



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, May 12, 2020, • 6:30 pm VIA TELECONFERENCE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Hellyer called the emergency meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mayor Hellyer, Mayor Pro Tempore Scoles, Councilmembers Pellegrino, Drake, Dietrich, Holder, and Keating were in attendance via telephone. Others present Town Attorney Crosby, Town Administrator Pieper, and Town Clerk Sheri Medina also via telephone.
2. **INVOCATION; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - A. Invocation: Councilmember Pellegrino gave the invocation.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance: The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **PUBLIC HEARING - None**
4. **MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA** - Mayor Hellyer stated he is removing ITEM A from the agenda because it is an improper motion. There have been numerous questions about procedure and legality, and I believe it is in the public's interest to have it removed. It was also a suggestion to be removed by the town attorney so that that is not debatable. Mrs. Keating made a motion to add the Emergency Declaration to the agenda. Councilmember Drake seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.** Mayor Hellyer stated our current Ordinance was done on March 13. We had some restrictions on it and have been modifying our restrictions. This Ordinance is good for 60 days. If we let the Ordinance expire, then some of our businesses in town, including our Municipality, may not be eligible for grant money. So for that reason, I think that we should extend it. Mr. Pieper stated Conway took action on their Ordinance today, extending it for 60 days, North Myrtle's considering theirs tomorrow, and also the County tomorrow. Mrs. Keating made a motion to add the discussion of the Dog Ordinance and discussion of a community garden to the agenda. Councilmember Drake seconded. Councilmember Drake stated a lot of people have approached me on that and ask me about it. There are a lot of dog lovers in Surfside; we have to make sure beaches are kept clean. This change would allow dogs on the beach during the time frame that we don't have them on there right now. Councilmembers Keating, Drake, Holder, Pellegrino, Dietrich, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmember Scoles voted against. **Motion carried.**
5. **MINUTES APPROVAL** - Councilmember Holder made a motion to accept April 28, 2020, Regular meeting minutes, Councilmember Dietrich seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.** Councilmember Holder made a motion to accept the May 4, 2020 Emergency meeting minutes, Councilmember Dietrich seconded. Councilmember Scoles, Dietrich, Holder, Pellegrino, Drake, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmember Keating abstained. **Motion carried.**
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only**
7. **COMMUNICATIONS – None**
8. **BUSINESS**

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- 54 C. **FIRST READING-ORDINANCE #20-0220 - AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF LAND**
55 **LISTED AS 10' ALLEY SITUATED BETWEEN PIN # 461-03-01-0042 AND PIN # 461-03-01-0043.** Mr.
56 Pieper stated this is a parcel that Council had previously discussed. It is a 10-foot alley Easement that was never
57 used for drainage or a road. It's the same property owner on both sides of the parcel, and they've agreed to the
58 terms of Council. Councilmember Holder made a motion to accept the ORDINANCE #20-0220 for the sale of the
59 parcel on Dogwood Dr. Councilmember Drake seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**
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- 61 D. **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE.** Councilmember Drake stated that Mr. Pieper mentioned Conway extended 60 days
62 and that other towns will probably be doing the same. We do not need to add any more restrictions at all, and if
63 we need to decrease it, we can. Councilmember Drake made a motion to extend the Emergency Ordinance for 60
64 days. Councilmember Keating seconded. Councilmembers Drake, Pellegrino, Keating, Scoles, Holder, and Mayor
65 Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmember Dietrich voted against. **Motion carried.**
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- 67 E. **DOGS ON THE BEACH.** Councilmember Keating made a motion to modify the Dog Ordinance allowing dogs on
68 the beach from May 15 to September 15 to be consistent with Horry County's Ordinance that allows the dog on
69 the beach before 10 am and after 5 pm during that time. Councilmember Keating seconded. Councilmember
70 Drake stated residents like to go for a jog in the morning or a walk. Mayor Hellyer made a motion to add a Sunset
71 Clause that will allow us to bring it back to Council for review if needed after four months. Mr. Drake seconded.
72 Mrs. Keating asked, what's the duration of that review period? Mayor Hellyer stated I think what we need to
73 review it after one season and see how it works. Councilmember Pellegrino stated I think that's a good idea,
74 however the only problem we're going to have with people not picking up after their dogs. If this happens, we
75 will need to reconsider it. Mayor Hellyer stated I've put an amendment on it so that there's a Sunset Clause so
76 that that Ordinance is automatically reviewed after four months. Councilmembers Drake, Keating, Pellegrino,
77 Holder, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmembers Scoles and Dietrich voted against to allow dogs on the
78 beach. **Motion carried.** Councilmembers Dietrich, Drake, Pellegrino, Holder, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor.
79 Councilmembers Scoles and Keating, voted against the amendment for the Sunset Clause.
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- 81 F. **COMMUNITY GARDEN.** Councilmember Drake made a motion for Council to look into a Community Garden.
82 Councilmember Dietrich seconded. Councilmember Drake stated I think during the COVID 19; we've learned a lot
83 about how to help each other out. I'm talking about a vegetable garden, not flowers. The town could purchase
84 a lot somewhere. I would like to make the motion, too, for us to go into looking into a community garden or a
85 vegetable garden, to help out with our seniors, and also help out anybody for fun. We are growing fresh
86 vegetables. Mr. Dietrich seconded. Councilmember Drake stated I think that's something we can all go and do as
87 a community. And I think a lot of people might be very interested in donating their time to help out with it. I
88 spoke to John about it, and, you know, we've got to find the right piece of property to do this on, and it needs to
89 have plenty of sunshine and the least amount of trees. I'm going to need some help from people around here
90 that have got some equipment along with myself.
91 Councilmember Holder stated, I like the idea, but we're so late this year because most gardens are currently out.
92 If we purchased a piece of property, you'd be doing good to have this done in June, and then you're going to
93 need to find a way for how it's going to be watered. I want to make it a thing that we get the community
94 involved in it, and we can't do all of it right this second, but we've got to find a place to put it. The people are
95 going to help with the time we get around to probably putting it all together. Councilmembers Holder, Drake,
96 Keating, Pellegrino, Dietrich, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmember Scoles voted against. **Motion**
97 **carried.**
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100 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Town Services or Business Conducted - None**

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102 **10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS**

- 103 A. **Councilmember Holder** - Stated, I want to thank everybody for coming in today. I hope that people are
104 doing well with the Coronavirus. We have very few cases here, and I'm hoping people continue to do well, and
105 I'm happy that we do have people coming out, and we do have vacationers. This will help the business owners.
106 This week is going to be a big week. Have a great weekend.
107 B. **Councilmember Drake** – stated the residents are coming together with all the positive feedback that Council
108 is going to do a good job. And we as a Council are going to come together, make good decisions, and right
109 decisions for Surfside Beach to ensure that everyone is treated equally, what's right for one is good for all? I think

we can keep moving forward in that direction. Everybody, take care and help your neighbor if you ever need some help. Please reach out and give them a hand.

C. **Councilmember Keating** – stated, I'd like to thank everybody for joining our meeting. We've had quite a challenge for the last couple of weeks between understanding last-minute changes on our pier bid, and trying to update our contract with Beach Services to make sure the town is adequately protected from liability.

I would hope that we will try to be a better team of council members and work together. We need to be evaluating what's in the best interest of all and how do we move the town forward. How do we move forward in making sure we are branded, and that we operate as the family beach, as business-friendly, and as welcoming of our town? Right now, we have a lot of work to do, and we're not going to achieve it. If we can't find a way to, I think we've got a bright future, but we've got a lot of work to do.

D. **Councilmember Pellegrino** – stated, thank you very much for listening in tonight. It's good to have a larger audience, shows that people care, and I appreciate that. I had planned to make the motion to remove items A and B from the agenda, at the start, but the Mayor beat me to it, that's fine, but the reason why is because I do not think this was the right method, to pursue this. And in my almost seven years, every Council, we've never rescinded anything. So, I didn't think that was the right way to do it. Although, I think the right way to do it is to look at the existing Ordinance and make an amendment to parking in the existing Ordinance. I recommend that we ask the clerk to put together our workshop for next week for Chapter 17, with the Planning Commission.

Because right now, Governor McMaster is easing the restrictions.

E. **Councilmember Scoles** - I would also like to thank everyone that has called in tonight and for all their comments regarding the agenda items, and I was pleased to hear people saying this Council has got to come together, that we are the family beach, which I have always agreed with. Councilmembers may not agree on items, but it is important that not just Council members but for residents to understand before they make accusations implicating that someone is not doing their job, or they are doing it incorrectly they need to do their homework, that is just an unacceptable manner. Everyone, please stay safe during COVID-19 and have a good evening.

F. **Councilmember Dietrich** - stated folks thanks for stopping in tonight to listen to our conversation. I respect your opinions. I think the Council has got to figure out how to get along better, and we will. Thank you very much, and God bless. Have a great night.

G. **Mayor Hellyer** - stated, I will wrap it up by saying you know, we've had a tough last two months with all of the problems we had with that executive orders and closing our businesses and everything else. But as now, we're starting to open up, and I would hope that the residents here in town start to embrace businesses that are open and backup, embrace our tourists, embrace everybody that's coming down, but at the same time, keep your social distance. I want you to rest assured that we are looking to protect the residents here, and we are monitoring what's going on and making adjustments as necessary to keep everybody safe and healthy. Thank you for coming this evening,

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

12. ADJOURNMENT- Councilmember Dietrich made a motion to adjourn at 7:13. Councilmember Drake seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert Heller, Mayor

Town Council David L. Pellegrino, Town Council Bruce H. Dietrich,

Cindy Keating, Town Council Michael Drake, Town Council

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Debbie Scoles, Mayor Pro Tempore

Paul Holder, Town Council

Sheri L Medina
Town Clerk

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