



SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
Council Chambers, 115 US HIGHWAY 17 NORTH, SURFSIDE BEACH, SC 29575
www.surfsidebeach.org - ☎ (843) 913-6111 📠 (843) 238-5432

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Friday, February 14, 2020, • 3:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Bob Hellyer

Mayor Hellyer called the regular meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. Mayor Hellyer, Mayor Pro Tempore Scoles, Councilmembers Pellegrino, Drake, Dietrich, Holder, and Keating were in attendance. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper and Town Clerk Medina.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hellyer led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items (3 minutes)

- A. Ann Dodge, 8th Ave South. Previous on Council had to decide in the past like the ones that are being made today. In favor of keeping a very valuable and knowledgeable employee. As a citizen, she treats everyone with respect. The town cannot afford to lose her.
- B. Tom Dodge, 8th Ave South. I lived in this beautiful town for almost 30 years. Many Planning & Zonings directors have come and gone. Lucky, we got Ms. Sabrina. She is the best person the town has had. She is fair and by the book and easy to deal with. She is by far the most knowledgeable about our zoning ordinances and flood plain regulations. It would be a disgrace to the town to terminate her. Vote for Surfside Beach not your personal agenda.
- C. Chris Stamey, 715 Cedar Street. Has had a lot of dealings with Sabrina recently. I had gotten many different answers from her. I had to speak to Mr. Pieper about the issue. Everyone thinks she's doing such a great job, but you get 3 different answers. Please consider that.
- D. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Blvd. Will not say that Sabrina is good or bad. The facts that we know is the Planning and Zoning board voted not to do anything with the E District and gave good reasons. Feels that Council forced the E District down our throats. The first reading passes, the second reading had 22 amendments. Where did those come from. Feels that with Sabrina out, he will do whatever he wants. Needs to be thoroughly investigated. Seems like big business are slipping it through again. The Town didn't want this.
- E. Janet Gambino, 310 South Hollywood Drive. Suggest that due diligence is done and know without a shadow of a doubt whether what you have as evidence is right or wrong. Suspend all permits for the E District.
- F. Terry Laurer, 124 Harbor Lights Drive, Wants to know why Sabrina is suspended. We know this had been done by the Town Administrator. While, I understand we cannot get specifics, we would like to know generally why one of the most honest and dedicated employees would be suspend. We can only guess it's due to the E-district that was rammed through with amendments that were illegal and detrimental to the residents. An E-District that benefits just a few businesses. The town needs to work in fairness for all residents. It needs aP&Z Administrator who is honest for forthcoming. All permits for the E District should be stopped. To toss a temporary P&Z head to sign permits without full knowledge of the positions, laws, or amendments would be a shameful event. At the last meeting, Mayor Hellyer requested that the E-District be revised. This needs to be done with transparency. We are counting on this new Council to be transparent. It's time to show us if you're working for the people, or just a handful.
- G. Carrie Johnson, 123 Harbor Lights Drive. Sabrina Morris is the most knowledgeable and honest and ethical employee. It will be a detriment to this Town to lose her. Those that

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don't like her, because she enforces the ordinances. She is not the one that should be gotten rid of.

- H. Theresa Stamey, 715 Cedar Drive. I have been dealing with Sabrina. I had a lot of trouble fairness in what was built beside us and what we wanted to do. We had to ask for a meeting with Mr. Pieper and that things would be right. She did not make things right. Our dealings have not been good with her.
- I. Beth Kohlmann, 1610 South Ocean Blvd. I had a lot of dealings with Sabrina. She is very knowledgeable on flood prevention and CRS. When dealing with contractors, there are processes. You have to do a lot of work. It's no one's fault, it's the fault of our ordinances. The ordinances are a mess. It's not going to be easy, I know there are a lot of mistakes and missing documentation. We all need to learn from our mistakes. Anything being done in the E District should be stopped. Review that controversial ordinance – you'll have everyone behind you.
- J. Kathleen Goddard, 320 15th Ave South. Requesting Council to please step back and take your time once again. Hardly anyone knew about this meeting again. We needed to use Facebook to notify people Why rushing just a few days later from when we ask you to take your time. I am asking you to step back, and take your time. You promised us better, some you're your own agendas. There is no rush. There's more going on here than what we know. There are more critical things that need to be investigated.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to South Carolina Code sections 30-4-70 (a) (1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, and/or organization of existing employees, and 30-4-70 (a) (2) to receive legal advice regarding a potential or threatened claim, Title 30, Chapter 4 of the SC Code and discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, specifically Atlantic Restaurant Group, LLC.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to enter into executive session at 3:20 to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an Employee, or organization of employees, to receive legal advice regarding a potential or threatened claim, and discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, specifically Atlantic Restaurant Group, LLC. Councilmember Scoles Seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilmember Drake made a motion to resume regular session at 5:38 P.M. Councilmember Holder seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. MOTIONS RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION No action was taken in executive session.

Councilmember Keating stated Mr. Pieper, Town Administrator, offered a wealth of information on the issues present, and the Council thanks him. Through great deliberation and discussion, there will be no further action taken. The Council stands by its initial decision to authorize the Town Administrator to evaluate and implement the best practices and reorganizational changes as appropriate.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Councilmember Holder made a motion to adjourn at 5:41 P.M. Councilmember Drake Seconded
All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approved: **Surfside Beach Town Council**

Robert Hellyer, Mayor

David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

Cindy Keating, Town Council

Michael Drake, Town Council

Debbie Scoles, Mayor Pro Tempore

Paul Holder, Town Council

Sheri L Medina
Town Clerk

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In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org and the town's LED marquee.