

**TOWN OF BOGUE
COUNCIL MEETING
November 17, 2025**

The Town Council of Bogue met on Monday, November 17, 2025, at the Bogue Town Hall, 121 Chimney Branch Road.

Mayor Robert O'Chat called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilmember Crose led a prayer.

Town Clerk Owens took roll call; all the Council Members were present.

Council Members present; Mayor O'Chat, David Padgett, Albert Taylor, John Dale, Mike Crose and Allison Cannon. Also, present Attorney Donna Boggs and Town Clerk Barbara Owens and John Odum of Prestige Land Surveying.

Agenda

Mayor O'Chat asked for a motion to move item number 6 (six) on the agenda to item number 1 (one) and to approve the agenda. Councilmember Taylor made the motion to move item number 6 (six) on the agenda to item number 1(one) and approve agenda, Councilmember Crose seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

Minutes

Councilmember Dale made a motion to approve October 20, 2025, regular meeting minutes Councilmember Taylor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor O'Chat said the next item is Citizen Comments. Clerk Owens stated that no one has signed up to speak in Public Comment, however there is a comment via email in the packet.

Unfinished Business

Mayor O'Chat stated there was no unfinished business to discuss.

New Business

Mayor O'Chat said that Mr. John Odum will speak about Chimney Branch Road. Mr. Odum stated that he knows the rock had been recently upgraded by Simpson Construction. Originally, the town received a twenty-four-foot right-of-way, which included a sixteen-foot-wide rock travel lane and four feet on each side designated for drainage. The town is considering paving the road; however, as far as the state is concerned, there is no distinction between compacted rock and pavement. The water run-off would be the same, it might run a little faster off asphalt than it does gravel; by and large it is the same amount of run-off for either one. Mr. Odum opened the floor for questions. Mayor O'Chat asked why the right of way was not made any wider than twenty four feet. Mr. Odum said that it matches what was done on the front portion several years prior to this portion; it is the same as what was taken off the first part of Chimney Branch Road several years prior to this section. I think the town tried to take as little as possible to get people what they needed. If you remember the road before; it is now much improved to what it was before with mud and driving around cars stuck in the mud, it was an unbelievably bad road. Mayor O'Chat stated that there is a

natural branch somewhere back there. Mr. Odum said there are a couple of ditches, I reviewed the plans that WF Parker did when it was designed and there really was no drainage other than sheeting off the road, there were no provisions made for water to go anywhere based on what I have to review. Councilmember Dale asked Mr. Odum if he thought the pavement would cause many more issues with drainage. Mr. Odom replied no sir, should not make a difference in the amount just time. The state looks at compacted gravel and pavement the same and the drainage should not change. Mayor O'Chat said this section down here has a drainage easement but there is nothing designated where the gravel is located as a drainage easement. If it is developed on private land that could change the flow depending on how it is developed. Mr. Odum said there are several ditches along Chimney Branch Road that lead to Chimney Branch, but on that far end I do not know that there is any real outlet. Mayor O'Chat asked Attorney Boggs if it is beneficial to the town if the town decided to pave the rest of that to create an agreement with the property owners that are adjacent to abut up to that road for the town not to be held liable for any stormwater run-off if we had any potential hurricane or tropical storm or a big rain event would that be feasible. Attorney Boggs said anything like that would be advisable, but I did not realize that the compacted gravel would absorb more than pavement but you are saying that is not the case. We are in the same situation right now. Mayor O'Chat said to Mr. Blais you are the one that originally brought the drainage up. Mr. Blais said in four to six inches of rain my property does get flooded for weeks at a time depending on the saturation that we have had particularly in wet seasons. The drainage goes through a substantial portion of my yard. I would like to all work together and force the water to the branch, instead of sitting in my yard. I know it is private property but we could use sweat equity. There was an easement drawn up here but, in that area, there is not one and you want to be held harmless but I am the man standing in knee deep water when floods come, we all need to work together to do something about it. I am willing to donate some land for a ditch, excavating ditches to the branch. Mr. Odum said a workable solution may be to try to get some drainage easements from the adjoining owners and see what the response is because that is a workable solution; to get the water to go where it needs to go instead of sitting in someone's yard. Councilmember Crose said we have been talking about the road for a long time but now what we are saying is that we need a stormwater plan. Mr. Odum said no we do not, maybe spend the money that was to pave the road to ditch and drainage. I am sure the people on the road would love to have it paved but at least let them know the drainage prior to paving is a better solution and pave at a later date. Councilmember Dale asked how much more land would be needed on either side. Mr. Odum stated fifteen to twenty feet on each side. Councilmember Dale said twenty four to forty four basically. Mr. Odum said you may not need it on both sides, right now the road is crowned and you may be able to alter that and only need one side. It is going to take some study to determine what will be the best solution. Councilmember Taylor said it would be varied sizes of ditches depending on where the water sheeted. Mr. Blais said there is a culvert that needs to be repaired it is eroded on the East side. Councilmember Taylor said people will need to give up land to create ditches, the swales would need to be cut before any permanent road work which will also create a right of way that the town will have to maintain. It would need to be figured out by an engineer. Mr. Blais again stated he was willing to give up property to help get the swale put in. Councilmember Cannon asked about the Cape Carteret properties that abut Chimney Branch Road. Mr. Odum stated we

