

**Town Council Minutes  
Morehead City, North Carolina**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

The Honorable Council of the Town of Morehead City met in Regular Session for the Biennial Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., in the Municipal Building Auditorium at 202 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Morehead City, North Carolina. Those in attendance were:

MAYOR:	Gerald A. Jones, Jr.
MAYOR PRO-TEM:	Demus L. Thompson
COUNCILMEN:	George W. Ballou Paul W. Cordova David Horton John F. Nelson
CITY MANAGER:	R. Randy Martin
CITY CLERK:	Jeanne M. Giblin
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:	Nelson Taylor, III, Derek Taylor, Michael Thomas
OTHERS:	Reverend Timothy Havilcek, Judge John E. Nobles,

William Adams, Public Works Director David McCabe, Public Utilities Director Daniel Williams, Jeannie Vaughan, Dana Green, Karin Rettie, Dwight Rettie, Holly Fletcher, Finance Director Ellen Sewell, Fire/EMS Chief Wes Lail, Captain Garland Terry, Major Richard Abell, Missy Horton, D. J. Femia Leeuwenburg, Janie Taylor, Elizabeth Vickroy, Jonathan Vickroy, Frank Gainey, Diane Gainey, Kymm Johnson, Eliza N. Worthington, Emily Nobles, Ken Wood, Hannah Tootle, Luther Tootle, Susan Nixon, Carolyn W. Dennis, Liz Horne, Fred Foley, Lillian Foley, Johnette Grantham, Dolores Blackwood, Corinne Webb Geer, John Maucher, Jackie Maucher, Mack Baker, Glenda Baker, Darrell Williams, Gerald Gartman, Nancy C. Hartman, John M. Moore, Jr., Judy Linebarger, Jerry Linebarger, Joe Green, Nicholas Green, Cathy Green, Tammy Gray, Ruth Jones, Bill Taylor, Robert B. Dudley, Jr., Alan G. Ballard, Mary Laughton, Milton Laughton, Richella Walker, Donald Cordova, Jodi Cordova, Phyllis C. Wade, Philip Cordova, Jackie C. Harris, Edna Cordova, Mark Wade, Tom Giblin, Dennis Munden, Judy Monroe, Kenneth Yearick, Sandra Jean Yearick, Roger Latham, Harvey Walker, Diane Warrender, Russell Overman, Bill Smith, Greg Lewis, Charles McDonald and many others.

**I. Regular Meeting Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Jones opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m., welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. He also welcomed the newly elected Councilmembers and recognized the distinguished guests present.

He acknowledged the legacy of the three [3] Councilmen who were leaving the Council by saying that together they have given over 60 years of service to Morehead City. He continued that because of their efforts, Morehead City is a much better place than when they first came on the Council.

Reverend Timothy Havilcek, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Morehead City gave the invocation and recognized the transition of the City Council. He spoke about the parable of the talents comparing it to Councilmembers who took what they were given to care for and used it well for the benefit of the City.

The assembly joined the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Special Presentations to:**  
**Councilman Paul W. Cordova**  
**Councilman John F. Nelson**  
**Councilman David Horton**

Mayor Jones on behalf of the Town of Morehead City expressed thanks to Councilmen Cordova, Nelson and Horton for their devoted service to the citizens of Morehead City. Councilman Cordova was in office for 36 years, Councilman Nelson for 16 and Councilman Horton for eight [8]. The City saw substantial growth and improvements during the tenures of these Councilmen and Mayor Jones wished them well in their future endeavors. Mayor Jones then presented each with a plaque and Jack Dudley's book entitled MOREHEAD CITY which was signed by the employees of Morehead City.

Councilman Cordova stated that when he first accepted office in 1967, Morehead City was in a financial scrape. He spoke about past Councilmembers such as Nick Galantis and the former days of Morehead City. He thanked his family and especially his wife, Edna, with whom he celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last year.

Councilman Nelson stated he started his journey with the Town of Morehead City 16 years ago. He spoke about the many good changes that the City had undertaken during those years. He gave credit to the City employees and supervisors for really making those improvements happen.

Councilman Horton stated he came to Morehead City over 30 years ago and he hoped that with his tenure on the Council that he contributed to the community and made it a better place. He stated that sometimes it was a juggling act between his regular job and serving the City. He spoke about the water and sewer improvements that the City has undertaken during his tenure. He said that even though the Councilmembers did not always see “eye to eye”, it had been a pleasure working with them and he hoped that the new Council would try to always do what is right.

**III. Certification of the 2011 Municipal Election: Jeanne M. Giblin, City Clerk**

City Clerk Giblin advised that a copy of the official abstract of votes was received from the Carteret County Board of Elections which certified the votes received by each candidate from the November 8, 2011, Municipal Election. Included in the abstract of votes is a breakdown of the voting for each of the candidates by precinct. This information is entered into the minutes as a matter of record.

