



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 16, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, March 16, 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.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Appoint Ryan Avery to the Community Center Committee as an alternate member
2. Approve waiving the Special Event fee for the Cape Fear Disabled Sportsman's Fishing Tournament and waive paid parking enforcement for the day of Friday, May 8, 2026.
3. Allow for the Community Fest Walk to be held on Kure Beach streets on the evening of Friday, April 24, 2026 and Waive the Special Event fees associated with this event due to the non-profit status of Friends of Kure Beach
4. Approve the Special Event Permit for the Skim Board Competition event taking place on the beach strand on Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14, 2026.
5. Minutes:
 - January 26, 2026

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

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- Unanimous



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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Jennifer Ames at 313 Atlantic Avenue stated:

- Thank you to Town Council for the opportunity to speak regarding the boardwalk again
- Living along Atlantic Avenue she has a bird eyes view of most of the boardwalk and gets to see how it is used daily, families together, couples strolling, strollers being pushed, carts being pulled, joggers and walkers happy to have a surface that is more forgiving to their joints than concrete, a surface that is used by many with bare feet
- Andrews Consulting Engineers was hired less than two years ago, and determined that the bones were good
- The Town does not do enough to maintain the boardwalk, the amount of the mulch being laid over the years hasn't allowed for air circulation, the plants overgrow and cause shade, the boardwalk needs to breathe, as it is suffocating
- Please fix the boardwalk and maintain it, no one wants concrete
- Carolina beach and both state parks both have boardwalks and utilize wood, the riverwalk downtown uses wood. Please continue to use wood for the boardwalk in Kure Beach
- Please come and sit on our deck and observe the uses of the Boardwalk by citizens and how it brings happiness to the community
- Wood is forgiving to old joints, young bare feet, and dog paws

Resident Roy Erwin at 301 Settlers Lane stated dido to whatever Jennifer Ames just said. He read Commissioner Ashbridge's report in the agenda packet and agrees with it.

Resident Karen stated she agrees with Jennifer, it needs to be wood and needs to be maintained. It currently is an eyesore, and it needs to be someone's responsibility in the Public Works Department to maintain it. It brings value to Kure Beach.

Resident Moira Guyton resident at 435 Anchor Way stated she agrees with everything that has been said and the wood represents the charm of Kure Beach. She walks the boardwalk daily and it has gotten bad and needs to be addressed quickly.



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PRESENTATIONS

Resident John Ellen stated he loves this Town, the residents and the Town staff. A year ago, he started drafting a 4-page brochure for Kure Beach. He would like to pay to have these printed with Councils approval and put them in the lobby. There would be no expense to the Town, but if there are any comments before publishing, please let him know.

Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director, Jim DeGilio gave a presentation on the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce budget request for FY 26-27 that is hereby incorporated into the minutes.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Bike/Ped Committee

Chairperson Mo Linqvist read a letter hereby incorporated into the minutes.

2. Shoreline Access and Beach Protection

Commissioner Ashbridge commented at the Council retreat the SLABP was instructed to assess and review all the ramps and bring forth a report to Town Council. That assessment is almost completed. He will get up with Public Works Director and MPT Heglar to review for the budget.

DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

1. Finance Department

Reschedule Budget Workshop #1

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to reschedule the Budget Workshop #1 to Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Dirks

VOTE- Unanimous

2. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Mesimer stated the outfall project is completed throughout Town. The company that did the work went above and beyond and he is very pleased with the work completed by Unique Concepts. He is working on lining everything up to get paving completed before the summer season.



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OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the Ocean Front Boardwalk

Commissioner Ashbridge stated the feedback received has been very clear that citizens want the boardwalk to stay. The drainage is an issue as the water doesn't flow due to the landscape and original design. There are also the ongoing maintenance expenses because just last year the Town spent \$74,000 to repair the boardwalk and that cost doesn't even include any hours spent by Public Works Department. He hopes through collaboration to achieve an agreement and determine the right next steps. Public Works Director Mesimer has repairs that need to be made before season but need to get guidance on drainage and materials.

Commissioner Mearkle stated she agrees with the recommendation, and citizens want it to be pressure treated lumber. The Town needs to fix the drainage issues, and the mulch seems to be a problem but defers to the landscaper for his recommendation on fixing the plantings and drainage.

Commissioner Dirks stated he read through all the minutes and walked the boardwalk and spoke with residents. He does not think the boardwalk should be multiuse and it needs to be wood. The boardwalk is 17 years old, and it is time for it to be upgraded. It is expensive to bring in third parties but maybe the Town needs to assign an employee to this task. Thank you for doing all the work on this project.

MPT Heglar commented he agrees with Council. The issue is a resource and cost issue. If you make the boardwalk high enough for airflow, then handrails are required but residents did not want handrails when the boardwalk was built. The Public Works Department has fought every year the budget restraints that are imposed on them. If the Town continues to use wood then Town Council needs to be prepared when the budget process comes around and the Public Works Director needs to add 100K for repairs. If using the citizens' money he believes the Town should use a better material than wood. The 4 citizens that spoke tonight are not all the citizens in Town. He loves the boardwalk, but he has put trex on his own property because he does not want to deal with the issue of wood. He is okay however Town Council decides to move forward but Town Council needs to put out all the information to citizens regarding the cost of the project and give feedback. Town Councils job is to make sure all citizens are heard and make the best decisions for the Town.

Commissioner Ashbridge stated he has heard from most citizens wood or wood like material. The majority of residents he has talked to just don't want concrete.



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Mayor Oliver commented he appreciates the newer members of Council for getting engaged and doing research on the boardwalk. He has used other materials over the years in other Town Park situations when it became a maintenance issue. He understands residents want wood and that it looks good. The Town just doesn't have the resources to continue to repair the boardwalk. If it is okay with Council will reach out to the landscaper and bring more information to Town Council.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution R26-02 Opposing the proposed 1,4-Dioxane Monitoring and Minimization Rules

Mayor Oliver read Resolution R26-02 Opposing the proposed 1,4-Dioxane Monitoring and Minimization Rules that are hereby incorporated into the minutes.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve Resolution R26-02 Opposing the proposed 1,4-Dioxane Monitoring and Minimization Rules

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

2. Carolina Beach/Kure Beach Sewer Authority update and adoption of rates for fiscal year 2027

MPT Heglar stated every year after Carolina Beach's audit the Carolina Beach and Kure Beach Sewer Authority members meet. After last years audit the rate was to high so will lower the rate and the Town will receive a credit back.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the Carolina Beach/Kure Beach Sewer Authority adoption of rates for fiscal year 2027

SECOND- Commissioner Dirks

VOTE- Unanimous

3. Discussion of Signing Letter Opposing the Fuquay Varina IBT

Mayor Oliver commented the Town Council has already approved a resolution Opposing the Fuquay Varina IBT. This is just a request to sign the letter once published.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve signing the letter opposing the Fuquay Varina IBT

SECOND- Commissioner Dirks

VOTE- Unanimous



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4. Schedule Two Hurricane Sessions for May

MPT Heglar commented he would like to schedule two hurricane sessions for Friday, May 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to schedule two hurricane sessions on Friday, May 15th 5pm and Saturday, May 16 at noon

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- Unanimous

5. Action on Resolution R26-03 Exempting a Cape Fear Engineering Proposal from the Mini-Brooks Act

Attorney Eldridge stated the recent paving contract brought forth multiple issues. Cape Fear Engineering helped the Town out with the paving issues the Town had. The company will provide the following:

- Provide Template Contract Documents to allow Client to easily edit for specific projects.
- Provide standard contract rates for CFE to tailor documents to a specific project
- Provide Standard Technical Specifications
- Provide standard details
- Provide standard contract rates for CFE to provide construction oversight and testing for specific projects

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve Resolution R26-03 Exempting a Cape Fear Engineering Proposal from the Mini-Brooks Act

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- Unanimous

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION- MPT Heglar motion to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters pursuant to per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) at 7:46 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Dirks

VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to return to open session at 8:30 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous



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Attorney Eldridge stated no actions or votes were taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Dirks

VOTE- Unanimous

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Chase".

ATTEST: Beth Chase, Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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>agendas&minutes