



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 15, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, June 15, 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
Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve the Ratify Repair Services Agreement With North State Resurfacing Co
2. Approve Budget Amendment 26-04 totaling \$24,750 for replacement of HVAC units at the Community Center
3. Approve Budget Amendment 26-05 totaling \$15,000 for additional costs relating to the paid parking program
4. Approve Budget Amendment 26-06 totaling \$11,600 for replacement of the Council Room HVAC unit at Town Hall
5. Approve Budget Amendment 26-07 totaling \$3,000 for additional expenses relating to Town Council travel/training and dues/subscriptions
6. Approve Budget Amendment 26-08 totaling \$16,150 to increase lifeguard pay rates for the 2026 season
7. Approve Resolution R26-05 Approving the Local Water Supply Plan
8. Minutes
 - April 20, 2026 Budget Meeting #2
 - May 26, 2026 Special
 - May 18, 2026 Special
 - May 18, 2026 Regular



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

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to table item 9.4 Continued Discussion of Pickleball on the agenda to next month

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to remove the adoption of the Hurricane Plan from the agenda

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

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

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Marketing Committee

Presentation of Marketing Committee Budget

CVB Megan Buchbinder gave a presentation that is hereby incorporated into the minutes.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the Marketing Committee Budget as presented

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous



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DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

1. Fire Department

Fire Chief Kennedy stated this year will celebrate its 80th anniversary for the Fire Department. While the exact anniversary date is unknown, the department is tentatively planning to hold an event on October 3rd, the week leading into Fire prevention week. The Fire Department is interested in using the ball field for the event and will work with the Recreation Department. He will provide an update and additional details at the next meeting.

2. Recreation Department

Film Permit Application – Disney Entertainment, Saltwater

Recreation Director Keely stated she has the Location Manager Lindsey Fort here tonight to answer any questions. The goal for this evening is to get a consensus with Town Council to agree to work with them and they will come back next month with more details and final approval.

Commissioner Ashbridge stated do you have any updated information?

Location Manager Lindsey Fort stated nothing that maybe won't change by tomorrow. Everything is still evolving and still early in the process. She hopes to have all information by next month.

MPT Heglar stated have you spoken to all the businesses? That will impact parking around the downtown businesses.

Location Manager Lindsey Fort stated she has spoken with the businesses but waiting on final times and dates. She has spoken with the Kure Beach Pier and Ocean View who they will be renting out. She would be happy to go around to all businesses and receive signatures of acknowledgment of the filming in the area.

Commissioner Mearkle asked if there are any turtle nests that this would affect?

Recreation Director Keely commented that is not a heavily nested area but met with CAMA to address these issues.

CONSENSUS- Town Council agreed the Town is open to working with Disney Entertainment, on the Film Permit for Saltwater and Location Manager Lindsey Fort will bring further information to the July Town Council meeting



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OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Budget Message, FY26-27 Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule

Finance Officer Copenhaver reported:

General Fund:

- Property tax rate of 19.5 cents, a 2.3 cent (13.4%) increase
- 35.3% garbage collection fee increase and a 14.7% recycle collection fee increase
- Capital expenditures totaling \$485,500

Water and Sewer Fund:

- Increase of 10% to the water & sewer minimum charge & 20% increase to the usage-based rate tiers
- Capital expenditures totaling \$640,000

Storm Water Fund:

- No changes to monthly storm water fees
- Capital expenditures totaling \$269,940

Powell Bill Fund:

- Capital expenditures totaling \$150,000

All Funds:

- 2.8% Cost of Living Adjustment and 1.5% merit increase for full-time employees
- New mandated 2.4% NC State Health Plan surcharge

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to adopt the FY26-27 Budget Ordinance as presented

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to adopt FY26-27 Fee Schedule as presented

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

2. Sketches and Renderings Kure Beach Mosaic Totems

Cindy Maier with Friends of Kure Beach gave a presentation that is hereby incorporated into the minutes of the meeting.

Presentation Highlights:

- The Island Arts Council has selected designs for a series of mosaic totems celebrating the beauty, culture, and natural environment of Kure Beach
- Trent Taylor a Kure Beach Artist will design one totem with the design of "*Sun, Sky, Sea, and Sand*"



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- Barb Buckley & Leslie Santilli a Kure Beach Artist will a design of “*Sea Turtle Hatching*”
- The third totem will be designed by residents who attend one of the workshops

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve moving forward with the project and the holding of the workshops

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the 30th Anniversary of Hurricane Fran for September 5, 2026

MPT Heglar stated he wasn't sure if Town Council would want to host an event for the 30th anniversary of Hurricane Fran. He asked the department heads how many employees still work for the Town and not any active besides 4 volunteers at the Fire Department. He could hold an event at the Community Center showing the hurricane video. He will work with Recreation Director Keely and bring further information to the July Town Council meeting.

