



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
JULY 10, 2012 ♦ 6:00 P.M.  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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7 **1. CALL TO ORDER.**  
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9 Mayor Samples called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Samples, Mayor Pro Tempore  
10 Mabry, and Councilmembers Dodge, Johnson, Smith and Stevens were in attendance; a quorum was  
11 present. Staff present: Interim Administrator Fellner and Police Chief Frederick. Also present: Town  
12 Clerk Herrmann.  
13

14 **2. BUSINESS.**  
15

16 Mayor Samples said the workshop was called to clarify direction to staff with respect the  
17 Plantation Resort bus route, discharge and pickup locations.  
18

19 Mr. Smith believed Plantation Resort should be allowed to continue operating as it currently does.  
20

21 Ms. Dodge disagreed, saying it was a safety issue. There are more issues in the pier parking lot  
22 than just the bus operation. She suggested that meeting with Plantation Resort would be more beneficial  
23 than sending a letter as she suggested in the last meeting.  
24

25 Mr. Stevens personally viewed the busses several times, and he believes pier area businesses  
26 derive income from those passengers. In his opinion, the problem is exacerbated by delivery trucks  
27 arriving simultaneously with the busses. He suggested making the parking area one-way to prohibit two-  
28 way traffic on the north side of the parking lot. Suggestions were offered to move the newspaper  
29 machines allowing the busses to use that area, and to use Yaupon parking lot golf cart parking.  
30

31 Mr. Johnson said after speaking with business owners in the area, he believed it might be best to  
32 allow Plantation Resort work out a solution on its own. The town would have to approve any  
33 recommendations. He understood the workshop purpose was to give direction for the letter content to  
34 Plantation Resort.  
35

36 Mayor Samples said yes, staff was directed to send a letter. However, there were questions that  
37 resulted in this workshop. He commended Ms. Dodge for her initiative in bringing the issue before  
38 council. There is an action item on the meeting agenda; this is the opportunity for council to discuss  
39 options that should end the matter.  
40

41 Mayor Samples believed this is a safety issue that should be addressed. There is very limited  
42 parking. He, too, hoped that the parties involved would arrive at a solution without any town interference.  
43 Because the town owns the parking lot and the pier, the town is responsible for public safety.  
44

45 Mayor Samples called for public comments asking that comments be kept at one minute.  
46

47 "Tom Dodge, curmudgeon, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. I go down to that parking lot nearly every day in  
48 the afternoon and nearly every day it's pretty much of a "Chinese fire drill." Regardless of what people  
49 say, I have talked to people getting on the bus, and getting off the bus. I said when you get on, when you  
50 get off the bus, where do you go. To the beach. I said you don't go to the businesses. No. I haven't  
51 heard anybody yet that I've talked to down there go, say they go to one of the businesses. Now they may  
52 go to it later, but they're not going when that bus brings them into that zoo of a parking lot. The parking in  
53 the golf cart parking space is not a good idea, because that's reserved for golf carts and the parking  
54 committee, I think, is trying to push to get golf carts into that spot. It was built for golf carts. The other  
55 thing is, Plantation Resort should not tell the town what to do, nor should Deerfield."

56  
57 “Ron Saunders, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. A couple of town administrators ago, we had a town  
58 administrator who did do something pretty good. He worked out this problem and had it taken care of,  
59 and the bus was dropping those people off over at our new Taj Mahal parking lot over there at Yaupon,  
60 and those people got off that bus, walked across that parking lot and went past all the businesses. So, all  
61 the businesses had a shot at them. So, I would strongly urge you to try to get that bus routed back to that  
62 particular location, and get it out of our safety problem area, and let those people go past all of our  
63 businesses. Thank you.”

64  
65 “Kurt Kramer, I’m representing Pier Outfitters. As I’ve talked to several of the councilmembers  
66 about this, I’d be happy to take on the task of visiting with the Plantation people and simply asking them  
67 to reschedule times and we could make a drop off point in one lot and a pick up point in another. I don’t  
68 think it’s a huge problem. I think it’s, if there’s concerns, I think they’re more than willing to work with us.  
69 I’m more than willing to take it on and see if I can make a difference there.”

70  
71 “Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard. The golf cart parking lot is a waste of time putting golf  
72 carts there. No one every goes there, except if there’s a large event. Hopefully in the future, we’ll have  
73 all golf cart parking at the pier. Saying that, I think that’s a good place to put that transfer point for the  
74 busses. That way they are out of the way, and they also have to, they’ll be able to give them to all the  
75 businesses out there. As Mr. Dodge said, maybe the people don’t go to the stores right away, they camp  
76 out and then they come back. So, they want to be within the pier area. Another place you possibly could  
77 think about putting them is letting them drop them off at Scotty’s, which is in the pier area, and it’s a road  
78 that is hardly ever used. Seaside on the other side by the newspapers that’s a busy area still near River  
79 City Café. It’s just another thing to think of, maybe Scotty’s area. It’s only a block from the pier. The  
80 people still will use it, if you don’t want to use Yaupon. I don’t think you should let the businesses decide  
81 what’s best for them. It’s a public safety thing. The town should say what’s best for everyone. The  
82 businesses just might think about what’s best for them.”

