

**MINUTES**  
**KITTY HAWK TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Monday, February 6, 2023**  
**Kitty Hawk Town Hall, 6 PM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Recognitions
  - Retired Police Chief Joel Johnson
  - Retired Police Sergeant Brent Vucinovic
5. Presentation
  - Recreation Committee Chairman Paul Henriques
6. Public Comment
7. Consent Agenda
  - a.) Approval of the January 9, 2023 Council Minutes
  - b.) FY 22-23 Budget Amendment #12
  - c.) Designated Official Resolution (for ABC Permits)
  - d.) Fire Access Road Construction Bid
8. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
9. New Business:
  - a.) Resolution Authorizing Discussions with Dare County Concerning Joint Emergency Services
10. Reports/General Comments from Town Manager
11. Reports/General Comments from Town Attorney
12. Reports/General Comments from Town Council
13. Adjourn

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Craig Garriss, Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Pruitt, Councilman David Hines and Councilwoman Charlotte Walker

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:**

Councilwoman Lynne McClean

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Town Manager Melody Clopton, Town Clerk Lynn Morris, Planning Director Rob Testerman, Finance Officer Liliana Noble, Police Lieutenant Jimmy Helms, Fire Chief Mike Talley and PWD Willie Midgett

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Garriss 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**

Mayor Garriss asked the town clerk to note that Councilwoman McClean is absent (excused) and Attorney Varnell is not in attendance.

**Councilman Hines made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker, to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous, 4-0.**

**4. RECOGNITIONS**

- **Retired Police Chief Joel Johnson** – Town Manager Clopton recognized Chief Johnson's 30 years of law enforcement experience. He has been with the town for 22 years and its chief of police for 10 years. Chief Johnson thanked council and said he appreciates everything they do.
- **Sergeant Brent Vucinovic** – Chief Johnson recognized Sgt. Vucinovic's service to the town. He is well known in the community and is going to be missed.

Mayor Garriss said he has known both for a long time and thanked them for their service. He knows there are many applications for the chief's job and thinks that is a testament to what Chief Johnson has done for this town and for the department. People want to follow in his footsteps.

**5. PRESENTATION**

**Recreation Committee Chairman Paul Henriques:** *Thank you for your time. First is a short video from Velosolutions on what a pump track is.*

The video showed that the pump track is a recreational area/track designed for all things on wheels. An innovative, rideable playground, which is useable all year round and is virtually maintenance free.

**Henrique:** *I brought this to the committee almost four years ago. I met with Tim White, Dare County Public Services Director, at the county park in town. We also had some conversations with the county manager, and I met John DeLucia at the park. So, I did some groundwork. I contacted Velosolutions which is the world leader of building pump tracks around the world. They are the leaders to go to for this sort of stuff. They came up with a design proposal that I presented to the*

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*town. This was probably a year and a half or two years ago. I thought the funds for it were appropriated and we were moving forward. Since then, I have met with a representative from Velosolutions at the park. He came out from Missouri I believe and took some pictures of the area with a drone.*

*I have a PowerPoint presentation. It is from the American Ramp Company which is a subsidiary of Velosolutions. What is a pump track? We went over that in the video and here are some pictures of different types of pump tracks. This one is asphalt and this one will be concrete. These are composite or fabricated pump tracks, not very popular and this is a dirt pump track. It can be built in all those different ways.*

*Velosolutions has built over 450 asphalt tracks, 300 are dirt and about 30 plus are concrete. They are currently contracted to do over 80 more across the country. Affordable? We can talk about that a little bit. Sustainable? Yes. As far as no maintenance and the asphalt, once you put it down, they use a special mix of asphalt that all local asphalt companies can patch. It stays grippier when it is wet and does not weather as fast. It has a couple of different specifications than a roadway. The preferred method is asphalt just due to its durability and how it holds up and how it rides.*

*This slide shows people on bikes, scooters, skateboards. A whole range of users can use this. It is all grass side slopes, so the maintenance is basically mowing and weed whacking. The safety aspect, if you get into trouble, you ride off on a grassy slope. If somebody gets in front of you the same thing. Pretty safe, very safe as far as use.*

*They are constantly innovating things like wall rides, and you can see down in the bottom corner they are building them for the handicapped. For wheelchairs. They are expanding the scope for people who can use these tracks.*

*These slides show you that it can be integrated around trees, perfect for parks, can be landscaped. Not intrusive, not ugly looking. It benefits quality of life, family friendly, builds communities. It is a regional attraction. There are people, me included, who will travel two hours to go ride one of these. People are going to travel to this area just to ride a pump track. They are up and coming. Splash pads, pump tracks and pickle ball are the three things being built in this country right now. The three most popular things. It is a boost in the local economy. I am not sure we need much of that and there is minimal overhead.*

*If you build a track that is over 10,000 square feet, and if it is designed and built by Velosolutions, that is all the criteria needed, it can qualify for the Red Bull Pump Track World Series. So, it can be on that world series and be a part of that which would draw a lot of people here. That is something to consider also.*

*Design development. This is part of what the American Ramp Company would be doing in design. They will create some renderings, basically get something on paper that we can use and that to me is the critical first step in having this move forward. I understand that the park is owned by the*

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*county, so we can talk to all the people in the county that we want. They will be excited about it, but ultimately, we would have to get their approval, and, in my mind, it starts with a design. We need to have a solid design. The location, the area, the design of the track. Then if it needs to go to the county board of commissioners or wherever it needs to go to get the approval the design would enable us to do that. So, an important first step is design development.*

*This is a picture of one that is going to be built in West Virginia. This is kind of a design rendering that we would be getting. This one is Haywood County, North Carolina which is a little bit west of Asheville. This is a massive pump track they are getting ready to do out there.*

*Procurement, we can touch on that. I do not know if we need to touch on that during this meeting, but American Ramp Company has, through Sourcewell, a way of procurement that I have been told allows them to basically design and build these things with public funds without having to go through RFQs and the bid processes. This is a very specific type of construction. Not everybody can build these things. If it is built wrong, it will not get used because it will not operate properly. These guys know what they are doing. They would have to be the ones to build it in my mind.*

*These are comments from people that now have tracks and how much people come together and how much they love them.*

*That is my presentation on pump tracks. If there are any questions, I will try and answer them.*

**Garriss:** *I have a couple of things then I would like to hear from Charlotte who is doing great work as Recreation Committee liaison. We have heard good things about the committee so thank you Paul.*

*The location. First, this is a Dare County Park. Would it include part of the community garden that is there? We have had a few phone calls already about that. We do not want to mess with that garden. We would have a situation on our hands, I think. You had everybody's attention when you mentioned affordable. There are some grants out there so maybe pursue that. But again, this is a Dare County discussion too. I would like to hear from Charlotte.*

**Walker:** *I have visited one in Portland. It brings a community out. In the video that you showed us it had wheelchairs on it. It gets families out and seems like a really good idea. I am more than happy to go with you to the county to talk about making this happen.*

**Henriques:** *I see this as what skate parks were ten years ago. Now there is a skate park in every town. There have already been discussions in Nags Head and KDH about pump tracks. It is going to happen here on the beach, and I would like to be the first to have it in our town to be honest. There is enough room between the community garden and the dog park. It might be beneficial to take the back fence of the dog park and move it 10 feet or so. But the open area that is there is more than 10,000 square feet. If we were to build a competition track it would fit.*

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**Hines:** *You might want to think about talking to the Tourism Board about this as well.*

**Garriss:** *Good idea.*

**Henriques:** *I am really seeking approval for the design to be approved. That is mainly what I would like to accomplish tonight. Once that gets done it not only starts the process with the county, but it allows us to go for donations, go to businesses and start fund raising. We can look into grants and see what we can build financially. A full competition track, 10,000 square feet or bigger, can run upwards of \$300,000 and that is why I kind of chuckled when I said affordable. Not that affordable. We can approach the former RPC and say this is great for the community, what can you do for us in asphalt prices. I am a contractor and I know a lot of guys with machines and shovels. Another great thing about this company is they are fully willing to allow a volunteer labor force. Anything that can be volunteered to shave costs they are open to it. I feel as if we can cut into that and make out and the rest can be balanced with grants. I think it is attainable.*

**Pruitt:** *What would it take to do what you are asking. You are saying a design. What would that entail?*

**Henriques:** *The proposal I put forth to the town is \$7,500 for the design.*

**Walker:** *And that is in the budget?*

**Clopton:** *It is.*

**Henriques:** *It has been appropriated. It just needs to be engaged in. It needs to engage American Ramp Company to move the design work forward.*

**Garriss:** *Are we ready to do that tonight? Approve the design?*

**Walker:** *Well, it is budgeted.*

**Pruitt:** *It is budgeted. I did not know that.*

**Hines:** *If it is in the budget already ...*

**Pruitt:** *If it is in the budget then I am not sure we even have to approve it.*

**Hines:** *The funds are there, correct?*

**Clopton:** *Yes.*

**Hines:** *It is not like we are moving money around.*



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**Garriss:** *Would you like to give the committee approval to proceed?*

