



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, July 1, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.

The Kure Beach Town Council held a Special meeting on Monday, July 1, 2025 beginning at 10:00 a.m. There was a quorum of Council and Town Attorney was present.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Town Clerk – Mandy Sanders
Deputy Town Clerk- Beth Chase
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 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this special meeting is to hold a Swearing-in Ceremony for Brandon Bailey as the Kure Beach Police Chief.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Ellen gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

- Oath of Office for Brandon Bailey

Mayor Oliver gave Lieutenant Brandon Bailey the Oath of Office as the Kure Beach Police Chief.

Police Chief Brandon Bailey read a letter that is hereby incorporated into the minutes of the meeting.

MOTION- Commissioner Ellen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous



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ATTEST: Beth Chase
Beth Chase, Town Clerk

Allen Oliver
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>council.

I'd like to say a few words but first I'd like to thank my family, friends, the DA's Office, and our local, state and federal partners, for being here. I really appreciate that.

Today marks a new chapter for our police department. We remain committed to protecting and serving our community while honoring and advancing the legacy of those who came before us.

I want to say what an honor and a privilege it is to be standing here in this position. There are so many people that I am thankful for that I will not be able to fit into this speech. First, I want to thank Chief Mike Bowden for all his support throughout the years. You have been so incredibly instrumental in my career development, and I cannot thank you enough. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

I am proud and thankful to work with these Officers up here with me. This is truly the greatest police department with the greatest officers any Chief could have the privilege of working with. And I really mean it when I say working with... It is a team effort; we all do it together.

And thank you to the Mayor and the Council for having faith in me and for providing me with this incredible opportunity. I look forward to working closely with you to ensure the safety and protection of the Citizens and Visitors to our beach side community.

I want to thank all the officers I have worked with in the past, including my former Chief at Burgaw Police Department Bill King who saw fit to give me my first opportunity in Law Enforcement without him I wouldn't be here. Retired Burgaw Police Chief Wayne Briley, who supported and encouraged me and Chief Jim Hock also of Burgaw Police Department who I learned so much from about investigations and who always had an answer to any question. And retired Lt. Joe Miljenovic of Kure Beach Police Department for always being my biggest advocate. I also see some of my former partners Tim Flewwellen, Jeff Paul, Lee Williams, I appreciate you all being here! Also thank you to my father-in-law Doug Pardue who is retired Law Enforcement for all your advice and love throughout the years.

Law Enforcement is more than a job, it's a lifestyle that impacts our families as much as it does us so most importantly, I want to thank my wife Meredith and daughter Delaney for all their sacrifices throughout my career. Without your love and support I would not be standing here. And thank you to all of our officers' wives, partners, children, and family members, your sacrifices make it possible for our officers to help shape the Kure Beach Police Department into what it is today.

Finally, there's one person I've always aimed to make proud of me, someone who's been both my strongest supporter and my toughest critic. Dad thank you for everything and I love you and I hope I've made you proud.

Thank you all. I am honored and look forward to our future