



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING Civic Center, 115 US Highway
17 North, Surfside Beach, SC 29575 www.surfsidebeach.org - ☎ (843) 913-6111
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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, December 14, 2021, • 6:30 pm.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Hellyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. In attendance, Mayor Hellyer, Councilmembers Holder, Kreklau, Kinken, Stamey, and Mayor Pro Tempore Keating were. Others present were Town Administrator Shanahan, Town Attorney Crosby and Town Clerk Sheri Medina. Absent: Councilmembers Drake
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - A. **Invocation:** Town Administrator William Shanahan gave the invocation.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Hellyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hellyer introduced the new Deputy Town Administrator, Catrina Woodruff.

3. **MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA - None**
4. **MINUTES APPROVAL** Councilmember Keating made a motion to approve the minutes for November 23, 2021, Regular meeting. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only (5 minutes per speaker)**
 - A. **Gary White, 315 Lakeside Drive,**

6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. **Public Works Monthly Report** – Director Adair gave the Public Works report.
 - B. **Police Department Monthly Report** – Chief Hofmann gave the Police Department report.

7. **DISCUSSION (motions pertaining to discussion items permitted)**

- A. **Harbor Lights** – Mr. Shanahan explained when the Harbor Lights development was created, there was an Ordinance that stated the Town would only pay for standard lighting. The development requested to upgrade the lights to more decorative ones. The Ordinance said the Homeowners Association would pay the difference to the Town, the cost above the standard cost. Mr. Shanahan stated we should be treating all developments the same. So, if other developments do not pay, Harbor Lights should not have to. Ordinance 13-0765 will be brought to Council in January.

8. **BUSINESS**

- A. **Department of Defense Surplus Property Program** -Chief Hofmann explained that the program requires the governing body to authorize the police department to participate. The Department of Defense makes the surplus military property available, posted in agencies through the National Defense Authorization Act. This particular program costs about \$500 a year. Supplies are transferred to police departments at no cost. The police department will have access to surplus vehicles, equipment and supplies to support law enforcement initiatives. Waste Departments may seek to acquire food, safety, rescue, equipment, generators, emergency operations, equipment vehicles.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to authorize the Police Department to participate in the Department of Defense Surplus Property Program. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

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B. Fire Department Positions – Chief Clemmons gave a PowerPoint presentation. (attached)

Chief Clemons stated that we are redefining the Surfside Beach Fire Department, and we're doing that through an audit process that I have shared with the Council on a couple of occasions and what that process looks like. We're going to coach, and we're going to develop to make sure that we have the right people into positions to do the right things for the community. Three components were talked about in that facility's goal.

The purpose of this presentation is to approve three new organizational initiatives, a Deputy Chief Position, to upgrade our part-time fire marshal position to a full-time position to purchase an incident command vehicle.

Battalion Captin Larry Carter, the Acting Chief for a few months before I got here, has remained on day work. I have kept him on day work to help us run the organization. The Deputy Chief would fall underneath the fire Chief and report right to the Fire Chief. I will promote Captain Battalion, Captain Larry Carter. He meets and exceeds all of the job requirements for this position, and I think he is well-deserving of the position. There is no increase or cost to our citizens to fill this position.

Second, The Fire Marshal Upgrade. We currently have a part-time fire marshal who works 20 plus hours a week. Our part-time fire marshal has not been available for about five months, and because of that, we have had Keith Williams with Code Enforcement. He has been filling in when available and that filling in turns into about 30 to 35% of the time helping the fire department. There will be no increased cost to our citizens.

The third item is an incident command vehicle. It is a Dodge Durango, and it is outfitted with a command box in the Back that allows the incident commander to function at a high level in the back of the unit on different emergency incidents. This would be a new purchase for the fire department. The current vehicle is not outfitted to provide incident command capabilities. We would have multiple radios for communications with our county dispatch incident, scene units and partnering agencies. The Command box will house command boards that allow the incident commander to manage the incident effectively. We need to be able to effectively manage that incident using command boards using the accountability system to be able to effectively track firefighters when they are coming up to see through the passport system.

The budget projection for this initiative is \$30,500 off the government contract. The command box and lighting package, the estimate, is \$9500. One radio will be purchased for \$4,500. This will total \$44,500.

