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MINUTES
TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
Regular Called Meeting, Public Hearing & Work Session
June 30, 2008
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

Gary Parker, Administrator asked Council to add consideration of Resolution Opposing Repeal of Powell Bill Funds under Item "E". Item added. In addition, he asked that they add Item "F"- Consideration of approval of land purchase of boat ramp at 101 N. Sunset Blvd. Item added.

Parker stated they had received only one resume for the Fireman's' Fund Relief Board opening.

Chief Barbee stated he had the ladder truck brought up to Town Hall for anyone that wished to see it.

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 Item "E" Resolution of Opposition to Repeal of Powell bill funds and Item "F"- Consideration of approval of land purchase of Boat ramp.

**4. MINUTES OF REGULAR CALLED MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
JUNE 2, 2008 AND EXECUTIVE SESSION JUNE 2, 2008.**

Motion by Bobinski to adopt both sets of minutes, Seconded by Steiner. Motion carried unanimously.

5. PUBLIC HEARING:

a. Fiscal Year Budget and Tax Rate

Parker read his budget summary which is hereby incorporated by reference and made part of these minutes.

Richard Cerrato, Shoreline Dr, read a prepared statement opposing the budget, which is incorporated by reference and made part of these minutes.

Parker responded to some of Mr. Cerrato's accusations and inaccuracies with facts about the budget. 1). He informed him that 500,000 had not been set aside to pave Angel's Trace Rd, which is a private street and thereby illegal for the town to pave. 2).Twin Lakes homeowners came to the town every year and asked for donations to help with the algae problems in the lakes. They take care of it entirely themselves. We do donate monies, and they are treated as any other non-profit organization that receives donations from the town. 3). The medical insurance was not for one individual. Many years ago Council adopted a policy to cover long term employees, i.e., ones that had been with the town 25 years or more, with medical coverage until they reached Medicare age. This was not for one employee but for all employees.

6. REPORTS:

a. Administrator- Parker reminded Council there was a Mayor/Managers meeting on July 22. The County had invited DOT to talk about the Old Georgetown Road Extension. Parker asked Council to officially appoint members of the Sunset at Sunset Celebration committee. Watts asked if this was going to be a stand alone entity. Parker stated they preferred to allow the event to include vendors on a smaller scale compared to the Oyster Festival. The non-profit idea had been set aside for now. **Motion** by Steiner to appoint Karen Joseph, Marci Berry, Carol Santavicca, Ann Bokelman, Jean Hutchinson, Donna Piatek, and Bev Williams to the steering committee for the Oct 4th event, Seconded by Bobinski. Motion Carried.

Town Clerk submitted to Council the only resume' received for the Fireman's Fund Relief Board, which was from Allen Rundall. Council wished to meet with Mr.Rundall on a Wednesday, either the 9th or the 23rd after 3:00 pm.Clerk will contact Mr. Rundall and let the Council know of the date and time.

Parker informed Council that Councilman Bazemore used to be the town's representative to the Brunswick Beaches Consortium and now they needed a replacement. **Motion** by Bobinski to appoint Wilson Sherrill, Seconded by Steiner. Motion carried.

b. Police- See Report attached. Chief Massey informed Council she would have six officers working Friday night, July 4th and they would be performing checks and stops of vehicles to check for fireworks.

c. Public Works – See report. Mayor Klein read two letters of appreciation from citizens about the handicap access and the surf chairs.

d. Building Inspections: See report attached.

Watts asked about the bridge. Crim said the construction co. was going to try and finish up what they had pushing on Thursday night in anticipation of July 4th weekend.Sherrill asked what the status was on the generator. Curtis said the transfer switches were put in this week and the generators were slated to be here July 6th.

c. **Fire-** no report submitted.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Amendment to the Vendor Ordinance

Parker reminded all that this had to do with the Sunset at Sunset event. It allow vendors only at this event or one similarly sponsored. Sherrill informed them that starting July 1, all food vendors had to have a health permit from the County before they could serve.

Motion by Watts to adopt amended vendor ordinance 110.02(b). Seconded by Sherrill. Motion carried.

Motion by Steiner to set application fees of 20.000.Council felt 25.00 was more appropriate.
Steiner withdrew motion.

Motion by Steiner to approve the vendor ordinance with the addition of a 25.00 application fee. Seconded by Watts. Motion Carried.

Motion withdrawn with consent of Watts.

Motion by Steiner to approve the ordinance with the addition of a 25.00 application fee, with an exception for non-profit organizations. Seconded by Watts. Motion carried.

b. Options of Assessing Property Owners on Wastewater Collection System Costs

Parker recommended to County to allow installment payments over 10 years with the lowest interest rate possible. He stated the County found that bonds would add substantially to the cost and were not an option at this point. There was much discussion among Council. They felt they had not gone all the way in searching for more reasonable and cheaper ways to finance this project. They asked Parker to request a meeting with the County on July 23rd.

c. Amendment to FY 2007-2008 Current Year Budget

Donna Rogers, Finance Director, gave a brief description of each amendment done at Council request.

d. Resolutions on Amending Special Revenue Funds

Motion by DeVita to adopt amendment "c" and all three Special Revenue Fund amendments in "d". Seconded by Steiner. Motion carried.

e. Resolution Opposing Powell Bill Repeal

Mayor Klein read the Resolution.

Motion by DeVita to adopt Resolution and send to all appropriate legislators, Seconded by Sherrill. Motion Carried.

f. Consideration of Land Purchase of Boat Ramp at 101 Sunset Blvd. N.

There was discussion of the negotiations with Sunset Bridge Partners on the property at the bridge at 101 N. Sunset Blvd. All parameters were followed and a contract was signed for 1.9 million along with a report of no environmental issues. Steiner asked if all did not go according to plan, such as the strip of marshland being titled to the town, can it be terminated. Parker stated that a contingency to the contract is that the Town will have direct access to the waterway over the privately owned strip of marshland.

Motion by Watts to accept the contract with Sunset Bridge Partners for 1.9 million, Seconded by Sherrill. Motion carried.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Adoption of FY 2008-2009 Budget and adopt 2008-2009 Tax Rate

Watts spoke and said he felt that with the new fire fee being raised, we need to consider reducing the tax rate again from 9.5 cents to 9 cents. He felt it would be prudent. It was only \$125,000 in light of a windfall of \$300,000 gain from fire fees.

Steiner stated the economic situation may go into next year and now the state may be cutting our funds and he was against lowering the rate again.

After more discussion, Motion by Watts to adopt the budget with a tax rate of 9 cents. Seconded by Sherrill.

Call of votes:

In Favor: Councilman Watts, Councilman DeVita, Councilman Sherrill

Against: Councilman Steiner, Councilman Bobinski

Council discussed where to make the corrections on the budget and where to remove the \$125,000. After instructions were given to Finance, Motion by Watts to adopt the budget with the .09 cents rate, Seconded by DeVita. Motion Carried.

b. Brief Discussion of Website Business Links

After brief discussion of what was or wasn't wanted on the website, Watts and DeVita asked to meet with the Town Clerk at a later date to discuss possibilities.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

William Ehling, Shoreline Dr.E, spoke against the assessment. He felt it was going to be much too high.

Carol Santavicca, asked Council to please make sure the non-profit groups were listed as "charitable/community service" as that was their intent. Council would have Parker refine definitions. She also asked that the Sunset at Sunset committee have a place to have approval first for vendors as they would be allotting booths.

Bob Seader, spoke against the high cost of the sewer project. He said he didn't know how some people were going to pay. He wanted to come to their meeting on the 23rd. He stated they had contacted people at the state level that would show them a bond or grant. If they did come, who were they supposed to talk to? Watt suggested giving the information to the Council first.

Bill Oakley, Shoreline Dr, asked if there was an ordinance on mobile homes. He stated that some behind town hall had trees growing through the roofs and some were overrun by rats, roaches ,and mopeds. Something had to be done. Curtis asked Mr. Oakley to give him addresses and he would check them out. They had to be serious hazards before you could condemn a home.

Charlie Nern, reminded Council that 8% was what the town charged for their assessments. He felt more should be done about the recycling issue.

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.

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

Council returned to open session.

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

No action taken.

9. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Bobinski.

Adopted this ___ day of August 2008.

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Kim Cochran, Town Clerk

Mayor Ron Klein

