

Heather Finnell

From: Carlton Pittman <rucpitt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:16 PM
To: holden@atthebeachnc.com; geraldbrown365@gmail.com; vccbrian@gmail.com; Michael Sullivan; pattykwi@gmail.com; Heather Finnell
Subject: Re: Paving, Parking, Trash, and couple other items

I have previously written to the commissioners on parking, trash and other items, and several of you responded, which I appreciate.

I understand parking is again on the agenda for the BOC meeting on Tuesday April 20, so I have a couple of additional comments.

If and or when the BOC implements paid public parking on Holden Beach, I very much believe the town employees (police, EMS, fire, town maintenance workers, etc.) should all receive complimentary yearly passes. They work endless hours for the town and it doesn't seem right that they should have to pay to park if they don't live on the island, and want to use the beach or town facilities.

I have read all of the recent comments sent in regarding parking. I think out of the 200+, only about five were against PAID public parking.

I strongly support paid public parking being implemented on HB as soon as is reasonably possible. I like the Surf City model implemented recently, where fees for parking are only required from April - October. The fees seem reasonable (\$3/hour, \$20/day, and a yearly pass for ~\$250). The associated fees do seem reasonable, and not overly high.

I trust and hope each of you have seen the reports of a good sized development coming to Stone Chimney soon - Marsh Walk I believe it is to be called. Roughly 400 single family homes, plus another 100+ multi-family units. These people will be coming to Holden Beach. They're not going to be going to Sunset Beach, OIB, or OKI, they're coming here.

No matter what, there will only be more people coming to Holden Beach.

With Brunswick County being one of the fastest growing counties in the State AND the country, there will only be more people coming here, and the town needs to implement paid public parking as soon as is feasible.

I also hope the BOC will do SOMETHING to address parking on side streets in the right-of-way. It is only getting and going to get worse, so getting out in front of this will help tremendously.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. And also thank you each for your service to the Town. Please let me know if there are questions.

Carlton Pittman

Full time, permanent Holden Beach resident

Lifelong North Carolina resident

On 3/1/2021 10:53 PM, Carlton Pittman wrote:
> And probably a question.

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> I intentionally left Woody off of this as I know he has resigned from
> the BOC to relocate coastally closer to his home. I will say, my
> belief is that all elected town officials should be full time,
> permanent island residents. Woody was not. I doubt many voters
> actually knew this at the time he was elected, but it is what is it at
> this point. I do not hold it against him and wish he was not leaving
> HB. He has been a good neighbor and we will miss him.

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> Paving OBE, OBW -

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> I wish and hope the town will fund the additional width to permit
> dedicated bike lanes. The roads have needed it for years. No one wants
> to have to look in the rear view wishing it had been done sooner after
> a serious accident or worse. I do not know how all town expenses are
> funded other than some state tax dollars, town taxes, and occupancy
> taxes. If any of you would like to enlighten me on this I would
> greatly appreciate it.

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> Trash -

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> For the most part, I have no issues with the proposed new trash
> ordinances OTHER than the issue of not rolling the cans to the street
> more than 24 hours before pick up day. This obviously doesn't work for
> those owners and island visitors who come down mainly on weekends.
> They roll their cans to the street Sunday when they leave, and should
> be allowed to continue to do so. The idea that those residents should
> have to get their island friends and neighbors to do it for them is
> just wrong. As Americans, one of the things we cherish most is self
> reliance. No one wants to have to ask their neighbors to do this. I get
> that many neighbors would be glad to help, but this just isn't right.
> What if it is storming that day/night? What if the neighbor has other
> obligations? I could go on. I understand not wanting to create
> multiple classes of homeowners, particularly over trash, but trash
> collection on OBE and OBW are very much different animals than on side
> streets. I would even consider leaving trash corrals as is on side
> streets, but there is that multiple groups scenario.

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> Parking - the ugly one

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> More and more small and large beach towns and communities have moved
> to paid public parking. Holden Beach should too, as soon as feasible.
> Surf City just enacted it. Those who use the island should have to
> help offset the costs of their use. For day trippers, that comes in
> the form of paid parking. Once the initial capital costs are
> recovered, paid public parking can provide an ongoing stream of
> revenue. I know it's not lottery money, but should be enough to offset
> the town costs of track pick up, policing, bath and toilet uses, etc.
> As for areas of paid public parking, no one wants a (new) public
> parking area where there are not facilities, and close public access.

> With the construction of the pump house in the 700 block last summer,
> that pushed many parkers to the side streets of undeveloped sides of
> both Swordfish and Sailfish. WAY too many times these parkers not only
> left trash, but also used the closest private walkway to the beach
> strand. This is a liability for the homeowner of the private walkway,
> as well as just plain wrong. I suspect some of the parking areas in
> use also have the same issues. Public parking on the east end of the
> island is a disaster. Worse just waiting to happen if not addressed at
> some point. Brunswick Avenue parking needs to be addressed as well.
> You could waive fees during the festivals for some areas if needed.
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> The parking issue is not going away and needs to be addressed in some
> manner. I realize this is a public beach, and not Figure Eight Island
> or some other private island as some resident comments published seem
> to infer or wish. Please find some solution that is fair to island
> residents, and helps offset the costs of non-property owners in
> maintaining the island.
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> My questions are around funding. How and or what funds does the town
> receive from the State and or county to operate the island? What other
> funding methods are used other than town taxes and occupancy taxes. I
> ask as I am trying to understand how funding is provided to be able to
> better make decisions and provide meaningful input on issues as they
> arise.
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> Note that I am a life-long North Carolina resident, other than a
> couple of summers out west, as is my wife. I have vacationed here for
> 30 years. My wife's family has had a house in Harbor Acres since
> 1967-68 and prior to that they rented one of the old cinder block
> houses that used to be on the causeway prior to building on the
> island. We're not just some Yankee-come-latelys.
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> I appreciate any feedback you have and appreciate those of you who
> take time to read this. I know your positions for the town are not
> easy ones, and in no way can you make everyone happy. Thanks for your
> service to Holden Beach.
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> Carlton Pittman
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