

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

April 17, 2012 @ 5:30 pm

The Kure Beach Town Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 5:30 pm for the purpose of receiving public comment on the concept of paid parking in Kure Beach. Notice of the public hearing was posted at Town Hall on March 28, 2012 and advertised in the Island Gazette on March 28 and April 4, 2012 as per General Statute 160A-20. Attorney Canoutas was in attendance and there was a quorum of Council present.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor	Dean Lambeth
Mayor Pro Tem	Chuck Keener
Commissioner	Emilie Swearingen
Commissioner	David Heglar
Commissioner	Steve Pagley

STAFF PRESENT

Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver
Town Clerk – Nancy Avery
Deputy Town Clerk – Nancy Hewitt

Mayor Dean Lambeth called the hearing to order at 5:30 pm and stated the purpose of the meeting. He asked Commissioner Heglar to give his presentation to the public.

Commissioner Heglar gave a slide presentation to the public which included the financial information on the impact of instituting paid parking in Kure Beach, along with the parking ordinances for Carolina Beach and Wrightsville Beach. The presentation slides are herein incorporated as part of these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Judy Larrick, 645 Settlers Lane:
 - Paid parking offers little benefit to Kure Beach. It creates an unfriendly, unwanted environment for tourists, and it is detrimental to our business community.
 - There is huge potential for increased parking along residential streets by people trying to avoid paying for parking which may mean an increase in “No Parking” signs throughout the neighborhoods.
 - It’s more trouble than it is worth with having to change ordinances, repair meters, enforcement costs, etc.
 - She said that Lanier Parking and the towing companies are the ones who really make the money. She feels it increases the chance of predatory towing.



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2. Mike Robertson, 509 H Avenue:
 - He felt it would hurt his business just like it has at Johnny Mercer's pier.
 - He wonders what sort of a pass his employees would need to park if they aren't given a free pass, he might have to help them pay for it.
 - If we're going to have paid parking, then let's put in parking decks to increase the Town's revenue from parking fees.
 - Now is not the time for paid parking in Kure Beach.

3. Mary Stephens, 610 S. Fort Fisher Blvd.:
 - Her family has a cottage on Fort Fisher Blvd., and they have room enough for only one car to park on the property. If more than one family member is at the house, where are the others going to park. She asked if they would have to pay the meter for parking at their own home.

4. Jerry Hammill, 129 S. 4th Avenue:
 - He owns a lot of property in Kure Beach in the B1 District and said he thought Kure Beach used to have paid parking when he was a child.
 - He said if Council decided to not build the Ocean Front Park, that would be a good place to put a parking deck so the Town could make more money on parking fees, and he offered to show the Town more places it could build parking decks that could reach 55' feet, if the Town rescinded its 35' foot height limit.

5. Joe Truelove, 512 Shell Drive:
 - He stated that Council didn't provide information on the parking rates or potential tax increases. They didn't provide a proposal on how this will work for the residents and the businesses.
 - He is against the idea and thinks Council needs to provide the Town with more information.

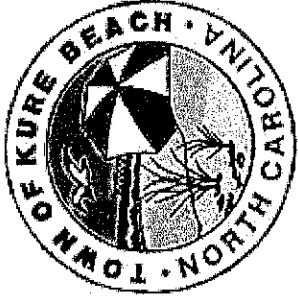
CLOSING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

As no one else indicated their intent to speak, the Mayor closed the hearing at 5:45 pm.

V. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

Mayor Lambeth said that it sounds like most people don't want paid parking in Kure Beach.

Commissioner Heglar explained, in response to Mr. Truelove's questions and statements that Council gave him the task of researching paid parking and no concrete decisions or plans have been formulated. He said he was just giving the public the information on the



Paid parking – Public Hearing

4/17/2012

Paid Parking – Public Hearing

- Council responsibility to review all revenue options
- Seeking public input on the consideration of paid parking in the town of Kure Beach
- 3 slides on the financial and ordinance related impact prior to opening for public input

Financial

- Financial Impact
 - Including Capital costs – estimated revenues of \$68,000/year – a mixture of fines, fees and consideration of resident parking passes of some undefined type
 - This is equivalent to slightly less than \$0.01 on the tax rate with revaluation
 - ~ \$40 on a \$400,000 valued home
- Source: review of parking company presentation combined with discussions with CB, WB and KB Finance

Ordinances

- Wrightsville Beach –
 - currently over 35 pages of ordinances supporting paid parking
 - Continued evolution of ordinances to address public concerns, the fact that parking customers have moved around the town
 - All beach access parking is paid – including residents

Ordinances

- Carolina Beach
 - 11 pages of ordinances
 - Resident passes do allow beach access parking
 - Passes available to others in New Hanover county
 - Business district exceptions to paid parking



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advantages and disadvantages of having public parking in Kure Beach. This hearing is to hear public comments and determine if it is even worth pursuing the issue any further.

Mayor Pro Tem Keener said that Lanier Parking identified 443 parking spaces that could be made into paid parking. He feels that amount of spaces won't generate enough income to justify the cost.

Commissioner Swearingen mentioned that Carolina Beach Town Manager, Tim Owens, said Carolina Beach barely breaks even on its parking revenues, except for what they make in passes to Freeman Park.

Judy Larrick asked if there were laws about charging for parking at CAMA beach accesses. She thought it would be a conflict of interest to charge people to park in those spaces since CAMA grants are what provided the money to build the beach accesses and the parking lots.

Mayor Pro Tem Keener said that there are a lot of CAMA parking spaces included in the 443 spaces. CAMA hasn't made it mandatory, but they have requested that towns not put any money received from parking fees back into their revenues. That money should really be put back into beach access improvement only. It doesn't justify paid parking if that is taken into consideration. He knows other towns that have put the parking fee money back into their revenues instead of using them to improve their beach accesses. He said it hurt their chances of obtaining future CAMA grants.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner Heglar made the motion to adjourn.

SECOND – Mayor Pro Tem Keener

VOTE – Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm

Dean Lambeth, Mayor

Nancy Hewitt, Deputy Town Clerk

NOTE: These are action minutes reflecting items considered and actions taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. Persons wishing to hear the recording of this meeting may request to do so by contacting the Town Clerk.

