

MINUTES
TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
Regular Called Meeting & Work Session
May 5, 2008
6:45 p.m.

Members Present

Mayor Ron Klein
Mayor Pro Tem Len Steiner
Councilman Ron Watts
Councilman Bob Bobinski
Councilman Lou DeVita
Councilman Wilson Sherrill

Others Present

Mike Isenberg , Town Attorney
Gary Parker, Town Administrator
Kim Cochran, Town Clerk

6:45 PM Work Session

Mayor Klein added under “Old Business Item b” for the Sunset at Sunset Committee to ask questions and get council instruction on particular items.

Parker submitted a resolution to Council on the Proposed Moratorium on Annexations that the NC House Select Committee is considering. They all felt this was a detriment to the Town. Council added item “F” under “New Business”.

DeVita provided an update on the proposed War Memorial. He and Parker had met with one of the owners, Mr. Frankovitch, and various other managing parties such as David Stewart and Calvin Riddle to ask if they would consider placement of this memorial in the park. He stated they were very receptive. They did have obvious concerns about issues such as liability insurance, leases and dedications. Riddle would provide a plat of the area at the Village Park. Their main concern was views and that it couldn’t interfere with the parking areas.

The other topic DeVita broached was pictures of the work the beautification committee had done on the medians and at the gazebo. They still had to do something about the plants, as they were discovering that the strong winds were blowing the sand right out of the parking lot and uncovering the bedded plants. They would have to come up with something to keep them in place.

Wilson Sherrill reminded everyone that the polling place has been permanently changed from Town Hall to the POA building at 200 Station Trail off of #179 beside Century 21.

Parker informed Council they were revising the signs at the beach access ways. The decision was made to do all lettering in black against a white background with the fireworks ordinance in red. Crim stated the cost was approximately 32.00 per sign and 100 signs would be ordered.

Steiner and DeVita asked if emphasis should be on the fine.

Watts felt the language was clean and there was no need to specify; either they would read it and care or not. He said Annie McNally had composed a flyer for rental companies to place in their books.

Steiner asked about the generator quotes and the specifics. Parker reminded him that Jeff Curtis dealt with the companies since he had experience and Jeff was out due to surgery. There was more discussion of which type and where the generators would be needed.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 pm

1 & 2. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE.

Mayor Klein called the meeting to order and led the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVE OR AMEND AGENDA

Council added "B" under "Old Business" and "F" under New Business.

4. MINUTES OF REGULAR CALLED MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING APRIL 7TH, 2008 AND EXECUTIVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 19, 2008 AND EXECUTIVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 7, 2008.

Motion by DeVita to adopt both sets of minutes with typo corrections given to the clerk, Seconded by Sherrill. Motion carried.

5. REPORTS:

- a. Administrator- None
- b. Police- see report. Chief Massey stated crime was increasing due to drug activity.
- c Public Works – see report attached
- d. Building Inspections- see report attached
- e. Fire- see report. Chief Barbee commented on the increased training programs and the fact they were flushing the fire hydrants and were almost finished.

Steiner commented on a hydrant that had been shutoff, and if it was known by the County, shouldn't they notify someone? Parker commented sometimes they did that illegally and the county didn't always know, but yes, they (the County) should have some sort of paperwork to track if this is done.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Consideration of Amending FY 07-08 budget for Purchase of Generators

Parker reiterated that this could be postponed until the workshop after Jeff Curtis returned as he was in charge of this. Parker stated the current generator was not sufficient to support the fire station in case of a hurricane and the police generator didn't work at all. Steiner asked about the tremendous difference in quotes, and didn't feel that the lowest was really the one to go with. Sherrill asked why this wasn't done at the time of the renovation. Watts stated they could consider splitting the purchase over a year or two and felt too, it was foolish not to have done this at the time of the building renovations. Council asked if

Cummins could be invited to the budget workshop. After more discussion, Council moved on to the next subject.

b. Proposed FY 08-09 Budget Presentation

Council set the budget workshop for May 12th at 1:00 pm. Parker briefed the public on the proposed budget set at 5.9 million and a reduced tax rate of 9.5 cents.

Mayor Klein stated they were considering a small fire dept. satellite unit somewhere on Hwy #904 that would hold a truck and a couple of men. This was not a duplicate of the central fire station.

c. Resolution Supporting Additional Funding of the NC Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development

Motion by Watts to adopt Resolution of Support of Tourism, Film and Sports Development, Seconded by Bobinski. Motion Carried.

d. Contract with County on Billing Ad Valorem Tax

Parker again briefed Council on the upcoming tax law changes and the county's proposal to bill and collect for municipalities. He submitted the cost the town was paying now to bill taxes and maintain the system which included personnel time. His recommendation was to allow county to bill.

