



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 21, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 21, 2025 @ 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 Pastor Dan Keck gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve Budget Amendment 25-07 totaling \$142,500 to increase the Public Works Building Capital Project Fund for renovations to the existing Public Works building
2. Approve Budget Amendment 25-08 totaling \$60,000 for the purchase of a truck for the Development & Compliance Department
3. Minutes:
 - March 17, 2025 Regular

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

SECOND – Commissioner Ellen

VOTE – Unanimous



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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION – Commissioner Ellen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented

SECOND – Commissioner Panicali

VOTE – Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PRESENTATIONS

1. 2025 Safe Boating Week in Kure Beach, David Parker, Safety Officer, Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron
 - Approve Proclamation P25-01 Proclaiming Safe Boating Week in Kure Beach

Ottis White stated he is requesting the Town Council to adopt the Proclamation as presented. We have been promoting boating safety for the past 75 years. 80% of deaths on the water are caused by drowning where 86% of drowning cases, the victim was not wearing a life jacket. If someone crashes into your boat, you will not have time to put on a life jacket so it should be on the entire time.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to Approve Proclamation P25-01 Proclaiming Safe Boating Week in Kure Beach

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- Unanimous

DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Bike/Ped Advisory Committee
 - Proclamation P25-02 Proclaiming May as National Bike Month
 - Pedestrian Only Sign Request

Chair Linquist read a letter that is hereby incorporated into the minutes.

MOTION- Commissioner Ellen made a motion to approve the Proclamation P25-02 Proclaiming May as National Bike Month

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous



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MOTION- Commissioner Ellen made a motion to approve the Pedestrian Only Sign Request as presented

SECOND- Commissioner Panicali

VOTE- Unanimous

2. Marketing Committee

- Amend the Marketing Committee Membership from 7 Full Members to 5 Full Members

Chairman Dirk stated the Committee has moved to a more an advisory Committee so not as many members are needed. He is requesting the Marketing Committee membership be amended from 7 members to 5 members.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to amend the Marketing Committee Membership from 7 full members to 5 full members

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

3. Shoreline Access and Beach Protection

Commissioner Panicali stated on May 10th the Committee will be planting sea oats at H Avenue Beach Access. If any resident would like to volunteer, please show up at Avenue H.

4. Stormwater Oversight Committee

MPT Heglar stated the Stormwater Committee meeting has been moved to 6:00 pm on Monday, May 5, 2025. At the last meeting received a petition that was forwarded to all of Council from the former Hamlet beach area. He wanted to respond but was waiting on feedback from the Town Council before he responds. The Town is working on the outfalls as there were 3 significant issues from the residents and it is included in the budget for next year. He is working with the Mayor with NCDOT to work on the other outfall at Alabama Avenue.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

1. Administration Department

Director of Administration Sanders stated she received a request from First Baptist Church for a parking variance for their half day camp. It is 6 hours a day for 4 days from June 23rd to the 26th. It would be from 8am to 2pm on between I Avenue and J Avenue.



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MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to waive parking for the First Baptist Church Vacation Bible school Camp from June 23rd to June 26th from 8am to 2pm

SECOND- Commissioner Panicali

VOTE- Unanimous

2. Fire Department

- Resolution R25-02 Approving Donation of Personal Property to a Non-profit Organization

Fire Chief Kennedy stated he would like to surplus the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses and Oxygen Bottles equipment that was originally donated to their department. The board feels it is best to donate it to another department in need. He was informed that the Columbus County Fire/EMS/Rescue could use the equipment.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve Resolution R25-02 Approving Donation of Personal Property to a Non-profit Organization and the Bill of Sale and Hold Harmless Agreement

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

3. Police Department

- Accept the Retirement of Police Chief Mike Bowden

Mayor Oliver stated Police Chief Bowden has decided it is time to retire. The Town appreciates his hard work and commitment to Kure Beach. The Town wishes him well and will have him for a few more months.

Police Chief Bowden stated thank you to Town Council for allowing him to be Police Chief for the past 9 year and thank you to staff for your friendship and to fellow agencies who have stood beside him.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to accept the Retirement of Police Chief Mike Bowden effective June 30, 2025

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous



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- Appointment of new Kure Beach Police Chief Effective July 1, 2025

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to promote Lieutenant Brandon Bailey as the new Kure Beach Police Chief effective July 1, 2025

SECOND- Commission Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

4. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Mesimer stated regarding the paving contract he is meeting with the engineering consultant on Wednesday for an update. The outfall for H Avenue is complete and will be moving to J Avenue.

MPT Heglar stated Town Council needs to discuss the beach trash. The Public Works Department sent an email for input from the Town Council regarding the beach cans. He has requested email addresses of the HOAs and feels the department is prepared so just waiting on the input from Council so they can communicate with the HOAs and residents and order signs.

Mayor Oliver commented he is supportive but there will be some struggles to begin this change.

5. Recreation Department

Recreation Director Keely stated she received a Special Event Permit after the agenda packet was published for a Skim Board Competition on June 14, 2025 on the beach strand. The Kure Beach Peir is the supporting sponsor of the event. The applicant has been informed they must have insurance and also have to have ocean rescue personnel. The Recreation Department feels it is necessary to have Ocean Rescue personnel at the event.

Fire Department Kennedy stated he had commented due to the small number of members attending the event he did not feel it was necessary. It is a Skim board event that is right on the shore and the lifeguard would be in the stand near the event.

Mayor Oliver commented he does worry if a member of the event fell and hit their head, it would take the lifeguard away from his stand. He does feel it could be a liability to the Town. He is worried about this event happening during the Towns' busy season.

Commissioner Mearkle stated she supports having a lifeguard.

Commissioner Ellen stated he thinks an EMT should be at the event during the participating hours.



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MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the Special Event for the Skim Board Competition on June 16, 2025 with the requirement of an EMT during the hours of the competition

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- Unanimous

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

None.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule Hurricane Sessions to be held in May

MPT Heglar stated he will schedule the Hurricane Sessions for Friday, May 16, 2025 at 5:00 pm and Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

2. Discussion of Historic Sign Request from Wilbur Jones

Mayor Oliver stated last month Wilbur Jones requested the sign be replaced regarding the Kriegsmarine Attack so felt that Town Council should discuss. He would like it to be a historic marker on the right of way through the state. He will reach out to the Federal Society and the State group for further information.

3. Discussion of selling Kure Beach license plates with the Kure Beach Town Logo

Commissioner Mearkle stated she learned that to sell license plates with the Town logo she would need approval from Town Council.

Recreation Keely stated the Town would have to purchase the license plates. The Town store does not offer to sell license plates. In 2012, the Town bought 500 license plates for \$5.00 a plate but now it would be \$15.00 a plate. The license plates were sold at a loss and given away as gifts to get rid of them.

Commissioner Mearkle commented she would look into different estimates and bring further information to the next Town Council meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

None.



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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner Ellen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

SECOND – Commissioner Mearkle

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](#)

Good evening Honorable Mayor Oliver, Council Members,

Just 2 things tonight.

First, I just want to take a moment to thank you all for recognizing May as Bike Month with your proclamation.

National Bike Month has been rolling strong across the country every May since 1956, thanks to the efforts of the League of American Bicyclists. This annual tradition is more than just a celebration of biking— and it's not just about bikes—it's about what bikes represent: cleaner air, healthier people, fewer cars, and way more fun.

By issuing this proclamation, you're showing your support for those values and helping to encourage more residents to see bicycling as a viable, everyday option—whether for recreation, commuting, or staying active. It also sends a message that you're showing support for safer streets, sustainable transportation, and the wellness of our whole community. And maybe even giving a little nod to folks who ride their bikes instead of fighting over parking spots.

Through the WMPO's GoCoast program, we'll once again be encouraging locals to track their bicycle miles during May to show just how much biking is part of our everyday lives. It's a great way to see just how many of us are out there pedaling around—and it's not just because gas is expensive. There will also be safety tips, local events, and resources available on the GoCoast Bike Month webpage at <https://www.gocoastnc.org/bikemonth/> and we will also post this on the Kure Beach Bike Ped Committee website.

Thank you again for your support and for helping to build a more bike-friendly, connected, and vibrant community.

Secondly, a resident brought to our attention that there are currently no signs indicating that bicycles are not allowed on the boardwalk. This is confusing, since bicycles can legally only travel *north* on Atlantic Avenue with a rider. While many cyclists are respectful, clear and friendly signage could go a long way in preventing confusion and helping keep the area safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Especially during the warmer months, when the boardwalk is full of pedestrians, it's important for everyone's safety that cyclists are aware they're not supposed to ride there. It's a small thing, but it could really help keep the peace—on two wheels and two feet alike.

We're not looking for anything harsh—just something friendly, welcoming, and clear that fits the character of our town.

Thanks so much for considering it, and as always, thank you for all the work you do for our community!

Sincerely,

Mo Linquist, chairperson, KB Bike Ped Committee