

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Monthly Council Work Session  
November 14, 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:** Gary Parker, Town Administrator; Sandy Wood, Building Inspections Department Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief; and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

**Agenda Amendments**

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO REMOVE THE CLOSED SESSION FROM THIS AGENDA, AND CALL A SPECIAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013 AT 1:30 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AND TAKING ACTION ON A PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH COASTAL COMMUNITIES REGARDING SECTIONS 1 AND 2 OF JAGUAR’S LAIR AND TO HOLD A CLOSED SESSION TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE FROM ATTORNEY ISENBERG PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) IF NEEDED. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Public Comments**

Richard Hilderman 407 37<sup>th</sup> Street – Distributed information concerning Mad Inlet, stated that the removal of the inlet hazard area designation could promote future development and encouraged the Council to oppose the removal of the inlet hazard area designation for Mad Inlet.

Tom Vincenz 422 36<sup>th</sup> Street – Encouraged the Council to consider the rights of the property owners and safety issues first when evaluating the parking issues; agreed that Mad Inlet needs to maintain its inlet hazard area designation to prevent future development.

Nina Marable 502 Northshore Drive – Advised that the island can’t accommodate all the parking needed, advised that the side streets are similar to neighborhoods, advised that paid parking and safe parking is needed for all.

Karol Asbjornson 407 37<sup>th</sup> Street – Advised that the parallel parking is working and we need to enforce what we have.

Mr. Fleming 416 36<sup>th</sup> Street – Questioned why the remainder of the Parking Committee recommendations has not been implemented.

Betty DeVall 428 5<sup>th</sup> Street – Supported the Council to eliminate side street parking, spoke of small community atmosphere on side streets and encouraged Council to eliminate Main Street parking.

Charlie Nern 647 Oyster Bay Drive – Agreed that Council needs to be concerned with safety first.

**Discussion Concerning the Removal of the Inlet Hazard Area Designation for Mad Inlet**

The Council discussed the information obtained during the CAMA Public Hearing concerning the removal of the Inlet Hazard Area Designation for Mad Inlet and reviewed the information provided by Richard Hilderman, citizen. The Council discussed the potential for future development and the associated cost to the Town if the Mad Inlet Hazard Area Designation was removed.

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP A RESOLUTION TO BE FORWARDED TO CAMA FOR ITS DECEMBER 12, 2013 MEETING OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OF THE INLET HAZARD AREA DESIGNATION FOR MAD INLET. COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Consideration of NCDOT Revised Speed Limit Reduction Resolution**

Gary Parker advised that NCDOT is requesting that the speed limit on Sunset Boulevard North be reduced prior to the curve at the Clubhouse Road entrance to Sea Trail citing current and future safety concerns, and the new commercial development on NC 179 business. Councilwoman Scott voiced safety concerns that the speed limit reduction would allow low speed vehicles to travel Sunset Boulevard North in that area.

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION REQUESTING NCDOT TO CONSIDER A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ON SUNSET BOULEVARD NORTH FROM A POINT 1,500 FEET NORTH OF STATION TRAIL TO SHORELINE DRIVE EAST AT SR 1172 (APPROACH TO MANNON C. GORE BRIDGE). COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA, COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS, COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH AND COUNCILMAN SHERRILL VOTED YES. COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

**Beach Topics Discussion**

**Emergency Responder requirements**

Fire Chief Dempsey advised that all of the Sunset Beach firefighters are CPR, EMT Basic, and Firefighter 1 & 2 certified, and have all certifications required by the state. Police Chief Massey advised that all of the Sunset Beach Police Officers are CPR certified. Chief Dempsey advised that 63% of this season's call volume necessitated that the responders access the strand from the access way located at the gazebo area. The responders experienced difficulty getting to the access way due to vehicles double parked in the loading/unloading lane blocking the access way, congestion and maneuverability of the large engines in the gazebo parking area. Chief Massey was requested to direct the officers to respond to the gazebo area when emergency vehicles have been dispatched there to clear a path.

**Traffic Control**

Chief Massey advised that traffic control has only been needed during Easter Sunday and occasionally on Saturdays during rental property change overs.

## **Beach Topics Discussion (Cont.)**

### Alcohol Consumption on the Beach Strand

Both Chief Massey and Dempsey agreed that alcohol consumption on the Strand was not an issue.

### Peak Season Enforcement Challenges

Chief Massey advised that an extra officer is needed to patrol the island during the season. Massey will contact the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department concerning part-time deputy availability and cost. Massey will prepare an evaluation for the Council of the Town hiring a part-time season patrol officer versus contracting with the County for a deputy to patrol the island including cost, availability, and pros and cons.

### Parking Regulations, Paid Parking, Designated Parking - Where

The Council discussed the issues experienced this season with parallel parking and vehicles stacking 2 and 3 deep on the right of way. The Council discussed options such as diagonal parking, designating parking only one side of Main Street. Staff was instructed to contact NCDOT to determine if it would assist in an evaluation of parking options, to evaluate diagonal parking on one side of Main Street and determine how many spaces would be available, and to evaluate paid parking options.

### Fireworks & other dangerous activities

Chief Massey advised that positive remarks have been heard concerning the Fireworks literature disbursement program implemented by the Police Department in the last couple of years. Staff was directed to include information on the signs concerning fireworks.

### Shading devices

The Council discussed amending the Ordinance to restrict that neither commercial nor personal Shading Devices can be placed within 30' of either side of the access ways. The Council discussed methods of identification for personal Shading Devices. The Council discussed adding the Shading Devices restriction to the sign.

### West End Access

Council was advised that the West End does not currently have an emergency access way. Staff was directed to contact CAMA to determine if any of the West end walkway could be converted into an emergency access way.

### The need for first responders on the strand during the peak of our vacation season

Chief Dempsey advised Council that fire personnel and equipment should be physically on the beach strand to respond to emergencies immediately while additional personnel are responding from the Fire Station. Chief Dempsey advised that additional part-time personnel and an ATV with medic equipment will be needed to cover from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Council requested Dempsey to prepare a proposal.

### Land Acquisition on the island – Moved from 09/24/13 Work Session

The Council discussed island land acquisition and reached a consensus not to pursue land acquisition on the island.

**Beach Topics Discussion (Cont.)**

ROW uses by property owners – Moved from 10/15/13 Work Session

The Council discussed the need to define driveway accesses within the right of way, evaluate the current ordinances related to driveways, and explore the feasibility of placing all mailboxes on one side of the roadway. Staff will contact the post office for mailbox placement rules and provide the driveway information to Council.

Population Distribution – Moved from 09/24/13 Work Session

The Council discussed restricting Shading Devices to certain areas, adding handicap parking spaces at walkways, adding water access at walkways, explore the placement of restrooms on east end. Staff will evaluate and provide Council with information.

**Public Comments**

Richard Hilderman 407 37<sup>th</sup> Street – Suggested the Council hire a consulting firm concerning the parking.

Jan Harris 206 Northshore Drive – Agreed with parking on only one side of Main Street, suggested making all parking to be paid parking.

Betty DeVall 428 5<sup>th</sup> Street – Agreed with parking on only one side of Main Street and paid parking.

Jean Hutchinson 436 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Spoke of the neighborhood atmosphere and the need for all the area to be attractive and encouraged Council to designate where parking is available.

Nina Marable 502 Northshore Drive – Questioned how much parking is available and how much is desired.

Charlie Nern 647 Oyster Bay Drive – Questioned accident statistics between parallel and diagonal parking.

Carmel Zetts 402 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – Advised that the primary focus concerning parking is on the island but encouraged Council to evaluate the parking at Town Hall and in the commercial areas.

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 14, 2013 WORK SESSION. 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*

\*The November 14, 2013 Work Session Minutes were approved by Council during the December 2, 2013 Regular Meeting.