2. Upon the Retirement of Finance Officer Arlen Copenhaver the Town Council has selected Erica Walters as his Replacement Effective Once He Retires at a Salary of \$127,472.00

Commissioner Mearkle stated Finance Officer Arlen Copenhaver will be retiring so have spent the past two months have been going through the hiring process. The Town will be hiring Erica Walters who has a lot of Town Experience working for the Town of Selma and Wrightsville Beach. She currently works for WAVE Transit.

MOTION- Commissioner Mearkle made a motion to hire Erica Walters as the Finance Officer at a Salary of \$127,472.00

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

CLOSED SESSION

None.



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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Dirks

VOTE- Unanimous

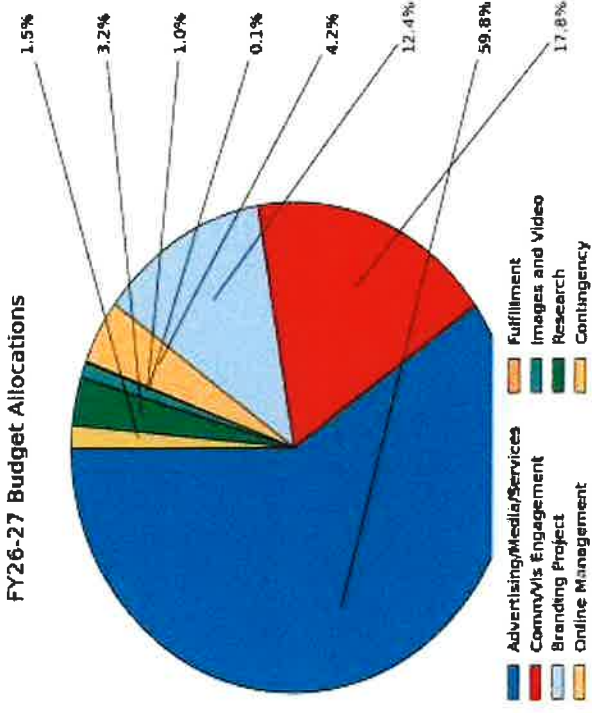
ATTEST: Beth Chase, Town Clerk

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](#)

ADVERTISING/MEDIA/SERVICES		FY25-26	FY26-27	Difference	Notes
Unified Media Campaign	*Paid Search (Google)	\$29,750	\$23,688	-\$6,062	
*Dedicated KB Media Campaign	*Paid Social (FB, Instagram, YouTube)	\$34,000	\$25,000	-\$9,000	
	*Programmatic Display	\$10,200	\$8,000	-\$2,200	Display and remarketing
	Programmatic Display	\$42,424	\$30,000	-\$12,424	
	Custom Content	\$16,850	\$12,000	-\$4,850	Local and regional publications
	Custom Content	\$17,677	\$15,000	-\$2,677	Matador or other
	Publisher Direct (TripAdvisor, Hopper)	\$15,597	\$12,000	-\$3,597	TripAdvisor and Hopper
	Out of Home (Billboards, Transit)	\$20,328	\$15,000	-\$5,328	Incorporate diverse OOH tactics
	Streaming Video	\$53,483	\$45,000	-\$8,483	
	Print (Our State, Southern Living, NC Travel Guide)	\$24,917	\$15,000	-\$9,917	Regional Mags Included
	Visit NC Digital Co-op	\$2,850	\$1,137	-\$1,713	Decreased based on lottery selections
Advertising Total		\$268,074	\$201,825	-\$66,249	Decreased to for new budget items
Public Relations & Social Media	Content Partner Program	\$5,462	\$3,500	-\$1,962	Content development program with partners
	PR Content Development Service Fees	\$37,926	\$36,200		
	ManyChat	\$0	\$300	\$300	Social commenting tool
	Sprout Social Scheduling Platform	\$1,703	\$1,703	\$0	
	Social Channel Verifications	\$0	\$200	\$200	Monthly charge (Blue Checkmark)
	Influencer Marketing Campaigns	\$24,000	\$25,000	\$1,000	Slight increase
PR & Social Total		\$69,091	\$66,903	-\$2,188	
Contracted Services	Account Management	\$70,455	\$0	-\$70,455	No more agency of record (AOR)
	Strategic Planning	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	Strategic Consulting/Branding Project
	Creative Development	\$23,760	\$23,000	-\$760	All design and creative needs
Contracted Services Total		\$94,215	\$33,000	-\$61,215	Decreased for no AOR
ADVERTISING/MEDIA/SERVICES TOTAL		\$431,380	\$301,728	-\$129,652	
COMMUNITY & VISITOR ENGAGEMENT					
	Visitor engagement, photo ops, signage programs, business outreach, etc.	\$0	\$90,000	\$90,000	Signage programs, outreach to local businesses, visitor and resident education and outreach
COMM/VISITOR ENGAGE TOTAL		\$0	\$90,000	\$90,000	New Budget Item

