SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 12, 2014 • 6:30 P.M. TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Samples called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Samples, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, Magliette and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Planning Director Morris; Police Chief Keziah, and Special Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. <u>INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.</u>

- **A. Invocation.** Dr. David Powers of The Pilgrimage introduced Associate Pastor Dana King, who gave the invocation.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Samples lead the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL.

Ms. Mabry moved to approve the agenda with an amendment to include an executive session discussion pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements and pursuant to Pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee. Mr. Childs seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL.

Mr. Childs moved to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2014 meeting as submitted. Mr. Johnson seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Agenda Items (3 minutes.)

There were no public comments on the agenda.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Employee Anniversary Award: Brian Clark, Police Department, 5 Years.

Mayor Samples congratulated Corporal Clark and presented him with a certificate, 5-year pin, and award check. Corporal Clark thanked the town and introduced his first infant grandson, Conner. Corporal Clark received a standing ovation.

B. Department Reports.

i. Fire. Ms. Fellner presented the report for Chief Cimini, who was out of town. A copy of the report is on file. July 2014 was very busy; the department responded to a total of 143 incidents. Forty-seven applications were received for the fire chief's position. The field has been narrowed to 11 applicants. The five applicants that best meet the position requirements will be chosen by a group of South Carolina fire professionals. Those five will be interviewed by the town administrator. The department is fielding questions from ISO (Insurance Service Organization.) Everything seems positive, but there are questions about fire hydrant placements. The water mains are very small in some locations. The department is working on fire hydrant locations that will probably need to be addressed in the next two to three years. A report is expected for council around the first of September. Training continued as usual. All performances were excellent during the past month.

Mayor Samples explained to the public that ISO establishes the rating for insurance. The town is currently rated a 3. Myrtle Beach is rated 1. Ms. Fellner said the town could never achieve a 1, because it is too small to have the required number of staff. However, the goal was to receive a rating of 2.

Mr. Johnson asked if council would be advised of the top five fire chief candidates. Ms. Fellner said council would be informed of the top two, if those candidates were outstanding. If the top five were similarly qualified, all of them would be presented during executive session.

ii. Planning, Building & Zoning. Ms. Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is on file. The department performed 104 inspections during July. Ms. Shelley Rabon joined the department as the permit technician and has experience in the planning/building/zoning field and issuing permits. The staff was very busy with multiple projects, as well as day to day activities. The proposed changes to the Flood Damage Prevention Code were presented to the Stormwater Committee in July. Also all town licensed contractors were mailed an invitation to a contractors' workshop that was held on July 31, 2014 in Council Chambers. Although the turnout was disappointing, changes were reviewed with the contractors that attended. The presentation is also on the town website. Feedback was received from both contractors and the stormwater committee members. Staff reviewed the changes with several contractors and some property owners by appointment. Although some property owners did not agree with the changes, they appreciated the town's proactive approach and having a time to discuss the changes with staff. The proposed amendments were sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) state office for review and approval. Once the amendments are approved by FEMA, staff will present the changes in ordinance form for council consideration. Positive feedback continues from business owners on the "Open for Business" brochures. Owners of new businesses say it's been very helpful in understanding the process, and helps them understand who and when to contact staff in each department. Meeting the staff helps to establish a contact and partnership between the businesses and the town. There were nine new property complaints for assessment and actions. Staff continues working on code enforcement as time permits, and continues working on weekends to check for work being performed without permits. Staff had one court case pending in July; the issue was resolved prior to court and the case was cleared.

iii. Police. Chief Keziah presented the written report, a copy of which is on file, and reported that during July there was a 3-percent decrease in calls for service. Arrest and citation data increased 8.4-percent compared to 2013. There were three incidents of uses of force. All were at the end of the month and involved alcohol and/or use of drugs. One suspect had a minor injury; no officers were hurt. Training was completed in-house through the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC), and three officers will attend a legal risk and liability in law enforcement class at the Municipal Association during August. He thanked everyone that participated in the pancake dinner. Over \$8,000 was raised for South Carolina Special Olympics of Horry County. Chief Keziah also thanked the fire department staff for helping in the kitchen cooking pancakes.

Mr. Johnson asked the chief to report the beach statistics they discussed. Chief Keziah said at the last meeting council asked for ticket and/or warning statistics issued by the beach service officers. The preliminary statistics for July are: 35 warnings for dogs on the beach; 15 warnings for drinking in public; 2 arrests for drinking in public; 198 glass bottle warnings; 170 smoking warnings, and there were ten lost children that were located and reunited with their families.

Mayor Samples knew Chief Keziah was working on the upcoming Memorial Day preparations. Chief Keziah said there were several things underway.

C. Administrator's Report – Update on Current Events.

i. Update on Current Events. Ms. Fellner reported that a trial overnight parking option was being offered in the Yaupon parking lot, which began August 11th. The twelve (\$12) dollar fee was programmed into the pay station at that lot, which is four (\$4) dollars more than overnight meter parking. The trial is to accommodate overnight guests in the pier area, because there is no Ocean Boulevard meter parking in that vicinity. This is primarily for guests at the hotel that bring more than one vehicle. Discussions were held with police, fire, public works, and Lanier regarding this issue. All logistics were worked out to the point that she was comfortable to attempt the trial. No promises or guarantees were made for the length of the trial period.

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If the program should prove problematic in any way, it would immediately be discontinued. Authorization to do this is under Town Code Section 12-72, Parking and Public Access Areas Overnight. The ticket issued by the pay station will serve as the "special permit." The town received the final reimbursement check from FEMA in the amount of \$31,433.37 for the February ice storm emergency operations. The total reimbursement received from FEMA was \$147,058.97.

Mayor Samples asked whether that revenue was budgeted. Ms. Fellner would let councilmembers know.

Ms. Fellner said the conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes to North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes is progressing. Data was sent to MASC; the project is scheduled to begin the week of August 18th. The finance business licensing staff did an outstanding job with all the data preparation, and was tasked with the coordination effort between the town and MASC. Once MASC reviews all the data, it will give the town a timeframe for project completion.

ii. Consensus Items. Ms. Fellner had two consensus items:

1. Parking committee recommendations – does council wish to hold a workshop to hear and discuss the parking committee recommendations. Mr. Childs, liaison to the parking committee, said this was important and encouraged councilmembers to hold a workshop. Mr. Johnson said the information should be delivered to councilmembers prior to the workshop. Mayor Samples said it was important for all members to attend. **COUNCIL CONCURRED to hold a workshop to hear the parking committee recommendations.** Ms. Fellner would send optional dates to councilmembers to establish a satisfactory meeting day.

2. Artificial Reef – a substantial information package was sent in the middle of July to Bob Martore, the program manager for the Artificial Reef Section at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR.) The additional information he requested was sent last week. The cost estimate thus far to complete the artificial reef project is about \$50,000, perhaps a little more. Mr. Martore believes the entire cost could be funded through grants. Before moving forward, Town Council should decide whether to have an artificial reef placed beyond the end of the pier, which would enhance existing aquatic habitat for indigenous sea life.

Mr. Pellegrino asked if the grants would reimburse the town or be delivered up front. Ms. Feller said that Mr. Martore would actually handle the grant applications as part of the project. She wanted to make sure that council wanted to move forward with the project, if that DNR would adhere to that budget. There has never been a vote on the project.

Mr. Johnson supported any reef project that was funded through grants. At one time, the Grand Strand Saltwater Fishing Association held tournaments on area fishing piers. That organization may be willing to participate. He truly believed this was a win-win situation, even if no tournaments were held, fishing would improve for visitors and locals.

Mr. Childs agreed with Mr. Johnson. He believed the reef project was long overdue. Fishermen that he had spoken with on the pier enthusiastically support the project. He thinks it would bring tournament fishing to the town.

Mr. Stevens said the town's pier would be one of four in South Carolina that has an artificial reef, which would be a plus for the Town of Surfside Beach.

Mr. Pellegrino thought it was a good idea, and would bring people to town. Since funding was not approved in the budget, staff needed to make sure that the US Government paid for it.

COUNCIL CONCURRED to proceed with the artificial reef project.

Public Comment Responses from the July 22nd meeting:

Concern: trash and recycle containers overflowing on Saturdays are unsightly for visitors and pose a rat infestation problem on the south end of town. The resident proposed changing the sanitation collection schedule.