MAYOR:	Gerald A. Jones, Jr.	785
	David Horton	715
	Write In	12
COUNCILMEMBERS:	Bill Taylor	838
	Harvey Walker	924
	Diane Warrender	736
	Lennie Griffin	555
	Sammie Turner	206
	Craig Weber	331
	Ernie Yeager	358
	Write In	17

***The Council accepted the official abstract of votes to be spread upon the record.***

[The official abstract of votes is attached to and made a part of these minutes.]

**IV. Induction of the Mayor and Councilmembers: The Honorable Judge John E. Nobles**

Judge Nobles commented that the former Councilmembers made Morehead City a much better place in which to live and that the City has prospered. He commented that the new Councilmembers will have “big shoes to fill”.

**A. Oath of Office: Mayor-Elect Gerald A. Jones, Jr.**

Mayor Jones took his oath of office while his wife, Ruth, and mother, Carolyn held the family Bible. Mayor Jones stated he was proud to serve and proud to be a citizen of Morehead City and he looked forward to working with everyone.

**B. Oath of Office: Councilman-Elect William F. Taylor**

Councilman Taylor took his oath of office while his wife, Janie, held the family Bible. Councilman Taylor stated he appreciated the honor and confidence bestowed upon him and he was going to do the very best possible for the citizens of Morehead City.

**C. Oath of Office: Councilman-Elect Harvey N. Walker, Jr.**

Councilman Walker took his oath of office while his mother, Richella, and daughter, Taylor, held the Family Bible. He thanked God, his family, his church family and the citizens of the City for allowing him the opportunity to serve.

**D. Oath of Office: Councilwoman-Elect Diane C. Warrender**

Councilwoman Warrender took her oath of office while a friend, Bill Stallings, Jr., held the family Bible. She stated it was a momentous occasion and thanked all for their support and the faith they have placed in her. She stated she looked forward to meeting everyone and to serving the City.

[The individual oaths of office are attached to and made a part of these minutes.]

**V. Reception**

Councilman Thompson blessed the food and everyone participated in a reception.

**VI. Introduction of Russell Overman, Carteret County Manager**

Mayor Jones introduced Russell Overman, the County Manager for Carteret County, who has been in this position since July 2011.

Manager Overman congratulated the new Council and stated he has been visiting around the county speaking with the town managers and Councils. He stated he spent 15 years as a town manager and is well aware of the issues facing towns and pledged to work with all the townships in Carteret County.

**VII. Organizational Meeting of the Council****VII.A. Election of the Mayor Pro Tempore:**

The selection of the Mayor Pro Tempore is from among the Council. The Mayor Pro Tempore would perform the duties of the Mayor during his absence or disability.

Mayor Jones requested nominations for Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Taylor commented that he had a high esteem for Councilwoman Warrender and Councilman Walker, but he thought it would be wise to nominate a Councilmember with Council experience and he nominated Councilman Thompson for Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilwoman Warrender nominated Councilman Walker.

Mayor Jones opened the meeting for Council discussion.

Councilman Ballou commented that one of the qualifications for Mayor Pro Tem was experience and he supported Councilman Thompson for Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Walker stated that he felt he had the qualifications for Mayor Pro Tem. He continued that he received 924 votes in the election, more than anyone else in history and this demonstrated that the people had confidence in his abilities.

Discussion followed among the Councilmembers on the responsibilities of Mayor Pro Tem, the rules for the selection process and the previously approved Council policy.

The Council voted on the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem:

Councilman Walker received two [2] votes from Councilwoman Warrender and Councilman Walker.

Councilman Thompson received two [2] votes from Councilman Ballou and Councilman Taylor.

To a question from Councilman Thompson, City Attorney Nelson Taylor advised that a Councilmember who is present cannot abstain from voting in this procedure.

Councilman Thompson stated that he has never voted for himself in the past, and he would not start now. Councilman Thompson stated he would decline the nomination for Mayor Pro Tem but wanted it acknowledged that the selection of Mayor Pro Tem is strictly a privilege of the members of the Council and is not tied to the highest vote getter in the municipal election.

Councilman Taylor accepted Councilman Thompson’s declination for the nomination of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Walker concurred with the procedure of Mayor Pro Tem selection as described by Councilman Thompson.

***Councilman Taylor MOVED, seconded by Councilman Thompson, and carried unanimously, to reopen the nominations.***

***Councilman Thompson MOVED, seconded by Councilman Taylor, to close the nominations and to elect Councilman Walker for the position of Mayor Pro Tem by acclamation. The motion was approved unanimously and Councilman Walker was selected for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.***

**VII.B. Appointments to Council Committees:**

The Council has operated successfully for many years under the Committee System. The Committee structure currently consists of five [5] Committees: Finance & Administration, Public Safety, Public Utilities, Public Works and Planning, with the Mayor and two [2] Councilmembers serving on each Committee with the City Manager being a member of all the Committees. Each Councilmember serves on two [2] Committees and serves as the Chairperson for one [1]. Consistent with tradition and Committee policy, the Mayor designates Committee assignments on which each member will serve for the next two [2] year period. The assignments are:

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Chair</u></b>	<b><u>Vice-Chair</u></b>
Finance & Administration	Diane Warrender	Bill Taylor
Planning	Demus L. Thompson	Harvey Walker
Public Safety	Harvey Walker	Diane Warrender
Public Works	George W. Ballou	Demus L. Thompson
Public Utilities	Bill Taylor	George W. Ballou

**VII.C. Designation of Eastern Carolina Council Board of Directors Representative:**

The City is a member of the Eastern Carolina Regional Council of Governments which operates with a Board of Directors. The City has one [1] regular seat on the board that must be occupied by a member of the governing body. This is a two [2] year appointment. Former Councilman Cordova served in this capacity for many years. The City Manager has been previously designated as the alternate representative.

Councilman Taylor expressed interest in serving on this Board as he has worked in the planning area and is knowledgeable of the Eastern Carolina Regional Council of Governments in the past.

***Councilman Walker MOVED, seconded by Council Thompson, and carried unanimously, to appoint Councilman Taylor to serve as the Morehead City representative to the Eastern Carolina Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors.***

**VII.D. Designation of North Carolina Seafood Festival [NCSF] Board of Directors Ex-Officio Representative:**

The North Carolina Seafood Festival Board of Directors is responsible for this annual event and meets regularly. Mayor Jones presently serves as Ex-Officio Representative and desires to continue in this role. This is a two [2] year appointment.

***Councilman Walker MOVED, seconded by Councilwoman Warrender, and carried unanimously, to appoint Mayor Jones as the Ex-Officio Representative to the North Carolina Seafood Festival Board of Directors.***

### **VIII. Adoption of the CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **VIII.A. Approve the Requests for Release of Overpayment of Ad Valorem Taxes for November 2011, in the amount of \$8,809.82; and Accept the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for November 2011**

*Approved the requests for release of overpayment of ad valorem taxes for November 2011, in the amount of \$8,809.82; and accepted the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for November 2011. [These reports are attached to and made a part of these minutes.]*

#### **VIII.B. Permanent Record of Morehead City Officials – 2003-2011**

In order to provide a permanent record of Morehead City Officials from 2003 to 2011, an updated list was presented for consideration. As an attachment to the minutes, the information will be included in the microfilming and indexing process. Microfilming of the minutes is processed by the North Carolina Department of Archives and History in Raleigh, N.C., at no charge. Indexing is provided by Municipal Code Corporation at a cost to the City.

*Accepted the permanent record of Morehead City Officials – 2003 to 2011. [Attached to and made a part of these minutes is the permanent record of Morehead City Officials 2003 to 2011.]*

#### **VIII.C. Adopt 2012 Council Schedule of Regular Meetings**

As per G.S. 143.318.12, the proposed 2012 Town Council Schedule of Regular Meetings is presented for Council approval.

*Adopted the 2012 Council Schedule of Regular Meetings as presented. [The schedule is attached to and made a part of these minutes.]*

#### **VIII.D. Approve Annual Certification of Firemen for 2011 for North Carolina State Firemen's Association**

This is a routine procedure under NCGS 58-86-25 that requires all certified fire departments to submit a complete roster of eligible firemen annually. This certified list determines eligibility for the \$50,000 line-of-duty death benefit as well as eligibility for the pension fund credit.

*Approved the Annual Certification of Firemen for 2011 for North Carolina State Firemen's Association. [Attached to and made a part of these minutes is the Annual Certification of Firemen for 2011.]*

***Councilwoman Warrender MOVED, seconded by Councilman Walker, and carried unanimously, to adopt the Consent Agenda in one [1] motion.***

### **IX. Citizen Requests/Comments**

Ken T. Johnson of 1800 Bay Street, Morehead City, commented that he thought the Mayor Pro Tem was elected by the number of votes received in the election and wondered why there was such a debate over the selection.

Roger Latham of 2001 Melody Lane, Morehead City, stated the residents in the South Shore Subdivision as well as those in the Brooke Woods Subdivision were opposed to the water tank facility which is planned to be constructed near the neighborhood. When he bought his house he did not expect to see a water tank staring him in the face. It will look like

an industrial area. He requested that the Council look at a different location that would be suitable to more people.

#### **X. City Manager's Report**

Manager Martin reported that the Town of Morehead City Employee Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon at the Parks & Recreation Center.

#### **XI. Council Requests/Comments**

Councilmen Thompson, Ballou, Walker and Taylor wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Councilwoman Warrender wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

***Councilman Taylor MOVED, seconded by Councilman Thompson, and carried unanimously, to enter into CLOSED SESSION as per G.S. 318.11.***

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

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Jeanne M. Giblin, City Clerk