



# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 16, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. Town Attorney Jim Eldridge was present, and there was a quorum of Council members present.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Allen Oliver  
MPT David Heglar  
Commissioner John Ellen  
Commissioner Dennis Panicali  
Commissioner Connie Mearkle

### COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

### STAFF PRESENT

Town Clerk – Beth Chase  
Director of Administration – Mandy Sanders  
Director of Development and Compliance – Bethany White  
Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver  
Fire Chief – Ed Kennedy  
Recreation Director – Nikki Keely  
Police Chief – Mike Bowden  
Police Lieutenant – Brandon Bailey

Mayor Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and Commissioner Ellen gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Accept the resignation of Jerry Clark from the Bike Ped Committee
2. Approve Budget Amendment 25-03 totaling \$194,000 for the purchase of SCBA air packs and cylinders for the Fire Department
3. Approve application for TDA funding totaling \$591,576.80 for lifeguard services for the summer of 2024
4. Approve application for TDA funding totaling \$50,282.72 for Ocean Front Park and Joe Eakes Park maintenance, improvements and supplies for 2024
5. Approve application for TDA funding totaling \$36,742.27 for entertainment provided at the Ocean Front Park for 2024
6. Approve the Addendum to the Smart Moves Consulting Agreement
7. Minutes • November 21, 2024 Regular • November 21, 2024 Closed



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MOTION – MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented

SECOND – Commissioner Ellen

VOTE – Unanimous

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION – MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the agenda as presented

SECOND – Commissioner Ellen

VOTE – Unanimous

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## PRESENTATIONS

None.

## DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### 1. Stormwater Committee

MPT Heglar stated the Committee met and reviewed the LDSI report from April 2020 that is now on the Town website under the Stormwater Committee page.

## DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

### 1. Administration Department

Director of Administration Sanders stated she is requesting to close Town Hall at 2pm on Monday, December 23, 2024.

MOTION-MPT Heglar made a motion to close Town Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 23, 2024

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

### 2. Fire Department

Fire Chief Kennedy stated he just returned from a 3-day trip for the final review of the Fire Engine in Wisconsin and found 11 minor details that they were able to correct that day. The delivery of the engine will be just after Christmas. The first week will mount all equipment and then will have a week of training on the engine. The purchase price when the Town ordered in



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2022 was \$715,000 with lead time of 24 months. The current lead time is 48 months and would be around 1.1-1.3 million.

### 3. Public Works Department

Public Works Mesimer stated next Monday the whole Town will have trash pickup on the same day due to the Christmas Holiday. The 3 accesses on Atlantic Avenue is back up this week and thank you to Attorney Eldridge he has submitted the asphalt company to start paving. The generator for the new Public Works building will be arriving Thursday.

### 4. Recreation Department

Director of Recreation Keely stated the Department has held two holiday markets, Holiday Whooby Watty, and a Holiday Story time by the Sea and were all successful. Thank you to the Police Department and Administration for helping out with the events.

## DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Consideration and action on the 2025 Parking Season

Mayor Oliver stated Town Council reviews the fee structure every year, but this year has been more challenging due to the ruling of the Army Corps of Engineers stating the Town can no longer offer reduced rates to residents. The parking passes must be fair and equal to all. The Town Council received 84 comments, and it was a wide variety of responses. Tonight, as a Council will make a decision on the 2025 parking fee structure so staff can start advertising. The Town will revisit the situation with the Army Corps of Engineers. The first thing to discuss is the parking season. The three options are 3/15 to 9/30 (same as last year), 3/1 to 9/30 or 3/1 to 10/15.

MPT Heglar stated the businesses in Town ask that the Town does not extend the parking into the spring or through October. He agrees the Town Council should keep the parking season the same at 3/15 to 9/30.

Commissioner Mearkle stated she agrees and does not see much volume in starting it early or making the season longer.

Commissioner Ellen stated he would recommend 3/15 to 9/15.

Commissioner Panicali commented September brings it a lot of revenue so he would recommend keeping it 3/15 to 9/15.

Mayor Oliver stated he will agree with Council.



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MOTION-MPT Heglar made a motion to make the 2025 parking season 3/15 to 9/30

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- No- Commissioner Ellen and Commissioner Panicali, Yes- Mayor Oliver, MPT Heglar and Commissioner Mearkle

Proposed Parking 2025 Season:

- Hourly Rate: \$6.00
- Daily Rate: \$25.00
- Weekly Rate: \$125.00
- Seasonal Permit:
  - February 1, 2025 - February 8, 2025 they will be \$50.00
  - February 9, 2025 - February 28, 2025 they will be \$100.00
  - March 1, 2025 they will be \$225.00
- Marked Handicap spaces are free parking with Handicap Placard or license plate
- Purple Heart Recipients with a Purple Heart license plate may park for free in any marked space Church parking on Sunday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm is free at the following locations:
  - 3rd Avenue, between K Avenue and L Avenue
  - 6th Avenue between I Avenue and J Avenue
  - KB Community Center Parking (118 N 3rd Avenue)

Commissioner Panicali stated the Town does not know the impact that will be felt this year but feels this is a reasonable approach.

MPT Heglar stated he supports the changes.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the 2025 proposed parking rates:

- Hourly Rate: \$6.00
- Daily Rate: \$25.00
- Weekly Rate: \$125.00
- Seasonal Permit:
  - February 1, 2025 - February 8, 2025 they will be \$50.00
  - February 9, 2025 - February 28, 2025 they will be \$100.00
  - March 1, 2025 they will be \$225.00
- Marked Handicap spaces are free parking with Handicap Placard or license plate
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- KB Community Center Parking (118 N 3rd Avenue)

SECOND- Commissioner Panicali

VOTE- Unanimous

## 2. Continued Discussion of the Kure Beach Village Guard Shack

Mayor Oliver stated he is a member of this HOA and pays dues to the community so he is requesting to be recused from the vote and let MPT Heglar handle this matter.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to excuse Mayor Oliver from discussion and voting on this agenda item

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

MPT Heglar commented Town Council received a request on November 11<sup>th</sup> from Kure Beach Village HOA that included a letter from January 2013 that stated Town Council had offered to remove the guard house. Public Works Director Mesimer received a quote for the whole project and a Commissioner requested a breakdown of the project.

Commissioner Mearkle stated the original quote included the whole project with removal of sign, concrete wall, guard shack at \$4200. Once the quote was split out the amount for removing the guard shack was \$2500. Her proposal is to split the costs, and the Town pay the \$2,500 and the Kure Beach Village HOA pay the \$1,700 to demolish and dispose of retaining wall, Kure Beach Village signage and plantings/landscaping/dirt.

Commissioner Panicali stated he thinks that is reasonable and agrees.

MPT Heglar stated he agrees the Town will pay for 60% to remove the guard shack. The Town always wants to act in good faith and try to follow through with prior Council decisions. The Town is spending Town funds so it is a balancing act.

Town Attorney Elridge has reviewed the January 2013 letter of removing the structure and he is not sure the letter is binding. He is unaware of any other evidence and does not see a binding obligation.



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MOTION – Commissioner Mearkle made a motion to agree for the Town to pay \$2,500 to remove the Guard Shack at Kure Beach Village HOA, the HOA is responsible for the other \$1,700(to demolish and dispose of retaining wall, Kure Beach Village signage and plantings/landscaping/dirt)

SECOND- Commissioner Panicali

VOTE- Unanimous

## DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

1. Letter of Support and Approval of Resolution R24-13 Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Resilience Improvement Planning Grant application through the United States Department of Transportation’s promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program

Mayor Oliver stated the Town received this request for a letter of support and approval of Resolution R24-13 for the Grant application for the WMPO.

MOTION- Commissioner Panicali made a motion to approve the Letter of Support and Approval of Resolution R24-13 Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Resilience Improvement Planning Grant application through the United States Department of Transportation’s promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

2. Reschedule the Town Council Meeting on Monday, January 20, 2025 for the Martin Luther King Holiday

MOTION- Commissioner Ellen made a motion to reschedule the Monday, January 20, 2025 Council meeting to Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous



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3. Schedule the 2025 Town Council Retreat

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to schedule the Town Council Retreat for Monday, February 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner Ellen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

SECOND – MPT Heglar

VOTE – Unanimous

ATTEST: Beth Chase, Town Clerk

Allen Oliver, Mayor

NOTE: These are action minutes reflecting items considered and actions taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. A recording of the meeting is available on the town's website under [government>agendas&minutes](#)