

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Special Meeting  
June 19, 2012  
6:45 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Mayor Richard Cerrato, Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita, Councilman Wilson Sherrill, Councilwoman Karen Joseph, Councilman Mike Williams, and Councilwoman Carol Scott.

**Members absent:** None

**Attorney & Staff Present:** Gary Parker, Town Administrator; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief; Donna Rogers, Finance Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Lisa Massey, Police Chief, and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita called the Special Meeting to order.

**Public Hearing – 2012/2013 Proposed Budget**

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO OPEN THE 2012/2013 PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Mayor Cerrato arrived at 6:48.

Mayor Cerrato called for public comments on the 2012/2013 Proposed Budget.

**Len Steiner 613 Kings Trail** – Voiced concerns that the fund balance was rapidly depleting due to the number of current projects and capital expenditures included in the 2012/2013 proposed budget. Suggested Council delay the start of some of the projects for future years.

**Charles Nern 647 Oyster Bay Drive** – Voiced support for the salary increases and longevity bonuses included in the 2012/2013 proposed budget.

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE 2012/2013 PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Consideration for Adoption of the 2011/2012 Budget Ordinance Amendment**

Gary Parker advised that the 2011/2012 Budget Ordinance Amendment is needed due to the Canal Avenue expenditures for the right of way purchase to correct the road placement, park property purchase and excessive postage due to numerous mailings.

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2011/2012 BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT. COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Consideration for Adoption of the 2012/2013 Budget Ordinance and the 2012/2013 Tax Rate at 10.5¢ per \$100 Valuation**

The Council discussed the 2% COLA, 2% Merit and 1% Longevity Bonus included in the proposed budget for the employees. Mayor Cerrato, Councilwoman Scott and Councilman Williams voiced that in their opinions the percentages included are excessive due to the increases provided in past years and proposed a 2% COLA only. Mayor Cerrato, Councilwoman Scott and Councilman Williams stated that in their opinions the increases were out of whack with what other jurisdictions have done in the past and are doing this year, that the current budget was not providing for anything going into funding long range goals, that salary increases remain a permanent part of future budgets, and that the citizens of this community have not seen any increases in their income for quite some time. Councilwoman Joseph and Councilman Sherrill voiced that in their opinions the staff salaries are not excessive, that the low employee turnover rate is beneficial to the Town from a training cost standpoint, and that the employees deserve the percentages proposed. Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita advised that 21% of the employees are at the minimum salary range for their positions; 38% of the employees are between the minimum and 1<sup>st</sup> quartile of their salary ranges which demonstrates that the employees are not overpaid and, therefore, deserving of the proposed percentages. Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita reminded the Council that the Town has not provided a merit raise for the employees in the past three (3) budgets and that the Salary Ranges have not been increased by the COLA increases given.

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED 2012/2013 BUDGET ORDINANCE TOTALING \$6,385,819 AS PRESENTED. COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA, COUNCILMAN SHERRILL AND COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH VOTED YES. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS AND COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO SET THE 2012/2013 TAX RATE AT \$.105 PER \$100 VALUATION. COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment**

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 19, 2012 SPECIAL MEETING. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Town of Sunset Beach**

**Richard Cerrato, Mayor**

Submitted by:

**Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk**