



Town of Southern Shores

5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949

Phone 252-261-2394 / Fax 252-255-0876

info@southernshores-nc.gov

www.southernshores-nc.gov

Town of Southern Shores Town Council Special Meeting (Retreat Continuation) Minutes

Date: April 14, 2026

Time: 12:20 p.m.

Location: Pitts Center-5377 N. Virginia Dare Trail

Council Present:

Mayor Morey

Mayor pro tem Neal

Council members Sherlock, Batenic and Neilson

Call to Order

Mayor Morey called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. on April 14, 2026 to continue discussions of retreat agenda items.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Council member Batenic and seconded by Council member Neilson to approve the April 14, 2026 retreat agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Multimodal (Bicycle and Pedestrian) Plan

Town Manager Ogburn presented a grant opportunity through NCDOT to develop an updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The grant requires a 90/10 match. Council discussed expanding the plan to include multimodal elements such as e-bikes and low-speed vehicles through an appendix. Council expressed consensus support, with funding anticipated in the upcoming budget.

Utility Work in Public Rights-of-Way

Council discussed concerns regarding utility construction and oversight. Staff explained limitations under state law but outlined tools such as encroachment agreements and contractor requirements. Council supported exploring a Town ordinance to establish

standards for identification, cleanup, communication, and notification requirements. Council directed staff to work on a model ordinance for future consideration.

Canal Maintenance and Dredging

Council reviewed long-term canal maintenance needs, including dredging timelines and permitting challenges. It was noted that previous dredging efforts required several years for approvals and Town Manager Ogburn was seeking council direction. Council discussed establishing a regular evaluation schedule and developing trigger points for dredging. Staff will develop a timeline and strategy for maintaining necessary permits and monitoring depth and water quality. Funding reserves for canal maintenance were also discussed.

Dogwood Tree Planting

Mayor Morey discussed initiating a dogwood tree planting program to preserve the Town's natural character. Council supported the idea and by consensus, agreed to begin by planting five trees at the cemetery due to available irrigation and ease of maintenance, with additional locations to be evaluated in future years.

Stormwater Management – North End

Staff provided an update on stormwater concerns and a submitted hazard mitigation grant. Council discussed challenges including limited damage documentation, lack of easements, and cost considerations. No formal action was taken; the issue remains under review.

Naming of Town Facilities

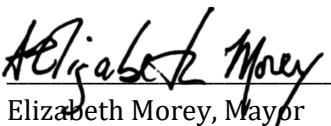
Town Manager Ogburn requested councils' direction per a citizen's request to name a bridge after a former mayor. Council discussed potential naming or dedication of Town facilities in honor of individuals, including former Mayor Tom Bennett. Various options were considered. Council agreed to continue discussions at a future date without taking formal action.

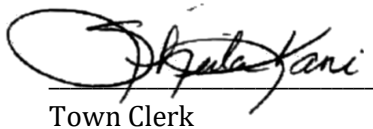
Additional Discussion

Council briefly discussed the process for initiating zoning text amendments and emphasized caution in pursuing individual requests without broader policy consideration.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m. Motion made by Council member Batenic, seconded by Council member Neilson.


Elizabeth Morey, Mayor


Town Clerk

