

**MINUTES**  
**KITTY HAWK TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Monday, September 7, 2021**  
**Kitty Hawk Town Hall, 6 PM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Presentations
  - Public Works Director Willie Midgett/15 Years of Service
  - Dr. Jack Bagwell, President/College of the Albemarle
  - Manns Woodward Studios Architecture & Master Planning/Police/Fire/EMS Station
5. Public Comment
6. Consent Agenda
  - a.) Approval of August 2, 2021 Council Minutes
  - b.) FY 21-22 Budget Amendment #1
  - c.) Beach Renourishment Capital Project Ordinance Amendment (Ord. No. 21-08)
  - d.) Resolution Directing the Application to the Local Government Commission for Approval of a Special Obligation Bond; Requesting Local Government Commission Approval of the Town's Special Obligation Bond; and Certain Related Matters
  - e.) Amendment to the Town Code. (Ch. 24, Sec. 24-54) (Ord. No. 21-09)
  - f.) Request to Hire Police Officer III Higher than Step 10
7. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
8. Planning
  - a.) Schedule Public Hearing. Zoning Map Amendment: 3722 N Croatan Hwy; applicant proposes to rezone a portion of the parcel to BC-1 to correct an existing split-zoning. It is requested the hearing be held October 4, 2021.
  - b.) Schedule Public Hearing. Zoning Text Amendment: Proposal to amend Sec. 42-1 Definitions. 42-250, BC-1; 42-251, BC-2; 42-277, VC-2; and 42-278, VC-3; to define, and allow "tattoo studios" as a special use. It is requested the hearing be held October 4, 2021.
  - c.) Schedule Public Hearing. Zoning Text Amendment: Staff initiated proposal to amend Sec. 42-1 to define and limit the number of "accessory living structures", structures containing conditioned living space that does not meet the definition of either a dwelling unit or an accessory dwelling unit. It is requested the hearing be held October 4, 2021.
9. New Business
  - a.) Coronavirus Paid Sick Leave Policy Proposal
10. Reports/General Comments from Town Manager
11. Reports/General Comments from Town Attorney
12. Reports/General Comments from Town Council
13. Closed Session
  - a.) NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) Approval of the September 8, 2020 and March 15, 2021 Closed Session Minutes
  - b.) NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) To consult with the town attorney to protect the attorney client privilege
14. Return to Regular Session
15. Adjourn

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**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, Town Planner Rob Testerman, Management Assistant Melody Clopton, Finance Officer Lilian Noble, Police Chief Joel Johnson, Fire Chief Mike Talley and Public Works Director Willie Midgett

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Perry called this meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**2. MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MPT Garriss made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McClean to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous 5-0.**

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

- Public Works Director Willie Midgett/15 Years of Service – Manager Stewart presented Public Works Director Midgett with a plaque for his faithful and dedicated service. Councilmembers thanked him for his service.
- Dr. Jack Bagwell, President/College of the Albemarle – Dr. Bagwell and Tim Sweeney, Campus Dean at COA Dare, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the new main building under construction and the programs offered at the College of the Albemarle.
- Manns Woodward Studios Architecture & Master Planning/Police/Fire/EMS Station – David Woodward, founding principal of Manns Woodward, provided a PowerPoint overview of designing and building a public safety facility. He explained Rob Manns, his partner, has been working with staff here and unfortunately is unable to attend the meeting.

**Woodward:** *Historical cost data. This is a slide of several of the square foot costs for past projects both theirs and other colleagues. For a law enforcement police facility the average cost from about 2008 to about 2020 is around \$591 a square foot. The mean for those projects is about \$556 and in either case it is well over \$500 a square foot for a law enforcement facility.*

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*Factors that play into that are many. Standoff distances are needed for safety facilities, specifically there are extra parking requirements due to shift changes. Also, this is a risk category 4 for structure. This is a building code requirement that requires these facilities to be designed at a higher level structurally than any other building. Basically, these buildings need to be the last building standing.*

*The same thing for a fire or EMS facility. It is well over \$350 a square foot. The average cost is \$383, and the median cost is \$379. Not all square footage is rated equally. The square footage for apparatus bays costs a lot less than other square footage. Typically, the bathrooms and kitchens are the highest costs.*

*Designing for value. It costs a lot less to make changes now. Contract documents and construction changes cost a lot more as you go through the process. Currently, this project is in the schematic design.*

*The Dare County Emergency Operations Center, completed in 2017, is 18,200 square feet with a cost of \$14.1 million. Today that facility would cost \$17.3 million with a cost per square foot of \$952 per square foot. This is very high, but an operations facility has a lot of technology that goes into it that is not in some of the other public safety facilities. Therefore, \$500 a square foot was taken out for that technology leaving roughly a \$452 square foot cost for this facility.*

*Dare County Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department, 2021, a little over 14,000 square feet with a price tag of \$5.4 million. Bring that up to 2023 and it would be \$6.5 million with a square foot cost of \$458.*

*Center for Public Safety in Jacksonville, NC. Completed 2014, 93,000 square feet with a cost of almost \$23 million, adjusted to 2023, it would be \$32.7 with a square foot cost of roughly \$352.*

*Norfolk, VA Fire and Rescue was a cost of about \$391 a square foot. Dare County Animal Shelter, 2021, 8,727 square feet, \$4.5 million projected out you would get \$4.86 million at about \$557 a square foot.*

**Perry:** *Everything you are showing is all fine but none of that is what we want.*

**Woodward:** *I understand. All I am trying to do is kind of set up an expectation of public safety facilities. The next part of the presentation is getting into your project specifically.*

**Perry:** *Sounds like you are setting up cost.*

**Woodward:** *Absolutely.*

**Perry:** *And what we want is what kind of structure are you planning to give us and then we will get into cost.*

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**Woodward:** *Where we started is the building programming, concept and design. My partner came to town to talk with the Jenny, Joel, and Mike. They went through the agency's needs, discussed their spaces and developed and prioritized the needs and the wants of the facility itself. Those efforts were a conditional assessment, space needs analysis and what we call a bubble in a relationship diagram. Those are the items that we took forward and put together the actual written space program and were able to refine that space program to develop a floor plan that I believe you have seen. We discussed their specific needs in detail, analyzed and further refined the information developing this graphic list of spaces and came up with this floor plan.*

*The police portion is roughly 5,770 net square feet which is 33% of the building. EMS is 4,596 net square feet, 26.9% of the building and for fire it is 4,386 net square feet, 25%. The shared space is 2,609 net square feet for roughly 15% of the building makeup. Net square feet does not include corridors, walls, everything to make the building so the gross square footage came out to 23,418 square feet total.*

*This gets us to the budget challenges. As of right now the line that needs to be met is that \$5.5 million dollars which is the red dash line. The bays and unconditioned space is usually less per square foot and comes out to about \$250 per square foot at 6,800 square feet. You have about \$1.7 million worth of bay space. Conditioned finished space at \$440 per square foot is \$16,620 and gets you to about \$7,312,800 with a site contingency of about \$800,000. The site contingency is what we feel will be enough to cover the site development itself. The other numbers are for the building. The estimated construction cost to plan two years down the road is approximately \$9.8 million with an estimated square footage of \$419 per square foot.*

*What we did at that point is a little graphic or analysis to get down to the \$5.5. The blackout line as you see is the planned building outline per square footage. If we took out the square footage to get to that \$5.5, the red outline would become your building. We call this method 1. The program building is 23,420 square feet, the budgeted building would be 13,126 square feet, which is roughly a 44% reduction in the assessed programmed space.*

*A second way of looking at this, or method 2, would be to eliminate the fire program. Eliminating the fire program eliminates the spaces shaded in gray. As you can see it does not reduce the square foot by a whole lot. The column on your right is without the fire program. The red line sits at the line at which you need it to be to meet your budget.*

*Method 3 would be a balanced reduction. Remove program space a little from each. I do not want to call it unnecessary space but less prioritized space from each program. Fire, police, EMS. In doing this we have a very similar result in that we still cannot meet the red line. Again, the column on the right is the reduced square footage of the building.*

Mr. Woodward showed a slide of a summary of the three.

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*As you can see the only one that comes close to the budgeted line is the reduction of 44%. Unfortunately, the budgeted M1 results in almost a nonfunctioning building. You would have to take out the 44% and that 44% would include some required spaces.*

*I want to give you a quick idea of what it would take if we eliminated the fire program altogether. It includes a reduction of the bunks, toilet, showers, quartermaster storage, apparatus bays. Ultimately that would eliminate 3,304 square feet and that cost-wise equals out to roughly \$1.4 million, a little less than \$1.4 million. If you decided to build a separate facility that was a fire facility in today's market it would cost about a million dollars more than you are saving. The reason for that is because there is an offset of the program spaces in the combined facilities. You have spaces that are used by all 3 agencies whereas if you did a separate facility you would have to double up those spaces to put them in the new facility. Therefore, a new facility at this point in time would cost you roughly a million dollars more at \$2.4, \$2.45. If you waited 5 years down the road it is close to \$3 million. If you wait 10 years you are at \$3.5, \$3.6. Wait 15 years you are almost at \$4.5 million.*

*You heard me mention the category risk 4 for the structural capacity. These are the minimum standards that we must meet per code. For example, the typical building in this area would have a wind rating that they would have to be required to meet. In a category 4 risk assessed building that wind rating goes up. That building has to withstand a wind pressure of a higher-than-normal building. And that goes across the board for all the structural components of the building.*

**Hines:** *What is the wind rating that you are referring to? 140? 150?*

**Woodward:** *I would have to look it up. I do not have it off the top of my head. I want to say it is roughly 160. I can get it to you.*

**Hines:** *I would be curious to know. Thank you.*

**Woodward:** *Absolutely. Typically, how those are rated is the risk factor is a percentage of what it is. So, the category 4 would be say a 1.1 increase over the 1 that a normal building would be. Again, these buildings must be risk category 4 structures, the last building standing.*

*Back to the average cost of construction. A typical construction that we see is about \$300 a square foot. Police, as we stated before, is closer to the \$600 a square foot range. Fire and EMS operations closer to the \$400 range, while bays and support for those buildings, are about \$250. The trends have been on an upward rise. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the past six quarters have been fairly consistent. Why I say unfortunately or fortunately is because we believe that once covid is through these numbers are going to go way up. Unfortunately. The cost of waiting. From the information that we have right now for 2023 is just under \$10 million, 2028 just under \$12 million, 2033 over \$14.38.*

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*Where we are in the process is we have completed the kickoff of the program and planning. We are now in the schematics phase of this project. If you would like me to, I can go through the process of a project, otherwise for time's sake, I will not.*

Council indicated they did not need to see that process.

**Woodward:** *Schedule. The typical design-built process would be the longest schedule. This schedule would be a process of going through design, finishing the documents, putting it out on the street for public bid, going through the bid process and the award process, then starting the construction process. That is the longest amount of time for a construction process, but it is the typical process that we go through.*

*Currently the civil design is approximately 9 months. The building design is approximately 7 months, and the construction is 305 days. So about 10 months is what we are looking at for the construction and design of this building. Altogether that would be 19 months approximately.*

**Hines:** *I am curious why it takes 9 months to do civil design.*

**Woodward:** *It all depends on the approval processes. For some reason for the past two or three years the approval process that must be gone through has gotten more and more complicated. That is about all I can say.*

**Hines:** *Are you doing the design of the building?*

**Woodward:** *Yes sir.*

**Hines:** *And did you say that was 10 months?*

**Woodward:** *No, the design of the building is about 7.*

**Garriss:** *I think what you are asking is, is there any way to speed up this process. This is unacceptable.*

**Hines:** *It is a long time. I am not trying to tip toe around it I am in the construction business, and I am not saying I design police stations, but I am familiar with what goes on here. I am not going to say that I am the smartest guy when it comes to some of the international things that you may have to follow but when I saw the timelines of completion being in 2023 that to me is a long time. These guys are already ... our police station is in a bad area already. It will be the first building gone so I am not very ... I cannot speak for everybody else, but I personally think those timelines ... I hope they can be shortened up. I thought I saw somewhere too where substantial completion is actually in August of '23. That is not turning over a certificate of occupancy to move in. That is not finished.*

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**Woodward:** *Well, substantial completion would be an occupiable building.*

**Hines:** *I see similar language in contracts on a daily basis. Thanks for clarifying that. I understand you are doing the best job you can. It needs to be expedited I think if at all possible, without compromising integrity.*

**Woodward:** *Absolutely. So, the civil engineer that is on board is Timmons. I do not know if you are familiar with them.*

**Hines:** *I am not.*

**Woodward:** *They are a local civil engineer. And this is their timeline for the civil process.*

**Hines:** *When you say local what do you mean? Camden?*

**Woodward:** *I will have to get you their address. I do not know it.*

*Somebody said they are in Elizabeth City.*

**Hines:** *Are they part of the Hyman Group or ... if they are in Elizabeth City that is fine. I mean we have some lots over here on the bypass that in my mind need to be cleared and ready to go. I understand civil engineering has more to it ... you have stormwater ... I know all the things that go into that. I am just trying to find a way to make it go a little quicker.*

**Woodward.** *Sure.*

**Hines:** *I cannot speak for my colleagues, but I am very passionate about what I am talking about right now.*

**Garriss:** *Is there a way to make it go quicker? We are not happy.*

**McClean:** *You said the approval process is very slow. Who is approving what?*

**Woodward:** *There would be several agencies that would be approving the civil plans from local through state. For stormwater management, mitigation and anything that must be done with the site development specifically.*

**Hines:** *There should not be any mitigation on those lots. They are high and dry.*

**Woodward:** *Just in general those are the site approvals that get done. And they are all through state and local plan reviews.*

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**Hines:** *We must get stormwater permits in First Flight Ridge in my neighborhood to pull a building permit. I get where you are, but 9 months is just ... I would like to speed it up. I know I keep saying that.*

**Woodward:** *A lot of times we run into this exact situation. It really comes down to that approval process. We have no control after we submit a set of plans for comment to a review agency how long they take with those plans. That review process can take anywhere from two to six to eight weeks and we have no control over that. That is part of the problem we run into. Beyond the design it is truly that approval process that is the critical path. We can perform the architectural side and design the building in much less time than the civil approval processes can take.*

**Hines:** *I guess another thing that kind of throws me off is I can apply for a nationwide permit and generally have that in 45 days to mitigate and fill army corps wetlands as an example. That is why I am having ... I understand that you do not control everything but there are a lot of steps here that I think are being ... now don't get me wrong. I would rather you say it take 5 months and be 3 than 3 versus 5. I appreciate and respect that. If I can get an army corps permit in 45 days to be sure ... you see where I am going. I am coming full circle right back to the timelines.*

**Woodward:** *I absolutely understand what you are talking about. We can ask the civil engineer and try and see what they can do to speed up this process, but I need you to understand that a lot of the process is out of our control because it is getting the approvals and the comments back.*

**Perry:** *You have not gotten to the civil engineering part yet, have you? You are still making designs.*

**Woodward:** *That is correct.*

**Perry:** *And deciding what design can be accepted by both budget and other constraints. Let's ask this hypothetical question. If you are still in the design phase, are you putting a full team on this or is this just one of many projects.*

**Woodward:** *We have a team on this project full time. Currently what we need is to understand where we are going from here before we can go full board on the design.*

**Perry:** *And what is holding that up?*

**Woodward:** *The budget.*

**Perry:** *Okay. Any more questions?*

There were no other questions.