Motion by Watts to sign contract with the County on Billing Ad valorem taxes, Seconded by DeVita. Motion Carried.

e. Seat Belt Awareness Resolution

Motion by Sherrill to adopt Seat Belt Awareness Resolution, seconded by Bobinski. Motion Carried.

f. Resolution Opposing a Moratorium on Municipal Annexations

Motion by Steiner to adopt resolution and direct it with a cover letter to Senator Soles and House Representatives and other members of the House Select Committee on Annexations, Seconded by Watts. Motion carried.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Update on Fire Station

Parker mentioned that they had spoke of this substation at the retreat in the area of Hwy #904 but had no firm idea of where it would be. Chief Barbee spoke of the substation and that the ISO and Dept.of Insurance recommended the area of Leak St. and Old Georgetown Rd. After more discussion, council moved on to the next topic.

b. Sunset at Sunset Committee Questions on procedure for Vendors

The committee had asked about food vendors at the Sunset at Sunset Celebration. Mike Isenberg informed Council their ordinance specifically prohibited this. There was discussion of if the town had an ordinance prohibiting peddling could they still do it for an annual town event. They also had to meet local and state health requirements. Carol Santavicca, committee member, spoke up and said that a lot of people were willing to sponsor but that meant they would have to take money on the town's behalf, which was probably not a good idea Isenberg said the town couldn't discriminate with different events or organizations. It would be safer supporting town sponsored events only. He would draft something for them, and over a longer period, they could draft something for others. Council concurred.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Rich Cerrato, resident, said he applauded Mr. Parker for setting the budget meetings in the afternoons for working people and providing a preliminary budget. He then stated we would have a black president before a black town employee. He wanted to know why no one mentioned the sewer meeting. There were a lot of angry citizens that couldn't pay this amount they were requesting and didn't have to. He asked Mr. Parker to formally secure a 25 year "betterment" bond for the people that didn't "live in Sea Trail" but in single wide trailers and small homes, so they could afford to stay here. This policy that this board advocated was going to displace a lot of people who aren't as fortunate and blessed as he, because he "could pay any tax you throw at me" but others couldn't. He then addressed Mr. Parker and stated the 2007 budget was 3.7 million dollars, it increased to 5 million last year, now you're proposing 5.9. Last year Mr. Steiner told them that 1.3 million dollars was due to a Katrina type event that we had to put in reserve accounts, but not one penny was put in reserve accounts. He stated that the money was allocated all across operating expense accounts. He stated the money wasn't for Katrina; it was for a 2.3 million dollar boat ramp that they (Council) never told us about. He felt that this board had no credibility; they have a tradition of lying to the people.

Mayor Klein excused Mr. Cerrato and told him his time was up.

Bill Hicks, Magnolia Dr, asked Council why they didn't bother to get environmental grants to pay for the sewer system. Grants were issued everywhere up and down the coast. They (the Council) represented them (the public), and they should do everything they could to do what they could to help them. He then asked Council to contact Brunswick County Electrical Authority about the generators, check and see what they have to offer. Mr. Hicks stressed that the current town ordinance on sewer systems, once we go on, provides we abandon our systems. If we had a severe hurricane and lost power, had anyone thought of what they were going to do with the waste after a couple of days? He asked them to look into putting a valve on the septic tank system where it could be cut on after a hurricane and go back onto the septic tank temporarily until the system was up and running again.

Joe Santavicca, Forest Dr., felt the town should look into changing their policy of the use of the fire dept. meeting hall. They used to pay Calabash \$35.00 to use theirs, but now that they were tax paying citizens, they should be able to use town facilities.

He stated that three people in their community got letters and were told they had to cut undergrowth.

Behind them in Ocean Harbor there were lots that hadn't been cut in years. Everyone should be treated equally. He then stated he felt that there should be recurring meetings with Mr. Parker and the POA's, whether monthly, quarterly, etc. just so they can discuss issues and problems that exist.

He then spoke on fireworks and asked why they hadn't used their code enforcement people? They could be on their four-wheelers or walking the beach which would help tremendously in catching those using fireworks. He then mentioned that the best thing was to have food donated to the festival.

Mr. Parker addressed Mr. Santavicca and said if any property owners association wished to speak with him to please call, he would be more than happy to speak with them and address their concerns.

Charlie Nern, 647 Oyster Bay Dr., said Mr. Sherrill was correct; this generator problem should have been taken care of at the time of the remodeling and construction of the new buildings. Who was responsible? The dept. head? The town manager? It seemed every year it was "oops, we need a ladder truck" or "oops, we need 2 new generators"....This involved our tax dollars. And the budget? He said he didn't know how many times, you "take from one departments budget and give it to someone else".....one department asks for nothing and the other asks for too much and it was a continual thing...Laughing about this was not foolish, it was idiotic.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INSTRUCT STAFF CONCERNING THE POSITION TO BE TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL IN NEGOTIATING THE PRICE AND OTHER MATERIAL TERMS OF A PROPOSED CONTRACT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND ALSO TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL ISSUE.

Motion by Watts to go into Executive Session for the above stated purpose, Seconded by Steiner. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to return to regular session by Steiner, Seconded by Sherrill. Motion carried.

Motion by Steiner to instruct Park to perform due diligence tests on property on Hwy #904 beside Sea Village owned by Ocean Side Corp. for the purpose of satisfying storm water run off regulation requirements, Seconded by Sherrill, Motion Carried.

No further action taken.

9. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by DeVita.

Adopted this ____ day of June, 2008.

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Mayor Ron Klein

Kim Cochran, Town Clerk

