



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 20, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 20, 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. Approve the agreement with Cape Fear Council of Governments for professional services for a Human Resource Policy and Procedure Update in the amount of \$7,250
2. Approve the FY 2025-2026 Contract and Engagement Letter with the auditing firm of Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L.P. not to exceed \$42,000
3. Minutes:
 - March 16, 2026 Regular

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

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- Unanimous

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of 9.3 Continued Discussion of the Boardwalk as amended

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous



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PUBLIC COMMENTS

PRESENTATIONS

1. National Safe Boating Week 2026, Otis White Safety Officer, Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron

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.

2. Artistic Mosaic Totems at Ocean Front, Friends of Kure Beach Cindy Maier

Cindy Maier commented she is the Chair of the Friends of Kure Beach and tonight she is also representing the Arts Council of Carolina Beach. At the Council retreat this year, presented mosaic totems. She was instructed to speak with all department heads that would handle this project. She spoke with Public Works Director Mesimer and Development Director White on the installation and structure of the totems. Each totem will have a unique design that would be approved by Town Council. This is a whole island project as Carolina Beach will have some, and the history museum. They're hoping to have the totems placed down by the Ocean Front Park area. Since presenting at the Council retreat have changed the totems to pvc material due to the shrinkage and expansion of wood during the seasons. The design will be created by Kure Beach artists and will hold public input sessions in the Kure Beach Community Center to help design the mosaic totems. There will be no design costs for the Town just help with the installation of the totems in Kure Beach by Public Works Department.

Commissioner Dirks asked have you had any totems in the element? He is concerned about pieces falling off in the weather.

Cindy Maier commented that they have done trial ones and realized they needed to change the material from wood to pvc material.

Mayor Oliver stated need to always come back to Town Council for placement/design approval.

Commissioner Dirks stated he thinks there are a lot of things to take into consideration such as placement of the totems. He has been in discussions with the CVB of doing something similar with the marketing funds or adding an I love KB sign. He is afraid it may conflict with the future plans of the CVB.



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Cindy Maier stated she feels they both would look nicely with each other so any future plans should work with the mosaic totems.

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to approve temporarily the placement of the mosaic Totems at the Ocean Front Park until the design and totems are ready to be placed

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE-Unanimous

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Bike/Ped Committee

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

2. Planning & Zoning Commission

Chairperson Barlok reviewed the Proposed Syntactical Changes to Chapter 13 and Chapter 14 that are presented in the agenda packet. The Parks and Recreation advisory board section in the KBC has been completely removed after speaking with Recreation Director Keely. Removed large sections under 13.16 related to the community center because these sections are covered in the Committee policy.

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to approve Proposed Syntactical Changes to Chapter 13 as presented

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to approve Proposed Syntactical Changes to Chapter 14 as presented

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

1. Fire Department

Fire Chief Kennedy stated the prescribed burning was completed in the buffer zone on March 25th and since then there has been no rain. The burn continues to smother and has been advised if it remains in the prescribed burn area to not do anything to it. The Fire Department has responded 43 times from 911 calls and has only taken action 2 times. There is potential for rain next week. Lifeguard tryouts are this Saturday, and next Saturday. Once the beach is cleared from beach nourishment will put the stands and toy boxes back on the beach strand by the middle of May.



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OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion on the Brochure Presented by John Ellen at March Council Meeting

Mayor Oliver stated former Commissioner John Ellen presented this brochure last month. He would like to pay to have this brochure printed out of his own money for the Town. He needs to check with John to see if he has permission to use the photographs in the brochure. He really likes the checklist at the end of the brochure.

2. Sewer System Asset Management Plan from Engineering Services

MPT Heglar commented this was presented at the February meeting. The initial recommendation was to complete everything in one year. After reviewing the system Public Works Director Mesimer and himself reviewed the plan and made changes to the timeline table. The changes will take place over the next 3 years. The recommendation is for Town Council to adopt the Plan. Town Council should have the Water System Assessment by the May Council meeting.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve Resolution R26-04 for the Sewer System Asset Management Plan from Engineering Services as presented

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

3. Continued Discussion of the Boardwalk repairs

Mayor Oliver stated Public Works Mesimer, Development Director White, MPT Heglar and himself met with the landscaper this afternoon regarding the proposed drainage/landscaping of the boardwalk. Part of the issues with the boardwalk is that water is not able to flow under the boardwalk and there is currently no airflow underneath it. The Public Works Department has worked this year replacing a lot of the bad sections of the boardwalk. Requested a full proposal.

MPT Heglar commented the landscaper would use something similar to a French drain system that will allow water instead of collecting, flow underneath and back to the beach. It will help give more flow through points through the system and the landscaper will remove some sand underneath. Discussed adding river rock being the stabilizing feature along the side. The plantings will be removed for the drainage portion but will not change the size or features of the boardwalk.

NEW BUSINESS

None.



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CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Dirks

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](#)