**Walker:** *I am fine with that.*

**Pruitt:** *I mean if the money is set aside for this project, this beginning stage, and then it is taken to the county ... I think one of our biggest concerns was ruffling feathers with the garden and stuff like that. We realize now that it is the county that we are going to work with, which we did with the connector trail. It would be very similar. I hope we can operate the same as we did on that project.*

**Hines:** *You must be careful with the dog park people too.*

**Pruitt:** *Yes.*

**Garriss:** *Just throwing it out there for discussion for the public. What happens if we approve this tonight and Dare County says no.*

**Henriques:** *That is a good point. My feeling is we cannot get to that point without the design. If you feel differently and want to present it a different way, I am all for that. When I met Tim White at the site he was over the moon. He said let's go sit down and make this thing happen. That was almost two years ago.*

**Walker:** *And I have talked to Bobby. He was supportive.*

**Garriss:** *I think it is a great idea. Everyone has worked hard but I do not feel right approving it and we do not know what Dare County is going to do yet.*

**Pruitt:** *Is there any way that you can arrange a meeting and feel them out again and at the next meeting come back. Just so we do not prematurely approve it.*

**Garriss:** *Can that happen and report back at the March meeting?*

**Walker:** *Of course, certainly.*

**Hines:** *I am good with allowing the money for the design. It is already budgeted.*

**Walker:** *Do we need a motion to give him the authority to do this?*

**Hines:** *Go back to the county before we spend the funds just to make sure. I think we are all supportive of it. Maybe have that conversation with Bobby or whoever and come back.*

**Pruitt:** *So that we are not actually wasting the \$7,500. We do not want to do that when we could use it to improve something else in the town.*

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**Henriques:** *I put it in the terms of having to spend \$7,500 to get this thing designed. We do not want to do that if there is not a chance it will go there. That puts a little different twist on it than just saying we have this great idea. Now we are spending money.*

**Walker:** *You let me know when it is convenient for you to go and talk to them and I will set it up.*

### **2023 is North Carolina Year of the Trail**

**Henriques:** *One more thing. This was discussed at Tuesday night's meeting, and we voted as a committee to bring it to the council.*

A short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw67VZ7HNQM>) was shown of some of the trails in North Carolina and explaining that House Bill 554 is "An Act Designating the Year 2023 as "North Carolina Year of the Trail."

**Henriques:** *I wanted to put that out there. It is a great video that Great Trails NC put out. They are promoting trails and they are a great resource.*

### **New Trail Idea**

**Henriques:** *With that I have an idea for a new trail. I am glad Mayor Perry is here because his original vision of the Birch Lane Trail was to connect it to the Sandy Run Park instead of Kitty Hawk Park. You can see on this slide; this is the quarter mile marker of the Birch Lane Trail. The dark line is the existing 1.8-mile Birch Lane Trail right now. The orange line, I used an app called Strava, is what I hiked. That little blip is where the previous old trail head was for the Birch Lane Trail. The signage is still there.*

*This would ultimately come through here and connect down through here and end. The neighbor would never see the trail or anybody coming in and out of there. I know that has already come up as far as a concern. So, you come on here and you are on high ground this entire time. It is either a horse, hiking or hunters trail. It needs some improvement, but it does not need a lot of work. Walking this all the way back, there is a point that would require an 8-to-10-foot bridgeway and then at the entrance here it would probably need one or two 8-to-10-foot bridgeways or walkways. I will show you a picture of those that we built at the other reserve off Ridge Road. We built three of them already in concert with Erik Alnes, the manager of the reserve.*

*What I propose is this trail being the Phase II connection of the Birch Lane Trail. The cost for this trail will be zero. There are currently six volunteers for the state that have been doing trail maintenance, building walkovers, keeping all the trails maintained and cut back. The gentleman who showed me this trail is a troop leader for the Boy Scouts. He is the one who knew all these trails. Basically, we walked all the way to the Birch Lane Trail through a little bit of wetland. You could get through it without ... and this right here, I walked to Sandy Run Park. We were able to walk it. Now bridgeways would need to be built, not in the same magnitude that comes from the*

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*skate park to the Birch Lane Trail now because this would greatly shorten the distance. You build a little 8-foot, 10-foot bridgeway here and you are all the way to this point with no other bridges. We are cutting the distance of all this off with expensive bridgeways like the one we built. And while this goes in, we start working on grants and trying to move forward with the addition of Sandy Run Park at this point right here.*

Speaking to Erik Alnes, Northern Sites Manager (Currituck Banks, Kitty Hawk Woods, Buxton Woods) who was in the audience, Mr. Henriques said he had sent another volunteer his way.