Councilmember Keating stated that it is an instrumental piece of equipment when you are a respondent to us to an event. The company, the command vehicle, is also instrumental and keeping you in contact with the actual incident commander. Is it possible to take the command box in the emergency lighting and put it in the vehicle you currently have?

Chief Clemons stated that is an option we would have to look at. The explorer that I have now is small in the back. So, it would take a very small command box to do that. There are weight requirements and restrictions for that; that is something that we could look at to see what those costs would be.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to approve Chief Clemons's request for the Staffing, modifications and also procurement of the incident Command vehicle understating. All three scenarios offset the existing budget, and we're adding about \$1500 to the fire department budget. Councilmember Stamey second. All voted in favor.

Motion Carried.

C. KSBB Food Drive – Mr. Shanahan stated Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful would be holding a food drive, January 15th-23rd. This event will be to help the South Strand Helping Hands.

D. Resolution 21-143- MASC Recruitment Training Program – William Shanahan stated this resolution directly responds to our goals and objectives, marketing plans, and Highway 17 development. This is an application to the Municipal Association Retail Recruitment Program, and it consists of working with a retail coach and visiting a retailer. Then at the end of that, they have retail businesses looking for places to come, and hopefully, you can bring them. So, I think, is valuable. I think it's something that could help us reach our goals.

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Councilmember Keating stated I tried to look up funding in Minnesota Association, um, website as their description of this training, and say the least; it's quite cryptic. It does talk about doing market evaluations. Looking at your demographics, what types of businesses are best suited, etc. I'm just not convinced. This is significantly different from what we've had multiple universities do for our town over the past decade. We've got the Clemson study. We've got a Coastal Carolina study. If we think our situation has changed, we've got any number of marketing college students that need senior projects that would also be willing to do the same thing and refresh what we've done before. We've got a better way to spend \$7000 to develop our business corridor on 17, Surfside Drive, Ocean Boulevard and the Pier.

I'm not prepared to vote on this tonight Just because I'd like more information about exactly what is the expectation of results of this training versus what we've seen. Maybe bring it back up After we establish the pier committee, no, because that's one of the other key factors in businesses for the town. I think it's a little premature to address it at this time.

Councilmember Kinken stated I feel like we tried for universities. We've tried other things that haven't worked. I'm not, and I'm not opposed to trying something new.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Town Services or Business Conducted (5 minutes per speaker)

A. Aneousha, 813 Ocean Blvd., spoke about the recruitment training program. I contacted the organizers and talked to a few people that did go through this. In my opinion, this is not for a small coastal community of Surfside Beach. If you're in a town looking for trade shows or convention events, we want to be people attracted by shopping, different things. They come here for safe beaches, clean beaches, safe environment.

B. Larry McKeen, 6th Ave South Regarding Harbor lights, I would suggest that you look at some of the other HOAs or planned communities in town because I know South Beach has the same problem with their lighting. In my opinion, you can't treat one group better than the other.

C. Dean Sizemore, 111 Harbor Lights Drive, Remember the H O there? I want to thank by starting by thanking Administrator Shanahan record there for doing due diligence. Looking into this matter and Mayor and Council for paths, we've taken the positive back in January. It treats everyone fairly connected with it. I think that it's very important that we look at this and that it's the right thing to do. It's funny, I follow another citizen, because of that, speak about the other communities, or HOAs in the area, But I don't know that they have the exact title, like the situation that we have, that being the lights in the right of way for utilities.

Chief came up this evening and gave a beautiful presentation. I'm retired, with 38 years of firefighter service, not here in this town, in this state, but instead of New Jersey. And I was a safety officer for 22 years out of that 38 years. Just the system that he's talking about going into the command vehicle. It's not a question of saving minutes. Second, the second's, our lives, the firefighting business, the same as your police, EMS, or any other civil service like that. Please, take this as a very large credit, achieve, this community, and this mayor and Council that you would follow through on what he's doing. Appreciate it. Thank you.

10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS

A. Councilmember Stamey, I'd like to thank everybody for coming out. There are going to be a lot of things going on in town. I hope everybody continues participating and keeps coming out and listening because that's very important. Listen to what's going on in his town. This is how decisions are made. I'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I appreciate our fire department, police department, and maintenance department. You don't know how much we appreciate and depend on you all for what it takes everybody to run this town. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and God bless Surfside.

