the month and that the Highway Patrol is about ready to move in.

ITEM #9 – REGULAR AGENDA

a. *Certificate of Sufficiency* for a petition submitted by India Lima Mike, LLC aka Gregory Poole Equipment Company for Parcel ID #04700035, in accordance with our Agreement.

Town Manager Athina Williams explained that the Town Clerk has certified the petition of sufficiency, and we will bring annexation for this property to a Public Hearing at our next meeting on Monday, January 27th at 6:30 p.m.

b. *Transportation and Project Updates*

1. *NC133 Widening*

Mayor Allen talked about the plans for widening the rest of NC133, which will be done in two phases. It's a long process involving property acquisition, rights of way, etc.

2. *Belville Riverwalk Extension Update* – John Blasco of WithersRavenel joined via telecommunications to give an update.

John communicated that we have recently received the CAMA Permit and will be moving forward with the project. Other permits are in process for NCDEQ low density stormwater and NCDEQ Erosion Control. Both of these are in process, and we hope for approval within 45-60 days. We hope to get NCDOT driveway permits allowing us to access River Road and Old River Road. In January we hope to submit the Bid documents for the Town to review and bid the job by the end of January early February, it will be a 5-week bid period. Assuming we get three contractors, open in March, with mid-April the goal for construction.

3. *Riverwalk Stoplight*

We are hoping to get the NC State final drawings, and will work with Bolton & Menk to get some preliminary designs for the park with the new entrance. Ian McLeod is working to get the design for the playground on paper.



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 16, 2024

4. **NC133 Closure** – the construction on the southern end of NC-133 work started today, you cannot get directly to Southport, but there is a detour through Boiling Spring Lakes.
5. **Feasibility Study** - We are taking the pond out of the feasibility study, as the pond is more of an urgency. The preliminary estimate for the remediation of the retention pond is about \$300,000.

6. **Multi-Use Path** -

Town Manager Athina Williams informed the board that the curb ramps are being placed this week on the multi-use path. These make it easier to identify a crossing, and make it easily accessible by giving a slope with a little traction for the wheelchairs, bikes and strollers to stop before crossing the road. The water station is now in the park and will be installed soon, and we are working on the lighting. One section near Morecamble has to be redesigned, and we will be talking to risk management about that.

ITEM #10 – CLOSED SESSION

- a. **N.C.G.S § 143-318.11(a)(3) – To consult with the attorney including litigation Urban Smart Growth 15 CVS 1217 and N.C.G.S. § 143A-159.1(a) – To discuss matters relating to acquisition of property.**

ACTION – Commissioner Morgan Mehler **MADE THE MOTION** to go into closed session. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ACTION – Commissioner Hunter Smith **MADE THE MOTION** to come back into open session **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #10 – OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. Town Attorney Norwood Blanchard – informed all that in the Closed Session we discussed Urban Smart Growth 15 CVS 1217 litigation, and two other claims, but no action was taken in the Closed Session.
- b. Board of Commissioners – None
- c. Mayor Pro Tem – None
- d. Mayor – Be safe and have a Merry Christmas, take care of each other.
- e. Town Manager – None.

ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT

ACTION – Commissioner Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to Adjourn the Meeting. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 16, 2024

Minutes Compiled by Sharon A. Niemann

SIGNED:

Mike Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon A. Niemann, Town Clerk

