

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Monthly Council Work Session  
August 20, 2013  
9:00 am**

**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:** Donna Rogers, Interim Town Administrator/Finance Director; Cindi Stephenson, Deputy Finance Officer; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Thomas Bertolino, Beach Patrol Supervisor; and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Mayor Cerrato called the Work Session to order. Mayor Cerrato stated “Does any member of the Council have a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest with regard to any item on the agenda, and if so, please state so at this time?” No one spoke.

Mayor Cerrato requested that Beach Safety and Quality of Life Issues be added to the September 9, 2013 Agenda. The Council reached a consensus to determine what would be added to the upcoming agendas during the Beach Safety discussion later in this meeting.

**Public Comments**

Carol Santavicca 9109 Forest Drive – Requested Council to regulate the cabanas but not to ban them.

Carmel Zetts 402 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – Spoke in favor of regulating the cabanas but not banning them.

Richard Hilderman 407 37<sup>th</sup> Street – Spoke in favor of regulating the cabanas but not banning them.

Peter Jelstrom 886 Great Egret Circle – Requested Council to strength the ordinance regulating cabanas.

Bob Tone 9030 Sea Lane – Agreed that the ordinance regulating cabanas needs to be strengthened.

John Corbett 423 Sailfish Drive – Spoke in favor of regulating the cabanas but not banning them.

Ray Zetts 402 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – Requested Council to ban steel shovels on the beach strand.

**Mrs. Ann Hardy, Brunswick County Manager**

Mrs. Hardy updated the Council on the County goals and operational changes being made in several departments including the tax, planning and building inspections departments. Concerning the fire fee or fire tax, Mrs. Hardy advised that EMS and the fire departments are meeting, conducting a study and will be reporting the findings to her and the County Commissioners in February. Mrs. Hardy encouraged the Council to contact her office with any questions or concerns, or to request County assistance.

**Consideration of Adoption of the Resolution Honoring Ellis Hankins, Retiring NCLM Executive Director**

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION HONORING ELLIS HANKINS, RETIRING NCLM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Consideration of Adoption of the Proclamation of Constitution Week**

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE PROCLAMATION OF CONSTITUTION WEEK. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Brunswick Beaches Consortium Meeting Update**

Councilman Sherrill advised that the Brunswick Beaches Consortium met on August 15, 2013 and discussed the rip currents and beach safety. Councilman Sherrill advised that all of the Brunswick County Municipalities had representation at the meeting and the group discussed methods each municipal is using to inform visitors and residents of the dangers of rip current such as: distributing refrigerator warning magnets for rental properties, posting additional signs at public accesses, printing and distributing educational information and purchasing electronic signs to display warning messages. Councilman Sherrill stated that the municipal representatives expressed that they are not currently exploring, discussing or pursuing hiring life guards or implementing a flag warning system. Councilman Sherrill advised that the municipalities were in agreement with requesting the NC General Assembly to consider adopting Good Samaritan law for municipalities. Staff was requested to draft a Resolution concerning the Good Samaritan legislation for adoption by all Brunswick County municipalities. Donna Rogers, Interim Town Administrator/Finance Director advised that the rip current pamphlets and holders have been ordered and will be distributed to the merchants soon.

**Beach Safety Discussion including Ordinance 130.15 Shading Devices and Sporting Equipment on Beach Strand**

The Council discussed the placement of cabanas and tents on the strand as outlined by Ordinance 130.15 and heard concerns from Fire Chief Kevin Dempsey about emergency vehicle maneuverability on the strand. The Council reached a consensus to develop a list containing the issues and concerns raised by Council, Staff and the citizens that are related to the beach strand. Council reached a consensus to review the list in its entirety in an attempt to develop solutions to all of the issues and concerns. The list contains but is not limited to: emergency access, cabanas, beach patrol, police access, parking, ordinance enforcement, etc. Staff will prepare the list for distribution during the September 9, 2013 meeting and include the list on the September 24, 2013 Work Session agenda for further discussion.

**Public Comments**

Peter Jelstrom 886 Great Egret Circle – Requested email addresses for Council in order to email suggestions.

**Public Comments (Cont.)**

Carmel Zetts 402 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – Advised that the Turtle Patrol does two (2) educational programs weekly during the season, and advised that people digging and leaving holes on the beach is still an issue.

Ron Watts Shoreline Drive West – Requested education be added to the list.

Carol Santavicca 9109 Forest Drive – Questioned if rip currents occur without warning.

Ray Zetts 402 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – Suggested the Town consider purchasing a beach sweeping machine.

**Closed Session**

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO REVIEW THE RESUMES AND CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS AND FITNESS OF THE APPLICANTS FOR THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR POSITION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6). COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The Council met in Closed Session for approximately two (2) hours.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO RECONVENE THE WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 20, 2013 WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

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Richard Cerrato, Mayor

Submitted by:

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Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk