

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

The Honorable Council of the Town of Morehead City met in Regular Session and for the Biennial Organization of the Council on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, at 5:30 p.m., in the Municipal Chambers located at 202 South 8th Street, Morehead City, North Carolina. Those in attendance were:

MAYOR:	Gerald A. Jones, Jr.
MAYOR PRO-TEM:	Harvey N. Walker, Jr.
COUNCIL:	George W. Ballou Bill Taylor Demus L. Thompson Diane C. Warrender
CITY MANAGER:	David S. Whitlow
CITY CLERK:	Jeanne M. Giblin
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:	Nelson W. Taylor, III; Derek Taylor; Mike Thomas
OTHERS:	Linda Staab; Jeannie Vaughan; Susan Nixon; Janet

Hill; Ellen Sewell; Richard Abell; Carolyn Dennis; David McCabe; Daniel Williams; Ken Wood; Mark Hibbs, Reporter, THE CARTERET NEWS TIMES; Sally Lumpkin; Lou Wilson; Mayor Pro Tempore of Newport Ken Davis, Melinda Davis; Wrenn Johnson; Craig Lands; Susan Roberts; Virginia Ballou; John Ballou, Jr.; Camden Ballou; Viola Cannon; John R. Cannon, Jr.; Ruth Yearick-Jones; Alan Ballard; Dianne Wagner; Drew Ballou; Melissa Ballou; Regina Johnson; Reverend Terry Johnson; Hazel Clayborne; Eugene Clayborne; Sidney Horton; Sandy Golden; Ed Fulcher; Reverend Timothy Havlicek; Judge John Nobles and several others

I. Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mayor Jones opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. Invocation: Reverend Terry Johnson, Pastor, Temple Baptist Church

The Reverend Terry Johnson congratulated the re-elected Council and thanked them for their service to the City. He prayed for the Council and asked God's blessing upon the people of Morehead City.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Remarks: Reverend Timothy Havlicek, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Timothy Havlicek opened his comments speaking about the time he rescued old plastic nativity figures of the Holy Family from the dump. He cleaned them up and placed them on his front lawn. Every night a miracle occurred when first the shepherds, then the wisemen appeared. In time the scene was complete thanks to his neighbors, but it was a miracle just the same! He spoke about people having an inner voice which tells them how to distinguish right from wrong. He felt this was the voice of God and stated that our local officials were elected to do what the inner voice tells them. He implored them to find the quietness to hear again and reminded them that it takes a community to work miracles. He admonished all to care for the "scratched and hurt" members of our society and to remember the community past which has brought us to today. He asked all to help move the community into the future.

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

City Clerk Jeanne Giblin advised that a copy [modified] 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 5, 2013, Municipal Election. Included in the abstract of votes was 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.

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	Write In	25
COUNCILMEMBERS:	George W. Ballou	352
	Demus L. Thompson	316
	Vernon Hill	162
	Write In	7

The Council accepted the official abstract of votes as presented to be spread upon the record. [Attached to and made a part of these minutes by reference is the official abstract of votes.]

VI. Induction of Mayor and Councilmembers: Judge John E. Nobles

Judge John Nobles praised the Council for their efforts and especially mentioned the revitalization of the downtown area. He further commented that all municipal facilities have been improved under this Council’s careful watch and he felt sure that the citizens appreciated all that has been accomplished.

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

While his wife, Ruth, held the Family Bible, Mayor Gerald A. Jones, Jr., took his Oath of Office.

VI.B. Oath of Office: Councilman-Elect George W. Ballou

While his wife, Melissa, and family held the Family Bible, Councilman George W. Ballou took his Oath of Office.

VI.C. Oath of Office: Councilman-Elect Demus L. Thompson

While his sister-in-law, Mary Webb, held the Family Bible, Councilman Demus L. Thompson took his Oath of Office.

[Attached to and made a part of these minutes by reference are the Oaths of Office.]

