



**MINUTES
TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
Special Called Meeting
February 28, 2006
1:30 pm**

Members Present

Ron Klein, Mayor
Carl Bazemore
Len Steiner
Ron Watts
Lou DeVita
Bob Bobinski

Linda Fluegel, Town Administrator
Kim Cochran, Town Clerk

The meeting was called to discuss common future goals and various requests from Council concerning the future of Sunset Beach. Mayor Klein read from the newspaper that they were expecting a 30 percent population increase in our zip code by 2010. Council individually listed items of concern as the meeting progressed. (Itemization on the last page)

Bobinski spoke first, and one of his concerns was the location of the ABC Store. He inquired if Council would entertain a movement of the Sunset Beach store to a more productive location. He also inquired about Police Dept. communications and why there was no dispatcher. Fluegel stated we had never had a dispatcher but the Chief told her

recently that the Bolivia Communications Center had changed and now anyone that needed an officer after hours could call 911 and they would dispatch an officer to the Town Hall.

Bazemore was interested in bike paths that would tie the beach to the bridge. He stated the Town would not be eligible for grants of any kind until we spent some money ourselves. He felt the Town should budget for adding paths, even if we had to “piece meal” it for the time being, mentioning the area around Twin Lakes. Fluegel advised that the DOT maintains there was no room near Twin Lakes for a path or on the causeway when the new bridge comes in.

Bazemore then inquired about a boat ramp under a new bridge. Fluegel said only if the Town dredged it. Council all agreed water access was severely hampered. Discussion ensued about the water access ways.

Watts stated he approved of having water access. He made the suggestion that they ask someone locally to donate land for access for such a project.

DeVita felt tourism was a point of interest. He felt this area would only draw more people in the future and asked about building walkways with “bird walks” of some sort. He also asked about major projects. He suggested keeping the public informed what was going on.

He requested that certain reports align with the town’s fiscal year. His last inquiry was how to respond to an inquest. He felt the Mayor or someone should put forth a single response after conferring with Council. Council decided the Mayor should be the one to respond.

Steiner requested some type of monthly report from the Building Inspector’s office showing what significant plans were going on.

Discussion took place about what kind of information they were asking for. Fluegel said she would instruct the Inspector go over significant projects at the monthly meeting.

Watts felt they should tie the community together. Encourage and allow public involvement on things such as projects. His suggested projects were:

1. Beach monitoring
2. Storm planning and preparedness
3. Beach infrastructure planning.
4. Beach traffic and how to handle it.
5. Parks with small neighborhood subgroups to help
6. Sound system in the Council Chambers.

Council briefly discussed each topic.

Council then discussed the sound system in the chambers, and instructed Fluegel to order a speaker system. Parking was discussed in depth.

Steiner then broached revenue sources. Accommodation tax was one of his main concerns and he felt the Town was not receiving the appropriate amounts from renters; i.e., individuals were not reporting rentals. Various processes for collection were discussed.

Watts inquired about business license. Fluegel stated that earlier Councils had rescinded the business license when the accommodation tax came into effect. Council decided privilege tax would be a valuable revenue source and a way to track property rentals. It would also help the town keep track of new businesses coming into the city limits, thereby stopping restricted trades before they are put in place. Council instructed Fluegel to investigate the possibility of taxing individuals renting their property and to have information available by April.

Steiner's points of interest included:

1. Annexation
2. Storm Water control, identifying problem areas to be corrected.
3. Clarification from the Planning Board with Power Point. All Council agreed Power Point was essential to do demonstrations during Council meetings.
4. Assign each Council member a particular dept. to oversee projects.
5. An assistant for Fluegel. Council discussed advertising for an assistant but concluded they should proceed with training a replacement in anticipation of Fluegel retiring. Fluegel strongly suggested they find someone with background in land planning as this took a large quantity of her time and was extremely important to the Town. The Planning Board was discussed and Steiner felt someone on Council should attend regularly. Fluegel responded everything the Planning Board did came before Council, as in "information only" agenda items. Any Council member could attend a meeting or become a Planning Board member, but they could not intervene except as a regular citizen and were only allowed to speak under agenda comments. Lou DeVita announced he would be attending the Planning Board meetings.

Fluegel informed Council she was scheduling a meeting with Dennis Hoyle of URS Greiner regarding the sewer rate study. The date was tentatively set for the 15th at 1:30, but she would let them know.

Mayor Klein asked Council to keep in mind the showers and portable toilets when sewer comes in. He had seen stainless steel units up north that were very clean and sanitary. Fluegel stated they should keep in mind at budget time the cost of elevators (as they would have to be on pilings on the island *and* remain handicapped accessible.) costs of property, and cleaning.

Klein informed all that the gazebo was a "wreck". Vandalism occurred quite often and they should consider replacing with something else.

There was much discussion on zoning and height limitations.

In conclusion, Council determined they would need to commence finding a replacement for Fluegel (who would be retiring soon) and to make sure the person had a background in planning and start looking at the areas they expanded on. Their list is as follows:

1. ABC Store relocation
2. Police communications
3. Bike and walking paths
4. Water access and boat ramps
5. Nature "bird" Trail
6. Announce major project status on a regular basis
7. Departmental Reports on a fiscal basis
8. Make significant projects public
9. Sewer
10. Bridge
11. Ways to tie the community together
12. Public group assigned to storm related actions
13. Beach Traffic
14. Park Area
15. Enforcement of Accommodation Tax
16. Annexations
17. Storm Water Control
18. Speaker System

There was discussion about the Brunswick County taking over the water system. She was in contact with the firm that was suggested by the LGC... they analyzed water systems. She felt they would work out something that was good for both the Town and the County. Until they can do that, she wasn't so sure the county wasn't under the impression the Town was going to give the system to them.

Discussion included legislation allowing the Town to assess property owners, financing arrangements and how to proceed. RBC suggested a 2 year construction loan. Residents could pay early assessments and the remaining known debt could be borrowed from a construction loan. Council wanted to make it as easy as possible for the citizens.

After more discussion, Council adjourned at 4:35 pm.

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Attest:

Town Clerk