could not do anything there without their permission but there may be drainage easements on those lots, typically on newer subdivisions they put drainage easements worst case would be create a high point for the water to flow to the other side of the road; we can pull the map and review. You would certainly need to notify them; it is going to take everybody's cooperation and willingness to provide land for easements. Councilmember Taylor said that a swale is maintainable but needs an established grade to ensure it is working properly before starting on paving. Mayor O'Chat stated that we have a maintenance agreement from Thomas Simpson Construction to keep the road maintained until we get the drainage in, what does the board want to do. Councilmember Cannon said that is twenty three hundred but we do not know the frequency. Attorney Boggs advised that prior to this Mr. Charlie Wilton graded and took care of Chimney Branch Road a few times per year. Attorney Boggs stated that she wants to be clear on this, will Mr. Odum be pulling the map to review, or do you want me to collaborate with him on the easements that exist at this point in time . Mayor O'Chat said there are currently none, we did look and there are no deed drainage easements, which is the first place to start trying to get some drainage easements. Councilmember Taylor said Mr. Odum has all the surveys. Councilmember Taylor said we do not need to let the rock that was put down go to waste. Mayor O'Chat asked is that your motion. Councilmember Taylor said motion to accept the maintenance proposal by Thomas Simpson Construction. Councilmember Padgett seconded the motion to accept the maintenance proposal by Thomas Simpson Construction and to work on easements. Councilmember Crose said this does put this on us so they are not just going out there, it is on the town to schedule the maintenance. Mayor O'Chat stated that we have a first and a second, is anyone against this? Motion carried unanimously. Attorney Boggs will work with Mr. Odum.

Mayor O'Chat moved on to the public hearing for consideration of the NCDOT: Carteret County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, we need a motion from council to go into public hearing. Councilmember Crose made a motion to go into public hearing for consideration of the NCDOT: Carteret County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Councilmember Cannon seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously. Mayor O'Chat stated we are now in public hearing, we can discuss it and after discussion we will need a motion to come out of public hearing and then vote on the resolution one way or the other. Everybody has their information in the packet. The Plan has been in discussion since summer of 2020 with meetings and public input. The map shows a multi-use path down highway 24 through the town of Bogue, over to the beach and into Peletier, with a bike lane running down Bogue Loop Road. There is a bypass from Onslow County across the White Oak River just North of Peletier and would connect back to highway 24 just east of the eastern part of Bogue Loop Road. There is also the third bridge to cross over to the island somewhere about midway. It is my understanding that this is just a plan and it has not been approved by NCDOT. Swansboro, Cedar Point, Peletier, Cape Carteret, Emerald Isle, have all approved of the plan, we are the last ones to do anything with it. Councilmember Dale said we have one email, is he here tonight. Mayor O'Chat asked what Councilmember Dale thought about the plan. Councilmember Dale stated he did not have any problem with it, it is in the initial stages. Councilmember Taylor had no issues with the plan as well as Councilmember Padgett. Councilmember Crose said he has no questions. Councilmember Cannon had no questions. Mayor O'Chat asked for a motion to come

out of public hearing. Councilmember Padgett motioned to come out of public hearing. Attorney Boggs advised the mayor that there were a couple of people that wanted to ask questions. Ericka Spring, I live off Bogue Loop Road on Wild Oak in Bogue Bluff. We have not been following this up until the recent elections but have questions about how this will affect traffic on Bogue Loop Road, where is the bike path, where does the construction lie. Multiple communities are located in that area, and Bogue Loop Road has already been impacted along seven miles due to construction. There is Carolina Home and Garden where traffic is coming off onto our road where there are pedestrians. There is also the median preventing the left hand turns because of the boat ramp, which I understand is not Bogue but this directly affects the neighborhood of Forest Line, Bogue Bluff, and other communities. What is the time frame and implications to our property? Mayor O'Chat said we asked the same questions, where exactly is it going to tie into highway 24, we were told this is just a plan it has not been accepted, it is at least twenty five years out, that is all they would give us. My understanding is it is past Bogue Loop Road a bit further down, it is a preliminary plan that has not been accepted by the NCDOT. Councilmember Dale said there will be more public hearings before anything is set. Mayor O'Chat said this began back in 2020 so there have been many meetings and opportunities for public input in the last five years. In our last meeting the group that presented the plan did not give a lot of specifics, best to attend meetings on the County level, we intend to do the same. We feel the bypass is needed due to the traffic on highway 24 getting so bad. Attorney Boggs stated they were very non-specific, more of a conceptualization rather than a specific plan and it may not be funded at all or partially, they are looking for feedback at this point in time. Councilmember Crose advised that we asked a lot of questions, they are consultants hired by NCDOT, their whole job is to whiteboard it, they are fighting against the whole state for funding and they mentioned it was decades away. Mayor O'Chat stated that the Carteret County Board of commissioners will be reviewing this at their December meeting, which may be something that you would want to attend for additional information that they may have. Ms. Spring asked if the council sees a benefit to it or re-routing it, what is the benefit to Bogue. Mayor O'Chat said the by-pass would alleviate a lot of the through traffic through the town along with the other towns (Cape Carteret, Cedar Point). Meaning the through traffic does not stop at businesses, they are just traveling from point A to point B. The bicycle pedestrian path would be good as it will keep people from walking along the edge of the road. Councilmember Crose said that is where he saw the most valuable was the bicycle path. Councilmember Taylor said he spoke with a Cedar Point board member and was told by NCDOT that there are twenty thousand cars per day on highway 24, and in twenty years they predict that figure will double. If the bypass is built, the number will drop to seventeen thousand in twenty years. Julie McSwain of 101 Wild Oak, we already have flooding at the end of Wild Oak, the existing drainage issues will affect any bike path that they put in, also concerned for the wetlands behind the subdivision and the impact on the area. Mayor O'Chat said if this bypass is approved by NCDOT we are not sure where it will be in town, we are just looking at a bypass that does not show specifics but does not appear that it goes in any part of the town. Councilmember elect Parker said the bypass does not look like it will affect us. Attorney Boggs added that typically the Carteret County Commissioners meetings are televised. Mayor O'Chat said you could sign up to speak if you attended the meeting in person. Clerk Owens advised that the NCDOT presentation is in the agenda packet that you have. Councilmember Padgett made a

motion to come out of public hearing, Councilmember Dale seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously to exit public hearing.

Mayor O'Chat said there is a resolution in the packet. Councilmember Dale made a motion to adopt the NCDOT Carteret County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion, the resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

Mayor O'Chat said next is establishing the 2026 Town Council Meeting dates. Councilmember Padgett made a motion to approve the meeting dates, Councilmember Dale seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor O'Chat said next is establishing the 2026 State Holidays. Councilmember Dale made the motion to approve the 2026 State Holidays, Councilmember Crose seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor O'Chat stated next is the budget amendment for the thirty year anniversary celebration of the town and insurance. It was a considerable success. Councilmember Crose made the motion to approve the budget amendment, Councilmember Canon seconded the motion, budget amendment passed unanimously.

Mayor O'Chat stated the next item is the resolution for Western Carteret towns to change the zip code for tax collection purposes. My understanding is that all local towns in Carteret County using 28584 may be losing money to Onslow County due to the zip code being an Onslow County zip code. This request by the towns will be sent to the postmaster. There is potentially tax money being lost as a result of this. Councilmember Dale asked if this would be one zip code for all towns. Clerk Owens said the idea is a new zip code for the Western Carteret towns. Councilmember Taylor made the motion to accept the resolution, Councilmember Crose seconded the motion, the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mayor O'Chat said the last item on the agenda is to thank Councilmember David Padgett for his service to the town since 2009, but he has served this community way before 2009.

Councilmember Dale thanked him for all that he has done for the town. Councilmember Taylor said he is an outstanding person. Councilmember Crose said he has a servant's heart and we appreciate his community service. Councilmember Cannon said thank you for serving our town and I know you will continue to do so. Councilmember Padgett said it has been a pleasure and this is the most paper I have had on my desk in ten years but this is where we are going. The town will continue to grow together and I am proud to live here; it has been an honor and a pleasure. Mayor O'Chat said I am proud to call David a friend.

Mayor O'Chat said we will move on to department reports.

Department Reports

Finance: Mayor O'Chat stated total cash funds are \$688,594.00.

Budget: Clerk Owens stated that the sales tax has been received by the town through September, Property tax through September, vehicle tax through October and Utilities Franchise tax through the second quarter.

Planner: Clerk Owens stated no permits.

ILA: Councilmember Dale stated no report

Streets: Mayor O'Chat stated that Simpson Construction project on Chimney Branch Road has been discussed.

Emergency Manager: None

Town Hall: Councilmember Dale advised that the flagpole and light was installed.

Events: Councilmember Cannon stated working on the Christmas Gathering after the meeting on December 15.

Mayor O'Chat mentioned that all the new street signs, stop signs and information signs have been installed throughout the town. I would also like to congratulate Allison Wilton Cannon for being re-elected for her second term on Bogue town council, and Councilmember-elect JoAnne Parker for her seat, and I will remain mayor.

Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements

Adjournment

At 6:54 p.m. Council member Padgett made a motion to adjourn. Council member Dale seconded. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Mayor O'Chat stated the next Town Council meeting is December 15, 2025.

_____ ROBERT O'CHAT, MAYOR

_____ BARBARA OWENS, TOWN CLERK