

MINUTES
TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
Budget Workshop/Special Called Meeting & Executive Session
May 12, 2008
1:00 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

Gary Parker, Town Administrator
Larry Crim, Asst. Admin
Kim Cochran, Town Clerk
Building Inspector Jeff Curtis
Police Chief Lisa Massey
Fire Chief Chris Barbee
Public Works Superintendent, Dustin Graham

1. CALL TO ORDER-Mayor Klein Called the workshop to order.

2. GENERATOR ITEM –

Jimmy Gargano with Cummins Atlantic Generators presented a quote for two new generators at a cost of \$125,000. They have a five year warranty. The town generator would be a 230 KW and the fire station 200 KW and they will operate all systems needed during a storm event. There was also a two year service agreement offered at an additional cost. The cost of the service agreement is to be provided later in the day to be included in the 2008-2009 budget.

Sherrill asked if the old one at the fire station was still usable for what they needed at the maintenance building. Gargano responded yes, however, he would evaluate to be certain.

Parker asked Council if they wished to purchase both now, since hurricane season started June 1, as they had it in the budget, or wait until July 1.

Motion by Steiner to purchase and install 2 generators now out of the 07-08 budget, Seconded by Bobinski. Motion carried.

3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Kathy Altman with the Chamber of Commerce spoke first on their request for a donation. She handed out visitors guides and stated their goal now was to focus on the business community. They were requesting donations from all municipalities which would go toward day to day operations. She stated the Chamber now had links to the

town's website and would be focusing on editorials to go with those links. She asked for feedback from Council on what they needed from the Chamber as a partnership. Steiner stated that in the past years the town had donated the bulk of the money to the chamber and wanted to know where the other towns stood now. Altman gave a breakdown of several towns. She stated too, that some small towns did not have the budget for it. Other towns had chambers of their own, such as Southport and Oak Island and they didn't expect anything from them. Council thanked Ms. Altman for her time.

Parker announced that in light of utilizing the town attorney's time wisely, they should go ahead with their executive session before proceeding with the budget.

1:30 p.m.

Motion by Steiner to go into **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**, Seconded by Bobinski. Motion Carried.

Motion by Sherrill to return to regular session, Seconded by Watts. Motion Carried.

Mayor reported that staff was given guidelines in regard to the acquisition of real property.

The Council and staff then began the discussion and deliberation on the proposed FY2008-2009 budget. Parker highlighted the various department items.

Police Department – Chief Massey discussed the future need for cameras to be installed in each car that patrolled for their and the town's safety. Council agreed. Chief Massey explained that the two new cars requested, would be replacing the oldest vehicles and they were on state contract packages. Ford no longer sold the Crown Vics so they would have to go with Dodge Chargers. Council approved four patrol cars for cameras installed at the Chief's quote of \$12,000.

Fire – Council inquired about the large salary increase in the salary budget. Barbee explained they had three additional employees who were approved and hired in January in this year's budget. There was discussion of a new 2009 Tahoe the Fire Chief had requested. Watts and other Council felt a 2008 would be sufficient if priced less than a 2009. Finance stated if it was over 30,000 it would have to go out for 3 bids.

Watts asked the Chief where he felt the fire department was headed, whether it was toward more EMS services and training. Chief Barbee stated no, he felt that fire training was more important.

Building Inspections- Watts asked the Building Inspector to justify to Council not reducing staff in his department in light of the lower permit fees received in this current year, to which he and the Administrator did. Curtis stated new home inspections were down but they were very active in commercial units, reinspections and CAMA permitting.

Parker, Rogers and Cochran described the troubles with the software that the town has had since 1999. They felt it was antiquated and not meeting the needs of the town. There were too many errors that had to be fixed and could never be adequately explained. Even the auditor had commented that we needed to think about buying newer software. Council agreed.

There was minor discussion of a bulkhead that Crim was waiting for CAMA to give a permit on. He wasn't sure it would happen this year so it was in the budget for the next.

Council raised the topic again of the Chamber of Commerce. Steiner suggested leaving it at \$15,000 this year. If it didn't perform then they could cut it back next year.

The \$500,000 allocated for dredging would not happen. We had not received enough petitions to go forward. There had only been 36 received. Council discussed Tubbs Inlet and the need for dredging. They agreed to leave 50,000 in and discuss with Ocean Isle beach the dredging topic and see if they had any plans to dredge so we could contract while the dredge was in the area.

There was discussion about the right-of-way on twin lakes and the survey Fluegel was supposed to have had done. Watts said there was flagging there so someone had surveyed it. Council knew there was little to no parking except in the right of way and they had to decide if they wanted to take advantage of it and disturbed the views of the lakes or not.

Planetarium- Ingram Planetarium had requested \$40, 0000 this year. Council agreed to give them \$15,000 and let them know that it was inevitable that the contributions would stop at some point. In addition, Hope Harbor and Communities in Schools each would receive \$1,000.

Council recessed meeting at 5:20 p.m. and would reconvene again on Tuesday 13, at 3:30 p.m.

Adopted this _____ day of June, 2008.

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Mayor Ron Klein

Kim Cochran
Town Clerk

