

**TOWN OF OCEAN ISLE BEACH
THREE WEST THIRD STREET
OCEAN ISLE BEACH, NC 28469**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OPEN FORUM
September 12, 2016
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| Mayor Debbie Smith | Mayor Pro Tem Dean Walters |
| Commissioner Betty Williamson | Commissioner Bob Williams |
| Commissioner Wayne Rowell | Commissioner Carolyn Blythe |
| Justin Whiteside, Asst. Town Administrator | Daisy Ivey, Town Administrator |
| Casey Reeves, Town Clerk | Chief Ken Bellamy |

OTHERS PRESENT:

Approximately 15 Property Owners and Guests

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the open forum to order and stated the purpose of the meeting was to hear comments, concerns, and issues from residents. Mayor Smith stated that all issues would be taken under advisement; however, no official action would be taken during the meeting.

OVERVIEW OF HEARING

Bob Mayhew – 24 Dare Street – Mr. Mayhew requested updates regarding the status of the terminal groin project and the paving of Ocean Isle Beach Road (“4-mile road”). Mr. Mayhew also requested clarification regarding the current recycling pick-up schedule. Mayor Smith replied that the terminal groin project comment period has been extended for another 75 days and is set to expire on November 7, 2016. Mayor Smith continued that this extension will most likely cause the Town to miss the construction window for 2016-2017 and push the proposed project forward to the winter of 2017-2018. Mr. Whiteside responded to Mr. Mayhew’s inquiry regarding the progress of paving of Ocean Isle Beach road stating that the NCDOT plans to complete the project by November 2016. Mrs. Ivey replied to Mr. Mayhew’s question about the curbside recycling schedule noting that the Town has returned to its post-tourist season pick-up schedule of every other Monday. Mrs. Ivey continued that the topic of curbside recycling would also be addressed during the Board of Commissioner’s meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

Joe White – 237 West Second Street – Mr. White asked if the Town had any current plans to move forward with constructing a bike/pedestrian path on the island. Mayor Smith stated the Town is discussing options regarding possible improvements on First street. Mr. White asked if the Town has recently collected any data regarding bike-related accidents on the island. Mrs. Ivey stated that the Town is not currently collecting statistics on bike-related accidents beyond the scope of routine Police monitoring. Chief Bellamy stated that no bike-related accidents have been reported recently. Mayor Smith continued that the Town has been actively promoting the

statewide "Watch for Me, NC" Cyclist and Pedestrian safety campaign over the past 2 months by distributing bumper stickers and informational flyers via social media and printed newsletters.

Bob Mayhew – 24 Dare Street – Mr. Mayhew asked if the Town had any immediate plans to repave First or Second streets. Mayor Smith replied that both First and Second street are under NCDOT jurisdiction. Mayor Smith noted that crosswalks were recently painted at the canal street intersections to attract attention and awareness for pedestrian safety.

Carlos Escobar – Scotland Street – Mr. Escobar stated that he was a new resident to the island and would like the Town to pursue plans for implementing a bike path.

Frances Mayhew – 24 Dare Street – Mrs. Mayhew asked if the Town would consider extending the sidewalks on First and/or Second street to help keep the bicyclists off the roads. Mayor Smith stated that cyclists have the same rights as motor vehicles to use the streets and extending the sidewalk for that purpose would not likely be a viable solution at this time.

David Martin – 248 East First Street – Mr. Martin asked for clarification on where cars were allowed to park on the island. Mrs. Ivey stated that cars were allowed to park anywhere on the island as long as the vehicle is in the right-of-way and "No Parking" signage prohibiting parking in that area is not present. Mr. Martin complimented the Police and Fire Departments for their efforts to block off a portion of Goldsboro street during Tropical Storm Hermine.

Carlos Escobar – Scotland Street – Mr. Escobar asked if the helicopter tour company based at the Odell Williamson Municipal Airport planned to continue running helicopter tours post-tourist season. Mayor Smith stated that the FAA controls the use of airspace and the Town has no authority to regulate the quantity or frequency of helicopter tours. Mayor Smith commented that the company would most likely continue to conduct tours as long as it was financially lucrative for them to do so.

Don Kauffman – 8 Pender Street – Mr. Kauffman complimented the Town for the newly painted crosswalks and the Town's efforts to promote pedestrian safety on the island.

Being no further comments were heard, a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Walters which received a second from Commissioner Williams. The vote was unanimous.

DATED: 10/11/16

SIGNED: Debbie S. Smith
Debbie S. Smith, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST: Casey Reeves
Casey Reeves, Town Clerk

