



SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
115 US HIGHWAY 17 NORTH, SURFSIDE BEACH, SC 29575
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TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 7, 2020, • 2:30 PM VIA TELECONFERENCE

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11 1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Hellyer called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. Mayor Hellyer, Mayor
12 Pro Tempore Scoles, Councilmembers Pellegrino, Drake, Dietrich, Holder, and Keating were in
13 attendance via telephone. Others present, Attorney Crosby, Town Administrator Pieper, and
14 Town Clerk Sheri Medina, also via telephone.

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16 2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Read by the Mayor.

17 1. Mayor and Members of Council: It is amazing what good work can happen in such a short
18 time when smart professionals are permitted to work in an unobstructed manner on behalf
19 of our Town? It is important that decisions are made with full knowledge and facts so that
20 our Town does not end up with many mistakes and lawsuits. Every decision does not need
21 to be made in haste. There is nothing wrong with digging in and asking questions before
22 decisions are made and without full knowledge to make certain the needs of the Town and
23 its residents are being met. We appreciate the due diligence shown by proper negotiation
24 for the best interest of our community. Regards, Judy Henion

25 3. **BUSINESS – NOTICE TO PROCEED/BID AWARD FOR BEACH SERVICES**

26 Mayor Hellyer made a motion to award the bid and to issue a notice to proceed with executed
27 terms as outlined by the Council. Councilmember Drake seconded. Mrs. Scoles stated for the
28 record that she did not appreciate the fact that the directive given by Council at the May 4
29 meeting regarding the negotiations with Mr. Bigam, yourself, and the Town Administrator was
30 not adhered to. I feel this action was disrespectful to Council, and any directive set by Council
31 going forward must be adhered to by all Council members. Mayor Hellyer stated it was directed
32 at the town Council meeting for Mr. Pieper, and I to negotiate the contract. Mr. Pieper and I
33 were in contact the whole time. It was one of the final aspects of the negotiations in which two
34 other Councilmembers came in. Mayor Hellyer stated that he would take the comment under
35 consideration for future negotiations. Councilmember Scoles thanked the Mayor; however, the
36 Council did not approve for two others to be in the negotiations. Not that it would not have
37 been approved, but Council was not asked. Councilmembers Drake, Scoles, Holder, Pellegrino,
38 Dietrich, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Mrs. Keating abstained. **Motion Carried**

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40 Councilmember Drake stated he was confused about comments that have been made regarding
41 the Beach Services contract. We asked to take time and look over this and go back, and people
42 got so upset about it. I think Mr. Bigam will do an excellent job. At our last conversation, we
43 don't have a recreation division that would be able to approve stuff. So that does not look good
44 on Surfside. We do have some issues with the pier. We're going to have a north and south side,
45 and construction going down the middle, you can't get on the beach at that point. So you have
46 to have some restructuring, and he understood that and is willing to work with that. I'm glad
47 that we can take things, put them on hold sometimes to think about it and to go back and look
48 at it. There's nothing wrong with that. The Fourth Avenue shed is shared. We want to put that
49 into this contract stating that he has full permission to use it because the police department and
50 the rescue use that area also. Mr. Mayor, I thank you very much for asking me to talk to him

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and to look at this and also understand that it wasn't doing anything wrong. The rushing into something without reading it and knowing what we're talking about is not a good thing for the Town in any way, shape, or form. I'm glad no one got hurt in the past when our Recreation Department would have been involved.

Councilmember Scoles stated, Mr. Drake, I agree with a lot of your comments, but the directive was for the Mayor and the Town Administrator to negotiate with Mr. Bigham. If we wanted to allow other Councilmembers to attend, it should have been brought back to the Council to change the directive. I feel that when the council gives a directive, to follow through with, for example, the pier, negotiations between the Mayor, yourself, and councilmember Pellegrino, no other Councilmember has stepped in and tried to do their own negotiations. Councilmember Drake stated the administrator was very aware of this. The Mayor had to make some choices. No one was doing anything wrong. He was trying to change the no votes to yes votes.

Councilmember Scoles stated she respects what he was trying to do. When the council gives a directive, it needs to be followed. If they would like to change it, it has to come back to the Council. Councilmember Pellegrino stated he doesn't know if a meeting was warranted to change the directive, but a heads up would have been nice. The rest of the council not knowing, is the problem. An email would have been nice. Councilmember Dietrich stated he agreed with Mrs. Scoles. It is not the point it happened; it's the point that no one knew it happened. Mayor Hellyer stated he wanted to express that he has heard everyone and their comments. I took a different perspective, and that is to do whatever it takes to get it done. I met with Mr. Bigham four times in the past 48 hours. I knew for the betterment of the Town, this contract needed to be done.

- 4. **ADJOURNMENT. Councilmember Scoles moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 PM. Councilmember Dietrich second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED**

Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert Heller, Mayor

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

Cindy Keating, Town Council

Michael Drake, Town Council

Debbie Scoles, Mayor Pro Tempore

Paul Holder, Town Council

Sheri L Medina
Town Clerk

100 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded,
101 and is not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the
102 town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive.
103 In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local
104 media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry
105 door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at
106 www.surfsidebeach.org and the town's LED marquee.
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