



TOWN OF SURF CITY

April 16, 2020 WORK SESSION AGENDA

Agenda

9:00 AM / Thursday, April 16, 2020

Electronic Meeting via You Tube www.youtube.com/townofsurfcity

Call to Order

Mayor Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor

Invocation & Pledge

Introductions & Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment Period

Town Council Work Plan Items:

1. Town Hall Update - Monteith Construction

2. The Honor Foundation Rental Request

The council agreed to assist the Honor Foundation in finding rental space in the Topsail Community.

3. Cody Leutgens - Ocean Fest

The council members voiced their concerns regarding alcohol on town streets and the enforcement issues that may arise.

The council came to the consensus to leave the current ordinance as it stands and to let Ocean Fest move forward with using the Welcome Center parking lot or the sale and consumption of alcohol confined area.

4. State of Emergency Discussion & Update

Mayor stated I'd like to propose we open public beach accesses first and leave parking and parks closed for now. I would hope to implement resuming normal activity in the town in increments and stages based on how lenient the governor's orders become and based off of information on the spread and/or resolution of the virus. First and foremost our job is to keep our citizens safe. If for any reason we see that reopening is doing more harm than good, if people aren't following the orders of 10 or less, then we will need to close again. I would like to *open beach accesses and the boat ramp* while the parks and parking will remain closed. We will continue to assess and have a goal to reopen those areas by May 15 depending on the facts surrounding the health risk between now and then. Based on a consensus from the council here today we will need to contact Wildlife for reopening the boat ramp. I also propose that we extend the suspension of *short-term rentals until May 15th* with a plan to reassess on May 5th. I have communicated with our neighboring beach towns, sought legal advice, and partnered with some of our local rental agencies in making this decision, as well as using state and federal advice. I hope to see our *businesses* open, even if it's at only 20% capacity, soon, but we have less control over that decision and are waiting on our governor's decision for that. In the meantime, please visit our local businesses online and support them with local pick up or delivery options. I know most corporate retailers are limiting or delaying shipments right now anyway, so please consider looking local for your needs first. I will be posting an updated list of shops to help support those we know are open or partially open. I have already done so with the restaurants.

Dwight asked to limit travel from certain states considered high risk by the CDC and allow short-term rentals for others. He also requested the parking spaces be open by 50% and for the opening of the restrooms at the accesses that will be open. He was also in full agreement to opening the boat ramp and disc golf course.

There was discussion with attorney Brian Edes regarding limiting interstate travel and the right of citizens of the United States for interstate travel. He advised not to limit certain states and allow other. Mr. Edes recommended not opening the bathrooms as these are confined spaces and he encouraged the council reach out to the health department for further guidance.

He asked for further legal discussion to be discussed in closed session to preserve attorney client privilege.

Mr. Edes stated he agreed that everyone wants to open and all to be safe again. He stated if we open the accesses slowly and see how the public responds first. Then in a few days look at how the public responds and see if it warrants opening the parking with the coordinating accesses. Secondly, the order needs to state which accesses will be open and when that will take effect and notification to the police department beforehand.

Mr. Fowler stated both other island towns have opened their accesses but have no public parking. He stated his belief this would be a consistent move island wide and still conform to the Governors Executive order. He was not in favor of opening the beach accesses.

Mrs. Batts asked for all accesses to be open so that people don't congregate, expect for the larger accesses in the center of town.

Mr. Torres stated he was in agreeance with Teresa on the beach accesses, and requested the accesses go ahead an open this weekend.

Mr. Shugarts stated he was in agreeance with Teresa and Dwight.

Mr. Helms stated that Wilmington Ave and Roland Ave do not need to open due to the parking and possibility of people gathering in masses larger than 10.

There was discussion on limiting the activity on the beach to exercise only.

Chief Shanahan stated Surf City is unique to other beach communities and parking in public lots and controlling parking and gatherings larger than 10 could be tasking on the police department.

Mrs. Batts stated that Roland Ave should not be open.

Mr. Torres and Mr. Shugarts agreed.

Mr. Merritt stated he had been on the beach with CM Mitchell to smooth the handi-cap access at Roland Ave, we are working on making it safe for handi-cap utilization.

Mr. Helms stated we should give everyone time to get things in line before just jumping into it.

The council came to a consensus to move forward with opening a limited amount of beach accesses, the boat ramp with parking for trucks with trailers, the disc golf course, and short-term rentals to remain closed until May 15th; to work with parks and recreation along with the police department on which accesses to open. The new state of emergency would come into effect on Saturday April 18th at 7:30am.

5. NCDOT Speed Limit Reduction Request - Driftwood Drive SR 1641

Mrs. Hobbs explained that the NCDOT had a citizen request to reduce the speed limit on Driftwood Drive to 25mph. The NCDOT conducted a speed study and the study did warrant the reduction of the speed limit. Portions of the road are in Pender County and a portion in Surf City.

Mr. Torres made a motion to approve the request for the speed reduction to 25mph. Mrs. Batts seconded the motion and it was carried.

6. Delinquent Taxes

Mrs. Loftis stated the finance department is looking approval to send delinquent tax notices and post them in the Pender Post by June. Typically, these notices are mailed by May 1st of every year. There has not been any legislation to delay these delinquent notices.

The council came to a consensus to mail out the delinquent tax notices and post the delinquent notices no later than June 30th.

7. FY 20-21 Budget Discussions

Mrs. Loftis stated that last week Mr. Breuer and herself met with each department head with their request and capital projects. This information is being gathered and put into a formal plan. The normal budget calendar would be the managers recommended on May 5th, she has asked for a budget presentation meeting for more fine tuning. Due to COVID-19 we lost the opportunity for the March meeting. The budget has to be adopted in June. She asked for the May work session to be dedicated to the 2020-2021 fiscal budget. She stated we will not know our revenue loss due to COVID-19 until about June of this year.

8. Amending the 2020 Meeting Calendar

Mrs. Batts made a motion to move the May 5th meeting to 10:00am. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and it was carried.

9. Sand Haul Update

Mrs. Hobbs stated that CM Mitchell is expected to complete the project within the next week. They are finishing up in area 11.

10. July 3rd Fireworks Display

Mr. Shugarts made a motion to allow the attorney to review and ask for an extension on the cancelation of the fireworks contract. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and it was carried.

Zambelli stated the town had till May 15th to cancel or postpone the July 3rd event.

11. Cape Fear Council of Governments - Wes MacLeod

Wes MacLeod, Local Governments Coordinator with Cape Fear Council of Governments gave a presentation on Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Mr. Helms made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and it was carried.