

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH**  
**Regular Called Meeting, Public Hearing & Work Session**  
January 5, 2009  
6:45 p.m.

**Members Present**

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

**Others Present**

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

**6:45 PM Work Session**

The Town Administrator instructed Council he had placed the correct amendment to parking requirements at their desks. The one in the package did not highlight the changes in red....he reminded them they had adopted this at the last meeting but it had to come back for a second reading because it didn't receive a 2/3 vote approval.

Parker informed Council that he had received information from a lady at Holden Beach that they would be having their MS Bike Ride on May 9<sup>th</sup> and requested volunteer help from Sunset Beach when they ride through the town; such as police escort in front and behind, and any other businesses that wished to donate their time with water, food, etc. Parker stated he would pursue more information and get back to them. He also informed Council the NC League was having a meeting on legislative actions being taken. He and Watts would be attending and asked if any other Council wished to go. Bobinski and Klein said they would be attending. They would be leaving at 2:45.

The Council set the first Budget Retreat for February 11<sup>th</sup> at Sea Trail to begin at 9:00 am and ending around 5:00 pm.

Council asked for feedback on the ladder truck being worked on. Fire Captain Kevin Dempsey informed them it would be here in two weeks. They had found the problem, which was somewhere in the wiring harness. They were also touching up small nicks and scratches they found. They were using a replacement right now.

Mike Isenberg, asked Council to correct the wording in the minutes for section 8b concerning the adoption of the Special Sign District. It read that it was adopted "providing the requirements in D were met"....they *have* been met so the wording would be changed to adoption and "the confirmation that the items in "D" have been met".

**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. MINUTES OF REGULAR CALLED MEETING ON DECEMBER 1, 2008 AND THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING ON DECEMBER 15, 2008.**

Motion by Watts to adopt both sets with the wording correction for 8b in the December 1 minutes as stated above, Seconded by Sherrill. Motion Carried.

**4. Approval of Agenda.** No changes made.

**5. S. PRESTON DOUGLAS –PRESENT 2007-2008 AUDIT**

Johnny Britt, Owner of S. Preston Douglas presented the Fiscal Year Audit. He stated we were financially in great shape at the end of June 08. He touched on various sections and reported our total assets at 15.597 million. Our Liabilities were at 2.859 million which left a balance of 12.7 million. This gave the town a 20-1 ratio of revenues over expenditures and the town was in excellent financial shape. The Ad Valorem Tax rate of collection was 99.42% which was well above state average.

He reminded Council of the statute requiring 8% to be kept in fund balance but the LGC recommends a much higher balance because we are a coastal community.

Watts asked Britt about the lack of a policy regarding deposit risk. Britt pointed out that the way the state required us to invest

protected us, so it wasn't really necessary to have a written policy unless Council just wanted to have one.

Britt stated the ABC Board also was in excellent shape and was getting even better because of the new location.

Steiner asked if there was a report this year about backup help. Britt said that that was standard comment. It relates to having a small staff and segregation of duties. Everyone was cross trained so that was not much of an issue. A lot of towns have small staffs and everyone has to be cross trained on other jobs to keep the risk at a minimum, (i.e., someone bringing in mail, another posting checks, and still another writing checks), which Sunset Beach continues to do.

Motion by Steiner to accept the 2007-2008 Audit Report, Seconded by Bobinski. Motion Carried unanimously.

**6. REPORTS:**

- a. Administrator- None
- b. Police- report attached.
- c. Public Works – report attached
- d. Building Inspections- report attached attachment 1
- e. Fire- - report attached

**7. NEW BUSINESS: None**

**8. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Consideration of Amendment to Chapter #151.077 Table 1  
Off Street Parking Requirements**

attachment 2

Steiner stressed he was still very much opposed to the congregate care parking requirements. He felt there should be two spaces per independent living unit instead of one. Sherrill felt the two spaces for ATM's was overkill. Watts stated this should be adopted as we needed a starting point. These were only required minimums. A business such as congregate care could increase it to 125% of the minimum if they wished.

Motion by Watts to adopt Amendment to Chapter 151.077 as proposed, Seconded by Bobinski.

In Favor -Watts, Bobinski, DeVita, Sherrill

Against –Steiner.

Motion carried.

**b. Certification of Mailing Sufficiency of Annexation Notices**

attachment 3

This was for information only from the Clerk certifying she had mailed notices of the Public Informational Meeting in February and the Public Hearing on the Proposed Annexation of Beach Dr.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *(This is an opportunity for citizens to make comments on a matter on the agenda, or on any matter of concern, but there is no dialogue with Council at this time, nor is it an opportunity to engage in questions and answers. If you wish to have an item placed on the agenda for discussion, please contact the Town Clerk)*

Ann McNally had a list of requested topics for the Council to consider at budget time such as recycling a change of garbage pickup, and scooper stations on the island accessways. See written request incorporated by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Carole Scott commented also on the recycling and at how renters were surprised at the lack of it here. She felt maybe small cans at each house for a minimum charge would be good.

Charlie Nern, 647 Oyster Bay stated Waste Management should not be charging as much as they do for recycling pickups because *they* were making money on the recyclables not us.

Sybil Kesterson said her family had gone to the planetarium over the holidays and the feedback was not good. Watts asked her if she felt we should spend taxpayers money to help .Kesterson replied she just didn't feel the base population was enough to meet their needs. Where she moved from they had a wonderful planetarium that was funded by community support and a lot of grants. She just didn't know what would be the proper thing for the Town to do.

Charlie Nern commented that he was offended at the way the planetarium had asked for money.

Karen Josephs, Sandpiper Bay, said she was surprised at the lack on initiation on the Planetariums part. They had an obligation to reach out. She felt they didn't publicize sufficiently.

Watts interjected that in reference to the recycling, the biggest abuse of it was off season. People were throwing mattresses, refrigerators, etc. in the bins and it came back on us to self police this.

**10. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn by Watts, Seconded by Bobinski. Motion carried.

Adopted this 2nd day of February, 2009.

**TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH**

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*Mayor Ron Klein*

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*Kim Cochran*, Town Clerk

