

**Town of Sunset Beach
Monthly Council Work Session
January 21, 2014
9:00 am**

MINUTES

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

Members absent: Councilman Wilson Sherrill

Attorney & Staff Present: Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Sandy Wood, Building Inspections Department Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Donna Rogers, Finance Director; Cindi Stephenson, Deputy Finance Director; Joe Smith, Detective, and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Public Comments

Daniel Johnston 1257 Harbour Gate South Calabash – Read a prepared statement concerning the Town Surfing Ordinance and associated fine.

Jeff Viscount – Beach or Bust Bicycle Ride

Jeff Viscount informed the Council of the Beach or Bust bicycle ride scheduled for September 20 and 21, 2014. The two (2) day event will begin in Monroe, NC and travel to Florence, SC on the first day and continue to Sunset Beach on the second day. The event is a charity event to benefit the MS Society as well as other regional and local charity organizations. The ride is limited to 200 participants who will be accompanied by approximately 100 guests (family, friends, volunteers and staff). Mr. Viscount requested approval to set up a tent (40'X40') in the Gazebo area to serve dinner to approximately 300 people. Mr. Viscount will go through the Building Inspections Department Special Event Permitting process including tent approval by the Fire Department and Brunswick County Health Department. The Council reached a consensus to grant approval for the use of the Gazebo area for a dining tent and to proceed with the permitting process.

Consideration of Adoption of Speed Limit Reduction Ordinance for NCDOT

COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ORDINANCE OF 35 MPH FOR SUNSET BLVD. NORTH FROM SR 1172 TO 1,500 FEET NORTH OF STATION TRAIL. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR DISCUSSION.

Councilwoman Scott voiced concerns about making more roadways accessible to low speed vehicles.

MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4 – 0 VOTE.

Consideration of Approval to Request Permission to Install a Rope Fence on the Sunset Blvd. South

The Council discussed the appearance of the rope fence under the bridge, in the Gazebo parking area and in the park, and expressed a desire to continue the look on the west side of Sunset Blvd. South in the Streetscape area to prevent vehicles from parking. The Council reached a consensus for Staff to execute an encroachment agreement with NCDOT to install a rope fence on the west side of Sunset Blvd. South from North Shore Drive to Main Street.

Roundabout Discussion

Sandy Wood reminded the Council that during the January Council meeting he was asked to determine the possibilities of stopping or delaying the Roundabout project and the new completion date. Sandy Wood advised that the Town can stop the project but would be responsible for the \$170,000 cost of engineering, surveying and drafting work completed by NCDOT for the project; the Town can delay the project, but the total project cost would increase and no project begin date could be secured. Sandy Wood advised that a traffic signal would cost NCDOT approximately \$180,000, would require the completion of a new feasibility study, the project ranking and approval process and funding with no guarantee that the Town would be approved for the light. Sandy Wood advised that if NCDOT awards the project after the bids are opened on January 30, 2014 the scheduled start date is February 24, 2014 and the completion date is June 21, 2014. NCDOT has agreed with summer season lane closure restrictions for Memorial Day begin on Friday, May 23, 2014 at 7:00 am and run through Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 6:00 PM; weekend restrictions on Saturday & Sunday between May 27, 2014 and June 21, 2014 beginning at 6:00 pm on Friday and ending at 6:00 am on Monday. The Council reached a consensus to proceed with the Roundabout project.

Consideration of Adoption of the Resolution Opposing Insurance Rate Increase by the NC Department of Insurance

The Council reviewed the prepared Resolution and made a few grammatical amendments.

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO SEND THE RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INSURANCE RATE INCREASE. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4 – 0 VOTE.

Discussion of Appointment Candidate Interviews Procedures

The Council discussed the past procedure for interviewing candidates for appointments. The Council reached a consensus to establish a questionnaire, specific to the position, to be sent to each applicant for completion and for the completed questionnaires to be distributed to each Council member for review. The Council also reached a consensus that once the questionnaire review was complete and comments received from each member that Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita and Councilman Johnson would interview each candidate and report back to Council.

Birding Trail Recognition Discussion

The Council discussed the manner in which the Town gives recognition for efforts or donations to the town including the dedication of benches or surf chairs by residents and visitors in memory or honor of a person. Staff was requested to prepare a policy for Council to consider.

Beach Topics Discussion and Review

Administration

The Council reviewed the information prepared by Staff incorporating all beach related ordinances into proposed Chapter 95; citation fines; and communication/education. The Council will discuss further during the February 18, 2014 Annual Retreat.

Public Works

The Council reviewed the information prepared by Staff concerning the beach regulation signs; the walkways (maintenance, repairs and handicapped conversions); the creation of an emergency access on the west end; and adding water/showers on the walkways and the estimated costs for each. The Council will discuss further during the February 18, 2014 Annual Retreat.

Public Comments

John Corbett 423 Sailfish Street – Requested the Council to limit the number of beach strand regulations to only those that are enforceable; encouraged the Council to hear from avid beach goers concerning what regulations are needed.

Jean Hutchinson 436 6th Street – Thanked to Council for the beautiful Streetscape project and suggested the lighting be continued on Main Street; encouraged the Council to hire a contractor to maintain the landscaped areas within the Town

Rich Cerrato 517 Twisted Oak Lane – Questioned if additional trees are being removed from the park site; remarked about the 2012/2013 audit report and the financial condition of the Town.

Karen Joseph 915 Sandpiper Bay Drive – Requested Council to include benches for the bird walk in the next budget.

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 21, 2014 WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-0 VOTE.

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Ron Watts, Mayor

Submitted by:

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk