MINUTES KITTY HAWK TOWN COUNCIL Monday, May 4, 2020 Kitty Hawk Town Hall, 6 PM

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance
- 3. Approval of Agenda
- 4. Presentation:
 - NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant Kitty Hawk Connector Trail/ Manager Stewart
- 5. Public Comment
- 6. Consent Agenda
 - a.) Approval of January 27, 2020 and April 6, 2020 Council Minutes
 - b.) National Hurricane Preparedness Week Resolution
 - c.) Year 3 Post-Construction Monitoring Services Proposal
 - d.) Post-Hurricane Dorian Repair Project Design Report and Initial Permitting Coordination
- 7. Consent Agenda
 - a.) Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
 - b.) Outer Banks Restaurant Association Request
- 8. Reports/General Comments from Town Manager
- 9. Reports/General Comments from Town Attorney
- 10. Reports/General Comments from Town Council
- 11. Public Comment
- 12. Recess to May 11, 2020, 9 AM, Kitty Hawk Town Hall/Budget Workshop

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Gary Perry, Mayor Pro Tem Craig Garriss, Councilman David Hines, Councilwoman Lynne McClean and Councilman Jeff Pruitt

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Manager Andy Stewart, Town Clerk Lynn Morris, Town Attorney Casey Varnell

The COVID-19 pandemic, declared on March 11, 2020, is ongoing. Gathering and social distancing guidelines are still recommended. No one else attended this meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Perry called this meeting to order at 6 p.m. and announced this meeting is being streamed live and it may be listened to by telephone. If anyone wants to call in during public comment it is at the beginning of the meeting and again at the end.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was held and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Perry added 7(b): a request from the Outer Banks Restaurant Association. They have asked for help related to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

MPT Garriss made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item 7(b). Councilwoman McClean seconded and it passed unanimously, 5-0.

4. PRESENTATION

NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant – Kitty Hawk Connector Trail

Stewart: The Recreation Committee, Councilman Pruitt and Mayor Perry all support this project that will connect about a 500 linear foot section from Kitty Hawk Park to the Birch Lane Trail. It will connect a highly underutilized trail that runs through the preserve. Councilman Pruitt spent many hours trying to find the easiest route. Currently the only way to get to Birch Lane Trail is to enter it from Kitty Hawk Estates and there is no identified parking for vehicles. It is a nice trail that runs about 1.8 miles through the woods

This grant was submitted in 2018 and the town did not receive any funding. It will be resubmitted to the North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation, Recreational Trails Program. It is highly competitive. Anybody from the public or the Town Council may ask questions or comment, provide input or support for the project.

There is a committee that meets quarterly and gives recommendations for the preserve. It includes Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Reserve, members of the public and elected officials. The committee also thinks this is a good idea. In May of 2018, the Dare County Board of Commissioners issued a letter of support for the project because Kitty Hawk Park is a county-maintained facility. The NC Coastal Management also issued a letter of support for the project. The town also received a grant in the amount of \$47,000 from the Dare County Tourism Board and last year we extended it. We have until the end of November 2020 to let them know if we are moving forward with the project.

The Dare County Park, located off West Kitty Hawk Road, has the skatepark, parking and rest room facilities already in place. This is one of the reasons why this location makes so much sense because of all the amenities already in place. In the Coastal Reserve's access study one of the big things that was identified was parking so is just made good sense to try and connect this into the Dare County Park somehow.

I will stand for any comments or questions. Part of the grant application is to get public input. I have heard a lot of residents and users of the trail system support the project. I want to bring it before the public this evening and see if there are any more comments or questions.

Perry: This is really needed and is the right thing to do. The reason we cannot come off north Midgett is because it is private property between those two points. This will be a real attribute to the town, county and all our visitors. We get a lot of visitors that use these places and they need a place to park.

Stewart: (speaking to listeners on the telephone) *Is there anybody that would like to speak about the Kitty Hawk Trail Connection Project?*

Not hearing any questions or comments Mayor Perry invited anyone watching or listening to contact council with emails or written correspondence. If you would like to telephone a message to the town hall Office Assistant/Receptionist Hawley will be more than happy to take the information and get it to council.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Perry asked those listening on the telephone if they cared to make a public comment. No one answered.

Mayor Perry then asked the manager to read two emails sent to the council about restaurants.

Manager Stewart read the following two emails into the record:

(1) From: "dlewis <u>coastalprovisionsmarket.com</u>" < <u>dlewis@coastalprovisionsmarket.com</u>> Date: 5/3/20 12:25 (GMT-05:00)

Cc: Sheila Davies < sheila.davies@darenc.com >, dcboc@darenc.com

Subject: COVID Recovery Ordinance Compatibility

First, I would like to thank you all for your efforts on the Control Board in seeing our community through this current crisis. I'm sure it has been difficult balancing a variety of concerns and not being able to please everyone with these tough decisions.

I am reaching out to you all as head of the Outer Banks Restaurant Association (OBRA), a member of the NC Restaurant & Lodging Association's (NCRLA) Government Affairs Committee, and a member of the recently formed NCRLA COVID-19 Recovery Task Force. NCRLA has been in daily contact with Governor Cooper's office since the crisis began, and is now working with them on a reopening timeline and procedures, including the NC Restaurant Promise and COVID-19 training programs for restaurant personnel in conjunction with DHHS and NCSU Extension. Based on the task force's recent recommendation to the governor's office, we are expecting NC phase two to occur in late May, and will include among other things, restaurants opening at 50% capacity seating inside and on patios, and/or maintaining separation of tables/chairs to comply with social distancing expectations. This would be expected to last at least 4-6 weeks in a best-case scenario. Regardless of the timeline, our industry expects that outdoor dining, takeout, and curbside delivery options will continue to play a much larger role in our business model for a much longer time. And the fact of the matter is, without other support or stimulus options, many restaurants here and across the country with not make it through this crisis.

With that said, I ask that all our municipalities take a look at two areas in their zoning that may work against efforts to service our guests in options other than inside dining. First is the itinerant/mobile vending ordinances that prohibit the use of carts, kiosks, and food trucks in most towns. I fully understand and agree with the intent of these ordinances: to not allow just anyone to set up shop anywhere. But, especially now, with the tremendous need to serve guests for takeout, I would ask that all towns create an exception for restaurants to be able to use their own carts/kiosks/trucks on their own operational premises.

The second area of concern is the outdoor dining ordinances, many of which set a limited amount of square footage based on things such as lot coverage, parking, etc...., but don't necessarily take into account the number of people. In our new era, I would ask that all towns consider modifications to those limits in order to allow restaurants to space their tables in compliance with social distancing standards while still maintaining a viable number of seats with those spacing expectations.

I understand that most of these asks require either a text amendment, a zoning variance, and/or a conditional use application, along with a fee and a timeline that may take 2-3 months for any movement. But during these extremely trying times, I would ask if there is any way to expedite the process, and the possibility of waving any fees that might be incurred. I would also be happy to have an OBRA member point person from each town work with all of you individually on these matters.

As many are having upcoming town council meetings shortly, I ask that the above be read in public comments, or added to the agenda, with exception of Town of Duck, as I have my own specific business interest there and will draft a separate version for their meeting on May 6.

Thank you again for your service to our community and your consideration.

Dan Lewis Daniel Lewis, CS, CSW, Chef/Owner, Coastal Provisions Restaurants, President, Outer Banks Restaurant Association, 252-489-3171

(2) From: <<u>chris@barefootbernies.com</u>>
Date: Mon,May4,2020at4:16PM

Subject: Dining Town Council Meeting

To: <info@kittyhawktown.net>

Dear Kitty Hawk Town Council,

With the hopes of reopening our restaurants on the horizon, we hope that the town of Kitty Hawk will take into consideration the restrictions that are currently in place for outdoor dining. With the capacity of our indoor dining being limited, we will be looking to other areas to help offset lost revenue.

By relaxing the restriction on outdoor dining, we may have the ability to survive through this crisis. I also ask that you consider basing any restrictions on indoor dining not solely to the occupancy numbers of the building but the

ability for establishments to offer proper table spacing and social distancing but at the same time maximizing occupancy based on those requirements.

Thank you for your time and considerations.

Chris Vlahos, Barefoot Bernie's Tropical Grill & Bar, PO Box 1427, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949, 252-261-1008

Mayor Perry asked if anyone listening by telephone wished to make a comment.

1.) Morris Branch: I am a property owner here in Kitty Hawk and I do have a comment. I had a comment at the last meeting but it was not read into the record so I was wondering why that occurred since I could not get down there ... not allowed down here. I sent a comment to be read into the record and I think the mayor indicated that it was the attorney's decision ... recommendation he would not do that. I was just wondering whether that can be looked at.

Perry: Was this the letter written to the county and not to us?

Branch: Yes, yes sir.

Perry: Casey would you answer that please.

Varnell: Good evening Mr. Branch. Did you receive my letter?

Branch: No. I did not receive any letter.

Varnell: I sent an email and I also mailed you a letter. For the record I would have no issue putting out why we decided not to read that into the record. The decisions that are being made with regards to safety measures about COVID-19, and the bridge closure being one of those measures, that decision was not made by the collective council of the Town of Kitty Hawk. I did not feel like it was in the best interest of the client, the town, to have something read into the record that perhaps insinuated to the fact that the town made that decision. I essentially wanted everything to be directed through the proper channels. Your letter was addressed to the county and as such my request was to have anything that was addressed to the county be read and addressed by the county.

Branch: *I can understand that.*

Varnell: Anything else you would like to say sir?

Branch: (inaudible)

Varnell: We appreciate your calling in.

Stewart: Anyone else?

There were no other speakers.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a.) Approval of January 27, 2020 and April 6, 2020 Council Minutes. (An approval of the consent agenda will approve these minutes.)
- **b.)** National Hurricane Preparedness Week Resolution. This resolution declares the week of May 3-9, 2020 as Hurricane Preparedness Week. (An approval of the consent agenda will adopt this resolution.)
- **c.)** Year 3 Post-Construction Monitoring Services Proposal. Under this proposal, in the amount of \$51,496.00, CPE-NC will conduct beach profile and nearshore data acquisition, determine volumetric and shoreline changes, evaluate project performance, and update the Town's Beach Maintenance Plan. (An approval of the consent agenda will approve this contract.)
- **d.)** Post-Hurricane Dorian Repair Project Design Report and Initial Permitting Coordination. This proposal includes the preparation of a Post-Dorian Design Report, coordination with FEMA and State disaster recovery agencies, initial regulatory and resource agency coordination and coordination with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to obtain Geophysical and Geological permits for offshore investigations. Task 1 (Post-Storm Design Report) and Task 3 (Inter-Agency Coordination/BOEM G&G Permitting) will cost \$21,867.50. Task 2 (FEMA Coordination) will not exceed \$7,000. (An approval of the consent agenda will approve this contract.)

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Pruitt made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilwoman McClean seconded and it passed unanimously, 5-0.

(a.) Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the consent agenda.

(b.) Outer Banks Restaurant Association Request

Perry: The two emails that were read are essentially asking for help in areas we would not normally tread. It involves parking and other issues. They are going to need some relief and that is why I am asking council. We cannot decide tonight because we do not have the particulars from the governor. He has not lifted the restrictions and until that happens nothing else really happens. We can look at our rules and get with our attorney and see if there are ways we can help them. There should be a sunset provision so it does not become the norm, that we are not waiving things that would require a text amendment, that sort of thing.

Casey would you tell us for the record if we can do something like this by continuing the Declaration of Emergency or must we do something else.

Varnell: Fortunately, I do believe we can help the restaurants if the town so chooses. The general statutes provide for town's and counties to enact local ordinances to handle emergency situations within their corporate limits. The mayor can act in his capacity alone and have it binding on the town. That intent was probably in the event you cannot get everybody together. You then of course

can communicate. What the town code says, and the statutes allow, are measures that will ultimately provide for the ongoing ... sorry give me one second ... (looking through paperwork).

Perry: Basically, safety and welfare ...

Varnell: Yes, safety and welfare but also public order and services.

Perry: Another important point is I think a lot of people believe that when Dare County issues a declaration it usurps us. That is not true.

Varnell: Not on this particular issue. That is correct. Compare the state's model to the county/municipal model. The state can issue a stay at home order until May 8th and we cannot say May 5th, but we can say May 22nd. You can be more restrictive than the state, but you cannot loosen the regulations that the state has put forward and it is the same with the county. How we choose to operate within our corporate limits is essentially our choice.

Perry: Most of the time we mirror the county simply because it is necessary for FEMA purposes and such. This is a little different in the sense we would let restaurants within our municipality do what we think is right. Is that correct?

Varnell: That is correct.

Perry: *Before I suggest anything, do any of you have input?*

Pruitt: I think it is a great idea. We need to help get these people back up and working any way we can. We have plenty of empty parking places and I want to see people back to work.

Garriss: *I agree. Anything we can do to help.*

McClean: If we can come up with a way to make it workable and safe.

Hines: *I agree. We need to do something for them. They need to get back open.*

Perry: I am going to make a motion tonight for us to give direction to the planner and to our attorney to work with these people. Find out what they need, find out how it works within the scope of what we can do legally. Bring that back to us plus the legal rewording of any declaration. Right now, we do not have specifics from the governor so we cannot put a time limit on it. If we need to do something before our next regular meeting, then I want to know so we can hold a special meeting. He said the mayor has power under a declaration and it is not power that I would ever use wrong. In a case like this it is not something that is immediate it just needs to be attended to in a timely fashion. A special meeting will do that. Council will be involved, not just me making this decision. Councilman Pruitt second the motion and the vote was unanimous, 5-0.

8. TOWN MANAGER

Stewart: The chipping service and large item pickup is being done now and we have gotten calls from nonresident property owners saying they are missing it because they are just now being allowed across the bridge. I am informing anybody that calls we will help them for a period of time. Anybody that is watching from out of town do not worry. We will take care of you when it comes to any large item or chipping debris.

Also, in the midst of the crisis the Town is continuing to move forward. We have this week alone submitted three **grant applications**. One is for the Hurricane Florence Storm Damage Mitigation Fund the state legislature approved. It is about \$12.5 million for shoreline protection and beach nourishment projects. This week we submitted for up to \$2.5 million. It is based on scoring and we are not sure how all of it works yet. It would be nice if we received funds to help offset the cost of the re-nourishment. We also received a \$90,000 grant for more ditch cleaning as a result of funds from Hurricane Matthew. And you just heard a presentation that will be submitted for grant funding for the connector trail. Hopefully, we will get lucky with that one.

We are doing our best to move the town forward and continue to operate in this uncertainty. The town continues to provide excellent service and I am proud of the job our employees are doing for our residents and our nonresident property owners.

Manager Stewart showed pictures of the **Bath House** remodeling project. It is on target for a June 8th opening.

MPT Garriss asked the manager if he knew about how much of the town has been serviced with chipping. Manager Stewart said he imagines about 50%.

9. TOWN ATTORNEY

Varnell: I found the comment I was looking for earlier in our town code. "Prohibitions and restrictions can be assessed because of an emergency to maintain an acceptable level of public order and services". So again, that along with all the language regarding the vulnerability of the people and property in the community, we should be fine.

Perry: There is no question all of us want to help these people. It is important to everybody and we just need to find a way.

10. TOWN COUNCIL

Hines: I just want everybody to get back to work. To have the people get here, enjoy their homes, and enjoy the weather.

McClean: I want to thank our staff. A lot of people do not understand what it takes to keep a little town going and we have some extraordinary people on our staff doing some good things for us. I also want to thank our mayor for all the hours, every day, he devotes to all the things that are not part of his normal list of things to do. I do not want his job. Everybody stay healthy, stay safe, social distance and wear your mask.

Garriss: I would like to read this for the record: First of all I would like to thank the Dare County Commissioners and the members that make up the Dare County Control Group for the tough and sometimes unpopular decisions you have made and will continue to make. I know you have had the best interests of Dare County in mind when you make these decisions. I would like to thank the staff and departments here in Kitty Hawk. Andy that very much includes you sir for the work you have done during this crisis. You are the best. Once again, my thanks to Mayor Perry for the many hours you have spent dealing with this crisis at many meetings you have either attended in person or by phone. And the emails you have responded to may go unnoticed by the public but not by members of this council. Thank you, sir, very much.

We have all heard stories of local people not wanting the nonresident property owners, or later the visitors, to gain access to Dare County. I would like to say that everyone is welcome in Kitty Hawk. It upsets me that anyone would feel threatened or feel like they are not welcome in our town. That is not what Kitty Hawk is about. Until this thing is over, I agree that nonresident property owners and later the visitors when that time comes, need to bring their own supplies. Those of us who live here still have a lot of empty shelves to deal with in the stores. So, if you can bring your own supplies until we recover that certainly would help. We have all had to make those trips to try and locate toilet paper and paper towels. I did that myself this past Saturday morning and I got lucky at Food Lion. We still have some tough days ahead and this council has some tough but necessary decisions to make at our upcoming budget workshop next Monday, but we are Kitty Hawk and we will make it through this. Thank you.

Perry: Well said. Thank you.

Pruitt: I want to thank Andy, Casey and all the employees. It has been difficult times. Thanks especially to Mayor Perry for all your time that you spend keeping us informed. I think you are doing an excellent job for the taxpayers of Kitty Hawk.

Just to touch a little bit on what Craig said about the nonresident property owners not feeling welcome and what they have been hearing on social media. I think it is just a few people. As Gary has stated in replying to emails, I do not think they are from here. We are known for welcoming people and we cannot wait for everybody to get back so come on back.

Perry: Since the Bath House has been closed a lot of the people visiting our beaches have been pushed to Byrd Street and the **porta-potties** should go there this week. Andy I would like for you to investigate the possibility of putting one at **Lillian Street**. We had talked about that one time before, but we were afraid the neighbors might not like it. There are not many other places we could put one because of limited space but those two places fill up pretty good.

We had around 758 people on the beach yesterday. It was a beautiful day. We have two ocean rescue employees go out from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They roam the beach and interact with people. It is an educational thing. We need the help of everybody in Kitty Hawk and those that visit. Help us keep the beach open. I need your help to make sure we do not get complaints of too many people congregating and not social distancing. That is the kind of thing that gets the Control Group upset and I am fighting hard to keep your beach open, but I need your help. That is the bottom line. Mind your manners. We are trying to do it the right way too.

One last thing concerns the **demonstration**. I know there was a group at the bridge this morning when it opened welcoming the NRPO's. The group included staff from the Visitors Bureau and they had a lot more people come than were supposed to come. The town has an ordinance that says if you are going to have a demonstration you need a permit. I think that came about because of some strikes over at Dominion Power some many years ago. There was also a group that started a lot of ugly comments and they were threatening to demonstrate against anybody coming in.

When the group from the Visitors Bureau wanted to demonstrate and say welcome back, they were told to get a permit if there was going to be over 5 people. They did not get their permit and the other side did not do the demonstration.

What did happen was a bunch of the people who are interested in getting people back, like the rental agencies, sent employees and more than 5 showed up. This was done with the best of intention, but it put us in a bad spot. I know The Outer Banks Voice said they were ordered to disperse, and yes, they were, because they did not get what they needed. They were told less than 5 people could gather without a permit at the OBX Chevrolet, but they did not count on all the others that showed up. As soon as the police chief arrived, they dispersed. All is well and I hope the other group does not come but if they do and they do not have a permit they are going to have a problem and they will be chased off.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Via telephone)

Nancy. I understand that tomorrow, excuse i	wner and my last name begins with the letter N, like me, I mean Wednesday I can come in. Number one, i. no longer gain entry? In other words, we are coming a certain time?
Stewart: No ma'am.	
: All right. Number 2. How did it go	today with the re-entry if you do not mind me asking:
Perry: I did not hear the question.	

Stewart: How did the re-entry go today?
Perry: As of this morning it was slow.
Garriss: I did not hear of any problems whatsoever.
Perry: I think what is happening, and this is just a guess on our part, but a lot of people work and I expect it will pick up come Saturday which is the normal changeover time for people to come in. It would make sense they would just wait and come in on Saturday or Sunday to go to their home. I do not know what happened this afternoon.
: Thank you and thank you so much for offering this to the public. I really appreciate it.
Stewart: Anyone else on the phone?
2.) Peggy: I have a question. My name is Peggy I am part of a large family group that is coming to the Outer Banks. We have 16 in the house that we are renting, and I wonder if there is anything that do our rental I know in the Chicago area we Like I wonder if of over 30 will that limit what we will be able to do?
Perry: I did not get the question.
Stewart: Is anything going to limit her being that they have such a large group?
Perry: There are two things. The first one is the governor. We do not know what he is going to do on the 8 th . If he lifts restrictions, will Dare County follow with visitation? You are premature in us being able to answer that question for you. I am sorry.
I assume you are renting, and I have had this question posed two or three times. The fix the renters are in is that if we remain under a declaration where renters are not allowed in then you have some recourse to get back your deposit and perhaps any other money. If we open up to visitors, then you are still on the hook and you have a right to come to that rental unit. Am I right Casey?
Varnell: That is correct.
Perry: You are going to have to wait and see what the governor does first, and what the Control Group does second. Does that make sense?
Peggy: Thank you.
Stewart: Any other public comment?

3.) Branch: Yes. This is Morris Branch again. I am a property owner in Kitty Hawk, and I have a similar question. Does the governor have a restriction currently on people renting houses?

Varnell: (Restating the question) *Is there a restriction in place under the governor's order that restricts the renting of homes?*

Branch: *If there is less than 10 does Dare County have a restriction that is going to be more rigid than the governor's restriction as far as allowing people to come in and rent your property?*

Perry: The restriction would be against visitors to the county not the renting ...

Branch: Visitors or renters?

Varnell: You are talking about one and the same. Visitor, renter. The mayor is talking about the same as you a "class of people".

Perry: Basically, the county is more restrictive in that they closed the gate to visitors. If you are renting a place you are a visitor as opposed to owning a place which is now open to nonresident property owners. I hope that makes the distinction for you.

Branch: I was just asking the question. I guess once basically the governor _____ a restriction on people in homes and the only restriction is no more than so many people. Does Dare County's restriction ... is it more restrictive than that? Sounds like it is to me because it is not allowing any visitors.

Perry: That is correct. Until they lift the gate for visitors Dare County will remain stricter even if the governor changes that order. Right now, it looks like that may happen for a little bit longer.

Branch: *Is there a basis for being more restrictive than the governor?*

Perry: The Dare County Control Group is using their basis as science saying Phase I and Phase II and the phases that the governor has set up need time. Now that we are letting the NRPO's in the next phase would need two weeks under the guidance that the Dare County Control Group is working under in order to make sure that the newcomers, the NRPO's that are coming in, do not add to the COVID problem here. If that does not happen then they would think about opening it to visitors. That is kind of the best answer I can give you.

Branch: Ok.	being restrictive as far as	the numbers. In other wor	ds, the governor's order
will be starting as	, what is it, 10 people?		E3
Perry: That is con	rect.		

Branch: So, Dare County ok. Thank you.

Perry: Anyone else?

There were no further comments or questions.

Perry: I want to reiterate one last thing for anybody listening. You are welcome here. The small group of people that have been so obstinate and ugly do not represent us. I will leave you with that.

12. RECESS

Mayor Perry made a motion to recess until May 11, 2020, 9 a.m., Kitty Hawk Town Hall for a budget workshop. MPT Garriss seconded and it passed unanimously. Time was 6:53 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the June 1, 2020 council meeting.

Gary L. Perry, Mayor