B. Councilmember Holder I want to say Merry Christmas to everybody. It was great to see the turnout. We had a large turnout at the Christmas tree lighting. It was the largest turnout we have had. The park worked out great. It's great to see all the people from the Fire Department here tonight. Congratulation to Larry in his new position. I want to thank everybody for coming out tonight. Also, thank you to the directors for the great presentations. Have a good night.

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C. Councilmember Keating I thank everybody for coming out. It's great to see a full house finally, after a couple of years of COVID. Also, I wanted to thank Chief Clemons and congratulate Captain Carter. I've been very impressed with how he's handled the fire department, done his evaluations, and created the team's teamwork and vision going forward. I think we can all learn something from that.

The tree lighting was an absolute Hallmark movie if there ever was one. Robert, you did a fabulous job. I want to thank you for that. The Christmas parade was one of the best attended that I've seen, once again. We ran out of candy. This Sunday, we have the Fire department, and Santa is going up, going around, town visiting. Breakfast With Santa, he must love Surfside, he's, he's here every weekend. He will be at the Golden Egg that starts at 9 am, and I think you need to pre-register for that. And followed by the Christmas golf cart parade at one o'clock. We will be headed southbound on Ocean Boulevard will go across the new Dogwood Swash; that'll be a big celebration right there.

So this is our last meeting in 2021. I want to thank everybody for their support. Again, their constructive criticism and comments and input throughout the year. I look forward to 2022. that, I want to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy your holidays with your families and friends, have a very safe and Happy New Year's Eve. And we will see you come the new year. Thank you.

D. Councilmember Kreklau Thank you for everyone coming out. It's nice to see a lot of people out in the crowd. I hope everybody stays involved in their local government. Send emails. That's how I make my decisions. Everybody have a good holiday, and we'll see you next year!

E. Councilmember Kinken, I want to thank everyone who attended the meeting. We live in a great town, and I'm glad to see many people participating. I want to thank our public safety teams and public works team. We have some great people working for our Town, and they do a great job. They keep the town clean and safe, but I also want to thank our staff for all the hard work behind the scenes to keep this town running smoothly. So when you see them tell them how much you appreciate them.

We have had a lot of events, and we've had perfect weather. A special thanks to Rob for the tree lighting event. It was wonderful. I just enjoyed, music, trolley rides, and the fact that there were so many people the same way with the parade.

And finally, my wife and I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I think that the fire department, I'm just impressed that, you know, not only the chief gave us a good presentation, but he has his support of his department. And we appreciate that, and we love you, guys.

We look forward to working with you, and congratulations to those getting promoted.

F. Mayor Hellyer This has been a season of good stuff, and I can't give enough to public works. And if anybody saw that sleigh that was over at Passive Park, that was made by two of our public works people. Then when they got it all done and got it painted red, they took it down to Passive Park, then they had Tommy Simpson, he came down on his dime and went and painted the sleigh, the Christmas thing so that we could decorate for our time. Thanks for all the coordination.

Rob, thanks for you guys. The police department has done a wonderful job. We had both the Fire Chief and the Chief of Police walk for Christmas Parade. I want to thank everybody, and I wish everybody a happy season; we'll see you next year on January 11.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session pursuant to the Freedom of information Act §30-4-70(a)(2), To receive legal advice related to a threatened claim against the Town, municipal court, and administration.

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Councilmember Keating made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:45 pm pursuant to the Freedom of information Act §30-4-70(a)(2), To receive legal advice related to a threatened claim against the Town, municipal court, and administration. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

Councilmember Keating made a motion to re-enter the regular session at 9:14 pm. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

12. Motions resulting from Executive Session. The Council may take action on matters related to Executive Session.

Councilmember Stamey made a motion to authorize the town administrator to negotiate a contract with a parking vendor. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

13. ADJOURNMENT Councilmember Stamey made a motion to adjourn at 9:16 pm. Councilmember Kinken second. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert Hellyer, Mayor

Cindy Keating, Mayor Pro Tempore

Chris Stamey, Town Council

LaVerne Kreklau, Town Council

Michael Drake, Town Council

William Kinken, Town Council

Paul Holder, Town Council

Attest: _____
Sheri L Medina, Town Clerk

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