

**Town of Sunset Beach
Monthly Council
Work Session & Regular Meeting
March 3, 2014**

MINUTES

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

Members absent: None

Attorney & Staff Present: Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Mike Isenberg, Town Attorney; Donna Rogers, Finance Director; Cindi Stephenson, Deputy Finance Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Lisa Massey, Police Chief; Sandy Wood, Building Inspections Department Director, 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 Watts added the Coastal Resources Commission Meeting review to the agenda as Old Business f.

Council Discussion

Brunswick Beaches Consortium Meeting

Councilman Sherrill advised that the February meeting was cancelled due to weather and the next meeting will be held in April.

Sunset Beach ABC Board

Councilman Sherrill advised that the ABC Board had an excellent rating on their latest Financial Audit received during their last meeting.

Biggert Waters Act

Councilman Sherrill advised that the House of Representatives is making major amendments to the Biggert Waters Act regarding the flood insurance rating system. Additional information will be communicated soon.

Bird Island Preservation Society

Councilwoman Scott advised the Council that the Bird Island Preservation Society has been in contact with her to determine if the Town is going to install an informational kiosk in the gazebo area for placement of educational material and tours. Staff was requested to research cost.

Council Discussion (Cont.)

Air Gun Testing

Councilwoman Scott informed the Council of recent action taken by a neighboring community opposing off shore air gun testing and requested Staff to research which Town took action and to obtain examples for Council to review.

Free Dump Week

Mayor Watts announced that Brunswick County is hosting a Free Dump Week April 19th through 21st. Hazardous waste can be disposed of at Shallotte Middle School on April 19th only.

Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) Public Hearing March 26, 2014

Mayor Watts advised that the CRC will hold a Public Hearing on March 26, 2014 at the Ocean Isle Beach Town Hall to hear comments concerning ocean inlet management.

Council Liaison Reports

Mayor Watts requested Liaison's to be prepared to give a first quarter review during the April 7th Council meeting.

Brunswick County Sales Tax Referendum

Mayor Watts advised that Ann Hardy, Brunswick County Manager, is requesting to address the Council during the April 7, 2014 Council Meeting concerning the Sales Tax Referendum that will be on the ballot May 6, 2014. The Council agreed.

Community Meeting

The Council reached a consensus to hold a Community Meeting on May 14, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Apology

Mayor Watts made a formal apology to resident James Thomas concerning a political sign ordinance that was enforced by the Building Inspections Department during the recent election.

Monthly Meeting

7:00 pm

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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

Consideration of Draft Agenda Adoption

COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. COUNCILMAN JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Public Comments

Dan Johnston 1257 Harbour Gate South – Requested the Council to consider adding kayaks, canoes and surf skis in Chapter 95.31 and amending the regulation enforcement date beginning/ending to Labor Day and Memorial Day.

Town Administrator Report

Meeting Facility Request

Susan Parker advised Council that the Management Company for Sunset Village is requesting to use the Town's meeting facilities to hold a quarterly Sunset Village Property Owners Association (POA) meeting. The Council requested Staff to develop a Facility Use Policy establishing guidelines to allow non-profit, POA, and HOA associations to use the Town's meeting facilities for adoption consideration at the April meeting.

Streetscape – Rope Fencing

Parker advised that NCDOT will not allow a rope fence to be installed along the Streetscape area. Parker recommended the Council consider bushes and advised that Staff will meet with the landscaper for options and report back to the Council during the April meeting.

Beach Equipment

Parker reminded the Council of the individual that had approached the Town concerning raising funds for the Town to use to purchase beach safety equipment; however the proposal states that the individual would retain 40% of the proceeds. The Council reached a consensus to decline the offer.

Merchants Association

Parker advised that the first report due from the Merchants Association has been received.

Departmental Reports

Police

Chief Massey advised that currently the Police Department is dealing with several Island break-ins and encouraged residents to report suspicious activities to the police.

Public Works

Dustin Graham advised that 4,257 cubic yards of storm debris was collected during the first pass through Town. Staff is continuing to work on Saturdays until all the debris is removed.

Building Inspections

Streetscape – Sandy Wood advised that the Streetscape Project has been completed and the Town is waiting for the final approval from NC DOT. The Council briefly discussed requesting merchants along the streetscape area to provide and maintain planters with flowers in front of their business. This discussion will be continued at the April 15, 2014 Work Session.

