

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Monthly Council Work Session  
March 19, 2013  
9:00 am**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Mayor Richard Cerrato, Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita, Councilman Wilson Sherrill, Councilwoman Karen Joseph, Councilman Mike Williams, and Councilwoman Carol Scott.

**Members absent:** None

**Attorney & Staff Present:** Gary Parker, Town Administrator; Donna Rogers, Finance Director; Cindi Stephenson, Deputy Finance Officer; Sandy Wood, Building Inspector; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Lisa Massey, Police Chief; and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Mayor Cerrato called the Work Session to order. Mayor Cerrato stated “Does any member of the Council have a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest with regard to any item on the agenda, and if so, please state so at this time?” No one spoke.

**Agenda Amendments**

**Sewer Payment Schedule**

Mayor Cerrato advised that the Brunswick County Commissioners are in the process of correcting their error to assess interest on any remaining sewer assessment balance after the first 60 days to after the first year as it states in the contract.

**Brunswick County Fire Fee/Fire Tax Discussion**

Mayor Cerrato requested the Council to add to this agenda a discussion concerning the proposed replacement of the fire fee with a fire tax. The Council agreed.

**Proposed Film About Sunset Beach**

Mayor Cerrato advised that a producer has contacted him requesting permission to produce a film about Sunset Beach and requested the Council add this item to the agenda. The Council agreed.

**Wind Farms**

Councilwoman Scott and Mayor Cerrato attended a seminar on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> concerning a proposal to develop wind farms off the North Carolina coast. Councilwoman Scott is researching and will provide Council with information at an upcoming meeting.

**Public Comments**

**Richard Hilderman 407 37<sup>th</sup> Street** – Voiced opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment concerning pets on the beach strand.

**John Corbett 423 Sailfish Street** – Voiced opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment concerning pets on the beach strand.

**Public Comments (Cont.)**

Louis Mazzullo 1206 North Shore Drive – Voiced opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment concerning pets on the beach strand.

Karol Asbjornson 407 37<sup>th</sup> Street – Voiced opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment concerning pets on the beach strand.

George Fleming 36<sup>th</sup> Street – Voiced opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment concerning pets on the beach strand.

Lynn Strandquist 414 Sailfish Street – Voiced opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment concerning pets on the beach strand.

Mark Selisker 904 E. Main Street – Voiced opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment concerning pets on the beach strand and requested Council to put a dumpster back on the island so weekenders can deposit trash before leaving the island.

Nina Marable 502 North Shore Drive - Voiced opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment concerning pets on the beach strand.

**Business Leaders – Merchants Association**

Dave Nelson, Ron Watts and Mark Kaplan, Island Business Owners, distributed information and presented a slide presentation to the Council concerning the formation of a Sunset Beach Merchants Association with the Town as a funding source through the accommodations tax collected by the Town. The Council was requested to review the information and to consider funding the association. The group is prepared to proceed with the formation of the merchants association once funding is secured from the Town.

**Resolution Concerning Sunset Beach Town Council Concerning Loss of “Transitional Hold Harmless” Reimbursement Funds**

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF THE SUNSET BEACH TOWN COUNCIL CONCERNING LOSS OF “TRANSITIONAL HOLD HARMLESS” REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS. COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Ordinance 96.32 Pets on Beach Strand**

The Council reviewed the memo from Dustin Graham, Public Works Director concerning Ordinance 96.32 Pets on Beach Strand and reached a consensus to add language to the current ordinance to regulation the length of the leash allowed for pets on the beach. Staff will prepare a draft amendment for Council to consider during the April 1, 2013 meeting.

**Garbage Receptacle Discussion**

The Council reviewed the memo from Dustin Graham, Public Works Director concerning the placement of additional garbage receptacles on the island and reached a consensus for Dustin Graham to place additional receptacles, at his discretion, utilizing the Town stock of white barrels. The Council requested that the barrels be researched to determine if colors other than white are available. The Council will discuss the information obtained include the solar units and decorative stone receptacles during the budget process.

**Mobi Beach Mats**

The Council reviewed the memo from Dustin Graham, Public Works Director concerning the Mobi Beach Mats and directed that one (1) 50 foot and one (1) 33 foot mat be purchased now. The Council will discuss the purchase of additional Mobi Beach Mats during the budget process.

**Streetscape Report**

The Council reviewed the information provided and discussed the recommended light pole composite materials and fixture types. The Council reached a consensus to choose the green concrete composite material and the green light fixtures for the Streetscape and Gazebo areas including the adjacent public parking areas. The Council reviewed the landscape planting proposal and requested the Committee to consider adding more of a variety of colors. The Council will consider a landscape contractor RFP for all Town owned property and Town maintained areas during the budget process. Sandy Wood, Building Inspector, request Council to grant the Committee authority to submit the Hardscape plans and specifications to NCDOT for approval.

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE STREETSCAPE PROJECT HARDSCAPE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS BE SUBMITTED TO NCDOT FOR APPROVAL. COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The Council reviewed the project schedule as follows:

- Council to schedule a Public Hearing for May 6, 2013 during the April 1, 2013 meeting,
- Council to consider approval of the Hardscape and Landscape RFP's during the May 6, 2013 meeting,
- Council to award the Hardscape and Landscape Contracts during the July 1, 2013 meeting,
- Hardscape Project to begin October 7, 2013

Councilwoman Scott thanked the Committee (past and present), Tim Cate, Michael Norton and staff for the work on this project.

**Proposed Film About Sunset Beach**

Mayor Cerrato advised that a producer has contacted him requesting permission to produce a film about Sunset Beach.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION FOR MAYOR CERRATO TO DIRECT THE INDIVIDUAL WISHING TO PRODUCE A FILM ABOUT SUNSET BEACH TO CONTACT GARY PARKER AND FOR GARY PARKER TO OBTAIN PERTINENT INFORMATION AND RELAY IT TO THE COUNCIL. COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Brunswick County Fire Fee/Fire Tax Discussion**

The Council discussed the information provided by Mayor Cerrato that was distributed by Brunswick County Commissioners Pat Sykes and Scott Phillips during a recent Mayor's meeting held in Leland.

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT MAYOR CERRATO TO REQUEST THAT THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY MUNICIPALITY MAYORS COLLECTIVELY SEND A LETTER TO THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING THEM TO CEASE THE DISCUSSION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REPLACING THE CURRENT FIRE FEE STRUCTURE WITH A FIRE TAX STRUCTURE UNTIL EACH MUNICIPALITY HAS SUFFICIENT TIME TO REVIEW THE PROPOSAL AND PROVIDE INPUT TO THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION.

The Council discussed submitting a letter from the Town Council due to the limited timeframe since the County Commissioners propose to implement this change on July 1, 2013.

COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE THAT THE TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH WILL SEND A LETTER TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IMMEDIATELY REQUESTING THAT THEY CEASE THE DISCUSSION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REPLACING THE CURRENT FIRE FEE STRUCTURE WITH A FIRE TAX STRUCTURE UNTIL EACH MUNICIPALITY HAS SUFFICIENT TIME TO REVIEW THE PROPOSAL AND PROVIDE INPUT TO THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE AMENDED MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Public Comments**

Bob Bobinski 155 Edgewater Circle – Questioned if these changes in concerning the fire fees and fire taxes will eventually lead to county operated fire departments.

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 19, 2013 WORK SESSION. COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

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Richard Cerrato, Mayor

Submitted by:

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Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk