TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING **Monday, October 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, October 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 Public Works – Jimmy Mesimer
Director of Development and Compliance – Bethany White
Director of Administration – Mandy Sanders
Town Clerk – Beth Chase
Finance Officer – Erica Walters

Mayor Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Accept the resignation from Pat Triplett on the Shoreline Access and Beach Protection Committee
2. Approve the Shoreline Access and Beach Protection Committee's request to convert the current alternate member position to a full member position, increasing the Committee's membership to 9 full members.
3. Appoint David Downing and Jennifer Ames as full members to the Shoreline Access and Beach Protection Committee
4. Accept
5. Minutes:
    - September 21, 2026, Regular
    - September 21, 2026, Special
    - September 21, 2026, Legislative Hearing

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING **Monday, October 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the agenda as presented
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Dennis Daley, 209 5th Avenue South, spoke regarding flooding concerns on 5th Avenue South and requesting an update from the Town. He stated that several homes surrounding his property have been elevated, which has raised the elevation of neighboring lots and resulted in increased water on his property. Mr. Daley noted that he has spoken with Public Works regarding the issue but wanted to inquire whether there have been any developments or updates regarding the flooding concerns.

Mike MaMahon, 1729 Spot Lane, addressed the proposed parking changes, specifically the proposed extension of the evening hours from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He requests that Town Council consider not extending the hours to 8:00 p.m., noting that there are numerous programs and activities taking place around the Community Center during the evening hours.

Beverly Lem, 113 K Avenue, expressed concern regarding parking and the potential impact of extending the season and extending the hours to 8:00 p.m. Kure Beach has a limited number of businesses and customers are important to their success. She noted that if citizens become frustrated with parking or other issues, they may choose to go elsewhere. Increasing the parking season and hours, who does this benefit? Ms. Lem stated that September was one of the best months the Town has experienced in a long time. She emphasized that Kure Beach is a small community and maintaining a strong customer base is important to the success of local businesses.

PRESENTATIONS
None.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS
1. Bike/Ped Committee

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

2. Board of Adjustment
   - Interview John Collora for the Alternate Member position for Board of Adjustment

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING **Monday, October 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Interview Questions:

- Have you read through the requirements of the position and the time of the meetings?
- What is your opinion on variances in Kure Beach?

Applicant Collora stated yes, he is aware of the time and requirements of being a member. He would assume there is not a lot of variances in the Town. He understands its part of the position to review variances applications.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to appoint John Collora as the alternate Member of the BOA
SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle
VOTE- Unanimous

DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

1. Fire Department

MPT Heglar stated that the Fire Department's 80th Anniversary celebration was well done. He noted that the Town's 80th Anniversary will take place in April and it is time for Town Council to begin discussing how they would like to celebrate the occasion.

2. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Mesimer stated that the Department will be closing Beach access 130 along Atlantic Avenue for approximately two weeks to complete repairs.

OLD BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule Legislative Hearing for Proposed Text Amendment Application to KBC 15.36.030 Prerequisite To Construction, Demolition, Remodeling And Impervious Surfaces, Etc submitted by Gayle and Lee Venturino at 122 Myrtlewood Court on November 16, 2026

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to schedule a Legislative Hearing for Proposed Text Amendment Application to KBC 15.36.030 Prerequisite To Construction, Demolition, Remodeling And Impervious Surfaces, Etc submitted by Gayle and Lee Venturino at 122 Myrtlewood Court on November 16, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

2. Schedule Legislative Hearing for Proposed Text Amendment Application for KBC15.36.010 Control of Yards/Setbacks submitted by Jeff Graves at 105 Camp Wyatt Court on November 16, 2026

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to schedule a Legislative Hearing for Proposed Text Amendment Application for KBC15.36.010 Control of Yards/Setbacks submitted by Jeff Graves at 105 Camp Wyatt Court on November 16, 2026 at 5:45 pm
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

3. Consideration and Action on Proposed Agreement with Unique Construction Company to Construct and Repair the E Avenue Walkway

Attorney Eldridge stated that the Public Works Department received two bids for the E Avenue Walkway project. Unique Construction, the contractor that completed the outfall project, was the lowest bidder. Additional terms and conditions were added and accepted, and the Mayor's authorization is needed to execute the agreement.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the Proposed Agreement with Unique Construction Company to Construct and Repair the E Avenue Walkway
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

4. 2027 Parking Season Discussion and Recommendations

Commissioner Dirks discussed the proposed changes to the Parking Fee Schedule, noting that residents and property owners have already faced increases in property taxes, garbage and recycling rates, and water and sewer rates this year. He stated that, with limited commercial revenue and a balanced budget to maintain, the Town should evaluate ways for visitors to contribute more toward the cost of the services they use. He outlined several objectives for the proposed changes, including minimizing the impact on local residents, property owners, and business employees while remaining consistent with Army Corps of Engineers beach renourishment guidelines; reducing confusion between parking rates in Kure Beach and Carolina Beach; and more actively marketing season parking permits throughout the island and New Hanover County. He explained that promoting season permits could provide discounted rates for frequent visitors, encourage additional visits to Kure Beach, generate parking revenue earlier in the year, and provide financial protection during years with unfavorable weather. He has spent several months working with Premium Parking to review actual data, evaluate different scenarios, and discuss various options. He also held individual conversations with Council Members and emphasized the importance of considering all ideas when evaluating potential changes to the parking fee structure.

Commissioner Dirks reviewed the proposed changes to the Parking Fee Schedule and discussed the following recommendations:

- Hourly Rate: No change to the current hourly rate, which generates approximately 48% of total parking revenue. He noted that the rate remains competitive and fair and that keeping one rate across all lots would help avoid confusion. He also mentioned the possibility of offering a discounted $20 lot along 6th Street.
- Season Permits: Keep the introductory $50 rate but extend the purchase period to February 1–14 and eliminate the $100 option due to low sales. Increase the regular season permit rate from $225 to $250. Another option would be to allow the $50 passes to be purchased for longer (3 weeks or the entire month of Feb) in order to maximize availability. Another option would be to reduce the price of these Season Passes to $125 (same as weekly) to encourage mid-season purchases.
- Weekly Rate: Eliminate the weekly rate due to low sales, which account for approximately 1% of total parking revenue, and simplify the fee schedule.
- Daily Rate: Increase the daily rate from $25 to $35. Commissioner Dirks noted that the daily rate would still represent a discount compared to paying the hourly rate for an entire day and referenced comparable rates in Carolina Beach and Wrightsville Beach.
- Parking Hours: Extend paid parking hours from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to align with Carolina Beach. He also discussed the possibility of keeping K Avenue parking hours at 6:00 p.m., although this could create confusion and require additional signage.
- Parking Season: Extend the paid parking season by 45 days, from March 1 through October 31, to capture additional revenue during periods of increased beach activity and better align with Carolina Beach.

MPT Heglar stated that he did not see a need for Kure Beach to align with Carolina Beach, as he thinks it's important to be our own Town. He noted that he has always been cautious about paid parking. He expressed concern about relying on parking revenue as it may not be a sustainable revenue source in 10 years. He agrees the daily parking rate makes sense, but he prefers keeping the parking hours to 6:00 p.m. He is open though to discuss different hours for K Avenue vs the rest of Town. He also thinks that extending the parking season could negatively affect local businesses, noting that visitors during the extended season may represent a different financial demographic.

Commissioner Mearkle stated that she supports extending the availability of the $50 seasonal parking permits and increasing efforts to advertise them. She agreed with aligning the daily parking rate more closely with Carolina Beach, noting that she does not want Kure Beach to be the lowest-cost community. Regarding the proposed parking hours and season, she stated that she was not yet convinced of the need for an extended season. She reviewed the fiscal budget and considered the financial implications of extending the parking season. She stated that

extending the parking season would save each property owner approximately $14.95, while the proposed hourly rate changes would save $14.32 and the daily rate changes would save $24.91 per property owner. She indicated that she was leaning toward increasing the daily parking rate but remained open to hearing additional feedback and discussing the proposed changes.

Commissioner Ashbridge stated that he shares Commissioner Mearkle's concerns regarding extending the parking hours and season. He is open to considering a two-tier parking system with premium rates for lots closer to the beach but doesn't want to create confusion with the rates. Regarding season permits, he noted that the Town doesn't sell a lot of season permits after the initial $50 promotional period and suggested exploring ways to make the regular season permits more affordable to encourage additional purchases throughout the season.

Mayor Oliver stated Town Council discusses the beach access parking lots each year and would like to continue that conversation. He suggested keeping parking enforcement on K Avenue until 6:00 p.m. while allowing the remaining parking lots to operate under the proposed 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. hours. He stated that he had spoken with representatives from Wrightsville Beach and Carolina Beach and that changes are forthcoming, although they did not disclose the proposed rate increases. He had expressed concern last year that selling seasonal passes for $50 could negatively affect Town revenue, but it has not. He stated that the Town benefits from the seasonal passes and needs to increase advertising and promotion of the passes. He would like to take public comments until November 9th through the Town Clerk to be reviewed by Town Council before acting next month.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to go into Closed Session for Attorney Client Privilege per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a), to consult with Town Attorney.
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to return to open session
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING **Monday, October 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 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

SIGN IN SHEET
TO ADDRESS KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING TYPE & DATE October 14 2026

NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC OF CONCERN
Dennis Daley	209 Fifth Ave S	Flooding on Fifth Ave
Mike McMahon	1729 Spot Ln	Parking after 6:00
Beverly Lem	113 K Ave	Parking after 6pm

Kure Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Town Council Report – October 2026

Tour de Island – October 17, 2026

The annual Tour de Island was another wonderful success, bringing together cyclists of all ages to celebrate healthy living, bicycle safety, and community connections across Pleasure Island.

More than 200 participants registered, and despite the threatening weather, **142 enthusiastic attendees** turned out for the 10-mile ride, which started and finished at **Kure Beach Ocean Front Park** this year. Fortunately, the rain held off until the ride was complete!

We were especially pleased to have **New Hanover County Commissioner Chair LeAnn Pierce** join the festivities and show her support for active transportation and community engagement.

Participants enjoyed bagels by **Island Bagels**, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, coffee generously donated from **Magic Beans**, and water donated by **Publix**. A special thank-you to **Kimberly of Kure Beach Yoga** for leading yoga and adding a wonderful wellness component to the morning.

A heartfelt thank-you to all our sponsors, volunteers, local businesses, and community partners who helped make this event possible.

Tour de Island continues to demonstrate the value of collaboration between Carolina Beach and Kure Beach in promoting safe bicycling, outdoor recreation, and a healthier, more connected community.

Walktober – October Walking Challenge

October is also **Walktober**, our month-long initiative encouraging residents and visitors to get outside, get moving, and explore our beautiful community on foot.

Participants are encouraged to join our **"Kure Beach Walkers"** group on the StepUp app, where they can track their steps, participate in a friendly walking challenge, and motivate one another throughout the month.

To conclude Walktober, we invite everyone to join us on **Saturday, October 31, for "A Walk with History!"** at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site.

This special community event combines walking, exercise, and an opportunity to learn more about our area's rich history.

Schedule for October 31:

- **9:00 AM:** Check-in and orientation film
- **9:30 AM:** Guided walking tour of Fort Fisher
- **10:15 AM:** Free time to explore the historic grounds

Walktober – Join Us!

We encourage Town Council members, residents, families, and friends to join us and help finish Walktober strong!

Download the free **StepUp Pedometer – Social Step Challenge** app, scan the QR code on our Walktober flyer to join the **Kure Beach Walkers** group, and start counting your steps. Every step counts, whether you're walking on the beach, around your neighborhood, or along our beautiful greenways.

Then mark your calendar for **October 31 at 9:00 AM** and join us at Fort Fisher for *A Walk with History!* Bring a neighbor, invite a friend, and enjoy a morning of walking, learning, and community connection.

Let's get Kure Beach moving—one step at a time!

Our goal is to encourage residents of all ages and abilities to stay active while discovering the wonderful walking opportunities, natural beauty, and history that make our community special.

Whether on two wheels or two feet, October is a great month to get outside and enjoy Pleasure Island!

Respectfully submitted,
Mo Linquist
Chair, Kure Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee