

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Monthly Council Work Session  
January 20, 2015**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Mayor Ron Watts, Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita, Councilwoman Carol Scott, Councilman Wilson Sherrill, Councilman Terry Johnson and Councilman Mike Williams

**Members absent:** None

**Attorney & Staff Present:** Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Bonnie Schwerd, Finance Director; Cindi Stephenson, Deputy Finance Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Lisa Joyner, Police Chief and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Mayor Watts called the Work Session to order.

**Draft Agenda Amendments**

No changes noted.

**Museum of Coastal Carolina/Ingram Planetarium Presentation**

Mayor Watts introduced Terry Bryant and Tom Smith with the Museum of Coastal Carolina and Ingram Planetarium. Ms. Bryant and Mr. Smith presented a Museum and Planetarium programing and financial condition update to the Council.

**Public Comments**

Nina Marable 502 North Shore Drive – Questioned why the Main Street parking problem isn't being addressed in the paid parking proposal.

Sue Weddle 206 North Shore Drive – Requested Council contact the island residents and property owners for comments concerning parking before a decision is made.

Pete Jelstrom Cabana Company Owner – Encouraged the Council not to ban tents on the beach strand.

Cliff Erickson Island business owner – Spoke in opposition of the paid parking proposal.

**Motion Concerning Town Administrator Evaluation**

Councilwoman Scott advised that Susan Parker, Town Administrator had received an excellent annual evaluation from the Council during the January 5<sup>th</sup> Closed Session.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A \$5,000 RAISE FOR SUSAN PARKER DUE TO HER EVALUATION. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **Consideration of Parking RFP and Island Parking & Main Street Discussion**

The Council reviewed the draft Paid Parking RFP for Sunset Blvd South and the gazebo area. Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita advised that the goal is to generate revenue to offset some of the cost of the island amenities. Councilwoman Scott added that the goal also is to define the parking areas and limit the number of people. Staff is continuing to work with NC DOT concerning parking on Main Street. The Council agreed that the parking regulations need to be amended to define the locations that parking is allowed on the island. The Council agreed that all parking solutions need to be explored island-wide in an attempt to disburse the visitors along the strand to reduce overcrowding in the middle of the island including enforcement of driveway widths and side street parking. Councilwoman Scott advised that a free parking system needs to be implemented for the Town's taxpayers. Parker suggested outreaching to the island business owners and discussing enforcement with Police Chief Joyner.

### **Discussion Concerning §95.07 Placing Obstructions on the Beach Strand and Tents**

The Council discussed tent regulations and enforcement including identification methods of the tent and the structure. The Council requested Staff to seek a legal opinion to determine if the tents on the strand could be restricted to commercial companies only. The Council reviewed a draft amendment prepared by Councilwoman Scott and agreed to finalize an amendment for 95.07 during the February Council meeting.

### **Public Comments**

Bobby Rains 9121 Shady Forest Drive – Stressed the importance of tents for the young and the elderly and encouraged Council not to ban tents.

Pete Jelstrom Cabana Company Owner – Suggested Council consider a ban of the tents near the pier area to encourage visitors to disburse further down the strand; also advised that enforcement is a difficult task for the Beach Patrol.

Herb Tinger 711 Oyster Bay Drive – Advised that banning tents is the best alternative and that the 30' emergency access buffer area is unenforceable without the area being visibly marked off. Requested Council consider banning tents near the pier area.

John Hobgood Island business owner – advised that the paid parking proposal doesn't take into consideration the business patrons.

Sue Weddle 206 North Shore Drive – Cautioned the Council about turning the island into a parking lot.

Richard Hilderman 407 37<sup>th</sup> Street – Advised that the most parking congestion is on Main Street.

Susan Parker introduced Rawls Howard the new Planning Director that started today.

**Closed Session – NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)**

COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3). COUNCILMAN JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

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

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO RECONVENE THE JANUARY 20, 2015 WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Parker advised that the Council considered attorney-client privileged information received from Attorney Richardson concerning potential mediation and litigation with Coastal Communities and Withers and Ravenel.

**Adjournment**

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 20, 2015 COUNCIL WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Town of Sunset Beach**

*Ron Watts, Mayor*

Submitted by:

*Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk*

\*The January 20, 2015 minutes were approved by the Town Council during the March 2, 2015 Regular Meeting.