

**Town of Sunset Beach
Monthly Council
Work Session & Regular Meeting
February 2, 2015**

MINUTES

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

Members absent: Councilman Mike Williams

Attorney & Staff Present: Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Bonnie Schwerd, Finance Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Lisa Joyner, Police Chief; and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

**Work Session
6:45 pm**

Mayor Watts called the Work Session to order, called for agenda amendments, and general discussions by the Council.

Agenda Amendments

Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita requested the Parking RFP Discussion be added as New Business (e). Councilwoman Scott requested a Discussion concerning the Council taking a position on the proposed off shore drilling, seismic testing, and wind farms be added as New Business (f). The Council agreed with the agenda amendments. Councilwoman Scott advised that the proposed amendment to Ordinance 95.07 should read “parallel” instead of “perpendicular”.

Council Discussion

Closed Session – Mayor Watts advised the Council will go into Closed Session at the end of this meeting to consult with the Town Attorney concerning Jaguar’s Lair.

Brunswick Beaches Consortium (BBC) – Councilman Sherrill advised that the BBC will meet on either February 12 or 19th in Oak Island to discuss restructuring of the group.

Property Valuations – Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita advised that several meetings have been held with the Brunswick County Tax Assessor concerning irregularities of some of the assessed property values within the Town. Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita advised that the property revaluations have been completed and property owners will be receiving information from the County in the next few weeks.

Congressman David Rouzer – Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita advised that Congressman Rouzer has opened an office in Bolivia.

Special Meeting – Mayor Watts requested that the time of the Special Meeting scheduled for February 23, 2015 be changed to 1:00 pm. The Council agreed.

Council Discussion (Cont.)

Website – Mayor Watts advised that the website has been updated.

Filming of Council Meetings – Mayor Watts advised that the filming of the Council meetings has been delayed pending the Town Attorney review of the contract.

Community Meeting – Mayor Watts advised that the next Community Meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2015 at Town Hall.

**Monthly Meeting
7:00 pm**

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Watts called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Draft Agenda

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

Brunswick County Tourism Development Authority Presentation by Mitzi York, Executive Director

Mitzi York provided the Council with an update of the promotional activities and efforts of the Brunswick County Tourism Development Authority over the last 12 months.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only – Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker

Kevin Godwin 1561 White Oak Drive – Requested information regarding the placement of the tents/cabanas on the beach strand; staff advised that an orientation meeting will be held for the commercial vendors.

Thomas Bertolino – Former Beach Patrol Supervisor – Advised Council of the potential enforcement issues that the proposed amendment will create for the beach patrol staff.

Town Administrator Report

Jaguar’s Lair – Susan Parker advised that the Negotiating Team is meeting with the Town Attorney to prepare for mediation.

Palm Cove – Parker advised that the Palm Cove Lot Owners have filed an appeal application with the Board of Adjustment requested an appeal of the UDO Administrator’s determination concerning their vested rights for private swimming pools and individual dune crossovers.

Sunset Beach West Development – Parker advised that the development is under Staff review and scoping meetings are being held with NCDNR and the division of US Fish & Wildlife.

Council Planning Session – Parker reminded Council and the audience of the Council Planning Session scheduled for February 17, 2015 at 9:00 am at Sea Trail Convention Center.

Departmental Reports

Police – Chief Joyner added to her report that an arrest in the recent burglaries has been made in South Carolina and the person is being extradited to Brunswick County. Joyner informed the audience of a phone IRS scam that has been reported and encouraged anyone receiving a call to just hang up.

Public Works – Dustin Graham added to his report that the installation of the pavers in the Park has been completed. The contractors will be adding pebbles to the seams in the upcoming weeks. Graham reported that the erosion problem in Mary's Creek has been mitigated with riprap.

Planning and Inspections – Rawls Howard advised of several commercial developments proposed within Town limits that the Planning Department is reviewing. The first is a 9,000 square foot AT&T Store in the Village at Sunset Beach area; second, is the senior living apartment complex on Highway 904 and third, is the interior remodeling of the commercial building located at 690 Sunset Blvd. North for the medical group.

Fire Department – Chief Dempsey added to his report that the Ocean Isle Beach Road from Old Georgetown Road to the Ocean Isle Beach intersection has reopened. Dempsey advised that he will be attending training the remainder of this week.

Finance Department – Schwerd reviewed the financial snapshot with the Council.

Old Business

Consideration of Appointment of the UDO Administrator

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT RAWLS HOWARD AS THE UDO ADMINISTRATOR. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

New Business

Consideration of Approval of the Fiscal Policy including Outside Agencies Funding Application

Schwerd and Council reviewed the proposed fiscal policy including the outside agency funding application process. The Council reached a consensus to individually discuss their amendments with Schwerd and for the final version to be placed on an upcoming agenda for approval consideration.

Consideration of Approval of the 2014/2015 Budget Amendment

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2014/2015 BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR \$1,700 REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COBBLESTONE STREET LIGHTS. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

Consideration of Retaining Board of Adjustment Attorney

Councilwoman Scott requested to review all of the Attorney resumes before a permanent Attorney is selected.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO RETAIN ATTORNEY JERRY MANNEN AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT HEARING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 24, 2015. COUNCILMAN JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-0 VOTE.

New Business (Cont.)

Consideration of Adoption of Amendment for Ordinance 95.07 Placing Obstructions on the Beach Strand

The Council discussed the proposed amendment for Ordinance 95.07 concerning the placement of tents and cabanas in a straight line parallel to the ocean on the beach strand. The Council also discussed the enforcement challenges that this amendment could create for the beach patrol staff.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT FOR ORDINANCE 95.07 AS PROPOSED. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA, COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT AND COUNCILMAN JOHNSON VOTED YES. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

Consideration of Parking RFP

The Council reviewed the proposed Paid Parking RFP and made minor amendments.

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO RELEASE THE AMENDED PARKING RFP. COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-0 VOTE.

Consideration of Stating Position Concerning Offshore Activities – Oil Drilling, Wind Farms, Seismic Test

The Council discussed stating a position concerning proposed offshore activities such as oil drilling, wind farms and seismic testing. Councilwoman Scott will prepare a draft document for Council consideration. The Council was informed that an informational meeting concerning the wind farm areas is scheduled for February 12, 2015 at the Carolina Shores Town Hall.

Public Comments

Carol Santavicca 9109 Forest Drive – Questioned if the wording of Ordinance amendment 95.07 had been changed to parallel instead of perpendicular.

Clint Dunlop Oyster Point Drive – Suggested the Council approach the grocery stores to have a sign installed near the beverage coolers advising that glass is not allowed on the beach strand.

Closed Session

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) TO CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY RICHARDSON IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE CONCERNING JAGUAR’S LAIR. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

During the Closed Session, the Council received attorney-client privileged information from Attorney Richardson concerning upcoming mediation with Coastal Communities.

Closed Session (Cont.)

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.
COUNCILMAN JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE
AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO RECONVENE THE FEBRUARY 2, 2015
REGULAR MEETING. COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS
CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

The Council established the Mediation Team Members as: Attorney Grady Richardson, Councilman
Wilson Sherrill, Town Administrator Susan Parker and Karen Joseph.

Adjournment

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 2, 2015
COUNCIL MEETING. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS
CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

Town of Sunset Beach

Ron Watts, Mayor

Submitted by:

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

*The February 2, 2015 minutes were approved by the Town Council during the April 6, 2015 meeting.