

**Town of Sunset Beach
Monthly Council
Work Session & Regular Meeting
August 4, 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; Cindi Stephenson, Deputy Finance Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief; Lisa Joyner, 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

No amendments were made to the agenda.

Council Discussion

Property Revaluation – Councilman Sherrill advised that the property revaluation in progress now will be effective January 2015.

Roundabout – Councilwoman Scott questioned the number of automobile accidents that have occurred since the roundabout opened. Chief Joyner advised that no accidents have occurred since the roundabout opened.

Solar Trash Can Distributor – Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita advised that the Solar Trash Can Distributor is requesting opinions and suggestions from the Town.

Base Line – Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita advised that the photographic base line of the coastline, creeks and inlets from 1993 through 2013 has been collected and is on file with the Town Clerk. This baseline documentation has been collected in advance of terminal groins being installed by neighboring communities.

2014 Pelican Award – Councilman Johnson advised that Sunset Beach resident Sue Weddle received the 2014 Pelican Award for being a dedicated, persistent and effective advocate of the coast.

Council Discussion (Cont.)

Committee to Honor American Veterans – Mayor Watts advised that the Committee is planning a fundraiser Golf Tournament at Bricklanding Golf Course on October 8th. Sponsorship are available and residents are encouraged participate. The proceeds will go towards the Veteran’s Memorial in the Town Park.

Community Meeting – Mayor Watts advised that the Council will host a Community Meeting on Monday, August 18th at 7:00 pm to discuss the proposed Bike Plan.

NC Wildlife Green Growth Toolbox Workshop – Mayor Watts advised that the Workshop will be held on Friday, September 26th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at Fire Station 1. The Green Growth Toolbox Workshops were developed to communicate recommendations about conserving priority wildlife habitats and to promote proactive planning to secure benefits for the communities and wildlife.

Landscaping Bids – Susan Parker advised that Staff is working with the landscaping bidders for clarification to several questions that arose when opening the bids. Awarding of the landscaping contract will be added to the August 19th Work Session agenda.

Ed Gore – Mayor Watts advised that Ed Gore passed away on July 15th. Mr. Gore served on the Town Council for 42 years.

**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 PRESENTED. COUNCILMAN JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Public Comments

Richard Hilderman 407 37th Street – Voiced concerns with the Council past decisions to maintain Twin Lakes and requested Council to delay voting until research can be done to determine why the Town is maintaining them; questioned how many other lakes/ponds the Town own and/or maintain.

Al Paynter 307 Blane Court – Explained the history of the lakes, that the Conservation Association was formed to maintain the lakes until it was financially unable to continue and that the Association donated \$10,422.48 to the Town for the maintenance when the Association disbanded; Reminded Council that the lakes are named on the birding trail, that the Town built the bird watching platform, that the lakes are an asset to the Town and requested the Town to continue maintain the lakes.

Public Comments (Cont.)

Judy Bushkie 611 Lake Shore Drive – Advised of her Association involvement and grant funding opportunities available to offset the maintenance cost to the Town.

Judy Van Winkle 585 Sunset Lakes Blvd. – Advised Council that the lakes are recreation for kayakers, boaters and the bird watch platform is heavily used by residents and visitors but without proper maintenance the lakes and wildlife will be lost.

Patricia Shanafelt 207 Twin Lakes Court – Reminded the Council that the Town’s Land Use Plan specifically names the Twin Lakes and the need to protect open space and waters; encouraged the Council to accept ownership of the lakes.

Jay Lucas 445 Lake Shore Drive – Advised that a small group of residents tried to maintain the lakes but it became too costly; advised that bird watching and photography clubs use the bird watching platform; reminded Council that the wildlife depends on the lakes to exist; encouraged Council to accept the lakes.

Charles Nern 647 Oyster Bay Drive – Agreed that Council needs to delay vote until all the questions have been answered.

Jan Harris 206 North Shore Drive – Voiced opposition to the Town maintaining Twin Lakes and taking ownership of them, and questioned the maintenance cost of Twin Lakes and the Shoreline Drive East ponds.

