



Mayor's Message

January 2021

Happy New Year Surf City! I know we have all been looking forward to a new beginning after such a tough year and here we are. I believe that 2021 is a year of **resilience**. A year where we make our comeback. I also believe we have a few more tough months ahead of us as we continue to seek the light at the end of the tunnel with Covid-19. We must remember that we are stronger working together.

This year is full of goals and new challenges and we must stay focused and work together as we bounce back from a historically difficult year. As a vaccine becomes available for all of us, we can look forward to a bigger economic recovery. However, during a hard economic year, we still had new small businesses opening their doors for the first time. I feel grateful for that and proud of our local business community for persevering. I am also proud of our community for embracing our small businesses and shopping locally to support their neighbors and the town they live in. Without that cycle, we could not survive and *staying small is the heartbeat of who we are*. I ask that you continue to support one another and shop locally, especially now, during our slowest months.

2021 will also be a year of new goals being met as we move forward with our new town hall opening and our beach nourishment project. As we continue to work past the difficulties and loss, we must also recognize the good things we will be able to accomplish.

As we say goodbye to a hard year that has brought a lot of sadness, let's also remember the things we gained and keep those things as we tackle this new year. We had loss and suffering in 2020, but I also believe that we had renewed focus and our priorities were reset to what matters most. It was a year that we were reminded of how courageous and selfless our healthcare workers are and gained a renewed appreciation for their work to take care of us and our loved ones. A year where all our neighbors did all they could to help one another and we learned how to continue school and business from a distance. We found a way. We will continue to find a way and be **resilient in 2021**.

"I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it."
— Maya Angelou

UPCOMING:

Jan 14th Planning Board 4pm Welcome Center
Jan. 15th Council Work Session 9am Hampton Inn Sneads Ferry
Jan 17th Jackolyn McHenry Bench Dedication Noon Soundside Park
Jan 18th MLK Observance Town Offices Closed
February 2nd Council Meeting 4:30pm Welcome Center