

Village of Bald Head Island Council Meeting

May 18, 2007

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Larry Lammert and Councilors Gene Douglas and John Pitera.

Councilmembers Absent: Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre and Councilor Art Morris

Staff Present: Village Manager Calvin Peck, Assistant Village Manager/Planning Director Chris McCall, Police Captain David Cox, Chief of Emergency Services Chip Munna, Tax Collector Dawn Reno, Utilities Director Ken Bowling, Public Works Director Ben Liddle, Village Attorney Charles Baldwin and Village Clerk Amy Candler recording the meeting.

Others Present: Stephen McIntyre with Rountree, Lossee and Baldwin, Bald Head Island Limited Director of Communications Joyce Fulton, Genie Ostle with the Bald Head Island Club and Suzanne Dorsey with the Bald Head Island Conservancy.

Citizens Present: Dick and Pat Johnston, Jane Johnson, Brenda Quanstrom, Jan Faulkner, Sam Goblewitz, Ray Webb and Marianne Link.

1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda Mayor Lammert

Mayor Lammert called the May 18, 2007 Village Council Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Councilor Pitera made a motion to approve the Council Meeting agenda as presented. In a voice vote, with Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre and Councilor Morris being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

2. Public Hearing

2.1 A Public Hearing on the Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget

Mayor Lammert advised that the first order of business is the public hearing on the Manager's 2007-2008 fiscal year budget. At this time Mr. Peck presented a power point presentation on the proposed budget. He advised that his budget is based on a revenue neutral tax rate of twenty-two (22) cents. Mr. Peck further advised that the budget includes two (2) additional staff, a Network Administrator and an Accounting Tech. He explained that the proposed budget includes a 3.5% COLA adjustment for the Village Employees. He added that employee's health coverage increased approximately 7%. Mr. Peck emphasized that this fiscal year budget demonstrates a significant commitment to Stormwater Management as well as the Village Hall Expansion Project. A Hybrid vehicle will be purchased for the Police Department. Mr. Peck also advised that this budget secures funding for various improvements to the Public Works site. Mr. Peck added that funds have been allocated for the purchase of a small hydraulic excavator for the Utility Department of which will be used to expedite the installation of water and sewer taps to individual homes.

Mr. Peck emphasized that there has been discussion among the Council regarding increasing the tax rate to compensate with possibly doing away with ICE fees and adding one (1) to two (2) cents to the tax rate to increase the reserve in the Beach Fund.

At this time, Mayor Lammert opened the public hearing on the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Ms. Quanstrom commented that she felt the proposal by the Council to do away with the ICE fees would increase the number of gas powered vehicles on the Island. She asked the Council consider this when making a final decision.

Councilor Douglas explained that the Council believes that the cost of the ICE permit fees is being passed along to the residents and property owners which in turn could possibly rendered by doing away with the ICE fees and increasing the tax rate to compensate for any lost revenue.

Mayor Lammert added that since the Village has integrated the ICE Ordinance, annual ICE permits have declined 10% and daily ICE permits have declined 40%.

Ms. Johnson asked the Village Council to please reconsider the proposal to do away with the ICE fees. She emphasized that the vehicular traffic In Middle Island is already horrible and it will be worse if these fees are omitted from the Village.

Mr. Johnston commented that he feels the Association meeting room is appropriate for the Village Council to hold their meetings and asked the Council to keep this in mind during the consideration of the Village Hall expansion.

Ms. Fulton commented on the \$300,000 included as a Capital Outlay item in the Utilities Budget for RO discharge. She further commented that Bald Head Island Limited is in favor of the Village removing ICE fees from the budget.

Mayor Lammert added that the Village is currently campaigning Brunswick County to lower the four (4) cent tax that goes to Doshier Hospital to two (2) cents. He added if this happens, the remaining two (2) cents could go to the Beach Fund Reserve for a Private Sand Placement Project. He emphasized that if the Village is truly serious about a Private Sand Placement Project, the Village needs to start adding funds to the reserve. Councilor Douglas explained that the Village will not receive any more sand from the Channel Maintenance Project until four (4) years from now. If the Council and citizens are dedicated to the Sand Placement Project the Council will need to move forward with adding funds to the reserve.

With no additional comments, Mayor Lammert closed the public hearing.

3. Consent Agenda

3.1 Approval of Minutes April 20, 2007, Regular Meeting
April 20, 2007, Work Session

Councilor Pitera made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. In a voice vote, with Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre and Councilor Douglas being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

4. Old Business

4.1 Update on Wilmington Harbor Project Maintenance Dredging Project

Mayor Lammert advised that the Sand Placement Project is complete and Mr. Olsen came to the Island on Wednesday to inspect the beach. Mr. Olsen was very pleased with the project and the quality of the sand. He further advised that groin sixteen (16) has been damaged which Mr. Olsen looked at while on the Island and recommended that the loose canvas be cut away and the groin be monitored until the fall when turtle season is over. Mayor Lammert further advised that Mr. Peck is going to get in touch with George House to request that any unexpended funds that were contributed to the Sand Placement Project by the Village be refunded.

