

OAK ISLAND BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES – Tuesday, June 30, 2026 – 9:00am

Location: Police Training Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Joe Yeager, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03am

Members Absent: Lisa Fitzgerald, Alec

Allred, Jensen Caudle and Ronnie Russell

Motion: No motion required

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- o Approval of Agenda: Ken Guhse made a motion to approve the agenda; Heather Kinlaw, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. No changes noted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- o Approval of April Minutes: Ken Guhse, made a motion to approve minutes from May, Mark Turner, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. PRESENTATION

- o Erin Baker, Deputy Clerk discussed the Council changes in board and committee structures, including attendance policies and term limits
- o The council's goal is to keep committee attendance as consistent as possible so that meeting business is as consistent as possible.
- o Board members no longer vote on absences; attendance is tracked for consistency. Two consecutive absences, 3 absences in a year or an extended absence, per council reach out to your board liaison (Hallie for Business Advisory) who will reach out to council to inform them of the circumstances surrounding absence.
- o Term limits set to two full consecutive terms, with unexpired terms not counting toward the limit.
- o Staff liaisons assigned to each board and committee to facilitate communication.

- o Interview process for applicants involves the board chair, a council member and the staff liaison
- o If you want to apply to for another board while currently sitting on a board, you can. If your application is accepted, you must resign current board position at the appointment to the other board.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- o No public comments noted

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- o Business of the Month for July
 - Little Bits Burgers
- o Medallion Hunt
 - Saw nearly 1000 unique users and over 5200 views with positive reviews
 - Found on the 9th day
 - Ideas to increase participation include having small prizes daily leading up to a grand prize.
- o Business Outlook Survey Kickoff
 - Starts on 7/1 and will last the entire month.
 - Share with other business owners
 - Target: 1/3 of all businesses complete
 - Rick asked that those who fill out the survey get feedback on the survey results
- o Absentee Property Owner Discussion
 - Property and business updates focused on vacant and undeveloped properties, with discussion on leasing, selling and redevelopment opportunities.
 - Some property owners are reluctant to sell or lease, causing challenges in redevelopment
 - City owns various properties, some gifted or inherited with ongoing efforts to manage and utilize them effectively

- Issues with code violations and maintenance of properties were raised
- Parking availability and leasing of undeveloped lots for parking were discussed as potential solutions.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- o Collaboration with BCC Culinary Program
 - The local community college offers a two-year Culinary Arts Certificate program under the Workforce Development program.
 - The program aims to build relationships with local restaurants and businesses to provide training and job placement opportunities.
 - Students gain certifications and practical experience, enhancing local workforce quality
 - Expansion plans include adding more trades such as HVAC and plumbing

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- o Hallie reminded the committee that Town Hall will be closing early on Friday July 1st in preparation for Beach Day concert and Fireworks.
- o July 16 will be the next UNCW Collaboration: Living Shoreline

IX. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- o Heather reminded everyone of The Hometown Heroes Game at Bill Smith Park on July 2nd. All active-duty military and Veterans will receive Free admission Veterans. The game will be between the Oak Island Loggerhead and their crosstown rivals, the Shallotte Shallywags. Encouraged attendance.

X. ADJOURN

- o Rick Dobrowski made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:59; Zach Fisher, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.