Teresa Batts, Mayor of Surf City, was appointed to the Town Council in 2016. Ms. Batts was unanimously appointed to the Mayor's seat vacancy in late 2022, ran for re-election in November of 2023, and was elected to serve 4 more years. Prior to her time on Council, she served on the Town's planning board for 6 years, as well as various other committees. Ms. Batts is a NC Real Estate Broker who started her career 24 years ago and launched her own real estate company in 2010. She has lived in the Surf City area her entire life, raising 3 sons and now enjoying a daughter-in-law and 2 grandchildren. Ms. Batts supports organizations such as the Topsail Island Association of Realtors (TIAR), the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Share the Table, and Kiwanis Club. Her love and respect for the environment, especially the beaches and waters she grew up on is an essential part of her life.

Ms. Batts has been an advocate for the environment, including serving on the Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission, as well as being appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to serve on the Coastal Resource Commission.