83  
84 “John Ard, 612 Cypress Drive, Surfside. Just, I’m wondering about something right now. The Taj  
85 Mahal parking lot that Mr. Saunders said is a good place. But right there at the pier right there where they  
86 go on the beach at, the trailer and all is set up there where they go on the beach at, would there be a  
87 possibility, and this is just a question now, of pushing that sand back like another 15-feet and in fact,  
88 asphaltting that, and that bus could pull in there and unload and everything else, and back out. It wouldn’t  
89 take up but a little bit of space right there and there’s still plenty of access to get on the beach and all with  
90 emergency equipment, the town equipment and anything else, and I don’t know, but I think that would be  
91 pretty feasible.”

92  
93 “Mary Ellen Abrams, 311 13<sup>th</sup> North. I thought I liked the Yaupon idea. It’s the one that was not  
94 going to divert anybody from our businesses. As I’ve been sitting here thinking about it, I’m getting a  
95 mental picture of all those people getting off the bus and now they’re going to parade all the way through  
96 that screwed up parking lot. Is that going to create more safety hazards, Mr. Police Chief? I don’t know.  
97 Just think about it. Cause now we’ve got a whole lot more people walking the whole depth of the parking  
98 lot, and I don’t know about the Scotty’s side. That might be a good idea. I don’t know what that looks  
99 like. That’s all I have to offer.”

100  
101 There were no other public comments. Mayor Samples asked for additional council comments.  
102

103 Mr. Stevens said after hearing public comments, it boiled down to being a safety issue. Public  
104 safety is important and the town has the ultimate responsibility for the safety of its citizens and guests.  
105 The suggestion to pave another portion of the beach area would have to be approved by OCRM (Ocean  
106 and Coastal Resource Management.) It is not far from the Yaupon parking lot to the beach. It seems that  
107 might be the best possible solution. He mentioned that the placement of the suntan booth should not be  
108 overlooked.

109  
110 Mr. Johnson supported working out using the Yaupon parking lot.  
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112 Mr. Smith believed insofar as safety, the closer the passengers are to the beach when they  
113 discharge from the bus, the safer they will be. He suggested relocating the suntan booth beside the pier  
114 ramp. He also suggested that the bus pull onto the sand to discharge passengers so the paved area  
115 would remain open for other traffic. A large number of people walking at one time from Yaupon parking to  
116 the pier would create a safety issue. On Saturday after July 4<sup>th</sup>, the pier parking lot was full; Yaupon  
117 parking lot was full. He personally had to drive around twice before locating a spot. So, those lots have  
118 full use on certain days. Mr. Smith reiterated that dropping off passengers as close to the beach as  
119 possible was the best answer in regards to safety.


120  
121 Ms. Dodge believed in safety for the people; however, she did not necessarily believe that it was  
122 totally the town's responsibility, because passengers must assume some responsibility for their own  
123 safety and make good decisions when they are in the parking lots or walking around the area. She  
124 believed town council should decide what the best use is for the parking lot. She supported meeting with  
125 Plantation Resort to discuss the bus issue and come to an appropriate solution.

126  
127 Mayor Samples believed the town should take advantage of Mr. Kramer's offer to meet with  
128 Plantation Resort to arrive at a solution that first and foremost addresses safety, which is the reason the  
129 matter is being discussed. He agreed with Mr. Smith that the safest solution would be to "drive them on  
130 to the beach at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and let them off." (laughter) Mayor Samples said the town is looking  
131 for an accommodation between the town and a very important neighbor who does much business in the  
132 area, which the town wants to support. Over time, the degree of business will grow as construction  
133 progresses in Deerfield on the undeveloped property, and it is time for the town to communicate. He  
134 suggested that Mr. Kramer take the lead and advise council as to any progress. Mr. Smith supported that  
135 suggestion. Ms. Dodge did not support the suggestion. Mayor Samples asked if council would support  
136 the suggestion if a councilmember was included in the discussion. Mr. Johnson suggested the  
137 administrator go with Mr. Kramer.


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139 **3. ADJOURNMENT.**

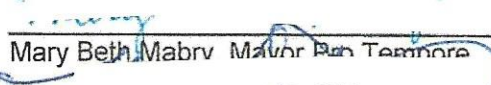
140  
141 Mayor Samples declared the workshop closed at 6:21 p.m.

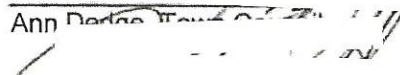
142  
143 Respectfully submitted,

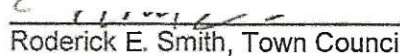
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146 \_\_\_\_\_  
147 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk


148 Approved: July 24, 2012


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151 \_\_\_\_\_  
152 Douglas F. Samples, Mayor

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156 Mary Beth Mabry, Mayor Pro Tempore

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159 \_\_\_\_\_  
160 Ann Dodge, Town Council

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163 \_\_\_\_\_  
164 Roderick E. Smith, Town Council

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168 Mark E. Johnson, Town Council

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172 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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174 \_\_\_\_\_  
175 Vacant Seat

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177 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. This meeting was transcribed by Town Clerk Herrmann. In  
178 accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on file in the clerk's  
179 office. The agenda was posted on bulletin boards outside Council Chambers and in the Town Hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on  
180 the Town marquee. When (\*\*) is used a section of the transcription is inaudible. Public Comments and Council Comments are transcribed verbatim  
181 without grammar corrections. When used, staff members' given names are replaced with surnames.