

**Town of Sunset Beach
Monthly Council Work Session
September 22, 2014
1:30 pm**

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; Cindi Stephenson, Deputy Finance Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief and Lisa Joyner, Police Chief.

Public Comments

Ann Bokelman 404 3rd Street – Spoke in favor of allowing cabanas on the beach strand.

John Corbett 423 Sailfish Street – Spoke in favor of allowing cabanas on the beach strand.

Gordon Bokelman 404 3rd Street – Spoke in favor of allowing cabanas on the beach strand and suggested a permitting process.

Draft Agenda Amendments

The Council reached a consensus to add Town Administrator Update and revised Parking Ordinance information to this agenda.

Review of 2014 Beach Season

Emergency Access Lane –12’ from the dunes emergency access lane is crucial for emergency vehicles and the access lane at each public walkway is also crucial to ensure that emergency vehicles can turn and get to the waters’ edge. Public walkway access needs to be more clearly designated.

Holes – stricter enforcement is needed.

Tents/Cabanas – Estimated 400 tents/cabanas were on the beach strand daily. Discussion of tent/cabana permits, legal advice will be obtained. Several complaints registered concerning tie down restrictions imposed by the Town. Consider designating areas where tents/cabanas will be allowed. Friction between cabana companies caused issues.

Mats – Majority of comments positive.

Surfing – No issues experienced

Surf Chairs – Great service but time consuming for administration with reservations and public works staff with delivery and pick up. Consider small fee to compensate for time.

Beach Patrol – Season begins with three (3) and increases to nine (9) during peak times. To ensure quickest emergency respond time, EMT's should be used as patrol officers or have one centrally located on the strand. Should be using radios instead of cell phones to communicate with emergency responders and 911. Complaints received that Beach Patrol stayed under the Town tent instead of patrolling. Staff advised person was stationed at the Town tent as an informational person.

Fireworks – Need more enforcement in July.

Weather – little to no effect this year.

Congestion – Strand was crowded due to an increase in day trippers.

Turtles and Educational Programs – only three (3) turtles built nest at Sunset Beach this year. Education and Bird Island walking tour participations increased this season.

Sunset at Sunset (SAS) Update

Councilman Williams reminded the Councilmembers of their chosen schedules for the SAS Town Booth. The Council discussed displaying Channel 99, developing a communications survey to be distributed during SAS and promoting the recycling program. Councilman Williams advised that the photographs for the photo contest are now on display at the Planetarium. Councilman Williams advised that the SAS has been advertised with WGNI, ATMC and the Brunswick Beacon. The Over the Bridge 5K run will begin at 8:00 am in the Gazebo. Public Works is putting up the banners today.

Town Administrator Update

Susan Parker updated the Council on the Finance Director interviews scheduled for this week and that the Attorney RFQ has been advertised. Parker reminded the Council that Beach Sweep is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th beginning at 8:00 am in the Gazebo. Parker advised that Staff is developing a plan to deal with the long term stormwater issues. Parker advised that an Australian news team has contacted the Town about filming the Kindred Spirit mailbox.

Revised Parking Ordinances

Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita and Councilwoman Scott distributed draft revisions for the Parking ordinances for Council discussion and consideration during the October meeting

Public Comments

Karen Dombrowski 719 Fairway Drive – Questioned if EMT's are on the island and spoke in favor of allowing cabanas on the beach strand.

Adjournment

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 COUNCIL WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Town of Sunset Beach

Ron Watts, Mayor

Submitted by:

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

*The September 22, 2014 minutes were recorded by Cindi Stephenson, Deputy Finance Director and transcribed by Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

**The September 22, 2014 minutes were approved by Council during the November 3, 2014 meeting.