Roundabout – Wood advised that Barnhill Contracting Company was awarded the Roundabout project and the completion date is June 21, 2014. Surveying has been completed. Wood advised that each lane will be painted with crosswalk lines and the lanes will be divided by a concrete area for pedestrian/bicycle traffic to rest while waiting for traffic to clear before proceeding through the next lane.

Park – Wood advised that the trails and parking lot were redesigned and surveying work is underway. Stage 1 completion date is the end of May.

Nuisance complaints – Wood advised that 15 nuisance complaints are currently being handled.

Departmental Reports (Cont.)

Fire

Chief Dempsey advised that fire department personnel will be in vehicle extrication training in the Fire Station One parking area using wrecked vehicles staged as accident scenes. Dempsey questioned if he is to include Beach Patrol staffing and equipment cost in the 2015/2016 Fire Department proposed budget. Dempsey advised that Sea Trail has contracted with a demolition company to remove the building beside the Conference Center.

Finance

Donna Rogers reported the results of the sale of Capital Assets as follows:

- 2001 Enclosed Trailer 7 bids received sold for \$1,387
- 2001 Chev. Suburban 5 bids received sold for \$5,100
- 1996 Chev. Truck 5 bids received sold for \$1,196
- 1997 Backhoe 4 bids received sold for \$8,300

Susan Parker reviewed a power point presentation of the Budget-at-a-Glance and explained the financial condition of the Town.

Old Business

Jaguars Lair Update – Councilman Sherrill

Councilman Sherrill advised that the concrete curbing in Section 6 Phase 1 has been completed including the tie-ins. The back filling of soil behind the curbing has been completed. Seeding for erosion control behind the curbing has been completed. Sherrill advised that crews have worked through the numerous days of inclement weather experienced lately. Sherrill advised that a meeting of the Negotiating Team and Coastal Communities is scheduled for March 17th. Sherrill advised that as per the 12/06/13 Subdivision Improvements Agreement, Coastal Communities has provided in writing a delayed construction report including adverse weather dates to the Negotiating Team outlining why the March 31, 2014 deadline might not be met.

Consideration of Chapter 95 Beach Regulations Ordinance Adoption and Repeal of Related Ordinances

The Council reviewed the Chapter 95 amendments made during the February 18, 2014 Annual Retreat and added several others. The Council reached a consensus to table Chapter 95 until the March 18, 2014 Work Session for a final review and adoption.

Discussion of the Beach Signs Information, Review of Installation Cost Estimation, Review of Proposed Locations and Possible Action/Direction

The Council agreed with the proposed sign locations of the Gazebo, 1st, 3rd, 28th, and 40th Streets for the new beach information signs at a cost of \$2,000. Staff will incorporate the tent amendments into the proposed sign language and present to Council during the March 18, 2014 Work Session for approval.

COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FIVE (5) BEACH INFORMATION SIGNS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Old Business (Cont.)

Discussion of Constructing an Emergency Access at 39th Street, Review of Cost Estimation and Possible Action/Direction

The Council reviewed the proposal to construct an emergency beach access at 39th Street totaling \$57,200.

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EMERGENCY BEACH ACCESS AT 39TH STREET AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$57,200. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

50th Anniversary Committee Update and Consideration to Sale the 50th Anniversary Banners

Councilwoman Scott advised that the 50th Anniversary Time Capsule Ceremony will be held on March 26, 2014 at 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers. Scott advised that the sponsor names will be engraved on a plaque and affixed to the Time Capsule pedestal. Residents were encouraged to purchase sponsorships and to submit a "Message to the Future" of 50 words or less to be included in the Time Capsule. Herb Tinger, Time Capsule Coordinator, informed the Council of the items that are being included in the Capsule and thanked Karen Joseph for scanning and printing the documents on archival paper. Tinger requested Mayor Watts to write a letter to be included in the capsule. Councilwoman Scott advised that the banners that have been displayed throughout Town will be for sale at \$100 each after March 26, 2014.

Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) Meeting Review

Mayor Watts advised that the CRC met in Nags Head last week and addressed the Mad Inlet Hazard Area Designation. Public comments were allowed and several area residents including Mayor Watts addressed the CRC Board. Watts advised that the question before the CRC Board was to determine if Mad Inlet was open or not. The science panel advised the CRC that in the panel's opinion the inlet was closed and the CRC voted 11 to 1 to remove the inlet hazard area designation effective May 1st from Mad Inlet.

Public Comments

None heard.

Adjournment

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 3, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Town of Sunset Beach

Ronald Watts, Mayor

Submitted by:

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

*The March 3, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved by Council during the April 7, 2014 Regular Meeting.