

Date June 26 1984

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENTAL CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the consolidation of City and County governments has been discussed actively for many years in New Hanover County, Wilmington, Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach; and

WHEREAS, New Hanover County is one of the most densely populated counties in North Carolina as well as one of the smallest counties in geographical area; and

WHEREAS, the New Hanover County Commissioners, the Wilmington City Council, the Carolina Beach Town Council, the Kure Beach Board of Commissioners, and the Wrightsville Beach Board of Aldermen have continued to work to provide economical and efficient government to the citizens of the County and its incorporated municipalities; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing and growing demand for urban level services throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, governmental consolidation may help to ensure the above goals, the continued economic development of New Hanover County and the improvement of the quality of life of all of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Article 20 of Chapter 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes authorizes counties and cities to establish governmental consolidation study commissions by concurrent resolutions of their governing bodies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR NEW HANOVER COUNTY, THE WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL, THE CAROLINA BEACH TOWN COUNCIL, THE KURE BEACH BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AND THE WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH BOARD OF ALDERMEN THAT:

1. There is hereby established the New Hanover County Governmental Units Consolidation Study Commission pursuant to the provisions of Article 20 of Chapter 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. The Commission is hereby charged with the following purposes:
  - (a) To evaluate the practical and political feasibility of a single government for New Hanover County, the City of Wilmington, and the Towns of Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach;
  - (b) To study the powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, and organizational structures of New Hanover County, the City of Wilmington, the Towns of Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach;

- (c) To examine the present delivery of public services throughout New Hanover County and to determine whether such services can be improved in a single government and which services may be best left in the present format;
- (d) To analyze the costs under a single government format;
- (e) To evaluate the public's perception of a single government and the real or perceived notion of greater or lesser accessibility or complexity in structure;
- (f) To review the results of other communities that have consolidated and whether any have revoked their consolidation;
- (g) To make recommendations concerning the establishment of a governmental consolidation charter commission; and
- (h) To prepare and deliver a report on its studies and findings to the governing bodies listed herein.

3. The Commission shall consist of twenty-two members who shall serve until the work of the Commission is completed. The New Hanover County Commissioners shall appoint eight members, the Wilmington City Council shall appoint seven members, and the Carolina Beach Town Council, Kure Beach Board of Commissioners, and Wrightsville Beach Board of Aldermen shall appoint two members each. The Sheriff of New Hanover County or his designee shall be a member of the Commission. The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but may be paid or refunded any necessary and essential expenses incurred by them in carrying out their duties. The Commission shall carry out its purposes and conduct its work by committees.

Any member who fails to attend at least seventy-five percent of the regular and special meetings held by the Commission during any one year period shall be automatically removed from the Commission. Vacancies occurring on the Commission by reason of resignation or otherwise shall be filled by the governmental body that made the original appointment.

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and an affirmative vote of the majority of the

members present at a meeting of the Commission shall be required to constitute action of the Commission.

4. The officers of the Commission shall be a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary. The chairman, vice-chairman and secretary shall be elected by the Commission from its membership at the organizational meeting. The meetings of the Commission shall be subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
5. The organizational meeting shall be called by the chairman of the County Commissioners and shall be held within thirty days after the appointment of the members of the Commission. All appointments to the Commission shall be made and reported to the Chairman of the County Commissioners by August 15, 1984. The Commission is to complete its work on or before July 1, 1985.
6. New Hanover County shall pay all the costs and expenses of the Commission. As soon as practicable after its organizational meeting, the Commission shall prepare a budget for its operations. The budget shall be reviewed and approved by the County Commissioners. For the purposes of the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the employment of personnel, purchasing procedures and financial management, the Commission shall be deemed to be a department of New Hanover County.
7. With the approval of the appropriate manager or governing body, the Commission may utilize officers, employees, agents and facilities of New Hanover County, Wilmington, Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach as may be needed to carry out the Commission's purposes. Unless other legal counsel is specifically approved by the County Commissioners, the County Attorney's Office shall serve as legal counsel to the Commission.
8. Subject to the approval of the budget by the County Commissioners, the Commission shall have the powers set forth in G.S. 153A-404. The Commission shall also have the authority to appoint such subcommittees of its membership and advisory committees as necessary for the accomplishment of its purposes.
9. The intent of this resolution is to provide for the review of the feasibility of a single government for New Hanover County, and no governmental unit shall be included in a consolidation charter without the express approval of its governing body.

Mayor for the City of Wilmington

Adopted at a \_\_\_\_\_ meeting  
on \_\_\_\_\_, 198\_\_.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Adopted by the Wilmington City Council and the New Hanover County Board of  
Commissioners at a joint meeting of all the governmental bodies in the county  
on June 25, 1984.

*J.W.*