



**SURF CITY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, July 7, 2020
Surf City Welcome Center – 102 N. Shore Drive, 4:30 PM**

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor
- II. INVOCATION - William J. (Buddy) Fowler, Mayor Pro-Tem
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Donald R. Helms
- IV. BEAUTIFICATION & APPEARANCE COMMITTEE AWARDS -
Home of the Month – Bruce & Becky Filer at 1021 S. Shore Drive
Business of the Month- Surf City Dental at 301 Aloha Way
- V. MAYOR'S REMARKS -

We ask that all in attendance please set your cell phones to silent or vibrate mode. The Council offers the public an opportunity to speak during the meeting. Comments should be limited to three minutes each and must be directly issue oriented with agenda items for this meeting, or an issue upon which the Council has control.

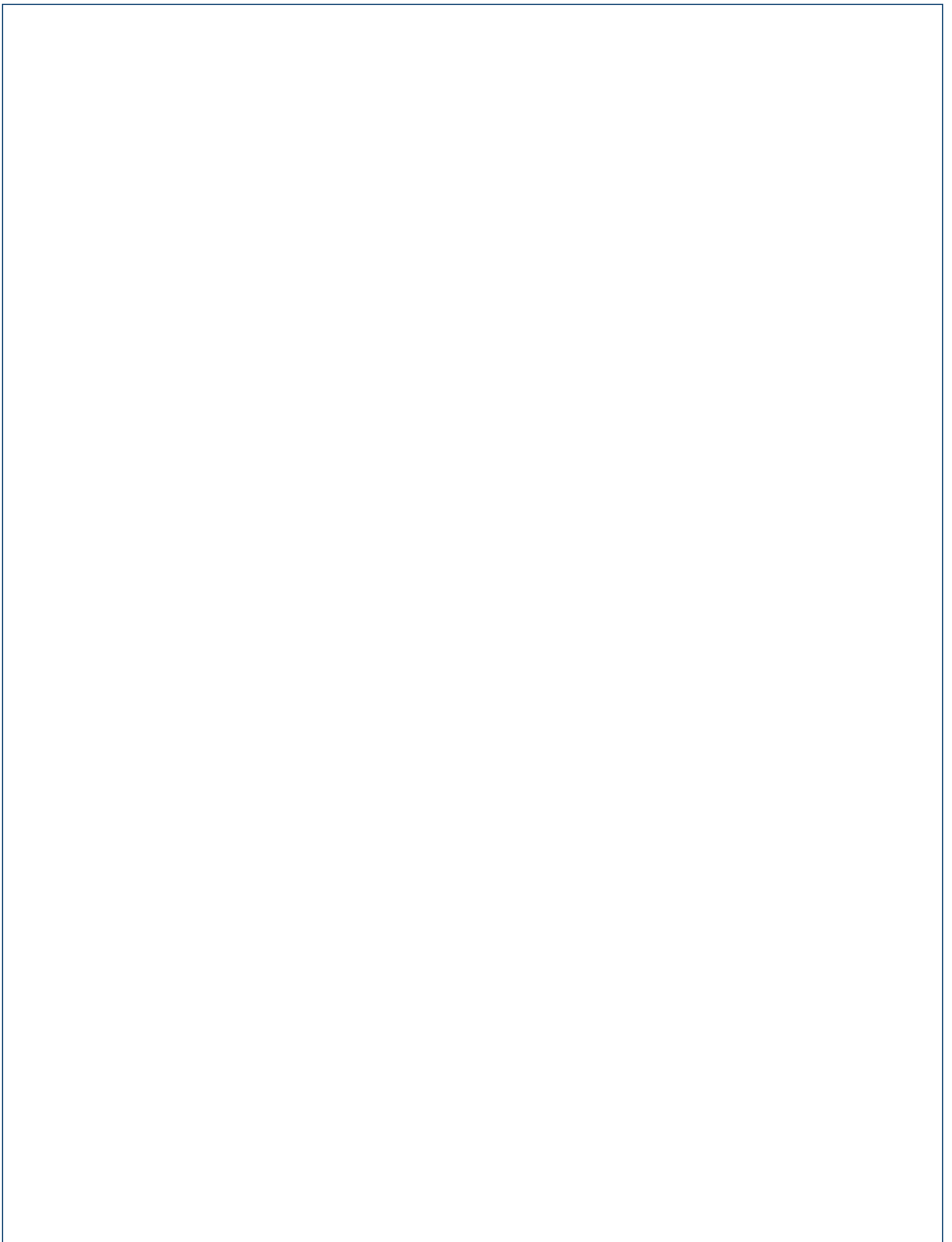
Citizen speakers will be acknowledged in the order in which they sign up to speak and will address all comments to the Board as a whole and not one individual Council member. Speakers will address the Council from the speaker's podium at the front of the room and will begin their remarks by stating their name and address. Discussions between Speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed. Public comment is not intended to require the Council to answer any impromptu questions. Speakers are expected to be civil in their language and presentation. Any comments where the primary purpose is to promote business or candidacy shall not be allowed.

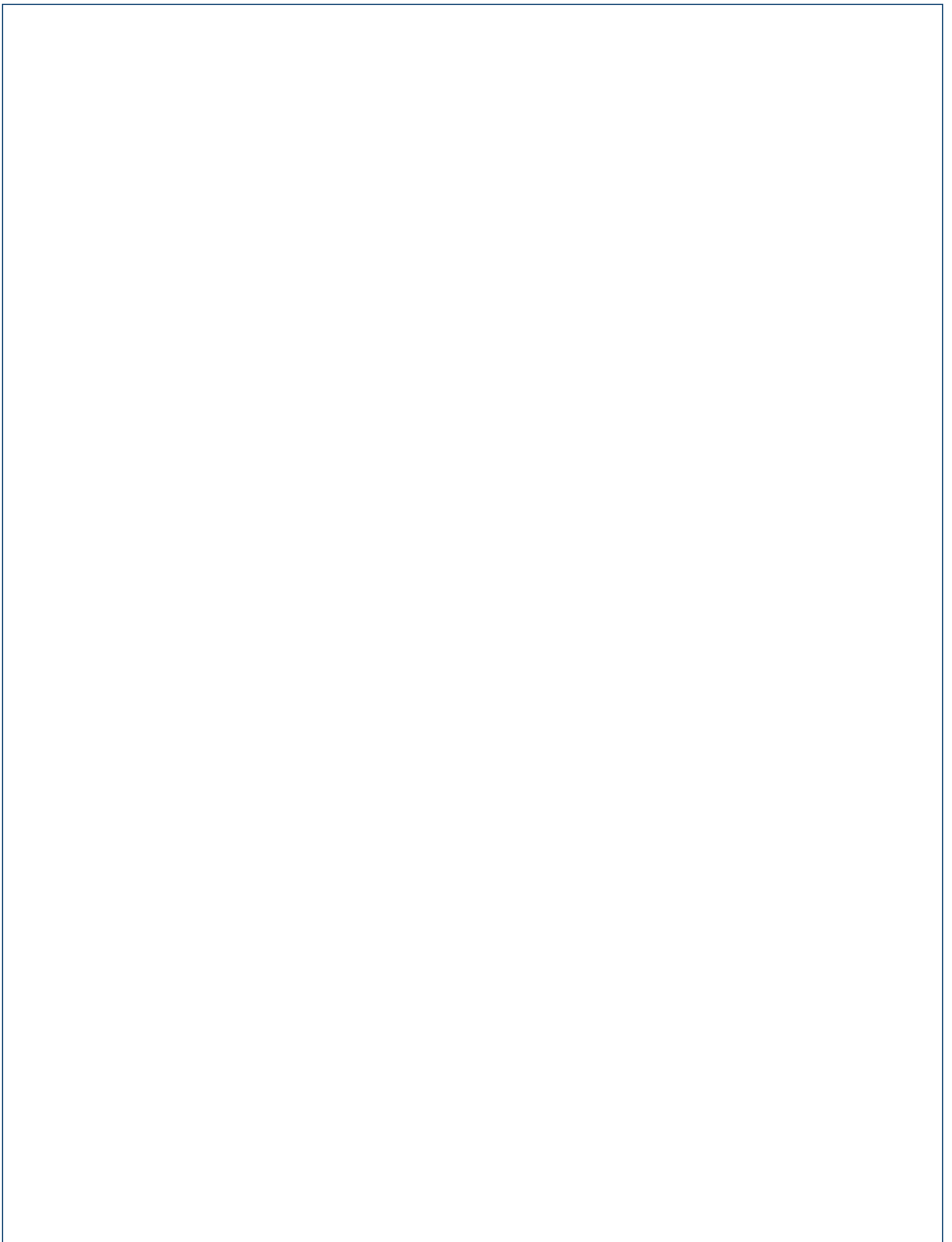
In accordance with the Council's adopted Rules of Procedures, Councilmembers shall reserve responses, if any, for the Council Forum on the agenda.

- VI. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA -
- VII. Mr. Helms made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and it was carried.
- VIII. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA -

****Items under Consent are generally of a routine nature. The Board may take action to approve/disapprove all items in a single vote. Any item may be withheld from a general action, to be discussed and voted upon separately at the discretion of the Council.***

- 1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes: June 2nd & June 19th, 2020
- 2. Advisory Board Appointments: Board of Adjustment
- 3. Ordinance Amendment No. 2020-05 - Sec. 12-11 Alcohol Beverage Possession & Consumption





4. Ordinance Amendment No. 2020-06 - Sec. 12-102 Permit

Mr. Helms made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and it was carried.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING -

5. Ordinance Amendment No. 2020-03 - Section 6.19 On Premise
Electronic Changeable Copy Signs

Public Hearing Open 4:36 PM

Amy Kimes, Planner discussed the current ordinance and the requested ordinance amendment. There were three LED sign request recently for use in the C3 Commercial district. The planning board requested research from other beach communities. The ordinance amendment included in the packet would only allow LED signage in the G1 Governmental district.

Barbara Morrow 1217 N. Topsail Drive voiced her opposition to the LED signage.

Public Hearing Closed 4:43 PM

Mr. Torres made a motion to not accept the resolution. Mr. Torres redacted his motion.

Mr. Helms made a motion to accept the resolution as accepted. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion.

Mr. Fowler stated he has lots of phone calls not wanting the LED lighting.

The motion was carried.

6. Ordinance Amendment No. 2020-07 - Section 4.1.8 MFC Multi-Family
Cluster

Public Hearing Open 4:45 PM

Mr. Kimes discussed the MFC zoning standards currently and that the design standards for multifamily homes. She stated she the intent of the ordinance was to allow for single family homes as well, the town request language that meets the intent of the ordinance. This would be an amendment to the setback requirements.

Patrick Wahl with Waterside Development gave an overview of the project. He gave benefits of the MFC setback changes to the Waterside Development.

Amy Kimes stated the planning board recommended alternate 1 and to look at alternate 2 at a later date. She recommended alternate 2.

Mr. Edes stated he believes there is standing case law regarding staff have full authority without explicit standards. He stated in spirit working together is great but explicit standards need to be set.

Cape Fear Engineering stated they felt that option 1 would allow for construction to continue and they are in favor of option 1.

Mr. Edes stated the council could move forward with option 1 and he would do legal research and bring back the information next month.

Closed Public Hearing 5:12 PM

Mr. Helms made a motion to approve alternate 1 as presented. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mr. Fowler requested that staff work the attorney on this issue.

- X. PUBLIC COMMENT - Citizens have an opportunity to address the Council for no more than three minutes per speaker on topics which concern agenda items of this meeting
- XI. MANAGER'S REPORT -
- It continues to be a pleasure to serve the Council and citizens of Surf City. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend. We had a good time helping put the 4th of July video message together.
 - **Beach Nourishment – Federal Project**
 - Met today, USACE provided further cost breakdowns on best/worst case scenarios. I've included a copy of their presentation for all Board Members to review.
 - Stephanie will give update on easement numbers, etc.
 - **New Town Hall** – Thankfully we had enough dry weather over the weekend to pass our latest proof roll. This allows us to continue to bring fill in on the site. We've had challenges over the last couple of weeks due to rain so this is good news.
 - **Vector Control** – The Town has been in discussions with Pender County Health Department on providing vector control services on behalf of the Town. This will reduce our dependence on certifications, licensing, and equipment costs associated with the program. If this is cost effective and makes sense for the Town, I would like to pursue a MOU in which I'll bring back to Council for consideration.
 - **Florence Debris** - I received the debris invoice and supporting documentation from Pender County regarding Florence debris cleanup. The total Surf City invoice, including monitoring, is \$1,303,056.37. I am still combing through the detail information to ensure the charges are related to Surf City and match documentation I have on file. I plan to present a budget ordinance amendment to Council at the July 17th workshop. This money paid to Pender County will be reimbursed back to us once Pender receives reimbursement from FEMA. I have received confirmation from Pender County that FEMA and NC Emergency Management have approved their reimbursement. I anticipate having our portion of the reimbursement in hand over the next few months.
 - **Summer Camp**
 - Summer Camp is now in their third week of providing an opportunity for our local kids to interact and have a little fun. We've had positive reviews again this year about the program.
 - **EDA – CARES Act Funding**
 - Staff has submitted cost reimbursement requests to both Pender County and Onslow Counties for expenses related to the preparation and response to the Coronavirus. These costs are mostly made up of PPE, emergency medical sick leave, and teleworking expenses. We hope to see a reimbursement from the County partners to avoid going through the FEMA process.
 - **UPDATE:** We have sent in agreement forms to Onslow County for almost \$4,000.00 in reimbursements.