**Perry:** *Thank you for the presentation.*

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**Hines:** *Thank you for answering my questions.*

**Woodward:** *Absolutely.*

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**a.) Approval of August 2, 2021 Council Minutes.** *(An approval of the consent agenda will approve these minutes.)*

**b.) FY 21-22 Budget Amendment #1.** This amendment, in the amount of \$100,300.00, will appropriate funds for the purchase of two 8-inch dewatering pumps approved at the July 6, 2021 council meeting. *(An approval of the consent agenda will approve this amendment.)*

**c.) Beach Renourishment Capital Project Ordinance Amendment (Ord. No. 21-08).** This ordinance amendment recognizes the grant, in the amount of \$1,408,247, from the NC Department of Environmental Quality for the 2022 beach renourishment project. *(An approval of the consent agenda will approve this Capital Project Ordinance amendment.)*

**d.) Resolution Directing the Application to the Local Government Commission for Approval of a Special Obligation Bond; Requesting Local Government Commission Approval of the Town's Special Obligation Bond; and Certain Related Matters.** This resolution directs the finance officer to submit application to the Local Government Commission for approval of a special obligation bond currently estimated not to exceed \$5,400,000. *(An approval of the consent agenda will approve this resolution.)*

**e.) Amendment to the Town Code. (Ch. 24, Sec. 24-54)** This amendment will restrict parking in Sandy Run Park to vehicles using the park or facilities. Unauthorized vehicles parked will be towed and subject to civil penalties as provided within the Code. *(An approval of the consent agenda will approve this amendment.)*

**f.) Request to Hire Police Officer III Higher than Step 10.** The town policy requires council approval for any offer of employment higher than Step 10. This officer has 23 years of law enforcement experience in the state of Virginia. It is requested he be hired at Grade 61, Step 18, \$60,975. *(An approval of the consent agenda will approve this request.)*

**Councilwoman McClean made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hines, to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.**

## **7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

## **8. PLANNING**

**a.) Schedule Public Hearing. Zoning Map Amendment: 3722 N. Croatan Hwy; applicant proposes to rezone a portion of the parcel to BC-1 to correct an existing split-zoning. It is requested the hearing be held October 4, 2021.**

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MPT Garriss made a motion to set a public hearing at the town council meeting on October 4, 2021 to consider the proposed zoning map amendment to zone the entire parcel located at 3722 N. Croatan Highway as BC-1, general beach commercial. It was seconded by Councilwoman McClean and the vote was unanimous, 5-0.

**b.) Schedule Public Hearing. Zoning Text Amendment: Proposal to amend Sec. 42-1 Definitions. 42-250, BC-1; 42-251, BC-2; 42-277, VC-2; and 42-278, VC-3; to define, and allow "tattoo studios" as a special use. It is requested the hearing be held October 4, 2021.**

Councilman Pruitt made a motion to schedule a public hearing on a zoning text amendment proposed to amend Section 42-1, Definitions, 42-250, BC-1; 42-251, BC-2; 42-277, VC-2; and, 42-278, VC-3 to define and allow "tattoo studios" as a special use. It is requested the hearing be held on October 4, 2021. Councilwoman McClean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, 5-0.

**c.) Schedule Public Hearing. Zoning Text Amendment: Staff initiated proposal to amend Sec. 42-1 to define and limit the number of "accessory living structures", structures containing conditioned living space that does not meet the definition of either a dwelling unit or an accessory dwelling unit. It is requested the hearing be held October 4, 2021.**

Councilwoman McClean moved to set a public hearing at the town council meeting on October 4, 2021 to consider a proposed text amendment to Section 42-1 to define and regulate the development of accessory living structures. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hines and the vote was unanimous, 5-0.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### **a.) Coronavirus Paid Sick Leave Policy Proposal**