Response: the three times per week summer roll out program is done on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday. Customers with overflow are issued additional carts and charged appropriately. To change the schedule to Saturday, the entire town's service schedule would have to be changed. If that were to occur, there would still be some rental area customers picked up early in the morning before renters cleaned out the refrigerators and filled the cans prior to checkout. Incoming renters would still see full cans. It would also require some rental customers to be picked up later in the afternoon, possibly hours after check in, which means they would have full cans when they arrived. Although no system is perfect, the system in place seems to be functioning. There does not appear to be, at this point, a rat infestation. The town has never had a report prior to this of a rat sighting at the beach. Beach trash is now picked up daily to avoid any overflow. Rats prefer cover and commercial restaurant trash, and do not favor the beach environment. Mr. Russell from the Snake Chaser was contacted. He stated there has been an increase in rat sightings due to the high amount of rainfall that has forced rodents out of their usual habitats. He recommended that the town track reported sightings. If more than four sightings happened within a week to ten days, then the pest control company that could install bait stations. Mr. Adair is keeping a record to determine whether future action is necessary.

Mayor Samples had spoken with Mr. Adair who told him that larger recycle bins were being ordered, and purchased with sanitation funds. He asked if council agreed to accelerate the purchase of larger recycle bins for the rental zone. After discussion, **COUNCIL CONCURRED to accelerate the purchase of larger recycle bins for the rental zone.** Ms. Fellner said Mr. Adair would bring a proposal to Town Council at the next meeting with options to manage the problem, including the purchase of larger recycle bins.

Concern: Resident stated that they had significant erosion at their yard due to Lake Elizabeth drainage and weir issues; 12-feet of yard was lost and \$30,000 was spent to repair their dock and were now being told dock was not legal.

Response: This is a private issue. Ms. Fellner will deal directly with the property owner and will discuss the site survey and attorney's opinion with the individual on August 13th.

Concern: Resident stated that the stormwater millage sunset was not respected; roads were not being maintained; the town was not considering Chief Cimini's revenue recommendations for accident reimbursements; mosquito control was not adequate, and there are rats on the south end of town.

Response: The millage sunset for stormwater was handled in accordance with the law, and went through legal review prior to be presented to Town Council at its budget meeting in the spring of 2013. Currently, roads were being maintained at normal levels. Yard and bulk waste collections are caught up. Mosquito spraying is done twice a week. Spraying is in the road and rights-of-way with a maximum 300-feet spread. Residents that have standing water may have more mosquitoes than others due to mosquitoes breeding on their property. Public works also places larvacide in some drainage channels and catch basins around town.

Concern: Resident asked where 40-percent more trash come from.

Response: There was a 41-percent increase in yard waste only during this fiscal year compared to 2011-2012 due to the ice storm cleanup. Adjusted without this tonnage, the town is still about 14-percent higher on yard debris comparing the two years. Residential refuse and recycling are down 2- to 3-percent. A spreadsheet detailing this information was on the town website in the Caropines analysis posting.

Concern: A Harbor Lights resident was concerned with standing water in their area and stated that the weirs should be managed more carefully to remove standing water from yards and roads.

Response: Harbor Lights has a drainage plan designed to handle a certain flood event in a 24-hour period without flooding homes. When the ground is saturated, as it was prior to the rain event of July 15, 2014, the load capacity is reduced. Adding the 24-hour calculated rain total, which fell in a 4-hour period, the underground system becomes full and the engineered grassed swales for storage become full. The water will then slowly recede. Every municipality incorporates a stormwater system to handle a certain load over a

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certain period of time. This does not mean that a larger event will never happen. This is more noticeable given our geographic region and topology, because the town is so near sea level.

Concern: Another Harbor Lights resident believed there were issues because the water almost came up to their fence, and felt the county should be involved in the solution.

Response: The response is the same as to the prior question. The Harbor Lights drainage system is functioning properly and in accordance with the engineered stormwater plan, so there is no reason to involve the county.

7. BUSINESS

A. Second Reading Ordinance #14-0782 to establish fees for the Dick M. Johnson Civic Center, Recreation Supervisor Ellis.

Ms. Ellis presented second reading saying that there were three amendments included pursuant to Town Council's action: the rate for non-profit groups was reduced from \$25/day to \$15/day; the Dick M. Johnson small room now has a separate rate for not-for-profit organizations in the amount of \$10/day, and town resident groups of six or less may use the small room at no charge. Staff recommends that council adopt the ordinance as presented with the addition of a staff recommended paragraph, i.e. paragraph 9, to recognize the agreement with the Lions Club South Strand Chapter that allows the club to use the civic center for its twice monthly meetings at no charge and have a designated storage area inside the civic center.

Mr. Magliette moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #14-0782 as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRED.**

B. First Reading Ordinance #14-0783 to amend Section 8-38, Failure to Aid Police, and to correct Code Index, remove "public safety director" replace with "chief of police," Chief Keziah.

