



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 10, 2009 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Town of Surfside Beach adding that this was a business meeting and it would be conducted in that manner. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tem Truett and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Samples, Martin and Childs were present. A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell, Finance Treasurer Hursey, Police Chief Christenson, and Building, Planning & Zoning Director, Donevant. Attorney Mr. Smith was also present.

2. **INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Pastor Bob Taylor from Timberlake Baptist Church said the invocation and Mayor Deaton led the pledge of allegiance.

3. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mr. Truett made a motion to add item 7F extension of the tree moratorium to the agenda. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Samples made a motion to delete item 7B, second reading of the hospitality fees ordinance until the next meeting. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the budget meeting minutes from November 22nd and 23rd, 2008. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26th regular meeting. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only**

There were no public comments.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. ***Presentation from Engineer: Rowe Professional Services***

Mr. Booth reported that the town had gone out for RFQ's and there would be presentations from engineers on their qualifications during the next three meetings.

Brad Jordan and Kent Alexander from Rowe Professional Services gave a presentation on their company. Mr. Jordan thanked council for allowing them to be there this evening. Mr. Jordan reported that the company was founded in 1962 and is made up of a large staff of 140 people with one third being licensed professionals. The company has five offices in Michigan and now has a new office in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Mr. Jordan stated that 68 percent of their business is municipal business. Mr. Jordan stated that over the past four years they have created a great reputation in Michigan and plan on extending that reputation and strength here in South Carolina. Mr. Jordan stated that they consider their strengths in overall municipal service; for water, stormwater, sewer, roadways, assistance in grant applications and landscape architecture adding that he understands that the town is very interested in the landscape aspect at this point with various beautification

52 projects being planned. Mr. Jordan stated that his company also has experience in
53 beautifying trails and parks and master planning. It was explained that the key
54 personnel would be Ken Alexander who is the local principal and Brad Jordan who
55 is client manager and there would also be technical backup staff. Mr. Jordan stated
56 that his company is close; about 15 minutes away adding that he feels that proximity
57 to a client is critical.

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59 Mr. Martin asked for Mr. Jordan and Mr. Alexander's background. Mr. Alexander
60 stated that he graduated from Purdue University and has been a professional engineer
61 for over 20 years and a principal at Rowe for approximately 6 years and has been
62 with Rowe for 12 years. Mr. Martin asked what prompted Rowe to open up an
63 office in South Carolina. Mr. Alexander stated that the company thought there was
64 an opportunity with a good fit for them and a new area to get outside of the Michigan
65 economy which is so dependent on the auto industry. Mr. Jordan stated that 4 years
66 ago he started a company called Carolina Aerial surveys and is originally from
67 Marion South Carolina and he and Mr. Alexander had conversations and merged in
68 2007 to form Rowe Professional Services.

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70 **B. *Building, Planning and Zoning Report***

71 Mr. Booth stated that permits are way down but the department is busy reviewing
72 their ordinances. They are currently looking at the inoperability between one
73 ordinance and another; they are also looking at the wording adding that the
74 Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments is assisting with the process and the
75 Planning & Zoning Commission is also involved in the review process. Mr. Booth
76 stated that they will eventually be bringing changes to these ordinances to council.
77 Mr. Booth reported that they will also be working on the Comprehensive Plan that is
78 due next year. Mr. Booth stated that changes to the tree ordinance will also affect
79 this plan. Mr. Booth stated that a problem the town has had in the past is when an
80 ordinance was changed in one section and not another causing legal issues and they
81 are working on this inoperability. Mr. Booth reported that the inspector has been
82 out on the weekends looking for tree and building violations. Mr. Martin asked if
83 the Planning & Zoning could give a summary of violations in their reports going
84 forward. Mr. Booth stated that they can begin doing that adding that the town would
85 also need to make sure they have all of the infraction ordinances in place before
86 issuing infraction tickets. Ms. Blair asked if the town had a committee from the
87 Planning & Zoning currently in place working on the Comp Plan. Ms. Donevant
88 stated that they have not yet assigned a committee. Mr. Booth stated that
89 Waccamaw will assist with this and added that the town has done a lot of work in the
90 past and will include some of this in the Comp plan.

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92 **C. *Public Safety Report***

93 Mr. Booth reported that there have been some break-ins reported and thefts of golf
94 carts. Mr. Booth stated that as the economy goes down the crime rate usually goes
95 up. Mr. Booth reported that the public safety department is working hard to keep the
96 homes in Surfside safe.

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98 Director of Public Safety Mr. Christenson stated that he wanted to publicly recognize
99 the officer of the year adding that there is always someone who stands out, goes the
100 extra mile, leads by example and has other people drawn to them and inspired by

101 them and then asked Corporal Chris King to come forward. There was applause in
102 the audience. Mr. Christenson read the declaration of recognition for Corporal Chris
103 King which is on file. Mr. Christenson stated that the police department has
104 apprehended many individuals involved in break-ins and instructed those in
105 attendance to go to the website for a full department monthly report.

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107 Mr. Samples inquired about the officer that the town will lose due to his going back
108 to active duty. Mr. Booth stated that the officer volunteered for active duty and the
109 town will hire another officer. It was confirmed that this was the only vacancy in the
110 Police Department at this time.

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112 ***D. Administrator's Report***

113 Mr. Booth reported that the next meeting on February 24th will start at 3:00PM with
114 the stormwater committee and then it will go into a budget meeting and then move
115 into a regular meeting.

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117 *Underground Wiring*

118 Mr. Booth reported that the underground wiring project on 14th Avenue is almost
119 done and once it is complete the town will move onto the fire station area with the
120 project and then it will continue to Seaside Drive. Mr. Martin asked when the lights
121 would be installed. Mr. Booth stated that the lights will be installed soon, once some
122 tree trimming has been completed adding that poles should start coming down soon
123 and that they only have one home left to be hooked up. Mr. Booth reported that this
124 project is going well.

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126 *Lake Dredging*

127 Mr. Booth reported that the town is approximately 2 weeks away from finishing
128 Floral Lake and then they will move onto the last lake. Mr. Booth reported that there
129 are about 200 requests for topsoil so far and he hopes to move it out quickly because
130 he will need the storage area. Mr. Booth stated that the topsoil is good quality and
131 they also have many out of town requests for it as well. Mr. Johnson asked for an
132 update on the swash on 5th Avenue as a result of the lake dredging. Mr. Booth stated
133 that he was out there today and answered that it is not a problem adding that some
134 debris went into the swash while they were dredging and they will take their track
135 hoe and clean it out. Mr. Johnson asked if there was an erosion problem. Mr. Booth
136 stated that there was no erosion problem the swash just had some debris that needed
137 to be cleaned out. Mr. Samples added that there was no flooding there either. Mr.
138 Booth stated that if we got a lot of rain there could be some flooding but anticipated
139 that it would be taken care of prior to that happening. Mayor Deaton stated that a
140 full moon also leads to high tide which causes an unusual amount of high water and
141 that this is not an abnormal occurrence. Mr. Booth added that the town had plans to
142 clean this area out anyway. Mr. Samples asked if the home owners association has
143 offered to assist in repairing the bulkhead adding that this is what the owners want
144 done. Mayor Deaton stated that perhaps this discussion could be placed on as an
145 agenda item to discuss at a later meeting adding that there was previous discussion
146 regarding relocating the swash and there was a lost grant involved. Mr. Booth stated
147 that the town could also wait to see what the government is doing with the shovel
148 ready programs because this would fit in that category.

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Yaupon Parking Lot

Mr. Booth reported that the lot has been cleaned and all of the parking meters have been removed and that the lot will get a new design with pervious pavers and landscape installed and that the town should get more use with the promotion of the pier.

Pay Stations

Mr. Booth reported that pay stations will be installed prior to March 15th adding that these will be much easier for the public to use; they can use credit cards or debit cards and no longer have to search for quarters. Mr. Truett asked how the parking lots with the pay stations would work. Mr. Booth confirmed that there will be no gate or barrier blocking the entrance; the public would get a ticket from the pay station and put it on their dashboard and signage will be easily seen to instruct the public on its usage. Mr. Booth stated that they will also have an area next to the pay station for people to pay for any tickets they receive for not paying for parking. Mr. Booth stated that the town has many guests who use the facilities and beaches in town and paying for parking is a way to contribute towards their upkeep. Mr. Booth stated that there have been many problems with the parking meters in the past and they anticipate a lot less problems with the pay stations.

Stormwater/Council Workshop

Mr. Booth reported that there will be a stormwater/council workshop at 3:00 PM on February 24th and invited everyone in attendance to join them at the meeting explaining that the town is getting ready to move onto the next phases of stormwater. Mr. Booth added that Surfside Beach has come a long way in regards to stormwater.

Beautification Workshop

Mr. Booth reported that there will be a beautification workshop on March 2nd at 7:00PM adding that the committee has many ideas they want to promote.

Mr. Booth reported that staff will be presenting the committee for the parks and recreation soon because the season is coming and there are many new events they need to discuss. There is a car show on Memorial weekend and the town has been discussing fireworks for the 4th of July. Mr. Booth stated that input from the public is generated through the various committees formed in town adding that he likes working with committees.

7. BUSINESS

A. *First Reading: #09-0655 Procurement Ordinance*

Mr. Booth stated that the request is to move the current procurement amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 adding that this is not a way to get away from having to obtain quotes; staff is just trying to getting away from the costs of doing business adding that the town would still need to get three quotes. Mr. Booth stated that Myrtle Beach procurement is set at \$25,000 and Horry County is set at \$50,000 and feels that requesting \$10,000 is not out of range for the town. Mr. Booth stated that the last time the town changed the procurement was in 1986 and feels that it is time to

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197 change. Mr. Martin made a motion to change the ordinance as proposed by staff.
198 Ms. Blair seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

199 B. *Second Reading: #09-054 Hospitality Fees Ordinance*

200 This item was stricken from the agenda.

201 C. *Decision Paper: Pay Stations*

202 Mayor Deaton stated that Mr. Booth has explained the pay stations to council
203 previously. Mr. Booth stated that council had received detail on the pay stations
204 adding that he would need council to make a decision. Mr. Martin made a motion to
205 approve the recommendation from staff. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr.
206 Samples asked about the 90 day maintenance. Mr. Booth stated that the town would
207 have an additional maintenance contract. Mayor Deaton stated that he feels that a
208 maintenance contract is important adding that he is familiar with the pay stations in
209 Folly Beach and they have been known to break down. Mr. Booth stated that the
210 town would be using pay stations similar to those in Charleston and they have had a
211 fairly good history with them as opposed to Folly Beach but the town would have a
212 maintenance contract on these. Mr. Booth explained that the pay stations are
213 operated by solar energy and they will notify Mr. Taylor by cell phone if they are not
214 operating correctly. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

215 D. *Decision Paper: Payment Boxes*

216 Mr. Booth reported that since there will no longer be an individual collecting parking
217 ticket fines the payment boxes would allow an easy way to pay. Mr. Booth stated
218 that the town would also offer forms at town hall for individuals to fill out if they
219 disagree with the ticket. This would be forwarded to the infractions hearing officer.
220 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the purchase. Mr. Martin seconded the motion.
221 Mr. Johnson stated that the public safety ticket sample distributed to council did not
222 include the zip code and this would need to be added in. Mr. Booth thanked Mr.
223 Johnson for pointing that out. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

224 E. *Proclamation: #09-67 Cities Mean Business*

225 Clerk Pinnell read the proclamation that is on file. Mr. Truett made a motion to
226 accept this proclamation. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All voted in favor.**
227 **MOTION CARRIED.**

228 F. *Extend Moratorium on Cutting of Trees*

229 Mr. Childs made a motion to amend the moratorium to allow pruning of branches up
230 to 3 inches in diameter and allow dead or diseased trees to be removed with the
231 approval of the town for an additional 30 days. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. It
232 was confirmed that this would extend the moratorium for an additional 30 days
233 which would be until March 13th. Mayor Deaton explained that the tree ordinance is
234 being referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission and they have a 30 day
235 period to review and get back to council. **All voted in favor. MOTION**
236 **CARRIED.**