Rich Cerrato 517 Twisted Oak Lane – Advised that the Twin Lakes property owners should be assessed for the maintenance of the lakes; questioned who told the Conservation Association that the Town was going to maintain the lakes.

Monte Simpson 490 Dunlieth Street – Read a prepared statement concerning Jaguar’s Lair reminding Council that the completion of Section One is four months overdue, Section 2A and 2B have not been started, and an agreement has not be signed. Requested Council not to release any bonds until all the sections were completed.

Bill Ducker 1420 Inlet Drive – Questioned the liability the Town would incur by taking ownership of the lakes.

Karen Joseph 915 Sandpiper Bay Drive – Spoke of the petition signed by hundreds requesting the Council to accept ownership of the lakes and continue the maintenance so the lakes will not regress. Advised that the Jaguar’s Lair Negotiating Team has worked hard to get the community to where it is now.

Minutes

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 17, 2014 WORK SESSION MINUTES AND THE JUNE 30, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COUNCILMAN JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Town Administrator Report

Susan Parker, Town Administrator, advised that a Waste Industries Representative will be attending the August 19, 2014 Work Session to discuss weekly recycling services and the associated cost. Parker advised that the Public Works Department is actively spraying for mosquitos and reminded everyone of the brickettes available at Town Hall. Parker advised Council that five (5) finalist will be interviewed Thursday for the Finance Director position.

Departmental Reports

Police – Chief Joyner advised that the Beach Sweep is scheduled for Saturday, September 6, 2014 beginning at 6:30 am at the Gazebo. Information will be distributed through the website, Channel 99 and the community points of contact email list.

Public Works – Dustin Graham, Public Works Director, advised that Barnhill Contracting Company is removing the sidewalk at the intersection of Main Street and Sunset Blvd. and replacing it with a swale required by NC DOT as part of the punch list for the Streetscape project approval. Graham advised that the irrigation for the roundabout is being installed. Graham advised that his vacancy has been filled with a temporary employee.

Building Inspections – Sandy Wood, Building Inspections Department Director, advised that building permit requests for additions and remodeling projects have increased and new home permit request have decreased. Wood advised that his department is actively working on zoning violations including yards, signs and structures.

Fire Department – Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief, advised that the floor renovation project in Fire Station 1 is underway which will require the trucks be parked outside of the building temporarily.

Finance Department – Susan Parker, Town Administrator advised that Staff is preparing for the Auditors which are expected in Town Hall on September 3rd.

Old Business

Main Street Project Discussion

Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita and Councilwoman Scott are collectively working on a parking plan for Council to consider with a long range goal of designating parking spaces throughout Town limits. Chief Joyner and Sandy Wood are reviewing the current parking signs and regulations. The group is in discussion with NCDOT as to what will be allowed in the right of way on Main Street. Lanier Parking Management Company has been enlisted to help evaluate the current parking spaces available, feasibility of a parking kiosk machine and enforcement. The group is also reviewing the existing parking ordinances with regard to signs, driveway widths, sight visibility triangles and mailbox placement for amendment consideration. Susan Parker, Town Administrator, advised that NCDOT Representatives will attend the August Work Session to discuss Main Street and the possibility of transferring ownership to the Town.

Jaguar's Lair Discussion

Councilman Sherrill advised that the Negotiating Team met with Coastal Communities Representatives on July 31st and were informed that Section One has been completed. Coastal

Old Business (Cont.)

Jaguar's Lair Discussion

Communities is presently working with the State concerning storm water permit approval for Section Two. The Town is in the process of inspecting Section One and an engineer has been obtained to certify completion before the Section One bond will be released.

Twin Lakes Maintenance Discussion

The Council discussed the current Twin Lakes maintenance program, ownership of the lakes, the current level of maintenance be provided, the history of the Town contributing to the Conservation Association that was maintaining the lakes until the Town assumed full responsibility for the maintenance, and grant opportunities available to assist with the maintenance. The Council discussed the public use of the lakes including the bird watch platform constructed on the lakes by the Town and the need for the lakes to be maintained to protect and promote the wildlife population. The Council discussed liability issues including the alligators. The Council reached a consensus to discontinue the maintenance of the lakes and instructed Staff to terminate the maintenance contract. The Council instructed Mayor Watts and Susan Parker to meet with the Gore Trust Representatives to transition the maintenance responsibility to them.

