



## MINUTES OF THE KITTY HAWK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

February 5, 2024

ELIZABETH A. SMITH ROOM, KITTY HAWK TOWN HALL  
6:00 PM

### TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT:

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

### TOWN PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Town Manager Melody Clopton, Town Attorney Casey Varnell, Administrative Service Director Laura Walker, Town Clerk/PIO Kristi Fellenstein, Police Chief Mike Palkovics, Director of Planning and Inspections Rob Testerman, Public Works Director Willie Midgett, and Police Lieutenant James Helms.

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### SAFETY BRIEFING

Town Manager Melody Clopton directed those in attendance to view the Smith Room and Town Hall safety briefing. Following review, Mayor Garriss called the meeting to order.

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Craig Garriss called the Kitty Hawk Town Council meeting to order on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Mayor Garriss thanked everyone for coming in person and for watching live at home.

### MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Craig Garriss asked Members of the Council and Citizens in attendance to join him for

a moment of silence and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Garriss asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Hines and seconded by Councilwoman Walker. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Garriss announced that Town Attorney Casey Varnell was delayed in a Superior Court Case but is on his way to the Council meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Garriss opened the floor for public comment. The public is invited to address the Town Council on any topic at these forums.

Ms. Sue Walters of 3914 Ivy Lane came forward to offer public comment. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to discuss the flooding on Ivy Lane. Ms. Walters shared highlights from the past year. She noted that in 2022, the neighborhood saw major changes, with a new home built four feet above everyone else. Additionally, two lots became bulkheaded, which was good for the properties but not for the road. Ms. Walters stated this request isn't being made by Kitty Hawk Landing, HOA. She noted that the Town approved and authorized remediation for flooding on Tackle Ridge, which is another artery within Kitty Hawk Landing. There was no record of funding given to the HOA at that time. It's been six months since the neighborhood last presented. The roads are still a concern. There is a fair amount of deterioration and cracks on the road. The ends of driveways with standing water have grown from one or two to many more. Standing water is standing for a longer time.

Ms. Walters noted remediation would be helpful to the road system. The potent small storms that come in much more frequently with westerly winds seem to have higher wind gusts and longer sustained winds. We were lucky this year. I ask for your help again. She shared concerns of high anxiety before every storm. She stated she looks forward to our partnership on this.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt requested confirmation of Ms. Walters' address. Ms. Walters confirmed "3914 Ivy Lane." Mayor Garriss thanked Ms. Walters for her comment and called up Ms. Midgett.

Ms. Diane Midgett of 1101 West Kitty Hawk Road came forward to offer a public comment: Ms. Midgett thanked Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt for coming in person to view her property and the issues she has had following the bridge renovation on Kitty Hawk Road. She commented on her work to clean out brush and debris growing near the bridge and reported the instability of the bridge to NCDOT. She was all for the bridge being put in, but the effect it has had on her property is negative, devastating, and unexpected. She noted that when her

property goes underwater, it will cause a domino effect and will cause more problems for neighboring properties. She noted emphatically that the flooding needs to be addressed before any consideration of sidewalks or parks.

Mayor Garriss thanked Ms. Midgett and noted there was no further public comment.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- JANUARY 8, 2024, TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
- FY23-24 BUDGET AMENDMENT #8 GENERAL FUND, TOWN LAND USE UPDATE PROJECT- COMPLETED. The Town entered into an agreement with Stewart Engineering Inc. to update the Land Use Plan. The project started in October 2022 (FY2022-2023) and was completed in November 2023 (FY2023-2024). Total Contract \$102,814.
- FY 23-24 BUDGET AMENDMENT #9-General Fund, Legal Settlement, Town of Kitty Hawk vs James Ray Watts. This budget amendment allocates funds to the expense account for the Settlement payment.
- FY 23-24 BUDGET AMENDMENT #10-General Fund & Capital Reserve Fund, Transfer from Capital Reserve to General Fund. The purpose of this budget amendment is to transfer funds from the capital reserve beach nourishment for repairs at the Byrd Street access observation deck.
- RESOLUTION OPPOSING A HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE RATE INCREASE. Requested by the North Carolina Rate Bureau. Kitty Hawk Town Council has adopted a resolution opposing the proposed Home Insurance Rate Increase by the NC Rate Bureau.
- FY 23-24 BUDGET AMENDMENT #11-General Fund, Interest Earnings, Project: Turn-Key Access Control System. The purpose of this budget amendment is to allocate unexpected interest earnings to the Key access control system project at the listed facilities: 1) Town Hall, 2) Fire Station, 3) Public Works
- AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACT: Key Access Security System Contract: Staff requests authorization to enter into a contract with KDH Fire and Security for the installation of key card door accesses and software at Town Hall, Public Works, and the Fire Department. The cost of the project is approximately \$96,000.00.