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8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Harbin, 322 South Willow: “I wanted to congratulate you as a group and as a council. You come under fire from the media and any time you say something, it seems to be misinterpreted. I think we, at Surfside, come under fire from those who don’t live here. We’re too regulated, we have too many ordinances, you can’t do this and you can’t do that. We get the sense, we here, get the sense, that you are committed to what you’re doing; that you’re dedicated to what you’re doing and you’re aggressively going after what you see is the best for Surfside, which is not always easy because we get very frustrated, so you are to be commended, our administrator is to be commended, I think he’s leading some of this, so, congratulations on what you’re doing; please continue to do it and there’s a catch to every compliment. The catch here is that some of your success is certainly coming from your committees. Most of you do try to attend committee workshops and meetings as your work schedule allows. As a member of the stormwater committee, I really want to urge that you please attend that; there’s some very knowledgeable people that will be here. I didn’t know a lot about stormwater before I became involved in it and almost every meeting, I’m checking off two or three or four things that touch on stormwater related issues, whether it be Floral Villa seawall and the erosion that is going on down there, whether it be the new fire station, and will we try to incorporate some green measures whether they be pervious pavers, whether it be rain gardens, infiltration swells, rain barrels? I hope we’re going down that road. There’s so many things to touch on so there will be some very knowledgeable people and we’re not paying a dime for this workshop on the 24th so it would be good information to come forth. If I could just have one other brief thing, just as a citizen and not as a committee member, my wife and I took a walk down the pier a couple of days ago and there were two or three very irate folks who didn’t live within the town limits of Surfside Beach and couldn’t quite understand because their license said they live in Surfside, because our post office assigned the zip code to them, and the young man who was there was having a very difficult time with them and they were very irate; they walked off and they were continuing to turn and say very derogatory things towards that young man trying to do his job. I would suggest that as an advertising or as a public information source that we erect a nice sign with an architectural rendering, if we could do that, of what we want to do to that pier; what our long range goals are, what are some of the projects we’re going to do and with an explanation that your admission charge will help pay for our improvements and then when somebody walks up, the gentleman at the gate will say this our admission for these things, if you can provide me with proof of residency I can waive that fee. It’s a very simple matter at that point and we typically don’t mind paying if we know what we’re paying for, and that would get some information to those individuals. Again, congratulations, look forward to seeing you in two weeks.”

Mayor Deaton stated that the stormwater meeting will actually be a council meeting explaining that anytime the council has a quorum and council has to interact it becomes a council meeting. The presentations would then come before council due to State law; it would be a council meeting in conjunction with the stormwater committee. Mayor Deaton stated that he appreciates the effort of the stormwater committee and all they have done adding that he hopes everyone will attend.

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9. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Samples: “We must have wore you all out. I think this is the first time, in my recollection, one comment, all night.”

Mayor Deaton: “Either we’re getting it really right or really wrong. I don’t know which.” There was laughter in the audience.

Mr. Johnson: “I would just like to thank the residents and all, that are here, for your involvement and I appreciate it and I hope that you continue to be involved in the Town of Surfside Beach.”

Mr. Truett: “I saw this in our packet. It’s the First Tee program and I was hoping Shelby was here tonight. Shelby Smith is one of our citizens who led this. If you are familiar with the First Tee program, it’s a golf program for kids and I was lucky enough a couple of years ago, my daughter wanted to get involved and it really surprised me, it’s not really about golf, golf is completely secondary. The young men that participate, they tuck their shirts in, they wear their hats properly; when they shake your hand they look you in the eye, they call you ‘sir’. It’s life lessons that this thing provides and it’s really impressive how it’s done and they are having a golf tournament on the 26th of February and anybody who has a business that wants to do some advertising, I’m telling you, this is a great program. Thank you.”

Mr. Childs: I’d like to welcome a neighbor, Wes Sparkes, here, he brought some scouts in tonight to learn how council operates and how government runs. If you’d all please stand up.” There was applause in the audience.

Mayor Deaton welcomed the scouts to the business meeting. There were comments made in that the scouts picked a good meeting to come to.

There were no other council comments. Mayor Deaton stated that the council would need to go into executive session explaining that the town has gone out for bids on some of their professional services and the council will be discussing the proposals for the town auditor and town banking services pursuant to FOIA 30-4-70. Mr. Samples made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Booth requested that Ms. Hursey join in the session. There were no objections from council. **MOTION CARRIED.**

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the recommendation from staff for First Federal Bank. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve staff’s recommendation for the accounting firm of Harper, Poston and Moree for another five (5) years. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Martin made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Approved: February 24, 2009

Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

K. Allen Deaton, Mayor

Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

Robert F. Childs, III, Town Council

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. 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.