Chief Keziah presented the consideration paper, explaining that this was discussed at the last meeting and was a simple housekeeping change. When public safety was split into stand alone fire, police, and emergency operations, these particular sections were overlooked when the ordinance implementing the change was adopted.

- Mr. Stevens moved to approve first reading of Ordinance #14-0783 as presented. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- C. Committee Appointments (may be deferred until after executive session): i. Stormwater Committee, Ms. Sandy Healy and ii. Senior Citizen Committee, Mr. Steve Shore. Mayor Samples said appointments would be deferred until after executive session.

8. DISCUSSION.

A. Resolution #14-Proposed to direct *ad hoc* committees to communicate through Town Council Liaison.

Mayor Samples explained that the resolution was proposed to clarify that any *ad hoc* committee with a council liaison was to communicate with Town Council and the town administrator through the liaison. Mr. Childs said that was his understanding. Mr. Stevens was concerned that the resolution would limit the ability of the committee chair to speak during presentations. Mayor Samples said that was not the intent, and it did not prevent anyone from giving the floor to the chairman of a committee during presentations. Mr. Johnson called *point of order*, and suggested for clarification that the resolution be presented to Town Council for approval with the appropriate wording. Mayor Samples asked members to share comments and recommendations for changes with the clerk prior to the next meeting. Mr. Childs said he understood the resolution simply stated that the liaison was the path to speak with the administrator about any committee recommendations to get advice, and the council liaison would be the responsible person for any agenda items from the particular committee. Mr. Johnson did not object to the suggestion, but was concerned with

legality of doing so. Ms. Fellner indicated that the resolution was straightforward. **COUNCIL CONCURRED** to bring the resolution for formal adoption at the next meeting.

B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed by Town Council.

Mr. Magliette said he and Mr. Sammy Truett attended a meeting with Director Connolly from the American Red Cross. The focus was fund raising, education, and volunteer recruitment. A message was sent to Town Council with proposed short- and medium-term efforts. The highlights are:

• Short-term, current until October 2014

- 1. Red Cross information sheet to be posted on town website
- 2. Red Cross information posted on clerk's Facebook page
- 3. Business committee meeting to discuss American Red Cross fund raising event with a goal to raise \$15,000
- 4. Provide a free information booth for the Red Cross at the Family Festival on October 4
- 5. Proceeds from 50th Anniversary memorabilia booth at Family Festival be donated to the American Red Cross
- Medium-term, January through March 2015
 - 1. Mayor issue a proclamation in February 2015 to proclaim March 2015 National Red Cross Month
 - 2. February 2015 an official kick-off be held in Surfside Beach for the American Red Cross Campaign, not only focusing on fund raising, but on education and volunteer recruitment
 - 3. March 2015 the American Cross fund raising campaign begins in Surfside Beach along with the business committee with a goal to raise \$15,000
 - 4. Ask the police department to partner with the town and Red Cross
 - 5. Invite the fire chiefs to partner with the Surfside Beach and Chiefs of Horry County for the boot campaign
 - 6. Encourage participation of local churches, volunteer organizations and the public to support the American Red Cross

Mayor Samples encouraged councilmembers to consider the email message and if there were concerns about the recommendations, to contact either Mr. Magliette or him. Mayor Samples appreciated Mr. Magliette's, Mr. Truett's and the business committee's efforts to get this organized.

Mayor Samples said an email message was distributed to Town Council from the Horry County Public Information Officer, Ms. Bourcier, who is also the chairman for the United Way Campaign. Horry County, Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach are participating in a "cut your tie and wear it" campaign. If councilmembers are interested in participating, please let him know.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - General Comments (5 minutes.)

Ms. Anita Crone, 15th Avenue South, was confused about the resident groups using the civic center and asked what defined resident groups. Did it require everyone to be a resident or just one person. Mayor Samples said councilmembers do not ordinarily respond, but all individuals in the group must be a resident.

Ms. Wanda Burgess, 15th Avenue South, complimented the public works department for its quick response to the dune crossover that was collapsing at 15th Avenue South. It was repaired within 36 hours. She would call the director to see when it would be replaced.

