

TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ◆ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS March 24, 2009 ◆ 6:00 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Deaton called the public hearing to order at 6:00 PM. The public hearing was held to hear public comments on the proposed budget for 2009/2010. There were no public comments.

Mr. Samples made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**. Public hearing was closed at 6:02 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deaton called the regular council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. stating that this was a business meeting and asked everyone in attendance to conduct themselves in that manner adding that council would do the same. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tem Truett and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Martin, Samples and Childs were present. A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell, Finance Treasurer Hursey, Police Chief Christenson, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Ellis. Attorney Mr. Smith was also present.

2. INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Reverend Kendall Williams from the Grand Strand Community Church said the invocation and Mayor Deaton led the pledge of allegiance.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 10, 2009. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only

Mike Poston, 305 Gardner Lacey Road, Myrtle Beach, Santee Cooper: "I am the manager of Distribution Services with Santee Cooper and would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity tonight to come and provide comments on the proposed amendment to tree trimming or tree ordinance, excuse me. One of Santee Cooper's missions is to provide reliable electric service to our customers and our vegetation management or tree trimming program is a key part of providing that reliable service to our customers here in the town of Surfside as well as to our customers across our entire system. The town of Surfside has a franchise agreement with Santee Cooper that gives us the right to trim trees or remove trees in order to maintain our lines within the town's limit and, therefore, we respectfully request that any amendments to the tree ordinance contain an exclusion for electric utilities and this exclusion would prevent any conflicts between the franchise agreement and the tree ordinance. You know trees coming into contact with power lines usually cause outages and or flickering lights and as a result we conduct our vegetation management program to prevent these tree related outages and

also to protect the public and provide for workers safety, and with the hurricane season coming, our vegetation management program helps reduce the number and severity of tree related outages due to wind storms and hurricanes. During our last trim cycle here in the town of Surfside 2008 we feel that the town's staff and Santee Cooper worked well together. It is our policy to notify the town in advance before we begin trimming within the towns limits and we would certainly continue to do that and again, due to the importance of our vegetation management program and providing reliable electric service to our customers here in the town of Surfside we ask that any proposed amendments to the tree ordinance include the exclusion for electric utilities."

Mayor Deaton stated that it was just pointed out to him that there is an amendment to the agenda. Mr. Truett made a motion to include special workshop meeting minutes on February 5, 2009. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mayor Deaton stated that there is approval of those minutes as well.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Public Works Report

Mr. Booth reported on town projects. Mr. Booth stated that the 14th Avenue South underground wiring project has been completed except for the sidewalks and they should go in within the next 30 days. Mr. Booth stated that this is the model for the town. There was a pre-construction meeting for Seaside Drive that should begin soon and then the town will move to the parking lot by the pier and then will continue on to Ocean Blvd and that it should be a 2-year project adding that this will better prepare the town for storms. Palmetto Lake is currently being dredged; the dirt is being stored in ponds until it dries up and reported that it is good topsoil. Yaupon parking lot should be completed in approximately 30 days; it will have pavers and vegetation and islands and the town will use a similar design to the lot across from the Sundown on Surfside Drive. It was confirmed that the Seaside Drive construction would be done through busy season and Mr. Booth would check with the rental agencies to see if the houses on Seaside Drive are rented.

B. Recreation Report

Mr. Booth reported that there would be a car show on Memorial Day Weekend with vendors being set up in Yaupon parking lot and that the town is looking at this event as being a positive one for the community. On July 4th there will be a large fireworks display adding that all of these events are new to the town and they will be learning from them; they will learn which areas to improve in the future. Mr. Booth reported that the town is getting donations in for the fireworks. Mr. Booth reported that the town is still in the process of repairing the pier. It was confirmed that Santee Cooper is contributing towards the fireworks. Mr. Booth reported that Mr. Blair would provide music for the fireworks. Mr. Truett asked if any other franchisees are contributing towards the fireworks and Mr. Booth stated that there were and the town is pushing for more. Mr. Booth stated that Time Warner has been approached but they have not received a response yet. Some franchises stated that they could not afford to contribute due to economic reasons. Mr. Booth stated that the fireworks are covered and he is not dependant on additional money coming in.

101

C. Administrator's Report

111 112

116 117

118 119 120

121 122

123

136 137

135

143

144

145

be made more aware of the paid parking and pay stations. There are many signs posted but people need to be further educated on the pay stations. Mr. Childs stated that he spoke to Mr. Booth about Myrtle Beach and where they have the pay stations they have a green dot painted on the back of each parking space that reads "pay" with a white arrow pointing in the direction of the pay stations adding that he is sure Myrtle Beach has gone through what Surfside is currently going through and more than likely worked out the "kinks". Mr. Childs added that people just do not read signs; there are so many sometimes that they "become a blank". Mr. Booth stated that pay stations are becoming more popular and once people get used to them they 113 114 115

should work better. Mr. Booth reported that the selling of topsoil is going well. The town has already sold approximately 40 loads of it and they still have much more to deliver. Mr.

Mr. Booth reported on the pay stations. Mr. Booth stated that the town is adding

additional signs to the parking lot since this is all new to the community they need to

Mr. Samples confirmed the price of soil which is \$40 and that it was a break-even price with Mr. Booth. Mr. Booth stated that it pays for the overtime for staff and pays for the truck. The town makes a little profit on out of town soil purchases.

7. BUSINESS

A. First Reading: #09-0662 Business License Ordinance

Booth reported that it is very good soil.

Mr. Booth stated that this ordinance does not increase the rates. There were many errors in the ordinance with one being technical and having to do with the NAICS code. The town was following the FIC codes and should be following the NAICS codes. This came about due to a lawsuit. There was some ambiguity that needed to be addressed and added that has been reviewed by the attorney. Mr. Truett made a motion to approve 1st reading as presented. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. Mr. Samples stated that in the past the town council has served as the appeals board and asked why the town is now setting up another board. Mr. Smith stated that it is the separation of powers issue with those who pass and those who render judgment. The terms of serving were addressed and it was confirmed that it would be changed to a 4-year term from a 2 year term. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED**.

B. First Reading: #09-0663 Authorize Town Administrator to Execute a Quit Claim Deed for Real Property-Expansion of Library

Mr. Booth stated that the town would like to give the current parking lot over to the county for their maintenance and for the possibility of some extension. It is a limited amount of area that is being conveyed to the county. It was confirmed that it would also include a small portion of land to the south. Mr. Samples made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Johnson asked for Mr. Booth to explain what is involved to the public. Mr. Booth stated that if this land is not used as a library it is reverted back to the town. Attorney Durant is working on this adding that the rest of the library land was conveyed the same way. Mr. Booth confirmed that the deeding of the property does not include any of the

147

148149

150

151

152

153

154

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

162163

164

165

166

167

168169

170

171172

173174

175

176 177

178

179

180

181

182

183

184 185

186 187

188

189 190

191

192

tennis court property and that some of the property in the deed is delegated for recreation use only and none of the land being deeded is involved in this recreation property adding that it does not include the park or tennis courts and that it includes the parking lot and some land to the south that is parallel. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

C. Second Reading: #09-044 Animal Ordinance

Mr. Booth reported that this is an ordinance originally recommended by the stormwater committee. Mr. Booth reported that there has been an increase in dog registrations in town. There is a grant the town received for the dog park and added that if the town is going to limit where dogs can be that it should give them a place to go adding that some of the housing in town does not have yards for people to take their dogs. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve 2nd reading. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Booth confirmed that the grant was for approximately \$5,000. The grant is for fencing and the town already owns the land. Mr. Childs stated that the Holiday Inn in Surfside allows pets and many guests do not pick up after their dogs and asked if the Town Administrator can notify the Holiday Inn to have their guests to pick up after their pets. Mr. Booth stated that the town would install a pet bag receptacle in the area. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Second Reading: #09-0653 Tree Ordinance

Mr. Booth reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission voted unanimously to not approve the proposed changes to the ordinance presented by council and also made a motion and recommendation to end the tree moratorium. Mr. Truett made a motion to approve second reading of the proposed changes to the tree ordinance. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Samples confirmed with Mr. Booth that the ordinance under consideration does not include a footprint. It was confirmed that any new construction or any addition to a home within the footprint would currently be subject to replacement or mitigation. Mr. Samples confirmed with Mr. Smith that the current ordinance allows for the removal of dead or diseased trees and that the entire tree can be taken down and a dead branch could be removed if more than a certain caliper and a permit would be required. A permit to remove a dead tree would be required but there would be no cost and a dead tree would not need to be replaced. Mr. Martin asked for confirmation of the intent of the town. Mr. Martin read the first paragraph in section 17-367.4 tree replacement policy. It was confirmed that an individual would not need to replace a tree or pay into the mitigation fund if they were over their minimum requirement needed in their district. Mr. Smith confirmed that the code enforcement official is the nomenclature used that is in the best interest of a municipality. There are inspectors and there are code enforcement officials and the code enforcement officials would have the authority under the town administrator to write violations where an inspector may not have that authority. Mr. Booth stated that he is currently using the building department staff for code enforcement and they are working weekends as well. Mr. Truett brought up the \$75 charge used for an arborist and asked if this was still necessary. It was confirmed that this charge was removed from this ordinance revision. There was some additional discussion regarding delegating code enforcement to various staff members. It was confirmed that the grounds foreman is currently going for his arborist designation and that the maintenance schedule of the grounds foreman was deleted from this version. Mr. Smith stated that he feels that a maintenance schedule

194

195

196 197

198 199

200

201

202

203204

205

206

207

208

209210

211

212213

214

215

216217

218219

220

221222

223

224

225226

227228

229

230231

232

233

234235

236

237

238

239

240241

is an intricate part of a tree ordinance but it could be brought back at a later date. Ms. Blair stated that section 17-363 guidelines for tree removal requires a need for a licensed arborist or registered forester or landscape architect to determine tree problems and added that once Mr. Newell is certified he could be utilized and until then he should not be a part of this determination. Mr. Booth stated that someone would be contracted to determine tree problems and it would not be at a cost to the homeowner. Mr. Smith stated that costs passed along to homeowner are not in this current ordinance and would prefer not to include it. Mr. Smith stated that in section 17-367.3 "professional engineer" was added to make decisions. It was clarified that section 17-367.2 guidelines for tree removal that a tree that causes a hazard must be within 10 feet of a structure or it would be a part of the tree replacement or mitigation. An arborist would be required to note if tree is healthy or unhealthy. Mr. Samples made a motion to amend the ordinance to exclude the footprint. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Samples made a motion to amend the ordinance to exclude the electric utilities. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Smith stated that Santee Cooper had sent information that they wished us to include in the ordinance; after review it was decided that it was not in the best interest of the town to agree to it. Modifications were made and included in the version presented. Mr. Smith stated that the wording presented would be their opinion to determine what interferes with their power reliability and Mr. Smith stated that this was a red flag. The new version would not invade on what the town considers to be a good partner. Clerk Pinnell read the version presented by Santee Cooper "electric utilities shall be exempt from the permitting process for the pruning or removal of trees provided that the pruning or removal of the tree is necessary to correct a hazardous situation or to eliminate a tree/wire conflict that has the potential to interfere with power reliability". Smith read his revision presented in section 17-367.4 "unless otherwise determined to not be in the best interest of the town" adding that he made it incumbent upon Santee Cooper coming to the building official for approval and the town would have the final say. Mr. Samples withdrew his motion to exclude the electric utilities. Mr. Johnson removed his second. Mr. Samples made a motion to amend the ordinance to include that electric utilities shall be exempt from the permitting process for the pruning and or removal of trees provided that the pruning or removal of a tree is necessary to correct a hazardous situation or to eliminate a tree/wire conflict that has the potential to interfere with power reliability upon notification and approval of the town enforcement official. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Samples stated that he would like to make a motion for clarification purposes on section 17-367 c to exclude dead or diseased limbs over 4 inches being subject to the fees enumerated in sections 13-48. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Childs made a motion to strike a paragraph and insert new language in section 17-367.2 guidelines for tree removal excluding protected trees and specimen trees to strike the paragraph to read "any tree or root system that poses a hazard to a building or utilities foundation or driveway may be removed with the approval of the enforcement official." Mr. Childs stated that the paragraph kind of contradicts itself throughout "it says in one place you can remove pine trees or Bradford pear trees and then the next couple of words it says 'or any tree' so you really didn't need to specify those trees and the ten foot, there's a perfect

