



**TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
July 6, 2010 ♦ 5:00 P.M.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY SEPARATION
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

The Public Safety Separation Subcommittee consists of three appointed members from council: Mr. Mark Johnson, Ms. Vicki Blair and Mr. Roderick Smith. All members were in attendance. Staff in attendance: Administrator Ms. Fellner, Police Captain Mr. Miller and Fire Chief Mr. Packard.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Mr. Johnson stated that the purpose of this meeting is to receive public comments adding that this will not be the last time the subcommittee will accept comments from the public. Mr. Johnson thanked staff and the public for comments that he has already received regarding the public safety split.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gene Maruca, 116 7th Avenue S.: “Been a resident is Surfside for better than 22, 23 years. Seems, I guess, we’ve had 5 or 6 chiefs here. Since your last meeting I did a little research myself. I’m not in law enforcement but I have been pretty successful in business. Didn’t have the answers so I went out looking at answers to my questions and one of the gentlemen I spoke to was the Chief of Police in Surfside for 12 years. I believe he was the longest standing Chief in the Town of Surfside. He was quite knowledgeable and quite willing to fill me in on the Police Department about what is happening to our town now. I guess the most prominent thing he left me with is while he was here he hired, for lack of a better word, what he called a young rookie under his command, this rookie who could be a valuable asset to him and to the Town of Surfside it’s been now 8 or 10 years, this officer is still on the job; he’s our Captain. It’s Chief Lloyd’s feelings that no one would be better qualified to fill the present position that you’re looking to fill than someone who has been in our town’ someone who’s not coming from Brooklyn or Miami or Georgia and who’s going to turn this upside down as it has happened in the past. We have someone here who has done the job basically for 10 years; if I might recommend anything I think what we might look at is continuing what we have right now on a probationary period; let’s say a year and if does work out for everybody’s satisfaction then go ahead, give the officer what he earned in a contract. Thank you.”

Ed Jordan, 414 15th Avenue N.: “I have 25 years up in the West Paterson police department up in New Jersey. I moved here *** retired and came down awhile ago.” (Tape was inaudible) Mr. Jordan offered his services to the subcommittee.

Bill Black, 214 9th Avenue South: “I’ve lived in this fine city just before it was a city. I’ve lived here since 1963 and I’ve gone through a lot of Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs and times when we didn’t have either. I just want to make a simple comment that when you’re looking at the police keep in mind that for a small town we have small town

problems and this is nothing against the larger cities, larger police departments but just keep an eye on what the needs of a smaller community, the resources available and just kind of use that in your guidelines in your judgment. Thank you."

Jeff Canterbury, National President of Paternal Order of Police, Retire Major form Horry County: "I have received an e-mail from Sharon Pinnell who asked me to attend. I have no reason why but I agreed to do that. I do have quite a bit of information on these consolidations and have researched sections; we represent 327,000 police officers, we're the largest *** in the world and we've got a lot of resources that we'd be glad to assist with some of the issues of these consolidations; things that you need to watch for and of course one of our major goals would be that you get the input from the people that are doing the jobs especially in your city and if you don't do it with a strategic plan in mind with good goals from your city manager you're heading for some trouble. I was here, I worked around here when you did have the split department; both excellent, Police Department and Fire Department. In order to make the transition you need to have good directions, good leadership in that transition and I understand that you have an acting city manager or an outgoing but these guys need good direction in order to make that achievement. We don't have a position on who should get the job on either the fire department or the police department but I was asked to attend; I wasn't really sure why; I agreed to be here and offer our services in any way we can."

Mr. Johnson asked if Ms. Pinnell had his contact information. Mr. Canterbury stated that Ms. Pinnell sent him 2 e-mails.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mr. Smith: I would just like to say that the first person who mentioned about getting the input from the people who are doing the job I think that's very important. We should talk to staff *** the firemen and police officers *** (Tape was inaudible).

Mr. Canterbury recommended that the committee get this information anonymously in order to get accurate feedback. The staff needs to be able to answer without worry of restitution.

Ms. Blair: "I'd really like to thank all of you for coming out and for those calling to do some research, ask some questions, seek out the input from others *** We realize that the way *** (inaudible tape)." Ms. Blair thanked everyone for their interest stating that she realized this is an involved project and appreciated all of the input and everyone's concerns regarding the procedure.

Mr. Johnson: "I really don't have any comments other than thank you for coming out. As a subcommittee I think we need to decide what is our next step and when do you want to meet again?"

Another meeting date was not decided upon.

Mr. Johnson stated that the subcommittee would be contacting individuals to get their input and will also report findings to council. Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for their input and comments and stated that he could be reached by e-mail at markjohnson@surfsidebeach.org if anyone has any comments or questions.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Blair seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Approved:

Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

Roderick Smith, Town Council

Mark L Johnson, Town Council

Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. This meeting was transcribed by Clerk Pinnell. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on file in the clerk's office. The agenda was posted on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee. When *** is used a section of the transcription is inaudible.