

**Town of Swansboro
Board of Commissioners
January 9, 2023, Regular Meeting**

In attendance: Mayor John Davis, Mayor Pro Tem Frank Tursi, Commissioner PJ Pugliese, Commissioner Larry Philpott, Mayor Pro Tem Tursi, Commissioner Pat Turner, and Commissioner Jeffrey Conaway.

Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Pledge

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. Mayor Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Junior Freeman of 714 W. Corbett Avenue shared that as a member of the EOC/PSB Committee he recalled that exploring a regional/joint operational center was not supposed to be considered and urged the board to eliminate that from the Public Safety/Emergency Operations Center Feasibility Study.

Adoption of Agenda and Consent Items

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Tursi, seconded by Commissioner Philpott, the agenda as amended to remove *Demolition by Neglect Public Hearing* and move the *FY 23-24 Budget Schedule* to non-consent, was approved unanimously.

Directions were provided for the Planner and Attorney to collaborate on the *Demolition by Neglect* text amendment to ensure consistency and revisit at a future meeting.

Business Non-Consent

Public Safety/Emergency Operations Center Feasibility Study

Manager Webb reviewed that a contract proposal by Becker Morgan was offered for Phase 1 – Feasibility Study for the Public Safety/Emergency Operations Center in the amount of \$19, 120. Becker Morgan was selected by the Town in November 2022 as the consulting architectural firm.

The goal of the Feasibility Study phase was to define the scope of the project in terms of operations and physical construction within the context of a defined budget. Becher Morgan would evaluate each physical location along with renovation and/or new construction options and would present and review all options. Last, they would prepare a Feasibility Study Report that included concise scopes, budgets, and schedules for implementation of the selected option or options.

Board members agreed that the option of researching a regional/joint operational facility was desired to ensure all options were explored and that it should remain so that justification can be provided on feasibility.

On a motion by Commissioner Philpott seconded by Commissioner Conaway and with unanimous approval the manager was authorized to execute the contract.

NCLM 2023-2024 Advocacy Goal Statements

Manager Webb reviewed that the NCLM had published its 2023-2024 Advocacy Goal Statements. Cities and Towns were asked to review and vote on the proposed goals so that cities and towns have a focused state and federal advocacy agenda in the 23-24 legislative biennium which begins in January at the NC General Assembly. Each municipality will cast a single vote by selecting 10 of the 16 proposed advocacy goals and by designating a voting delegate.

The 10 goals chosen were:

- Revitalize vacant and abandoned properties with enhanced legal tools and funding.
- Create an adequate and permanent funding stream for local infrastructure.
- Extend deadlines for completion of federal infrastructure projects.
- Expand state transportation funding streams for construction and maintenance for municipal and state-owned secondary roads.
- Support integrated and multi-modal transportation solutions.
- Expand incentives and funding for local economic development.
- Enhance state systems and resources for local law enforcement officer recruitment, training, and retention.
- Revise state contracting laws to better protect public entities from the effects of inflation.
- Update annexation petition thresholds to make voluntary annexations easier to initiate.
- Provide local revenue options beyond property tax.

Manager Webb was appointed as the voting delegate to cast the Towns vote by January 12, 2023.

Future Agenda Topics

Future agenda items were shared for visibility and comment. In addition, an opportunity was provided for the Board to introduce items of interest and subsequent direction for placement on future agendas.

The following items were addressed:

- The FT21/22 Audit Report was moved from the January 23, 2023, meeting to the February 13, 2023, meeting.

- Church Street Dock Safety Policy was identified as needed to come before the board soon.

Items Moved from Consent

FY 23-24 Budget Schedule

Board members expressed their interest in having more than one workshop session. It was preferred that the first one occur earlier on and include the needs/request of staff.

Manager Webb advised that she would reach out to board members by email to pinpoint the first workshop date and revise the meeting schedule from there.

Public Comment

Dennis Lewis of 786 Perkins Road in Pikeville NC and introduced himself as the pyrotechnic operator for the Town fireworks. He shared his dissatisfaction with the board in regard to the recent October 2022 Mullet Festival event and the accommodations in which the town provided for him to facilitate the fireworks. He claimed that the location was inadequate and for that reason he shared he would no longer provide his services to the Town for fireworks and urged the board to begin their search to quickly locate another pyrotechnics operator.

Manager Comments

Manager Webb shared that the process to remove the abandon boats in the Towns nearby waterways was moving along.

Board Comments

Commissioner Conaway shared that he would like to see the public more involved with the budget process.

Mayor Davis shared that he desired for the upcoming budget to not include a tax increase and that he hoped to see an increase in salaries for the police and fire departments. Regarding the Fireworks contractor resigning, he requested that a closed session be held to discuss the situation with personnel.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Tursi, seconded by Commissioner Philpott, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.

Regular Meeting January 9, 2023



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1. Please turn cell phones to “off” or “vibrate”.

2. The Board offers the public three opportunities to speak during the meeting:

A comment period is offered at the beginning and end of the meeting. Please note that a separate opportunity is provided for those items requiring a public hearing.

Public Hearing(s) – There is 1 public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

2

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizen opportunity to address the Board for items listed on the agenda.

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AGENDA AND CONSENT ITEMS

Action Needed: *Motion to Adopt the Agenda as prepared (or amended) and approval of the Consent Items*

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PUBLIC HEARING

Text Amendments related to Demolition by Neglect and Enforcement

Following review of Demolition by Neglect draft ordinances and specific statues related to such, staff has prepared UDO text amendments to Sections 152.485 through 152.488.

The Planning Board recommended approval of the proposed text amendment at the regular meeting on December 6, 2022

Recommended Action: 1) *Hold a public hearing;*
2) *A motion to approve, deny or table Ordinance 2022-01 and adopt a statement of consistency.*

Presenters: Andrea Correll- Planner

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NEW BUSINESS/NON-CONSENT

Public Safety/Emergency Operations Center Feasibility Study

A contract proposal by Becker Morgan is offered for Phase 1 – Feasibility Study for the Public Safety/Emergency Operations Center in the amount of \$19, 420. Becker Morgan was selected by the Town in November 2022 as the consulting architectural firm.

Recommended Action: *Motion to authorize the Manager to execute the contract.*

Presenter: Paula Webb- Town Manager

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NEW BUSINESS/NON-CONSENT

NCLM 2023-2024 Advocacy Goal Statements

The NCLM has published its 2023-2024 Advocacy Goal Statements. Cities and Towns are asked to review and vote on the proposed goals so that cities and towns have a focused state and federal advocacy agenda in the 23-24 legislative biennium which begins in January at the NC General Assembly. Each municipality will cast a single vote by selecting 10 of the 16 proposed advocacy goals.

Recommended Action: 1) Discuss and vote on 10 of the 16 statements; and 2) Designate a voting delegate who will cast the Town's vote by January 12, 2022. The voting delegate will receive voting instructions and the online ballot directly.

Presenter: Paula Webb- Town Manager

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NEW BUSINESS/NON-CONSENT

Future Agenda Topics

Future agenda items are shared for visibility and comment. In addition, an opportunity is provided for the Board to introduce items of interest and subsequent direction for placement on future agendas.

Action Needed: Discuss and provide any guidance

Presenter: Alissa Fender – Town Clerk

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizen opportunity to address the Board.

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MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Paula Webb, Town Manager

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BOARD COMMENTS

Mayor John Davis
Mayor Pro Tem Frank Tursi
Commissioner Pat Turner
Commissioner Harry “PJ” Pugliese
Commissioner Larry Philpott
Commissioner Jeffrey Conaway

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ADJOURN

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