FY26-27 Budget Allocations	
Advertising/Media/Services	\$301,728
Community & Visitor Engagement	\$90,000
Brand Projects	\$62,500
Online Management	\$20,985
Fulfillment	\$500
Images and Video	\$5,000
Research	\$16,109
Contingency	\$7,460
Total	\$504,282



Kure Beach Mosaic Totem Project

A Community Art Initiative

Kure Beach, North Carolina
Presented to Town Council · June 15, 2026



Artist renderings & community designs

AGENDA

1. Project Overview
2. Artist Designs
3. Community Totem & Workshops
4. Next Steps

Project Overview

Kure Beach Mosaic Totems

The Island Arts Council has selected designs for a series of mosaic totems celebrating the beauty, culture, and natural environment of Kure Beach.



Artist Totems

Two 4-foot tall round posts. Designs wrap completely around the cylinders.

Community Totem

One 6-foot in height post with 6 inch sides.
Designs displayed on all four sides.
Community-created mosaic tiles.

Public Works Totem

Held at the Kure Beach Community Center
Open to all ages

KEY MESSAGE

These sketches represent the artistic concepts. Final mosaic installations will feature unique tile placement, color variation, texture, and handcrafted designs.

Artist Design — Trent Taylor

Sun, Sky, Sea, and Sand

Artist

Trent Taylor — Kure Beach Artist

Design Title

"Sun, Sky, Sea, and Sand"

Design Statement

The design represents almost everything you can do or see during a day at Kure Beach divided into three panoramic sections representing the sky, sea, and sand.

DESIGN THEMES

Sun & Sky	Recreation
Sea & Wildlife	Community Identity
Sand & Beach	



SUN (Cap)

Radiating sun rays extending from top cap



SKY (Upper Section)

Pelicans & seabirds
Clouds & kites
Osprey aircraft along shoreline



SEA (Middle Section)

Dolphins & whales
Surfers & fish
Historic 1943 submarine



SAND (Lower Section)

Kure Beach Fishing Pier
Nesting sea turtles & crabs
Kure Beach umbrella & Bibi the pier cat

Full Design Sta

The Sun will be created on the edge of the sun's rays extending

The cylinder itself will be divided into three sections: the sky over the beach, including pelicans. Clouds & kites. You can even find a submarine cruising down the shoreline.

The middle section will represent things that do or have been seen and dolphins play in the blue water. It makes an appearance in the background on the edge of the beach.

The third section will represent fishing pier and the ever present beach. Nesting turtles, crabs, and the beach umbrella from the pier cat's appearance, along with the

The sketch does not include a mosaic post will. The sketch and feel of the design more



Concept rendering — final mosaic will include additional detail, color variation, and handcrafted tile work.

Sky Section

- Pelicans and other seabirds soaring
- Clouds and kites
- Osprey aircraft flying along the shoreline

Sea Section

- Dolphins, whales, and fish
- Surfers on the waves
- Historic 1943 submarine

Sand Section

- Kure Beach Fishing Pier & fishermen
- Nesting sea turtles, crabs & shells
- Beach umbrella and Bibi the pier cat

Artist Design — Barb Buckley & Leslie Santilli

Sea Turtle Hatching

Artists

Barb Buckley &
Leslie Santilli a Kure Beach
Artist

Design Title

Sea Turtle Hatching

Design Statement

- Opaque and glass mosaic tiles
- Hand-cut tile work
- Flowing ocean and sky elements
- Sea turtle imagery throughout
- Mixed textures and embedded materials

Celebrating Kure Beach's iconic natural beauty and
the nesting sea turtle population.



