

**TOWN OF DUCK
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MID MONTH MEETING
July 16, 2008**

The Town Council for the Town of Duck convened at the Duck Municipal Offices at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2008.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Neil Morrison; Councilor Nancy Caviness; Councilor Bart Smith; and Councilor Dave Wessel.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tempore Monica Thibodeau.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Christopher J. Layton; Director of Community Development Andy Garman; Fire Chief Donna Black; Deputy Fire Chief William Walker; Police Chief Phillip Ferguson; Public Relations Coordinator Kathy McCullough-Testa; and Town Clerk Lori Kopec.

ABSENT: Town Attorney Robert Hobbs.

Mayor Morrison called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

OVERVIEW OF 2008 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Public Relations Coordinator Kathy McCullough-Testa was recognized to speak. Public Relations Coordinator McCullough-Testa gave a short presentation on the 2008 4th of July parade to Council and the audience.

Town Manager Layton noted that the planning for future parades will need to be refined. He thought that for 2009, a more professional group would need to be brought in to help the volunteers. He stated that staff exceeded their limit this year in terms of handling traffic and the crowds. He thought that the Town would eventually get to a level with regard to spectators that it could not be handled by the current staff and volunteers or it would become self limiting. He thought staff was at the end of being able to manage the parade on their own and would need to develop a more refined plan to present to Council. He stated that the parade for 2009 will be on Friday, July 3rd, which would be beneficial and that for 2010 the parade would be held on Monday, July 5th. He thought it would not be as taxing for 2009 and 2010 as it would not be held on July 4th.

Councilor Caviness clarified that more professional volunteers would be needed in the future. Town Manager Layton stated she was correct. He stated that staff was still trying to figure out how to approach it. He noted that there were people that could be hired for traffic set up under the direction of the Police Department. He added that there were also people that could be hired that specialize in crowd control.

Public Relations Coordinator McCullough-Testa explained that the volunteers help out on the parade route. Councilor Caviness asked if there was a training session prior to the parade for the volunteers. Public Relations Coordinator McCullough-Testa stated that meetings are held for the volunteers. She stated that the volunteers are kept on the parade route to help with crowd control and staging. She stated that augmentation would be needed with crowd control on Duck Road. Councilor Caviness asked if there was an in-service training for the volunteers. Public Relations

Coordinator McCullough-Testa stated that two (2) meetings are held for them. Councilor Caviness asked if the meetings are on the parade route. Public Relations Coordinator McCullough-Testa stated that the parade route was discussed at the meetings. She noted that since they are volunteers, the meetings are not mandatory. She stated that it would be stressed to the volunteers in future years the importance of attending the meetings. She noted that it was hard making a meeting mandatory for volunteers. Councilor Caviness disagreed and felt that it should be mandatory for volunteers to attend the meetings.

Police Chief Phillip Ferguson was recognized to speak. Police Chief Ferguson reviewed traffic control for the parade to Council and the audience. Town Manager Layton explained that staff was not criticizing anyone and felt everything went very well with regard to the parade, but felt that things could be done differently. He stated that staff anticipates the crowds at the parade will continue to grow over the next few years and there needed to be alternative ways to deal with the issue. He stated that because of the distance staff was operating, there were communications blackouts between volunteers and key staff. He stated that there needed to be a better way to improve communications for any Town events.

Fire Chief Donna Black was recognized to speak. Fire Chief Black reviewed safety and traffic concerns for the parade with Council and the audience. Councilor Smith stated that he was in the ladder truck for the Fire Department and noticed a big difference in crowd control by having the topper cones used. He felt the topper cones really helped keep people off the parade route and safely away from moving vehicles. Councilor Caviness agreed and stated she was impressed with how visible the topper cones were. Town Manager Layton agreed and noted that they were effective in moving people around quickly.

Councilor Wessel thought doing the parade before the 4th of July would make sense instead of having it after the holiday. He suggested holding it on July 2nd for 2010. Public Relations Coordinator McCullough-Testa stated that she chose the legal holiday as banks and businesses are closed then. Councilor Wessel still felt the parade should be held in advance of the holiday instead of after it. He stated that he liked the idea of bringing in professionals to help out. He asked if it was possible to ask the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, Chamber of Commerce and DCBA to help fund having part-time police officers brought in. He noted that the College of the Albemarle may have a BLET course in the summer of 2009. He thought if it did happen the Town could look into tapping into that resource, even using it as a classroom activity for the College. Public Relations Coordinator McCullough-Testa stated she wasn't sure with the legal holiday being on Friday for 2009 and the rental turnover on the weekends, what the other towns would do regarding fireworks displays.

Councilor Wessel wondered if Duck Road could legally be closed for the parade. Town Manager Layton stated that the Town had approached NCDOT regarding it, but found it wasn't allowed. Councilor Wessel thought the electronic sign that was put up this year was very helpful. He asked if it could be changed after the parade to let people know that fireworks were prohibited. Police Chief Ferguson stated he was told that the sign was set up before it left the shop and that changes could not be made nor could it address a specific event but only traffic delays.

Mayor Morrison thanked Public Relations Coordinator McCullough-Testa, Chief Ferguson and Chief Black for their presentation.

OVERVIEW OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Town Manager Layton stated that the emergency operations plan was updated every summer due to hurricane season. He stated that a lot of the principles in the plan were also used for the 4th of July parade and jazz festival.

Fire Chief Black gave a short presentation to Council and the audience on the emergency operations plan, reviewing the plan with them.

Public Relations Coordinator McCullough-Testa gave a short overview on public information and the Joint Information Center to Council and the audience.

Police Chief Ferguson gave a short overview on public safety before, during and after a storm event to Council and the audience. Councilor Caviness asked how many officers patrol the Currituck beach. Police Chief Ferguson stated that they have two (2) deputy sheriffs, but was not sure what Sheriff Johnson would assign during a storm event. Town Manager Layton thought there were eight (8) deputies that were supposed to be dedicated to patrol Currituck.

Director of Community Development Andy Garman was recognized to speak. Director Garman went on to give a short overview of damage assessment after a storm event to Council and the audience.

Councilor Caviness asked what happened when the Town's damage assessments were deemed high after Hurricane Isabel. Town Manager Layton stated that there was concern that Duck had been devastated. He stated that a spreadsheet was set up based on a form from Dare County and when the numbers were plugged in; it came out higher than other municipalities. He noted that it was rectified quickly.

Councilor Caviness thought one of the biggest aspects of confusion with regard to logistics was that it was there to support the EOC and the non evacuating general public. She noted that logistics were only for members of the EOC. Town Manager Layton agreed. He added that spouses of people that were working at the EOC were not allowed as well.

Town Manager Layton discussed debris clean up after a storm with Council and the audience.

Fire Chief Black asked if Council needed to approve the emergency operations plan. Town Manager Layton stated he would have it as part of Council's packet for the August 6, 2008 meeting for them to adopt.

Mayor Morrison thanked Fire Chief Black for her presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 4-0. The time was 2:58 p.m.

Lori A. Kopec, Town Clerk

Approved: _____

Neil Morrison, Mayor