**Clopton:** *When the coronavirus first came about the federal government had an act called The Family First Coronavirus Act that provided sick leave to care for dependents, care extension of the family medical leave and different things. That law expired on December 31, 2020. We took the wait and see approach because things were seemingly getting better and up until that point, we had had no employ test positive for covid. Unfortunately, since July we have had 7 employees test positive for covid and it seemed like the right thing to do to try to extend a paid leave while they were in the 10-day quarantine. We are not proposing paying for quarantining for somebody who must stay at home because they have been exposed. But we thought the most equitable way to apply such a policy would be for anyone who tested positive for covid to receive the paid covid leave.*

**Perry:** *The last paragraph on the memo is the one I wanted to make sure the public understood. Basically, it boils down to a vaccinated positive gets to stay home and collect pay even though they can basically work all because some do not decide to get vaccinated. Am I right in that?*

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**Clopton:** *Say it one more time.*

**Perry:** *A vaccinated positive. In other words, somebody who has been vaccinated and they get a breakthrough case ... they can collect pay. They can stay home, collect pay, even though they can really work. That has been determined by the science is that not correct?*

**Clopton:** *No. If you test positive you must stay home for 10 days. If you are vaccinated and you are exposed to someone who is covid positive you can continue to work as long as you stay asymptomatic and wear your mask.*

**Varnell:** *And you did not have a positive test.*

**Clopton:** *And you did not have a positive test. And you can be unvaccinated, exposed but not positive, if you can be completely isolated you can continue to work.*

**Perry:** *But with this policy if you come up with a positive then you go home.*

**Clopton:** *You must.*

**Perry:** *Thank you. I just wanted to make sure the public understood what is going on here.*

**Councilman Pruitt made a motion to approve the proposed coronavirus paid sick leave policy as presented. MPT Garriss seconded and it was unanimously approved, 5-0.**

**10. TOWN MANAGER**

**Stewart:** *A reminder to everyone that September 13<sup>th</sup> is bulk item pickup.*

*On a positive note, last Friday we received notification that the fire department received a grant. Chief Talley, his staff and the finance department have worked extremely hard to secure a grant for updating our radios in the fire department. They were about 15 years old and severely needed to be replaced. The grant was about \$144,000 chief?*

**Talley:** *\$148,000.*

**Stewart:** *The town will have to match that 5% which is about \$7,000. We have been setting aside money in our Capital Improvements Plan and will use it to pay the match. Mike tell your staff good job on that. Congratulations.*

**Perry:** *Is that equipment still Motorola? You could not buy it from anywhere else. Is that still the case?*

**Talley:** *No. There are other models. I believe the police department is using another model.*

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**Perry:** *But the different models can communicate with each other? That was the big deal back when we first bought those, 15 years ago or whenever it was.*

**Talley:** *I am not sure of that. I think those very models have been around longer than 15 years.*

### **11. TOWN ATTORNEY**

There were no further comments from the attorney.

### **12. TOWN COUNCIL**

**Garriss:** *Willie congratulation on your 15 years. You are awesome. As stated earlier all we have to do is call you and you are on the way. I sent you an email with a little problem I noticed, and I had a response back the same day and I appreciate that. Thanks to all the staff.*

*There is a young lady I would like to bring attention to. Miss Meghan Savona lives in Kitty Hawk on Poplar Court in Kitty Hawk Estates. She is a 2018 First Flight High School graduate and is currently a senior at UNC Wilmington. Meghan just took part in a 1,700-mile bike ride to raise awareness for sex trafficking. She started in Seattle, ended up in San Diego, 40 to 60 miles per day is what she averaged. I do not want to drive 1,700 miles much less ride a bicycle 1,700 miles. Congratulations to Meghan and thank you for what you have done. That is awesome.*