265

266

267268

269

270

271

272

273

274275

276

277

278279

280

281 282

283

284

285

example right down here on Cedar a fellow had some pine trees that were over ten feet from his house and it actually, if you went down and looked at it there was a crack running all the way from the foundation to the roof and for this ten foot all I did was remove the ten foot" and added the above mentioned wording. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. Ms. Blair stated that there is a comma in the wording and wondered if the wrong intent was being read. It should read "pine trees and Bradford pear trees whether they're within the ten feet or not if they pose a hazard but then any other tree within the ten feet" can be removed if they cause a hazard. It was confirmed by Mr. Johnson and Ms. Blair who were previously on the Planning Commission when this was reviewed along with attorney Mr. Smith that the comma stresses that pine and Bradford pears can be removed at any distance from the house if they cause a hazard and all other trees which include specimen trees must be within ten feet. There was additional discussion regarding any tree causing a hazard should be considered. Mayor Deaton stated that the intent was to protect large specimen or landmark trees that are not posing threats to homes. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mayor Deaton confirmed that this ordinance has just had 4 amendments to the original motion. All voted in favor to original amended MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Truett made a motion to lift the tree moratorium. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION **CARRIED**. Mayor Deaton stated that this council has the opportunity to go back to the Planning Commission to get their input on this ordinance stressing that everyone needs to get educated on this issue and this may take a year to review adding that the town is looking to improve the ordinance and has the best interests of the community in mind.

- E. Second Reading: #09-0659 Adopt 2009/2010 Fiscal Year Municipal Budget

 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve second reading. Mr. Childs seconded the
 motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- F. Second Reading: #09-0660 Adopt Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Tax Millage

 Mr. Samples made a motion to approve second reading. Mr. Truett seconded the notion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- G. Second Reading: #09-0661 Establish New Fiscal Year for the Town

 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve second reading. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Ms. Blair, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Truett, Mr. Childs and Mayor Deaton voted for. Mr. Samples voted against. MOTION CARRIED.
- H. Resolution: #09-082 Establish Recreation, Special Events Committee

Clerk Pinnell read the resolution. Mr. Samples made a motion to suspend the rules to discuss the item. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Samples stated that this is an excellent opportunity to put together a group that will provide a long range benefit to the town. Mr. Samples stated that he would like to include the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce as an ex officio non voting member of this committee and feels that it would go a long ways in improving communications. Mr. Samples added that staff has done a great job in putting together improvements but really feels that the town needs the professionals to help promote the town events. Mr. Childs stated that Mr. Truett was placed on the committee and stated that he would

also like to be placed on the committee as well. Mayor Deaton asked Mr. Smith if an appointment process has been established for this committee. Mr. Smith stated this process is why the resolution was necessary adding that he was approached some time ago to prepare an ordinance for this committee. Mr. Smith stated that this is a complicated and involved process and would need to discuss the details in more depth. It was decided that the structure would not need to be decided this evening. Mr. Samples stated that the town has 9 committees with two of them having been codified and feels that holding up the process while waiting for an ordinance is "backwards" adding that he is all for structure but would like to move forward with establishing this committee. Ms. Blair stated that this new committee would have added responsibilities and would be more involved than previous recreation committees. Mr. Johnson stated that this committee's responsibilities have grown with the newly purchased pier and added that council will need to consider this when structuring this committee. Mr. Samples made a motion to go back under Roberts rules. Mr. Johnson seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the resolution. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Ott, 7th Avenue North: "I've been glancing over your new additions to your animal ordinance and I have a problem, I've got nuisance animals and I've been trying to figure out who they belong to but I know they've always been there but they just got a lot worse and they're the raccoons. They've always been there but I just had my full of them and I thought what's going on here maybe it's the fact that we removed the locks from the mobys and they're able to get in there and dine every night, so I called up the Horry County animal control and they came out and this officer taught me how to set the trap and put my sardines in there and they really like the sardines with mustard, I'll tell you, but anyhow, I put them in there and in a period of a little over a week I caught six of them. I thought there was maybe one or two but six, so now they've taken the trap somewhere else. I don't have a trap anymore and they're still ripping . . . they're all over the place, I said 'Holy smokes' there's a herd of them out there. There is an awful lot of them. Now, do they belong to the town? I mean, you took ownership of the ducks, I figured you're going to take ownership of these raccoons because they can bring us some nasty things; fleas, ticks, rabies or what not and does the town have any traps?"

It was confirmed that the town does not have an animal control officer.