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Mayor Jones thanked all for their continued support. He stated that Morehead City is his home and that he served with the best board in Carteret County and in fact all of North Carolina! He thanked his wife, Ruth, for her continued support and encouragement and his Mom, Carolyn, also.

Councilman Ballou thanked God for allowing him to be born, live and raise a family in Morehead City. He stated he was honored to be elected to serve and looked forward to serving with the present Council and City staff. He continued that the Council’s record speaks well for doing the best for the community. He thanked the City employees for all their help and dedication. He thanked his wife and family.

Councilman Thompson thanked his wife’s sister for driving the four [4] hours to hold the Bible for him as he recited his Oath of Office. He stated that this is his fifth re-election and he thanked the community for their support. He stated that his wife, Ellen, went home to be with the Holy Father on November 21st and that she always backed him 100 percent and took good care of him so that he could serve the citizens. He continued that Morehead City has a good Council which will continue to work hard for the community.

VII. Organizational Meeting of the New Council

VII.A. Election of the Mayor Pro Tempore

Mayor Jones stated that the selection of the Mayor Pro Tempore was from among the Council. The Mayor Pro-Tempore would perform the duties of the Mayor during his absence or disability.

Councilman Walker nominated Councilman Ballou.

Councilman Taylor closed the nominations and MOVED to appoint Councilman Ballou as Mayor Pro-Tempore of the Morehead City Council. This was seconded by Councilwoman Warrender and carried unanimously.

VII.B. Appointments to Council Committees: Finance & Administration, Planning, Public Safety, Public Works, Public Utilities

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:

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

VII.C. Designation of Eastern Carolina Council 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. Councilman Taylor is the current representative and has expressed interest in continuing in this capacity. The City Manager has been previously designated as the alternate representative.

Councilman Thompson MOVED, seconded by Councilman Ballou, and carried unanimously, to designate Councilman Taylor as representative of the Town of Morehead City for the Eastern Carolina Council Board of Directors.

VII.D. Designation of North Carolina Seafood Festival Board of Directors Ex-Officio Representative

The North Carolina Seafood Festival Board of Directors meets once a month. Mayor Jones has served in this capacity for many years and desires to continue in this role. This is a two [2] year appointment.

Councilman Taylor MOVED, seconded by Councilwoman Warrender, and carried unanimously, to select Mayor Gerald A. Jones, Jr. as the Morehead City designate to the North Carolina Seafood Festival Board of Directors as Ex-Officio Representative.

VIII. Adoption of the CONSENT AGENDA

VIII.A. Approve the Minutes: Tuesday, November 12, 2013, Regular Meeting

Approved the minutes of Tuesday, November 12, 2013, Regular Meeting and dispensed with the reading.

VIII.B. Approve the Requests for Release of Overpayment of Ad Valorem Taxes for November 2013, in the amount of \$10,379.62; and Accept the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for November 2013

Approved the requests for release of overpayment of ad valorem taxes for November 2013, in the amount of \$10,379.62; and accepted the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for November 2013. [Attached to and made a part of these minutes by reference are the Finance Reports for November 2013.]

VIII.C. Permanent Record of Morehead City Officials

In order to provide a permanent record of Morehead City Officials an updated list is presented after each election. As an attachment to the minutes, the information is included in the microfilming process. Microfilming of the minutes is processed by the North Carolina Department of Archives and History in Raleigh, N.C. [Attached to and made a part of these minutes by reference is the updated permanent record of Morehead City Officials.]

VIII.D. Approve the Annual Certification of Firemen for 2014 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 2014 for North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

VIII.E. Approve a Homeland Security Grant Award for Message Boards for the Morehead City Police Department

Morehead City Police Department has been awarded a Homeland Security Grant through the North Carolina Department for Public Safety for the purchase of 17 message boards in the amount of \$199,212.54. Morehead City has been acting as the "Clearing House" for the grant with the message boards going to other departments throughout the state. The funds will be reimbursed to Morehead City once the grant expectations have been fulfilled.

