

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH**  
**Regular Called Meeting, Public Hearing & Work Session**  
November 3, 2008  
6:45 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mayor Ron Klein  
Mayor Pro Tem Len Steiner  
Councilman Lou DeVita  
Councilman Ron Watts  
Councilman Bob Bobinski  
Councilman Wilson Sherrill

**Others Present**

Mike Isenberg, Town Attorney  
Gary Parker, Town Administrator  
Kim Cochran, Town Clerk

**6:45 PM Work Session**

Mayor Klein announced that the NC Coastal Resource Commission was looking for appointments. The requirement was a local Health Director but Parker stated they were willing to take any appointments. He felt we should check with the county to find out if the current Health Director was retiring, or was simply not interested in continuing his service. If he was retiring, to find out if his replacement would be willing to serve. Council asked Parker to call and find out the details.

Wilson Sherrill, the Town's BC Beaches consortium member, gave updates on his Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. There were various concerns about the Titan Concrete Plant proposal. Legislature was also looking at new Hazard Inlet boundaries and static lines. The report was due in 2009 and would show where the inlet lines were now.

DeVita reported that the Sun News had incorrectly printed that the voting would take place here at Town Hall. Council asked staff to place signs around Town Hall instructing voters where to go.

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 pm**

**1 & 2. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE.**

Mayor Klein called the meeting to order and led the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Klein read a letter of appreciation from a resident about the success of the Sunset at Sunset Celebration.

He also informed all that the American Legion would be honoring Robert "Bud" Sweetman for his donations to the Red Cross. He is a decorated veteran and has donated blood over 300 times.

**3. MINUTES OF REGULAR CALLED MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES ON OCTOBER 6, 2008**

Motion by Devita to adopt both sets with no changes, Seconded by Bobinski. Motion Carried.

**4. Approval of Agenda.** No changes made.

**5. REPORTS:**

**a. Administrator** –Donna Rogers, Finance Director, gave Council an update on the Financial Status of the Town. She reported the Town was in good shape; RBC does not participate in the types of risky loans that led to the Wall Street bail out. Our NC Capital Management Trust funds were also well protected and strong. Local Options sales Tax and Utility Franchise Tax could not be cut out by the State as they had done in the past. General Statute protects these tax disbursements. See Budget Status by Rogers incorporated by reference and made part of these minutes.

Parker asked Council to be thinking about subjects of importance to them to be discussed at the budget retreat that was coming up. He felt they should schedule it for early February next year.

**b. Police-** See report attached. Chief Massey informed everyone of the rash of mailbox thefts around Sea Trail. She had photos of the suspects but stated they had not been caught. She instructed everyone not to place outgoing checks in their mail boxes, but to take them to the Post Office.

**c. Public Works-** See Report attached. Dustin Graham stated they would be building an access way at 10<sup>th</sup> st. in the next couple of weeks.

**d. Building Inspections:** See report attached.

**c. Fire-** See report attached.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Application for Special Sign District #151.114**

Jeff Curtis, Building Inspector, stated it was hard for this building to comply because of multiple tenants, so the owners were asking for a special sign district. Council was reassured that the Planning Board would make sure the signage was appropriate and fit in with the current surroundings.

**b. Amendment to Chapter #151.077 Table 1 Off Street Parking Requirements**

Curtis explained that the board felt the existing requirements were excessive. Steiner felt there was far too little parking. After much discussion and some disagreement about the requirements listed, Council asked the Board to look at it again before it comes back in December.

Motion by Sherrill to send Application for Sign District #151.114 to a Public Hearing on December 1. Seconded by Steiner. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Steiner to send the Application for a Special Sign District to a Public Hearing on Dec. 1, Seconded by DeVita. Motion Carried.

**c. Set November workshop for Streetscape**

Council set the Special Called Meeting/Workshop for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at Town Hall to discuss the Streetscape Design and hear a request for additional funding from Scott Kucera, Director of Ingram Planetarium.

**d. Proposed Special Event Policy**

Parker submitted this draft policy for Council to review. If the property at Dock St is dedicated to the town, the Town would need policies in place dictating procedure and regulations. DeVita felt there was too much in the draft concerning what the town will supply, such as chairs, fences, etc. It was too much. He and the rest of Council felt the organization holding the event has to be responsible for the set up. Sherrill reiterated the town was not in the trash business nor should be providing chairs...town employees should not be engaged to do this. Parker stated the main point was that the owners of Dock Street are looking at the Town to see if it is ready to make a commitment toward the upkeep of this property. Watts inquired why the Planning Board wasn't involved in this decision. He felt a policy needed to be generated to cover other town properties such as the boat ramp area, when it was finished. DeVita stated he would take the draft and rework it to bring back to Council.

**e. Declaration of Restrictive Covenants (Boat Ramp Site)**

Parker stated this Covenant has to be signed and notarized in order to receive our disbursement for the Boat Ramp. **Motion** by Steiner to sign Restrictive Covenants, seconded by Watts. Motion carried.

**f. Resolution to Authorize the Sale of Surplus Property**

**Motion** by Steiner to authorize the sale of the Surplus Property, Seconded by Sherrill. Motion carried.

**g. Life insurance Plan Change Proposal**

Parker explained the life insurance the employees have on their state retirement (a year's salary not to exceed \$50,000) and the insurance with the League that the town pays for them, which is \$15,000 for General Employees, \$25,000 for Dept. Heads, and \$50,000 for the Administrator. He felt the amount was inadequate with today's costs and wished to increase the Town's coverage to 1 years salary. The cost currently is \$179.00 per month and would increase by \$318.00 .There was discussion among Council about looking at this at next year's budget or starting in January 2009 and looking at it again next year.

**Motion** by Steiner to increase the insurance to a year's salary for each employee through the League, beginning in January, Seconded by Bobinski.

For- Steiner, Bobinski, DeVita, Sherrill

Against –Watts.

Motion Carried.

**h. Call for public hearing on Fence Ord. Amendment**

**Motion** by Watts to call for a Public Hearing on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, Seconded by Bobinski. Motion Carried.

**8. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Norm Schott, Resident, asked Council again about the lottery the pier has each year for parking spaces. He asked Council if they could do anything about it as he felt the residents should have first chance.

Watts asked Mr. Schott if he had spoken to the Manager, because it was private property.

Mr. Schott then asked council if they could do something about the property valuation increase. He felt it was too high. Council responded they could not as it was the County Assessor who does this by General Statute. We had no input into this process.

Kelly Stewart, developer of the new office complex next to Town Hall, stated they were waiting for county sewer approval but they had a second problem. The Dept of Transportation was now requiring them to put in a middle turn lane at a cost of \$120,000. She wanted to know if the Town had taken a particular stance on this.

**11. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn by Steiner, Seconded by Sherrill. Motion carried.

Adopted this 1st day of December 2008.

**TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH**

---

*Mayor Ron Klein*

---

*Kim Cochran*, Town Clerk