Vibrant Sunset

A golden Atlantic sunset rendered in warm orange and deep blue tones



Turtle

Sea turtle:
sea in pro



Ocean Reflection

Shimmering reflections across the water's surface



Nesting

Protected
orange ne



Sand Textures

Embedded sand textures giving tactile dimension to the piece



Do Not

Iconic sea
conservat

1 5/16" FOR CAP



BOTTOM IN GROUND

14 6/16"
(14.375")

Concept rendering — final mosaic will feature hand-cut tiles with unique color and texture.

Layers of Sky

Deep and layered blues transition from twilight to sunrise, creating the sense of a changing sky.

Golden Sun Setting

A vibrant golden-orange sun sits at the horizon line, with warm reflections cascading down the beach.

Turtle Procession

Multiple sea turtles are depicted crossing from nesting area to ocean in a flowing, continuous line.

Conservation Symbol

The 'Sea Turtle Nest — Do Not Disturb' sign anchors the bottom, honoring Kure Beach's commitment to marine conservation effort.

Community Mosaic Totem

Community Participation Project

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY TOTEM

The 6-foot in height with 6 inch sides and 5 inch mosaic tiles.

Community Totem will be created with participation from Kure Beach residents during public workshops.

DESIGN FEATURES

The four sides of the totem will feature coastal icons:



Smiling Sun



Sea Turtle



Pelican



Dolphin



Palm Tree



Crab



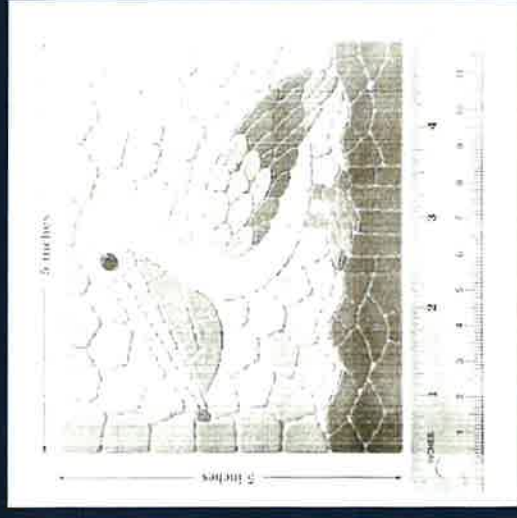
Sea Shell

COMMUNITY CREATIVITY

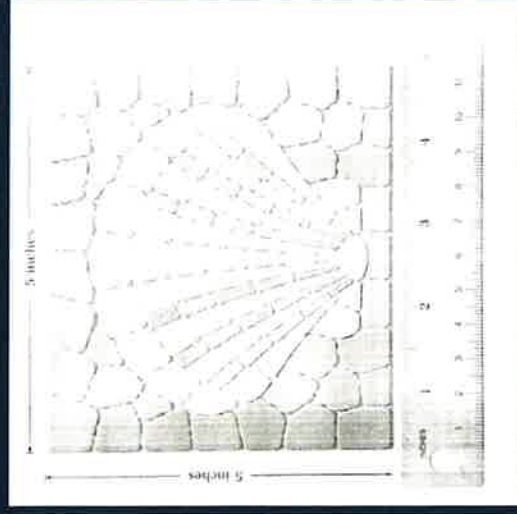
- Create individual mosaic tiles
- Select their own colors
- Contribute unique artistic interpretations
- Become part of a permanent public landmark

Community Totem – Design Templates

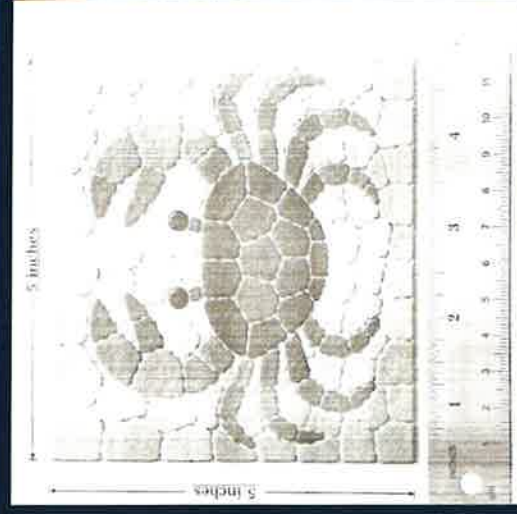
Template concepts for the Community Mosaic Totem. Final mosaics will be handcrafted by community participants and may vary from these sketches.



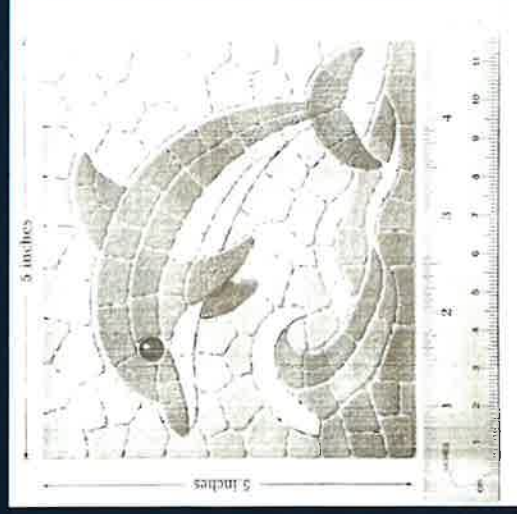
Pelican



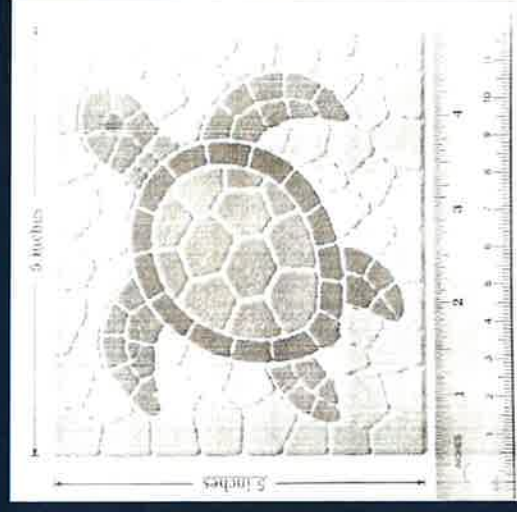
Sea Shell



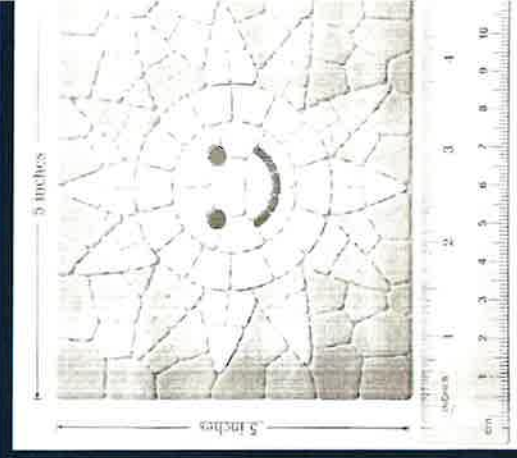
Crab



Dolphin



Sea Turtle

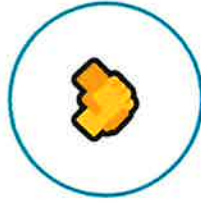


Smiling Sun

Community Workshops

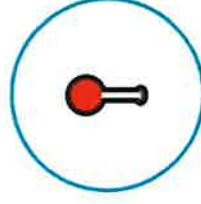
Creating the Community Totem Together

01 Workshop Goals



- Engage Kure Beach residents
- Create a lasting public art piece
- Celebrate local coastal heritage
- Encourage participation for all ages

02 Location



- Kure Beach Community Center
- Guided by local artists

03 Community



- Learn mosaic tile
- Create custom
- Collaborate with
- Help build a pe

Every tile created in these workshops becomes a permanent part of Kure Beach's public art landscape — a contribution that will be enjoyed

Kure Beach Mosaic Project

Community Workshop Flyer

Creating the Community Totem Together

This is a draft of the Community Workshop Flyer with the Mosaic Totem info and workshop dates.

It will also include the Friends of Kure Beach Logo and website info.



Every tile created in these workshops becomes a permanent part of Kure Beach's public art landscape — a contribution that will be enjoyed.

Thank You

Questions & Discussion

Island Arts Council
In Collaboration with
Friends of Kure Beach

IslandArtsCouncil.net
FriendsofKureBeach.org

PROJECT ARTISTS

Trent Taylor
Barb Buckley
Leslie Santilli