Mr. Chris Walton, Mt. Gilead Road, Murrells Inlet, commented on the flood damage prevention ordinance. Ms. Morris was to be commended for her efforts to communicate the changes to the professional community. He thought there were a lot of good recommendations; however, he did not believe everything would be adopted. He asked Town Council to carefully consider adopting an ordinance before FEMA had finalized its assessment in 2015. As a building contractor in the town, he hated to see rules adopted that might negatively impact the residents and might not even be required. He currently has two in town property owners that would be seriously impacted by the new requirements.

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Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard, said she was on the beach every day. There are rats there. She asked if there was a procedure for reporting sightings, because it was a public safety hazard. She knows at least ten permanent residents that have seen rats on the beach. She personally saw one last night, and one last week. They are in the sand dunes between the houses and the beach. They have been seen during day time and night time. She never saw rats until this summer, but they are there. Ms. Fellner said sightings should be reported to public works at 843.913.6360.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Mr. Magliette thanked every for attending the meeting. August 13 is the Meet N' Greet Veterans Breakfast at the Golden Egg, beginning at 7:30 a.m. August 20 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Meet N' Greet Dinner at the Surf Diner at Surfside Beach Pier. Surf Diner is giving all participants a 10-percent discount. South Strand Helping Hand food drive continues throughout the month. Many donations have been made. Many people are taking donations directly to Helping Hand, 812 South Poplar Drive, which indicates that people now know its location in town. Just a few years ago, no one knew where it was located. God bless and have a good night.

Ms. Mabry thanked everyone for attending and said it was good to see everyone. She was looking forward to some sunshine and would see everyone soon.

Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for attending. He was happy at this meeting, because there was no budget amendment. (*Laughter*) He thanked everyone for being involved. God bless.

Mr. Stevens thanked everyone for attending. God bless you all.

Mr. Johnson, who is a professional insurance agent, addressed Mr. Walton's comments saying he felt confident that this council would not make any changes until the federal government and/or the state government issued directives. The town's staff was working diligently to keep up with the process, and steps were taken to ensure the right actions were taken. He said Mr. Walton could rest assured that there would not be any "knee-jerk" reactions by Town Council. It was unfortunate that rats were being seen on the beach, as were the coyotes on 4th Avenue. He jokingly said it would be a good deal if the coyotes could go to the beach to get the rats! (Laughter) Not to make light of the rat sightings, if rats were determined to be a problem, then it should be addressed. Thank everyone for attending.

Mr. Childs said the reef project was moving along quickly, which was unusual for a government project. He thanked the town's House Representative, Nelson Hardwick, for his assistance, giving him all the credit for the quick response from the Department of Natural Resources. There was no hesitation at all from Mr. Hardwick when he was approached about the project. In response to Ms. Crone's question about resident groups using the civic center, the ordinance stipulates in paragraph 8.2 that "All citizens desiring to use the room have provided satisfactory proof of residency at the time the room is reserved. It shall be within the town's discretion what is deemed proof."

Mayor Samples thanked everyone for attending. He hoped everyone had a great summer. There has been too much rain, but it was needed.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss the appointment of a person to a public body (Stormwater and Senior Citizens Committees), and B. Pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss a contractual matter and pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss a personnel matters (added by approved motion, see agenda approval, item 3 above on Page 1.

Mr. Johnson moved to enter executive session at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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399 Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 8:27 p.m. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in 400 favor. MOTION CARRIED. 401 402 Mayor Samples said that no action was taken during executive session. 403 404 Mr. Johnson moved to appoint Mr. Steve Shore to the senior citizens committee. Ms. Mabry 405 seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. 406 407 12. ADJOURNMENT. 408 409 Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in favor. 410 MOTION CARRIED. 411 412 Prepared and submitted by, 413 414 415 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk 416 Approved: August 26, 2014 417 418 419 Douglas F. Samples, Mayor 420 421 422 Robert F. Childs, Town Council David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore 423 424 Mary M. Mabry, Town Council 425 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council 426 427 428 Ralph J. Magliette, Town Council Randle M. Stevens, Town Council 429 430 431 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes <u>summary</u> minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded. Audio 432 recordings are published on the town website after the meeting (approximately two weeks) until the minutes 433 are approved and published. You may download the recording to your personal computer from the website, 434 or bring a flash drive to the town clerk to obtain a copy. Appointments to hear or to obtain copies of 435 recordings should be scheduled with the town clerk, telephone 843.913.6333. In accordance with FOIA, 436 meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties. The agenda was 437 posted on the town website, the entry door at Town Council Chambers, and in the Town Hall reception area.

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Meeting notice was also posted on the Town marquee.