Mr. Ott: "Now I'm back in line waiting for the Horry County trap to come back. It's gotten a lot worse in the last year. I just had my full of it. Every morning I got to come out there and I got to clean up from the raccoons. The tree ordinance, boy that is a monster, I mean I can see myself out there on a Saturday morning looking and saying 'what if', do we get the veneer calipers out? Do we measure this? Is it 4 inches this way? Is it 3 inches that way? How are we going to control that? That is something. That's it. Thank you."

Mary Crowley, 1013 South Hollywood Drive: "I'm concerned about the signage at 5th Avenue North about 'no right turn' that is posted up by the red light. I'm involved in a retail business with Owl O Rest Furniture which, that is the direct access for our people

coming from the Myrtle Beach area to take to get to our store, and I was present in a car this past week when someone with a California drivers license was stopped for making the right turn on red and neither myself nor anyone in my small circle of friends and people that I run into have been aware of that sign that says 'no right on red' there and when the officer ticketed the lady who was driving without a state license I asked him 'is that not a small sign?' and he said that that was a matter with the Department of Transportation, that if there was a problem with that, that it should be taken up with them and this is a major access to our building. We've been blessed to be in business a while and I would like to see if Mr. Booth or someone would tell me the appropriate way to go about maybe getting a sign at eye level because very few people are aware of that 'no right turn on red'. I certainly was not and I know a lot of people who would have gotten a ticket as well."

Mayor Deaton suggested making an appointment with Mr. Booth.

MaCray Smith, Deerfield Plantation: "I have some land available next to the city that I'm not using right now if you need some extra space during some of your events."

9. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Samples: "Mary Crowley, you know when I read that letter to the editor my wife and I took, it was a nice day so we thought we'd take a walk up there and look and see about that 'no turn' sign ourselves because I didn't remember it being there either and, infact, I told her, there's no sign there, but sure enough there is, isn't there, and I agree with you, we need something closer to that corner I think is what we need right there in the right of way."

Mr. Childs: "I'm glad you brought up the raccoons, you know, I brought that up one time here not long ago, Mr. Booth thought I was dizzy, you know, but I think maybe you have my raccoons because they were getting in my trash as well. So I'm glad that somebody else in town has that problem too. Thank you."

Mr. Truett: "I've got two myself."

Mayor Deaton: "I've got three."

Mr. Johnson: "Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming out this evening. This is your town and if you have any concerns or comments see Mr. Booth or any of us and we appreciate you coming out and I also would like to recommend that this tree ordinance go back to the Planning and Zoning Commission as soon as possible for tweaking because we all know that it is not a perfect ordinance but it's better than what it was and with my experience on the Planning and Zoning Commission for many years it takes a long time and it's detailed. You can go through any page if you chose and find different items that need tweaking and I think that it should be a priority. Thank you."

Ms. Blair: "Mr. Ott, I think quite a few years ago we did have some traps only because we had an officer on force who had previously worked for Horry County animal control and when he came to work for the town he brought some experience with him and we had some traps as well as some holding pens behind the department where animals could be kept awaiting animal control to come transport them to county. That went away quite

a few years ago and I actually questioned the police chief at the time about the traps and you know, it might be nice to have, we certainly don't have enough for a full time animal control officer, but have someone just trained in being able to at least respond to calls and it went nowhere at the time, but yes, I actually found one in my trash can a couple of months ago, scared the bajeebies out of me when I opened it and started to drop in and the glowing eyes were looking back at me. I deal with them; I test them for rabies and do all that stuff and it even shook me up to see one glaring back at me. I was informed by a neighbor this morning that I have a fox that is coming out about eleven o'clock every night which I had not seen a fox in the neighborhood in quite a while. In support of that animal ordinance, just everyone be sure your pets are vaccinated because they are a primary carrier of rabies in this county. To conclude, thank you all for coming and if you haven't made a trip down to 14th South do so, it's worth your time to go down there and see the new lights and see how good everything looks. Thank you to Mr. Booth and staff for making that happen."

Mayor Deaton: I'd like to thank everyone for coming. It's an exciting time in Surfside. I mean all you have to do is get out and walk around or ride around in your car a little bit. 14th Avenue, our lakes are magnificent, the Palmetto project is going along beautifully, our road paving's fantastic, our pier is unbelievable so far; it's just a great time for this community and we appreciate your input and we appreciate you as residents."

10. ADJOURNMENT

Robert F. Childs, III, Town Council

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52.

Approved: April 14, 2009	
Shar	ron 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

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.