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3 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**
4 **OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
5 **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.**
6 **TOWN BOARD MEETING ROOM**
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9 **1. Call to Order**

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11 The regular monthly meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was called to order by
12 Mayor Eddie Barber at 6:00 PM in the Town Board Meeting Room.
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14 **2. Roll Call**

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16 Present for the meeting: Mayor Eddie Barber, Mayor Pro-Tem Floyd Messer, Commissioners
17 Candace Dooley, Steve Finch, Jim Normile and Mark Taylor
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19 Also, present during the regular meeting: Town Manager Matt Zapp, Town Attorney Richard
20 Stanley, Town Clerk Sarah Williams, and Finance Director Laura Rotchford. (Town Attorney
21 Stanley participated remotely.) Retiring Town Clerk/ Human Resources Specialist Rhonda
22 Ferebee was also present.
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24 **3. Opening Prayer**

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26 Mayor Barber offered the Opening Prayer.
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28 **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

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30 Mayor Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance.
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32 **5. Adoption of Agenda**

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34 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adopt the Agenda. The Board voted***
35 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
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37 **6. Introduction of New Employee(s)**

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39 **a. Sarah Williams, Town Clerk/ Human Resources Specialist**
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41 Town Manager Zapp welcomed Sarah to the team and introduced her to the public and the
42 Board. Sarah previously worked as Town Clerk for Pine Knoll Shores.
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44 **7. Employee Retirement & 20 Year Service Recognition**

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a. Rhonda Ferebee, Town Clerk/ Human Resources Specialist

Mayor Barber introduced North Carolina Municipal Clerks (NCCMC) President Ms. Melody Shuler (Town Clerk, Assistant to the Town Manager for Waxhaw, NC). Ms. Shuler congratulated Ms. Ferebee on her retirement and read a resolution thanking her for her years of service on behalf of the NCCMC.

**Ms. Shuler participated via Go To Webinar remotely*

Mayor Barber thanked Ms. Ferebee for her years of service and presented her with a 20 year service award, a plaque in honor of her retirement, and read resolution in her honor.

The Board presented Ms. Ferebee with flowers.

8. Proclamations / Public Announcements

Mayor Barber noted the following announcements for the public:

- Golf Cart Advisory Committee Meeting - Tues. September 15 - 5:30 pm
- Second Annual Emerald Isle Fishing Tournament- September 19-20
- Planning Board Regular Meeting - Monday, September 28 - 6pm
- Neighborhood Watch Board Meeting - Tues. October 6 - 6 pm
- Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting - Tuesday October 13 - 6pm

9. Public Comment

Brief Summary:

The public will have the opportunity to address the Board about any items of concern not on the agenda. The Mayor and Board welcome and appreciate all comments from the public, and will take these comments into consideration as they make decisions on Town issues and provide direction to Town staff. Public comment is a time for the Board to listen to the public's concerns and ideas, and is not intended for a lengthy dialogue or question and answer session.

The Mayor, Board, and Town staff are happy to meet with any citizen during normal business hours or at any other mutually agreeable time to discuss Town issues and answer any questions.

Lori Ahuna, 320 Loblolly St, spoke regarding offensive signage in her neighborhood. She felt it was inappropriate and a public nuisance. Her letter is attached and included herein by reference.

Sherry King, 202 Live Oak, also spoke regarding the signage. She felt it was offensive and would deter tourists. She asked for direction from the Board on how to approach the owner.

1 Commissioner Messer said that the Board agreed it was offensive.

2 Town Attorney Stanley said that the ordinance allowed the regulation of the size of signs but
3 that the town was prohibited from regulating content (unless content was a public threat). He
4 said that he sympathized with the speakers.

5 Commissioner Normile said that he agreed with both speakers and the sign was a problem but
6 regrettably the law would not allow them to regulate content. He thanked the speakers for
7 speaking out.

8 Town Manager Zapp said that he and the Town Planner had met with the owner of the sign and
9 made her aware of the multiple complaints. The placement and size all met the ordinance(s). A
10 question came up about requiring a high fence to cover the sign. Town Manager Zapp answered
11 that the Town was unable to erect anything in someone's yard to hide a sign. He apologized
12 and said that the town understood.

13 Commissioner Finch thanked the speakers for coming and apologized that he was unable to do
14 more.

15 **10. Consent Agenda**

16 a. Tax Releases

17 b. Minutes – August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting

18 c. Approve Reciprocal Easement Agreement Between A-Team and Town of Emerald Isle

19 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The***
20 ***Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

21 Clerks Note: Consent agenda items as noted above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these
22 minutes.

23 **11. Phase 3 Beach Nourishment Status Update**

24 Commissioner Normile thanked the different entities involved in helping with the beach
25 nourishment project. He thanked Senator Burr who sent a team down after Hurricane Florence
26 to look at the beach and speak with officials and Congressman Murphy who recently sent his
27 staff to speak with the Board. He also thanked Representative McElraft and her team for their
28 help with Phases 1 and 2. He also thanked Shore Protection Officer, Greg Rudolph.

29 a. Resolution Authorizing Construction Contract

30 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to approve the Resolution Authorizing***
31 ***Construction Contract. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

32 Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 20-09-08/R4 as noted above is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part
33 of these minutes.

34 b. Capital Project Ordinance Amendment

1 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to approve the Capital Project Budget Ordinance.***
2 ***The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

3 Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 20-09-08/R5 and Capital Project Budget Ordinance as noted above are incorporated herein
4 by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes.

5 **13. Appointments**

6 a. **Golf Cart Advisory Committee. – 1 Vacancy**

7 **Brief Summary:** The Board should fill a vacancy on the Emerald Isle Golf Cart Advisory
8 Committee due to the early resignation of a member. The term is set to expire in January of
9 2022. There were 9 applicants.

10 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to appoint John Lister to the vacant position on the***
11 ***Emerald Isle Golf Cart Advisory Committee with a term to expire in January of 2022. The***
12 ***Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor.***

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14 **14. Comments from Town Clerk, Town Attorney and Town Manager**

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16 Town Clerk Sarah Williams thanked Ms. Ferebee for her patience and kindness as she adjusted
17 to her new position.

18

19 Town Attorney Richard Stanley said that he had enjoyed working with Rhonda and welcomed
20 Sarah as new Clerk.

21

22 Town Manager Zapp thanked Rhonda for her integrity and for being a great person. He added
23 that the town was lucky to have had her.

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25 **15. Comments from Board of Commissioners and Mayor**

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27 Commissioner Taylor thanked Ms. Ferebee for all of her work.

28

29 Commissioner Finch thanked Ms. Ferebee for her dedicated service and said she was an
30 outstanding individual.

31

32 Commissioner Messer said it had been a pleasure to work with Ms. Ferebee, she was an asset
33 to Emerald Isle and that the town was a better place because of her.

34

35 Commissioner Dooley congratulated Ms. Ferebee on an amazing career, for being a dear friend
36 and for always being there.

37

1 Commissioner Normile said he appreciated Ms. Ferebee for teaching him the importance of
2 transparency and for encouraging him to pursue a seat at the table and get involved. He said he
3 believed that she had the kindness heart that he had ever known.

4
5 Mayor Barber thanked Ms. Ferebee for everything she had done for him and her for being a
6 trusted confidant. He thanked her for everything she had done for the town.

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8 **16. Adjourn**

9 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted***
10 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

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12 ***The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.***

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14 Respectfully Submitted:

15

16 Sarah G. Williams

17 Town Clerk

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