**Henriques:** *With the addition of the most recent volunteer there may be seven or eight. The gentleman that walked this trail said you give him notice and he will have twenty Boy Scouts out there helping to build this. The volunteer force is there. Through donations, through me and others, we can come up with the materials and the manpower to build the bridgeways. Two or three of them I see to make this trail happen. We just need the approval to do it.*

*Once this is built, it not only gives us the future connection to the, we will call it Phase III bridgeways, but it, now at this point, gives us a trail that loops. It will be almost a four-mile trail that will loop. So, you can come out of Sandy Run Park, come down here and loop this all the way around. As far as recreational opportunities bikes, horses, hikers, runners will have an actual looped trail that people can get out and do the whole trail rather than going down Birch Lane Trail and coming all the way up the same trail.*

*If you talk to people, they want looped trails. And I can tell you from walking this section of the woods, the Birch Lane Trail is beautiful, but this section of the woods I think is by far more beautiful. It has more terrain, kind of rides a ridge. You can see through the woods a little bit better. It is beautiful property and would make a fantastic, looped trail and expand the trail that we have.*

*Let me show you the slide of the bridgeway. This is one of the bridgeways that we built off Ridge Road. We built three bridgeways like this. The top is about eight to ten feet long. These are about three- or four-foot ramps. We would only need probably three of these bridgeways built and that trail is done, along with cutting, cleaning the vegetation and raking.*

*It is the year of the trail.*

**Walker:** *Seems like this would be the optimum time to do that.*

**Pruitt:** *(speaking to Erik Alnes): Ultimately this is going to boil down to you. We own the property but you are the managing part so it would be something that we would have to see if the state would consider it. I know we have talked about the connector that Mayor Perry talked about as Phase II, but this is kind of a different. A lot of land that I wonder if you want people through. That is something I would like to sit down and talk with you about.*



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**Garriss:** *You will need some time on this won't you Erik?*

**Alnes:** *Yes. This is the first I have heard of it.*

**Garriss:** *That is not good.*

**Pruitt:** *We could all sit down and talk about it and move forward from there. That was the trail we used as kids hunting. That is the first trail and that is why it is like it is. I went in exactly the way you did Paul. Right at Sandy Run Park, right by the chin up bar. When I walked it there were three low areas that you would need exactly what you were saying. I saw three little places, ten feet maybe.*

**Garriss:** *That discussion should have been had before it came before us tonight.*

**Henriques:** *It was proposed during the Recreation Committee meeting on Tuesday night. It was voted by the committee to bring it to the town council tonight. I already talked to Erik and apologized for not inviting him to this meeting tonight. I wanted to basically piggyback it off the pump track. The pump track is the reason I was presenting.*

**Garriss:** *Get some information and come back with both.*

Speaking to a member of the audience, Mayor Garriss asked him if the Boy Scouts get credit for coming to the council meeting. The audience member replied yes and offered the Eagle Scouts might like to help with trail building and clearing.

**Garriss:** *Thank you for coming young man. Glad to have you.*

**Henriques:** *I asked Charlotte to ask the attorney about the agreement between the town and the state. I understand the property is owned by the town and is managed by the state. So that was part of it. I was trying to get the agreement between the two. The Birch Lane Trail got built. This is another trail that I feel is viable and I would like to get built. I knew Erik was going to be brought into it and I wanted to propose it.*

**Garriss:** *You guys are working extremely hard, and we thank you for that.*

**Hines:** *I walked that trail. I called you while I was there Jeff. I walked it twice this weekend and I do not disagree that going back the same way you go in is not as much fun.*

**Walker:** *I agree.*

**Garriss:** *Mr. Perry do you have any comments sir?*

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**Perry:** *I just want to add a historical context to why this ridgeline trail is there and is different than the Birch Lane Trail. All the ridges throughout Kitty Hawk would be cart paths used back before we had roads and interconnections and things of that nature. They would be a wider path already existing and have just grown over but that is probably what you are looking at as opposed to what Birch Lane was. Just keep that in mind for your historical perspective. It is not new.*

**Garriss:** *Thank you sir very much I appreciate your input.*

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

**a.) Approval of the January 9, 2023 Council Minutes**

**b.) FY 22-23 Budget Amendment #12.** This budget amendment, in the amount of \$55,735.00, will transfer funds from the capital reserve fund to the General Fund to pay for the refurbishment of the military high water rescue truck. *(An approval of the consent agenda will approve this amendment.)*

**c.) Designated Official Resolution (for ABC Permits).** This resolution designates Interim Police Chief James D. Helms as the official to make recommendations concerning the suitability of persons or locations for ABC permits. *(An approval of the consent agenda will ratify this resolution.)*

**d.) Fire Access Road Construction Bid.** The Public Works Director is recommending that the town contract with Barnhill Contracting Co., in the amount of \$51,400.00, for the installation of a fire access road off Otila Way. This road will afford the fire department access to Covered Bridge Road for fire protection for the private residences and the Coastal Reserve. The NC Department of Administration is providing \$50,000 for this project with the remainder from town operating funds. *(An approval of the consent agenda will approve this recommendation.)*

**Councilman Hines made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by MPT Pruitt and the vote was unanimous, 4-0.**

**8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a.) Resolution Authorizing Discussions with Dare County Concerning Joint Emergency Services**

**Garriss:** *If you remember we had a resolution at the January meeting authorizing an exchange of property, 4911 and 4907 Putter Lane, for a fire bay. Council had some questions and I think they have been cleared up. This resolution allows for further discussions with Dare County regarding any exchange. Any discussion?*

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**MPT Pruitt** made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Discussions with Dare County Concerning Joint Emergency Services. Councilwoman Walker seconded and the vote was unanimous, 4-0.

**10. TOWN MANAGER**

**Clopton:** *I appreciate the Recreation Committee. They are a volunteer committee, and they are doing great work and have great ideas. It is nice to see that level of engagement. I will be attending their next meeting. I want to be a part of it.*

*Everyone is invited to our "Imagine Kitty Hawk" Land Use Plan Update open house. The company that is handling this for us is going to be here and presenting the survey results. I am told we had over 300 people complete the survey. The meeting is here at the Town Hall, tomorrow between 5 and 7 p.m. I am encouraging everybody to come out. We would love to have as many people as possible.*

**Garriss:** *And again, what is the cutoff for the police chief applications? And your previous position.*

**Clopton:** *The way it was worded for both positions was "first review of applications." My position is January 30<sup>th</sup> and the police chief position is February 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**Garriss:** *And a lot of applications for that position?*

**Clopton:** *I would say we are probably up to 55 for the police chief.*

**Garriss:** *That is a good problem to have. Thank you. Melody you are doing a great job.*

**11. TOWN ATTORNEY**

Mayor Garriss noted Attorney Varnell is absent.

**12. TOWN COUNCIL**

**Hines:** *I want to thank Joel and Brent. It is a big blow to Kitty Hawk although there are other people standing by ready to fill in the void. That is a lot of experience that is not going to be here any longer. I want to congratulate them.*

**Garriss:** *How about a quick update on the police station debris removal.*

**Clopton:** *It will probably continue into next week and then the concrete must be pulled up and removed.*

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**Garriss:** *Very good. I also want to congratulate Joel and Brent. Many years of service. I have known them for a long time. Thanks to the staff and town employees that are working hard through some cold and rainy days. We appreciate it.*

**Pruitt:** *I do this from time to time. I want to thank Donny King and Better Beaches OBX. He and the volunteers do a fantastic job of planting beach grass and moving large volumes of Christmas trees to the beach. All kinds of things to help protect our beaches. Thank you, Donny and all the volunteers who do an awful lot of hard work.*

*Also, on our consent agenda, one of the items was the fire access road. We have been talking for a long time about having a fire prevention break line in the reserve. We cannot get a fire truck to a couple of dwellings because of a bridge that will not support our truck. This will allow our emergency equipment to get to those houses and it will also allow for protection of our woods if we were to have a forest fire. I want to thank Willie and Erik and everybody for working on this. It has been a long time coming.*

**Walker:** *I would like to welcome Ryan Gallaccio and Noah Floyd who had their swearing in as police officers last week. I think they will be good additions to our town.*

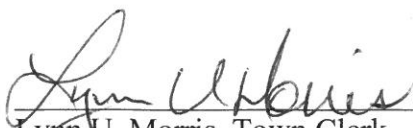
*I would also like to praise the Recreation Committee for all their hard work and everything they are doing. It is a great committee. Thank you.*

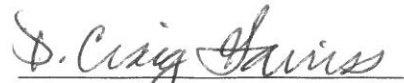
**Garriss:** *Thanks to everyone for coming out. It means a lot.*

**13. ADJOURN**

**MPT Pruitt made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous, 4-0. Time was 6:50 p.m.**

These minutes were approved at the March 6, 2023 council meeting.

  
Lynn U. Morris, Town Clerk

  
D. Craig Garriss, Mayor