New Business

Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Donating Surplus Fire Equipment to Bladen County

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION DONATING SURPLUS FIRE EQUIPMENT TO BLADEN COUNTY. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Consideration of Support by Letter for a Senior Citizens' Apartment Building in Sunset Commons

The Council reviewed a proposed letter of Support for a Senior Citizens' Apartment Building in Sunset Commons. Sandy Wood advised that the apartment building will be located on a portion of the 63.5 acre tract on Seaside Road across from Seaside Methodist Church. The developer is requesting the letter to accompany the loan application for the project. The Council amended the letter to remove the word "affordable".

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A SENIOR CITIZENS APARTMENT BUILDING IN SUNSET COMMONS. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approval of Letter Authorizing the ABC Board to Use the Town Travel Policy

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER AUTHORIZING THE ABC BOARD TO USE THE TOWN TRAVEL POLICY. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Personnel Policy Amendments – New Hire Benefits Package

The Council reviewed the proposed New Hire Benefits Package to be included in the Personnel Policy as follows:

New Business (Cont.)

Personnel Policy Amendments – New Hire Benefits Package (Cont.)

Health Insurance – Employee pays any additional medical surcharge for lifestyle choices

Dental, Vision, - Employee pays 50% for Family Dental and Vision

Voluntarily 401K Program – match up to 5%

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL POLICY BENEFITS SECTION TO INCLUDE THE NEW HIRE BENEFIT PACKAGE AS PRESENTED. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Consideration of Accepting the Planning Board UDO Amendment Recommendations

The Council reviewed the Planning Board UDO Amendment Recommendations from the Planning Board. Council questioned the proposed amendment to Section 6.04 Table of Permitted Uses for Off Site Septic Tanks and requested Sandy Wood to contact Brunswick County to determine if off site septic tanks are allowed. The Council reached a consensus to further review the proposed recommendations and provide comments to the Planning Board. The Council reached a consensus to add the acceptance of the Planning Board UDO Amendment Recommendations to the September agenda.

Annual Report Topics Discussion

Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita requested Council to prepare an Annual Report topics list for discussion during the August 19th Work Session.

Public Comments

Carol Santavicca 9109 Forest Drive – Voiced that the appearance of the Twin Lakes as one drives by is beautiful and the bird watching platform is an asset to the Town and the lakes; Requested that if Council chooses to make parking on the island paid that residents are given free passes.

Rich Cerrato 517 Twisted Oak Lane – Requested Council to investigate and determine why the decision to maintain Twin Lakes was made; advised that the Annual Report cost approximately \$5,200 to produce and mail; viewed the Annual Report as non-factual, political and encouraged the Council to change the distribution schedule to January; feels the Council has been deficit spending for years and questioned when the Council was going to review the 5 year forecast briefly discussed during the budgeting process.

Al Paynter 307 Blane Court – Encouraged the Council to continue the Twin Lakes maintenance that is presently budgeted; advised that the West lake is 6-12’ deep and therefore has little maintenance requirement while the East lake is only 2’ deep and at that depth the sunlight promotes weed growth; encouraged Council to consider dredging the East lake to increase the depth and decrease the weed growth.

Bill Ducker 1420 Inlet Drive – Advised that liability should be the biggest concern to the Council.

Public Comments (Cont.)

William Bushkie 611 Lake Shore Drive – Advised that he has been a resident for 15 years and has not seen any aggressive alligators.

Charles Nern 647 Oyster Bay Drive – Remarked that the roundabout is working well but motorists need to realize the sign reads yield not stop.

Adjournment

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 4, 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

Ron Watts, Mayor

Submitted by:

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

*The August 4, 2014 minutes were approved during the October 6, 2014 Council Meeting.