- Still awaiting approval from Pender County
 - Should be able to recoup approximately \$7,500.00 in COVID-19 related expenses.
- A formal application was submitted to EDA to request approximately \$150,000.00 to develop an Economic Resiliency Plan to
 - Identify marketing, branding, and retention strategies for visitor reliant businesses that will facilitate attraction of new visitors and to recapture return visitors.
 - Identify and define diversification strategies for the town to recruit, support and promote businesses that are more resilient to sudden changes in tourism.
 - Convene businesses within service sectors, i.e. restaurants, retail, accommodations to develop relationships and trust that will support each other during times of crisis. For example, it would be effective for there to be one website that each business supports with updates on business hours of operation, new standards and policies, availability of product, etc.
 - Conduct a retail study to present findings that will:
 - Support and encourage existing businesses to form key alliances with local vendors and develop strategies to capture
 - New customers
 - Visitors
 - Permanent residents
 - Second homeowners
 - Diversification of local vendors
 - Local supply chain
 - Reveal gap analysis in the current economy
 - What goods and services are missing from the town and are being purchased elsewhere?
 - What goods and services will be desired by new residents moving into Surf City?
 - Due to it's location, a natural disaster and climate resiliency assessment will be undertaken to determine effects and strategies to assist local business owners recover in a more timely manner.
 - Due to new work-from-home practices, are residential sales expected to increase as workers accelerate plans to move to desirable locations?
 - If so, will workers support co working spaces?
 - If so, will workers begin second career businesses and support incubator space?
 - Are there opportunities for virtual incubators and where are the success stories?
 - Partner with NC Commerce and the Coastal Federation and their initiative to support local oyster producers with
- FY 2020 Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP)
 - Staff worked hard to get this grant application turned around for submission. Utilities, Community Development, and Streets came together to submit funding requests for several projects including:

- W/S – WWTP Improvements (headworks)
- W/S – Water Treatment Plant Improvements
- W/S – AMI Advanced Meter Infrastructure

Mr. Torres asked where we stood on off premise alcohol consumption.

Mr. Fowler stated the permitting from ALE requires different standards on the footage. These are not town standards that we could be relaxed on.

Mr. Edes explained that it is not the District Attorneys place to call this order. This is an item that needs to be discussed in closed session because he is providing legal advice that could lead to potential litigation.

XII. COUNCIL FORUM -

Mr. Torres thanked the town employees for their efforts during this time. He asked for patience at businesses as the patrons visit these places. He expressed his appreciation to the first responders.

Mr. Fowler he thanked department heads and staff. He too ask for the public's patience and kindness.

Mrs. Batts stated she also agreed with the other two council members that we need to be patience and kind. She spoke on the joy that summer camp has been bringing to the kids. She spoke on the excitement of the new town hall and beach nourishment project.

Mr. Helms asked for patience and for everyone to wear their mask in public. He thanked all of the town employees and department heads.

Mr. Shugarts stated he agreed with everyone's comments this evening.

Mayor stated we have a great community and people have been wearing their mask. He thanked the first responders for their hard work over the holiday weekend. He thanked town staff for their hard work with the USACE. He briefly discussed the easement requirements. He hoped everyone had a safe July 4th.

XIII. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT -

Mr. Edes House Bill 593 changed the governing of the local state of emergency, now they must be posted online and on WebEx before it could be enforced. The litigation over the

Governors Executive order, today an injunction was issues on bowling alleys to allow them to open. The Governor has appealed the order. Lastly, the easements are frustrating especially at this time. Staff has tried to educate the public.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT -

Mr. Helms made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Batts seconded the motion and it was carried.

