



# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, January 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. The Town Attorney was present and there was a quorum of Council members present.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Allen Oliver  
MPT David Heglar  
Commissioner Connie Mearkle  
Commissioner Byron Ashbridge  
Commissioner Mark Dirks

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT**

**STAFF PRESENT**

Police Chief – Brandon Bailey  
Fire Chief – Ed Kennedy  
Director of Recreation & Events – Nikki Keely  
Director of Development and Compliance – Bethany White  
Director of Administration – Mandy Sanders  
Town Clerk – Beth Chase  
Public Works Director – Jimmy Mesimer  
Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Approve Closing Atlantic Avenue to vehicle traffic between K and L Avenue from the early morning hours through 5:00 PM on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Allowing for the participation of art/craft vendors and food trucks/vendors during event hours on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Waiving paid parking enforcement for the day of Saturday, April 25, 2026
2. Minutes:
  - December 15, 2025 Regular

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

**SECOND-** Commissioner Ashbridge

**VOTE-** Unanimous



# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, January 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION- Commissioner Mearkle made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

## PRESENTATIONS

None.

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### 1. Bike/Ped Committee

Chairperson Mo Linqvist read a letter that is hereby incorporated into the minutes of the meeting.

### 2. Marketing Committee

Commissioner Dirks stated that the Marketing Advisory Committee held the January meeting and interviewed applicants for the vacancy position. The Committee is recommending Laura Holman Byrne. The new Chairperson of the Committee is Steve Stefanovich.

MOTION- Commissioner Dirks made a motion to appoint Laura Holman Byrne to the Marketing Advisory Committee as a full member

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

### 3. Planning & Zoning Commission

Interview the following applicants and appoint 3 full members and one alternate member to PZC:

- Joe Barlok
- Tom Corcoran
- Craig Galbraith
- Ed Hall
- Tim Owens
- John Sitnik
- Ronda Sitnik
- George Thomas

Each applicant introduced themselves and Town Council interviewed the applicants by asking various questions to each applicant.



# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, January 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to appoint Joe Barlok as a full member of Planning and Zoning Commission

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to appoint Craig Galbraith as a full member of the Planning and Zoning Commission

SECOND- Commissioner Dirks

VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to appoint Ed Hall as full member of Planning and Zoning Commission

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to appoint George Thomas as alternate member of Planning and Zoning Commission

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

#### 4. Historical Preservation Commission

- Appoint additional full member of HPC from the applicants that were interviewed from Planning and Zoning Interviews

MOTION- Commissioner Dirks made a motion to appoint Tom Cocoran as a full member of the Historic Preservation Commission

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

##### Fire Department

Fire Chief Kennedy stated the New Years Eve event was a huge success so congratulations to the Recreation Department on hosting. The burn season for Sunny Point is currently ongoing but currently has no updates on the schedule. He will continue to update.

##### Public Works Department

Public Works Director Mesimer stated the outfall project is moving along well and will be completed in the next two weeks. The last outfall at F Avenue will be started this week and the whole project went very smoothly.



# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, January 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

## Recreation Department

Recreation Director Keely stated thank you Chief Kennedy for the kind words regarding the New Years Eve event. Those large-scale events wouldn't be possible without help from the other departments. She wanted to give a small update on the new Ocean Front playground replacement project. The equipment is all installed but must wait for the weather to cooperate as the weather must stay over 40 degrees for the flooring to cure properly.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Beach Nourishment/Army Corp of Engineer Update

Commissioner Ashbridge gave a presentation on the Beach Nourishment /Army Corp of Engineer that is hereby incorporated into the minutes. He stated there will be a meeting at the Carolina Beach Town Hall Council Chambers on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and he encourages all Kure Beach citizens to attend. As a quick overview each year the county does a new survey even though it is a 3-year cycle for the Town to receive sand. Because the project got delayed a year and the project was bid on this year as soon as possible the survey used was a year old. Once the project got started a new survey was completed and realized more sand was needed on the beach strand. A small amount of the Kure Beach strand will not receive sand; with Mayor Oliver efforts we were able to encourage more sand at H Avenue where the washout happened from the September storm last year.

## ADJOURNMENT

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Dirks

VOTE- Unanimous

ATTEST: Beth Chase, Town Clerk

Allen Oliver, Mayor



# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, January 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

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](#)

January 26, 2026

Honorable Mayor Oliver, Commissioners,

It has been brought to our attention that unsafe juvenile behavior involving bicycles, e-bikes, and motorized vehicles is increasing—not just locally, but across our island, county, state and country. Reckless operation on public streets is creating real and immediate risks. For example, juveniles riding at high speeds and performing wheelies on public roads like Settlers Lane have nearly caused collisions with pedestrians and vehicles, often with no regard for stop signs or traffic laws.

Our focus is behavior, not the type of vehicle. A Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike is limited to 750 watts and a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph, after which the motor disengages. If a vehicle exceeds those limits, it has likely been modified and is no longer legally considered an e-bike—it falls into the category of an electric motorcycle. That distinction matters, which is why enforcement must focus on how vehicles are used, not what they are casually called.

The solution is clear: education. We must educate both juveniles and parents about safe, responsible, and lawful operation before serious injuries occur.

We would like to thank Chief Bailey and the Kure Beach Police Department for proactively addressing this issue through public outreach on Facebook and on the front page of the *Pleasure Island News*.

**Parent Tips:**

- No pedals = moped/motorcycle
- Check your child's bike motor wattage and top speed
- Require helmets every ride
- Talk with your kids about the rules of the road

Your child's safety and your family's responsibility start with knowing the law.

Mo Linqvist, chairperson KBBP committee