*The last thing. I am not at all happy with the police station progress. We have been talking about this for years and we are still nowhere. Like David said earlier we have not even cleared a lot yet. It sounds like council has a big decision to make on the budget and scheduling. We have a lot to talk about but the more we talk the more work is not getting done. We need to proceed. We should already have something on that property right now going up and we are not even close. So, what we do with our budget, what we do with our timeline, our schedule ... we have some big things to talk about.*

**McClean:** *We have officially made it through summer. Our lifeguards are heading back, and things are not settling down out there. Seems like there is still as much traffic which is good for our economy. Anyway, everybody stay safe.*

*Willie thank you for everything you do, and you do so much, the list is unending. You are the go-to guy, the grease that keeps the wheels of Kitty Hawk turning.*

*Chief Talley, enjoy your new radios. Communicate well.*

*Everybody else thank you for all your hard work. Stay safe. Wear your masks.*

**Hines:** *Everything Lynne said.*

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**Pruitt:** *I would also like to thank Willie. Willie, I appreciate all the work you do. When all these storms come and ... I mean when we talk about a go to guy ... this guy spends the night or stays up all night, whatever he does ... like he is here during storms all day and all night. We certainly appreciate it. We sure do.*

*Chief Talley, thank you very much for the grant. That is certainly a great help to our taxpayers, and I am sure they appreciate it.*

*And all the rest of our staff. Thank you very much.*

**Perry:** *I want to talk to Chief Talley about the grant and it is more than just a grant folks. What you do not know, and I have spoken to this before, but let me put it into a summary. We have a grant that saved you \$140 some thousand dollars. The fire department, under his leadership, has been out and painted fire hydrants. A lot of you may not know that is not for beautification, although it does do that. Sometimes the color on top must be a different color to show the pump flow rate or the gallons per ...*

**Talley:** *Per the NFPA the color coding is a marking system so we know what gpm, or gallons per minute, we can essentially get out of that hydrant.*

**Perry:** *And that allows you to know what size hose to hook onto it and things of that nature.*

**Talley:** *It is more of we know where our output is going to be and what ...*

**Perry:** *Also, we had an old trailer sitting on stilts that really needed to come down. I tried to get it down when I first came on council, but they were using it for training, and they talked me out of it. Then Willie had a community service worker and he had him paint it. That was okay, we could live with that for a little while. But now it is down, and it looks a lot better. On top of that Chief Talley and his troops have gone out and got Conex boxes. They have a design for a training facility and it will be local. It will be ours and will save people from having to go far away to do the training. Therefore, it is saving us money and they will be better trained. Our local volunteers will also be here and be able to be trained locally and be more proficient in what they are doing. That is the kind of thing we have seen, and we appreciate it. Thank you.*

*Next we are going to go in a closed session.*

**13. CLOSED SESSION**

**Mayor Perry made a motion to go into closed session for the following two items which he read aloud:**

- a.) NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) Approval of the September 8, 2020 and March 15, 2021  
Closed Session Minutes**

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**b.) NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) To consult with the town attorney to protect the attorney client privilege**

**MPT Garriss seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0. Time was 7:04 p.m.**

**14. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

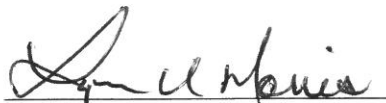
**Mayor Perry made a motion to return to regular session. Councilman Pruitt seconded and it passed unanimously, 5-0. Time was 7:30 p.m.**

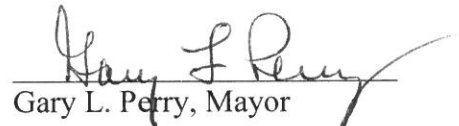
Varnell announced the closed session was held pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) Approval for of the September 8, 2020 and March 15, 2021 Closed Session Minutes and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). There were several matters of a legal nature that came to the concern of council, and they were discussed.

**15. ADJOURN**

**Mayor Perry made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McClean, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous, 5-0. Time was 7:33 p.m.**

These minutes were approved at the October 4, 2021 council meeting.

  
Lynn U. Morris, Town Clerk

  
Gary L. Perry, Mayor