4.2 Consideration and Approval of an Ordinance of the Village of Bald Head Island to Regulate the Movement of New and/or Existing Structures on the Island
Mayor Lammert advised that the public hearing was held on this ordinance at the April meeting. At such time, the Village Council agreed to grant the Village Manager the authority to approve the movement of structures during the tourist season on a case by case basis. Councilor Douglas made a motion to approve the ordinance. In a voice vote, with Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre and Councilor Morris being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

5. New Business

5.1 Financial Statement-April, 2007—*Manager Peck*

In the absence of Ms. Straub, Mr. Peck reported that according to the financial statements, approximately 99% of the budget revenue has been collected for the fiscal year. He advised that as of the end of April, approximately 61% of the budget has been expended.

5.2 A Resolution Approving the Purchase of Property from Bald Head Island Limited for a Potential Site for a Public Safety Facility
Mayor Lammert explained that the resolution regarding the tract of land for a new Public Safety Facility that is adjacent to the Police Department property. He advised that the Village is giving the Cape Fear Station Fire Department property back to Limited as part of the payment for the Public Safety Property. Mayor Lammert advised that the Village should close on the property next week. Councilor Pitera made a motion to approve the resolution for a potential site for a public safety facility. In a voice vote, with Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre and Councilor Morris being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

5.3 An Amendment to the Village of Bald Head Island Code of Ordinances Street Acceptance Ordinance Section 26-124, Entitled “Streets”

Mr. McCall explained that the proposed changes to the Street Acceptance Ordinance include a requirement of a certification from a North Carolina Engineer as to the stormwater drainage on the right-of-way. Mayor Lammert advised that a public hearing date has been set for the June 15, 2007 Council Meeting.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Beach

Anne Kane

In the absence of Ms. Kane, Councilor Douglas reported that the Beach Committee was appointed a new member at the morning work session meeting. He advise that Susan Prendergrast was appointed to fill the remaining term of Ms. Roushdy.

6.2 Finance

John Knott

In the absence of Mr. Knott, Mayor Lammert reported that the Finance Committee did not meet.

6.3 Public Safety

Don Tillman

In the absence of Mr. Tillman, Mayor Lammert reported that the Public Safety Committee did not meet.

6.4 Public Works

Richard Mesaris

In the absence of Mr. Mesaris, Mayor Lammert reported that the Public Works Committee did not meet.

6.5 Transportation

Wayne Lambert

In the absence of Mr. Lambert, Councilor Pitera reported that the Transportation Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday of next week. He advised that the Village Council appointed John Fisher to the Transportation Committee at the morning meeting.

7. Monthly Reports

7.1 Manager's Report

Manager Peck

Mr. Peck reported that the median project on South Bald Head Wynd is almost complete. He further advised that between the budget process and the Sand Placement Project Village Staff is remaining very busy.

7.2 Police Department

Captain Cox

In the absence of Chief Herring, Captain Cox reported that there have been no serious issues or events to report. He advised that as Memorial Day approaches the Police Department will accommodate with an extra Officer on duty to keep the Island safe on this big weekend.

7.3 Fire/EMS Department

Chief Munna

Chief Munna reported that the Department has been preparing for the busy Memorial Day weekend as well as the summer season. He advised that the Departments new water rescue boat is in front of Village Hall for public viewing. Chief Munna reported that the Department has a new transport policy with the County. When a medical transport occurs off the Island, a county ambulance will pick up the patient on the mainland and transport the patient to the hospital. Therefore, the Staff/Volunteer can immediately come back over to the Island.

8. Comments, Reports and Questions

8.1 Citizens

Ms. Quanstrom commented that she is very impressed with the budget process and the creativity used to compile the budget.

8.2 Bald Head Island Association—Bob Porter President

There was nothing to report from the Association at this time.

8.3 Bald Head Island, Ltd.—Joyce Fulton

There was nothing to report from Bald Head Island Limited at this time.

8.4 Bald Head Island Conservancy—Suzanne Dorsey

Dr. Dorsey emphasized that alligator season is upon us and asked that the citizens help with public awareness if anyone is seen feeding the alligators. She also advised that people should not feed the red foxes that are on the Island. Dr. Dorsey reported that the summer interns will be arriving on the Island this weekend and she also invited everyone to come out to the Annual Crayfish Boil next Friday.

8.5 Mayor and Council

The Mayor and Council had no additional comments at this time.

9. Adjourn

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Lammert entertained a motion to adjourn the May 18, 2007 Council meeting. Councilor Douglas made a motion to

adjourn. In a voice vote, with Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre and Councilor Morris being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Approved:

Larry Lammert, Mayor

Attest:

Amy R. Candler, Village Clerk