

**TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
Special Called Town Council Meeting**

March 9, 2009

7:00 pm

Members Present

Mayor Ron Klein

Len Steiner, Mayor Pro Tem

Councilman Ron Watts

Councilman Bob Bobinski

Councilman Wilson Sherrill

Councilman Lou DeVita

Others Present

Gary Parker, Administrator

Kim Cochran, Town Clerk

1. Call and Pledge

2. Amend Agenda- no changes

3. PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:05pm

a. Proposed Annexation of Beach Dr. Area

Mayor Klein read the legal advertisement calendar of events starting with the Adoption of the Resolution of Intent; the February 11th Informational meeting with the public and the proposed dates of adoption of June 2010 if annexed.

Gary Parker, Town Administrator, read over the Town services provided if annexed. He informed them they would receive every benefit that the current residents receive, Such as police, street maintenance (if they are brought up to D.O.T. standards).

Yard waste leaf and limb pickup, planning and zoning and voting rights. The County currently takes care of water and sewer. We would not have to add any additional police personnel or fire personnel. The fire fees would be transferred to Sunset Beach instead of Calabash. Parker stated in reference to the streets owned by D.O.T., if they dedicated Heritage and Forest Dr. to the town, he felt we could keep up the roads a little quicker than D.O.T. could.

The current cost for some of the amenities the town would take care of are as follows: Street lights \$3,676 per year, leaf and limb pickup \$9,500.00. The cost of annexing these areas to the town is estimated to be \$27,449. Assuming the tax rate stays at 9 cents the revenue collected from the proposed annexed area will be \$21,653. After annexation the extraterritorial jurisdiction would be moved as per General Statute, extending one mile distance from the city limits.

Parker opened the floor for any comments.

Susan Gentry, 905 Heritage Dr. was against annexation. She said she knew the citizens couldn't do anything but council should be mindful of trampling on peoples rights. She felt it was taxation without representation. If annexation was the only means of growth, then the town needed to find other sources of funding.

Danny Buroff, 8917 Shady Forest Dr- asked what would happen to the fire fees they currently pay to Calabash. Parker said he would address all inquiries after everyone had their chance to speak.

Frank Elarde inquired about the streets...what the town would do to take care of them? He was in favor as long as the streets would be taken care of.

Sybil Kesterson, Landing I, stated she was against it at first, but now she felt it would be to their benefit.....the police did a great job and it would be nice to have them so near.

Jim Carpenter, 8969 Bonaparte Dr., was against annexing but didn't understand why only one side was being annexed when the subdivision was on both sides.

Joel Long, 8974 Bonaparte Dr., said he had never lived in a city in his life and never wanted to. He just didn't understand it and didn't feel they were ready for it.

Ellen Zuber, Heritage Dr. stated she was against it for financial reasons, and why wasn't the whole subdivision being taken in? Why didn't the Town go further to the lots with gardens and sheds on them? There were other costlier places they could have chosen.

No other comments. Mayor Klein closed the public hearing.

Rather than go straight to new business, Mayor Klein thought it best to go ahead and

answer questions from the public in the interest of time.....so they wouldn't have to wait around and listen to other town business before they got their answers.

Parker started by explaining how the town would grow and that there was still area for growth at Sunset Beach. When they annex, it moves the ETJ lines further out which makes those areas subject to future annexation. While taxes helped, annexations were not always about taxes. People living on the edge of a city that used the roads and facilities were doing so at the citizens' expense.

He then addressed the street issue. He explained all the streets were private except for Shady Forest and Heritage Dr. They belonged to the D.O.T. If they were turned over to the town we would maintain them. The current ordinance as it stands, provides that we take in only those streets that were already up to D.O.T. standards.

The sewer issue had two options. The town could install a pump station and force main and absorb the cost of \$380,000. When a resident was ready to tap on, they could petition the town and then they would be assessed. The other option was to have the county do it and assess the residents. By law, the sewer **MUST** be installed.

In regards to some lots being left out, Mr. Parker explained that the NC General Statutes govern what a town can do. In order for Sunset Beach to draw legal boundaries, we have to meet those standards. Therefore, we could only take in a portion of a couple of subdivisions, not the whole thing. There is a 60% developed rule we must follow. A lot is considered "developed" ONLY, when there is a habitable building on the lot.

No one had any more questions so Council moved on to New Items.

4. NEW ITEMS:

a. Discussion of Recycling Contract

There was much discussion and mixed feelings about the proposed recycling program. Council all agreed it was a good thing but they had questions and differing opinions on how it should be done. Steiner felt if we provided this service according to Waste Industries costs, then they were not only receiving the money from the recyclables, but it was decreasing our tonnage, but yet the price hadn't changed. DeVita thought if recycling is undertaken, it should be mandated and our ordinances be updated and enforced. Watts felt the start date of June 1 was not a good idea as it was in the middle of the tourist season and no one would be familiar with routes, procedures, etc. He felt a December start date would be better. Council agreed to look closer at this as the budget process went along. No action taken.

b. Approval of Personnel Policy

Parker stated this was the policy he presented at the annual retreat. He felt to make it formal,

needed a motion by Council. He discussed the benefit of someone serving at least 15 years with the Town could retire and pay half their insurance premium until Medicare kicked in. All towns had some varying degree of service dates, but 15 years was the middle of the road. Steiner asked if this could be changed, and Parker said some things could be changed but once someone hired under this policy and is vested, you cannot take it., but it can always be looked at later. **Motion** by DeVita to accept the current proposed personnel policy, Seconded by Watts, Motion carried.

Parker addressed the Council about July's meeting. It fell on our 4th of July holiday and suggested it be moved back a week as they had always done. Meeting was set for June 29th.

Larry Crim asked for permission to purchase entrance sign for the west end of Sunset Beach. It will be at the Regency for now on two temporary post incase It was moved later. Council said it was already in the budget to go ahead.

6. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Watts, seconded by Bobinski.

Adopted this the 6th day of April, 2009.

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Ronald F Klein, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Cochran, Town Clerk