

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH**  
**Regular Called Meeting, Public Hearing & Work Session**  
February 2, 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**

Parker added to Council's agenda two new items, 1) a Resolution Authorizing Mosquito Control Official and 2) a Budget Amendment from the Finance Director regarding the purchase of the boat ramp. These new items will be f. and g under New Business.

Mayor Klein remarked that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressman McIntyre held a meeting in Bolivia to garner insight from citizens about the proposed infusion of money the government was to distribute. He (McIntyre) stated that he voted it down as it would have very little effect on rural areas....it was only going to trickle down to our areas with little impact.

DeVita remarked that Atlantic Telephone had already distributed the capital credit refund checks to help with the economy.

**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-** Two new items added (f) and (g). See above.

**4. MINUTES OF REGULAR CALLED MEETING ON JANUARY 9, 2009.**

**Motion** by Bobinski to adopt minutes as presented, Seconded by DeVita. Motion carried.

Mayor Klein read an email from Jim and Darlene Kennedy thanking the town for the new walkway at 40<sup>th</sup> st. and the doggy stops.

## **5. REPORTS:**

a. Administrator- Donna Rogers, Finance Director gave a briefing to Council on where the town stood as of the second quarter of the fiscal year (through Dec.) She stated that the town was still in good financial shape but we could start seeing changes the next couple of quarters. We had spent approximately 48% of our budget (minus capital expenditures) over halfway through the year, which was right on schedule. See report hereby incorporated by reference and made part of these minutes.

b. Police- report attached. Chief Massey reported the US Marshals office was looking for three suspects in the rape and kidnapping that happened a couple of weeks ago on the island.

c. Public Works – report attached. Dustin Graham reported the new handicapped access walkway 1802 E. Main St. (40<sup>th</sup> st) and two new doggy stops they had put out.

d. Building Inspections- report attached

e. Fire- - report attached. Chief Barbee stated that we may have an AFG grant coming our way for \$43,000. The town would have to match 5% for the new compressor. He would report what happens.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **a. Appointment to Planning Board ETJ Alternate Vacancy**

**Motion** by Watts to recommend Sybil Kesterson as Alternate ETJ member to the County, Seconded by Sherrill. Motion Carried.

### **b. Discussion of Sewer Assessment Financing**

Parker explained that the Town representatives discussed with County staff and the URS engineers the alternative of taking advantage of HB 1770 (passed in 2008) which allows a County to permit installment payments of assessments over as long as a 30 year period of time. However, after much discussion with the engineers and the County Finance Director, Town officials came to the conclusion that it would number one, be unlikely that we'd receive a petition from 50% of property owners and who must represent at least 66% of the assessed value of all real property affected by the project. Sherrill felt we needed to be as benevolent to the citizens as possible. Bobinski stated he thought most citizens would want a 30 years bond. After much discussion Council agreed to move ahead but do everything they can to keep cost as low as possible.

### **c. Beautification Committee Mission Statement and Site and Decorating Criteria as of 2008**

DeVita explained the draft proposed Mission Statement and decorating criteria. Steiner asked that something be done to fix up Town Hall in the process of the Committee's work.

**Motion** by Watts to accept the mission statement for the Beautification Committee, Seconded by watts. Motion Carried.

### **d. Consideration of Applying for SAFER Grant**

Chief Barbee and Administrator Parker explained the changed situation with the grant in terms of the economy changing things so that other towns are turning back the grants. This raised the possibility of us getting a grant after having already being turned down previously. Watts asked Chief Barbee why he had asked for 9 firefighters. Barbee stated he knew they would eventually need nine but was hoping he could ask for nine and get three. That was his goal. Also they would be needing nine eventually for the second station. They follow the two in, two out rule, and he thought that asking for them now for the second fire station would put them ahead of the game. Parker said that given the costs for more firefighters and the slow-down in development, he was proposing going for three firefighters at this time. After more discussion, **Motion** by Steiner to go ahead and apply for three men, Seconded by Sherrill. Motion Carried.

**e. Review of Additional Properties for Fire Station #2**

The Chief had looked at three new properties in the vicinity of Hwy 904 for the second fire station. Motion by Watts to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into negotiations with Sunset Park, LLC on one of their properties located in the vicinity of Lowe's Foods Store. Seconded by Steiner. Motion carried.

**f. Budget Amendment**

Rogers explained this amendment was required to move the money due to the boat ramp purchase. They had received the first \$500,000 from the CAMA grant. We had not received anything from the county yet. They had spread theirs out over two years.

Motion by Steiner to adopt budget resolution. Seconded by DeVita. Motion carried.

**g. Resolution Authorizing Official in Charge of Mosquito Control**

Motion by Watts to appoint Larry Crim as Official in Charge of Mosquito Control.

**8. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**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)*

Bill Ehling, Shoreline Woods stated he was sick and tired of getting no answers about the sewer system. The county will not tell him anything. His understanding was it would be a 10 year loan at 2% interest.

He then brought up the 4 or 5 small ponds behind his house and asked if the town could find money to help with *their* pond.

Jean Hutchinson stated she was very happy with the idea of sewer coming in but not everyone could afford \$10,000. We need someone to help and strongly encouraged Council to keep looking for that help.

Vernon Pryce, 425 WaterOak Wynd asked why were they using three ways to run sewer. We did not need any grinder pumps and felt no one else would either...it's something the citizens would have to maintain, which causes them to come get a permit.etc..... grinder pumps were not worth the trouble. (Mayor pointed out that under a newly-approved County policy all sewer users would be billed \$5 per month for maintenance, and that any grinder pump maintenance needs would be handled by County.)

Carol Scott, 1214 Main St. E, commented she had great respect for Council but they need to consider the great economic distress we're in. A lot of people cannot get loans to pay for the sewer.....she then suggested they poll residents to see if they wanted a 30 year assessment repayment loan. She understood the town was in good shape financially but the citizens are not. She encouraged them not to undertake the building of a second fire station. This needed to be postponed. She encouraged the Council to find out HOW the sewer was going to be assessed and for how much.

(Parker explained that both the Town and County had extensively researched what grants, if any, are available to alleviate people's costs, and none could be found except the Hook-Up Grant program the State offers to help defray a person's costs of running private lines from their homes to the public sewer.)

**10. ADJOURN**

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

Adopted this 2nd day of March, 2009.

**TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH**

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*Mayor Ron Klein*

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*Kim Cochran*, Town Clerk

