

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
Special Called Town Council Meeting

November 19, 2008

3:00 pm

Members Present

Mayor Ron Klein

Len Steiner, Mayor Pro Tem

Councilman Ron Watts

Councilman Bob Bobinski

Councilman Wilson Sherrill

Councilman Lou DeVita

Others Present

Gary Parker, Administrator

Kim Cochran, Town Clerk

Jeff Curtis, Building Inspector

Mayor Klein called the meeting to order, and Mr. Parker introduced Scott Kucera, Executive Director of the Ingram Planetarium/Ocean Isle Beach Museum Foundation. Mr. Kucera then introduced Tom Deacon, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Drew Riggor, Special Effects Technician, Jerry Rothenberg, Treasurer, and Tom Smith, Business Development Planner for the Planetarium.

Tom Deacon gave a presentation on the planetarium and its desire to ensure additional funding from the Town for the new digital equipment being purchased. The planetarium was moving from analog to digital (just as the FCC had done with television), which would greatly improve its presentations. He spoke of increasing the scope, quality and delivery of both the Ingram Planetarium's and Sunset Beach's entertainment offerings. They were there also as a motivational and educational tool.

There was much discussion of how many of Brunswick County's 19 municipalities contributed and whether the County itself had contributed. Mr. Kucera stated the county had just contributed \$20,000 this year. They had stopped over the years because they stated they did not fund non-profits.

The School Board also used the facility quite often to educate children. They had just lifted the moratorium on field trips so they hoped it would help increase funds, but generally 80% of their income was from tourism. There were only twelve planetariums in the state and two were private; themselves and Catawba County.

More discussion ensued and Watts stated that while it was a very worthwhile effort, in his opinion, the town shouldn't be contributing to the operating budget. He felt they should, however, receive the additional \$15,000 amount Council set aside in case they did purchase the digital equipment. He congratulated them on the acquisition of the much needed digital equipment and inquired whether they felt they could support themselves at a later time.

After more discussion, Council would add this to the Agenda for December 1st for consideration.

Parker then began the discussion on the next item which was the proposed Streetscape on Sunset Boulevard on the island. He referred the Council to the pictures in the agenda packet and addressed a possible schedule on doing the work and how it could be funded. EarthGraphics did the design shown in the pictures, and the Town would have to get some quotes on the cost for specific plantings from some landscapers. The work would have to be coordinated with the installation of sewer on the island and also with NCDOT as to the use of their ROW and the type of plantings. Also, an encroachment agreement and a maintenance agreement would have to be entered with DOT. In addition to Town funds, the funding could include NCDOT enhancement grant dollars, possible DOT bridge landscaping dollars, and perhaps contributions from abutting property owners if deemed appropriate.

There were questions from several citizens present who pointed out that this was still at the design stage, and thought plantings other than those shown would be more appropriate. The Council consensus was that this was just beginning the planning process that would go on for several more months and that construction wouldn't occur until sometime in 2010 or 2011. The Council decided to appoint a committee of 5-9 people to work on the project and come up with a specific plan for Council approval. The appointment of this committee was added to the December 1 agenda for Council decision.

Adopted this the 1st day of December ,2008.

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Ronald F Klein, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Cochran, Town Clerk

