TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING **Monday, September 21, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, September 21, 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 Deyanira Romo Rossell from the Marketing Committee
2. Appoint Greg Sayles as a full member to the Bike/Ped Committee
3. Appoint Pat Edgecomb from an Alternate Member to Full Member of the Shoreline Access and Beach Protection Committee
4. Approve the 2027 Ocean Front Park Event Dates
5. Approve Closing K Avenue east of Fort Fisher Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue between K and L Avenue to non-event traffic from the early morning hours through 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 20, 2027, Allow for a 5K race to be held on Kure Beach streets in conjunction with the event and authorize the Police Department to close any additional streets along the race route deemed necessary to ensure participant safety during the race (Example: Atlantic Avenue between L and N Avenues) Authorize up to 3 food trucks and other vendor booths to operate within the event area during the event hours, Waive the Special Event fees associated with this event due to the non-profit status of Special Olympics New Hanover County
6. Minutes:
    - August 24, 2026 Regular

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

PRESENTATIONS
None.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Bike/Ped Committee

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

2. Planning & Zoning Commission
    - Interview Ray Estep for the Alternate PZC Member Vacancy and Full Member of Historic Preservation Commission

Applicant Ray Estep stated he lives at 309 F Avenue.

Interview Questions:

- Have you reviewed the duties of this position?
- What are your thoughts on variances in the Town?
- What is your background?

Applicant Ray Estep stated:

- He has reviewed the duties of the position and studied Chapter 15 in detail.
- He has a general understanding of variances and believes the Town's history and preservation should be taken into consideration.
- He began his career in corporate finance and has spent the past 30 years in leadership positions working with investors in technology companies. He has experience working with boards and organizations across different cultures.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to appoint Ray Estep as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and a full member of the Historic Preservation Commission
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

1. Finance Department

Mayor Oliver administered the Oath of Office to Erica Walters as the Finance and Budget Officer for the Town of Kure Beach.

2. Fire Department

Fire Chief Kennedy stated October 2nd is the 80th anniversary of the Fire Department and will be holding a celebration at the Fire Department.

3. Recreation Department

Recreation Director Keely stated that the Town received an ADA accommodation request regarding the tennis courts at Joe Eaks Park. The sidewalk leading from the tennis courts ends approximately 50 feet short of the nearest parking space. Staff is working with Ocean Cure to install a mat to allow the individual to participate in the Heglar Open tournament. Feedback will be gathered on the temporary mat, which may be used until the park renovation is completed. Director Keely also noted that a handicap parking space closer to the tennis courts would need to be added or an existing space relocated.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to authorize the Recreation Department to relocate a parking spot at Joe Eaks Park to accommodate an ADA request
SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle
VOTE- Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Action and Consideration of Proposed Text Amendment Application to KBC 15.36.100 Modification of Required Yards submitted by David and Nancy Kuchler at 302 N 3rd Avenue

Director of Development and Compliance White stated that the Town received a text amendment application regarding the modification of required yards. Currently, properties are allowed to extend architectural features 18 inches into the setback, while corner lots are allowed a 24-inch

extension. The proposed amendment would allow an additional 6 inches into the 20-foot front setback on reversed corner lots. This would provide additional space for the property owners to use their balcony, which is currently too small to accommodate a chair. Director White noted that the amendment would affect very few properties in Town.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the Proposed Text Amendment Application to KBC 15.36.100 Modification of Required Yards submitted by David and Nancy Kuchler at 302 N 3rd Avenue and the Pro Consistency Statement
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

2. Eminent Domain
    - Consideration of and action on proposed engagement letter with Losee Coggins, LLP to serve as Lead Counsel in condemnation proceedings
    - Consideration of and action on Resolution R26-09 authorizing Condemnation Proceedings

Attorney Eldridge stated that the Town needs to consider condemnation for the crosswalk project at Fort Fisher Boulevard and K Avenue. He explained that the documents presented would authorize the condemnation proceedings and designate Steve Coggins as lead counsel. Attorney Eldridge noted that Mr. Coggins has extensive experience in condemnation matters.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve proposed engagement letter with Losee Coggins, LLP to serve as Lead Counsel in condemnation proceedings.
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve Resolution R26-09 authorizing Condemnation Proceedings
SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge
VOTE- Unanimous

3. Consideration Department Reporting Improvement

Commissioner Dirks discussed improving department reports to allow for month-to-month comparisons and present data for the previous 13 months. He would like to meet individually with each department head to discuss potential improvements. He noted that the data is likely already available and that the primary focus would be on presenting it in a way that clearly illustrates trends over time.

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CLOSED SESSION
None.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS
Commissioner Dirks thank you to MPT Heglar for all his work on the Hurricane Fran documentary.

Commissioner Mearkle, pets in the park, restaurant October 17th-24th on pleasure Island, ice skating rink in Carolina Beach

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION- Commissioner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:5p.m.
SECOND-
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

Kure Beach Bike/Pedestrian Committee Report
September 2026

Honorable Mayor Oliver and Commissioners,

September was an exciting month for walking, biking, and active transportation in our community, and October promises to keep that momentum going. I have 5 things on my docket tonight.

1. 15th Annual BikeWalkNC Transportation Summit Recap

The 15th Annual BikeWalkNC Transportation Summit was held September 17–19 in Carolina Beach, bringing transportation professionals, advocates, community leaders, and elected officials from across North Carolina to Pleasure Island.

A huge thank you goes to the Town of Kure Beach, especially Mayor Oliver, Chief Bailey and Lt. ~~Officer~~ Kennedy for attending. Thank you to Friends of Kure Beach and especially members of the Kure Beach Bike/Pedestrian Committee who helped make our visitors feel welcome and their participation allowed the summit to run seamlessly. The connections and conversations made during the Summit will continue to benefit our community well beyond this event.

Participants also had the opportunity to experience our community firsthand through the Tour de Island ride on Saturday morning and bike and walk audits.

On a personal note, I had fallen earlier in the week and, because my knee was sore, I wasn't planning to participate in the ride. Nicole Kohler with **3Wheel Therapy** came to my rescue and transported me on her adaptive trike so I could enjoy the entire experience.

3Wheel Therapy helps make the joy of bicycling accessible to people who may not be able to ride a traditional bicycle independently because of age, disability, injury, or other mobility challenges. A trained cyclist pilots the trike while the passenger gets to enjoy the fresh air, movement, scenery, and simple pleasure of going for a bike ride.

The Summit also included important conversations about the difference between e-bikes and e-moto devices. As these devices become increasingly popular, we discussed the need for clear education, responsible riding, and consistent expectations for sharing paths and roadways with pedestrians, traditional bicyclists, and motorists.

2. Walktober – Kure Beach StepUp Challenge

Back by popular request, Walktober is back for the entire month of October!

This year we are making participation easy through the **StepUp app**. Residents can download the app and join the **"Kure Beach Walkers"** group. The app will automatically track participants' daily, weekly, and monthly steps.

While a little friendly competition is always fun, our real goal is to encourage each other to get outside, stay active, and see just how many steps Kure Beach can collectively walk during October. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the month.

3. WMPO Go Coast Commuter Challenge – October 5-October 18

October is also the **Go Coast Commuter Challenge**, providing another opportunity to encourage people to rethink some of their everyday trips.

Residents are encouraged to walk, bike, carpool, or use other transportation alternatives when possible. Even replacing an occasional short vehicle trip is a great way to experience our community differently while reducing traffic and increasing physical activity.

Use the form for commutes/trips taken between October 5 and October 18, 2026. Again, win prizes! Go to GoCoastnc.org for more information. We will post this on our town committee website.

4. Pleasure Island Bike Fest – October 3

Mark your calendars for **Bike Fest on October 3 to be held at Good Hops from 11-2.**

The Bike/Pedestrian Committee will help promote bicycle safety, education, and responsible riding at Bike Fest. This is another opportunity to remind children and adults that, regardless of the type of bicycle they ride, **safe behavior matters**—obey traffic laws, stop at stop signs, use lights at night, ride predictably, and respect pedestrians and other road users.

Bike Fest is a celebration of cycling. All types of bicycles and all levels of riders are welcome—whatever brings you joy! The event will feature club rides, adaptive rides, e-bike tours, and a festival market with bicycle-focused vendors, merchandise, raffles, food trucks, and more. The event benefits **3Wheel Therapy.**

5. Tour de Island – October 17

Finally, registration is underway for our annual **Tour de Island on Saturday, October 17**. This year's t-shirt design is.....well, this!! (Mo shows shirt)

This family-friendly community ride is a wonderful way to experience Pleasure Island by bicycle while promoting safe riding.

We encourage residents, families, and visitors to join us. If you want to attend but cannot ride independently, contact 3Wheel Therapy.

So, as you can see, the KB Bike Ped Committee is:

Advocating for connection.
Advocating for mobility.

Advocating for safety, health, education and independence.
And most of all, we're advocating for people.

October is going to be a busy month—so lace up your walking shoes, pump up those bike tires, and get outside!

Any questions?

Respectfully submitted,
Mo Linquist, Chair
Kure Beach Bike/Pedestrian Committee