Approved a Homeland Security Grant Award for Message Boards for the Morehead City Police Department in the amount of \$199,212.54. [Attached to and made a part of these minutes by reference is the grant information.]

VIII.F. Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2013-39 in the Amount of \$199,213 for a Police Grant for Message Boards and Budget Ordinance Amendment 2013-40 to Recognize a Transfer from the Fire/EMS Fund in the amount of \$15,650 for a Traffic Signal at Station #2

The purpose of Budget Ordinance Amendment 2013-39 was to adjust the budget as follows:

- Increase revenue in the amount of \$199,213 for [another] Police Grant for message boards and related expenditures in the same amount. Morehead City Police Department is the "lead" agency and will order 17 message boards for multiple governmental units. Morehead City will retain one [1] unit.

The purpose of Budget Ordinance Amendment 2013-40 is to adjust the budget as follows:

- Recognize a transfer from the Fire/EMS Fund in the amount of \$15,650 and appropriate the same amount to be used for the installation of a traffic signal at Fire Station #2.

Adopted Budget Ordinance Amendment 2013-39 in the Amount of \$199,213 for a Police Grant for Message Boards and Budget Ordinance Amendment 2013-40 to Recognize a Transfer from the Fire/EMS Fund in the amount of \$15,650 for a Traffic Signal at Station #2. [Budget Ordinance Amendments 2013-39 and 2013-40 are attached to Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.]

VIII.G. Adopt Resolution 2013-35 In Support of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act [HR 3370 / S 1610]

The National Flood Insurance Program [NFIP] created in 1968 was a key component of the federal government's efforts to minimize the damage and financial impact of floods. In the years since its creation, members of Congress have commented on lapses in authority of the program which resulted in the Biggert – Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The Biggert – Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 attempts to implement necessary reform, but results in significant flood insurance premium increases for flood insurance policy holders who adhered to applicable flood insurance maps and regulations in place at the time of construction who would now lose “grandfathered” status. The Act also will have a significant impact on the affordability of homes and significantly harm the local real estate industry by making the purchase of such homes cost-prohibitive for many prospective buyers.

In response to similar concerns raised across the United States, a bipartisan coalition of Senators and Representatives has introduced the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act [HR 3370 / S1610] that directs FEMA to more closely examine the affordability issues associated with the Biggert – Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and to develop a more affordable and reasonable flood insurance premium structure. The adoption of Resolution 2013-35 would lend the Town of Morehead City's support to the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act.

Adopted Resolution 2013-35 in Support of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act [HR 3370 / S 1610]. [Resolution 2013-35 is attached to and made a part of these minutes by reference.]

Councilman Thompson MOVED, seconded by Councilman Taylor, and carried unanimously to adopt the CONSENT AGENDA in one [1] motion.

IX. Citizen Requests/Comments: There were no citizen requests or comments.

X. City Manager's Report:

City Manager David Whitlow stated he enjoys watching the “changing of the guard” which always ensures that democratic government continues. He thanked the Council for their service and sacrifice in time and effort. He continued that there is always the balance between limited resources and unlimited desires, but that the members of the Council take on this service to make the community better. He wished all a Merry Christmas!

XI. Council Requests/Comments:

Councilwoman Warrender commented that it was difficult to believe that she has already served two [2] years on the Council. She stated that it has been an enjoyable time being part of helping to resolve issues and meeting new people. She wished all a Merry Christmas!

Councilman Taylor requested that a work session be scheduled on items which will be forthcoming next year. This would help the subcommittees focus on the most important items. He wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Councilman Walker stated it was good to see everyone and that he hoped to see this many people at Council meetings next year as the Council does what is right for the citizens. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

Councilman Ballou thanked everyone for their support during the passing of his wife's Granddad. He wished all a Merry Christmas!

Councilman Thompson wished all a Wonderful Holiday!

Mayor Jones closed with that words that he was thankful that he can continue to serve the people of Morehead City.

XII. Adjourn Meeting

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. to be followed by a reception to honor the newly elected Council Members.

Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Jeanne M. Giblin, City Clerk