

**Town of Sunset Beach
Monthly Council Work Session
May 19, 2015**

MINUTES

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

Members absent: Councilman Terry Johnson

Attorney & Staff Present: Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Rawls Howard, Planning Director; Bonnie Schwerd, Finance Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Lisa Joyner, Police Chief and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Mayor Watts called the Work Session to order.

Draft Agenda Amendments

Mayor Watts requested the following updates be added to the agenda:

- IRS Scam
- Water Rescue on Saturday
- Run Sunset Beach
- UDO Amendment Materials
- Sunset Inn

IRS Scam

Police Chief Joyner advised that a phone scam has been reported. The caller posing as an IRS agent demanding payment of tax owed.

Water Rescue on Saturday

Susan Parker, Town Administrator, advised that three (3) individuals were rescued from the ocean on Saturday due to rip currents.

Run Sunset Beach

Mayor Watts advised that the Run Sunset Beach event that was held on the island Saturday saw tremendous participation. The group will be meeting with Town officials to review the event and discuss how to make the event better next year.

UDO Amendment Materials

The Council requested not to receive printed UDO materials when amended as they view the UDO online instead of maintaining a book.

Sunset Inn

Mayor Watts advised that the Sunset Inn is holding a ribbon cutting ceremony tomorrow at 12 noon to celebrate their 15th anniversary.

Public Comments

Karen Joseph 915 Sandpiper Bay Drive – Cautioned the Council against enacting Town Park rules that are unenforceable.

Danny Hardy 306 Canal Drive – Advised the Council of violations observed on the beach strand over the past weekend that the Beach Patrol didn't address.

Presentation – Sunset Vision Group

Catherine Milioti informed the Council of a newly formed group of Sunset Beach citizens. The goal of the group is to deliver amenities, facilities and activities to the Sunset Beach citizens and visitors. Some initial projects include bike rack, informational kiosk, swings and benches for town-owned facilities. The group is in the process of establishing partnership with the Merchant's Association, other local organizations and the Town.

Review of Proposed Ordinance Amendment for UDO Article 10 Landscaping

The Council reviewed Article 10 Landscaping as proposed by the Planning Board and made additional amendments. (The Public Hearing scheduled for June 1, 2015 was postponed due to the additional amendments.)

Connect NC Bond Letter Request Discussion

The Council reviewed the draft letter and made amendments to include language requiring that the completion of Highway 31 be earmarked as a project if the bond funding is passed by the citizens.

Review of Proposed Town Park Rules

The Council reviewed the proposed Town Park rules and added no motorized vehicles in the park area except those utilized by handicapped persons. The Council established the open hours for the Park as sunrise to sunset. Susan Parker requested Council to establish rules as a policy and not ordinance for the first summer to determine what is going to work and will be enforceable. Councilwoman Scott requested the Council to consider prohibiting smoking in the Park. Parker advised that enforcement of a smoking prohibition would be difficult and suggested a designated area. The majority of the Council agreed to not regulate smoking in the Park and instructed Staff to advise Council in a year, earlier if necessary, if changes need to be made.

Susan Parker reviewed the Town Park map with the Council pointing out the areas of interest such as the ideal location to allow special event functions to generate revenue. Parker advised a Special Events Policy is being developed for Council consideration during the June 16, 2015 Work Session. Parker advised that a temporary 10' barricade is being installed to determine if a 10' easement will be sufficient for the Twin Lakes Restaurant delivery and garbage trucks before a permanent easement is granted. Parker advised that a Donations Policy is being developed for those wishing to donate Kiosk, bike racks, swings, benches, etc. Parker met with County officials and determined that the water/sewer tap fees will be \$20,000. The restrooms cost is estimated to be \$150,000 - \$200,000. Parker suggested including a kayak roller with the dock/pier. Parker met with NC Wildlife Officials concerning the boat ramp parking being used after hours for general parking and they were receptive to a shared use on an event-to-event basis. Parker also suggested allowing a tent in the existing impervious surface area for events.

Non-Profit Agency Grant Funding Policy

Susan Parker reviewed the first draft of the Non-Profit Agency Grant Funding Policy. Parker advised that Schwerd will be making additional revisions for Council consideration during the June 1st Meeting or June 16th Work Session.

Public Comments

Rich Cerrato 517 Twisted Oak Lane – Advised that the \$95,000 paid to Withers and Ravenel was not included in the Park grant funding, expressed disappointment that it took five months for the Jaguars Lair mediation to occur and encouraged the Council to call the bonds on Jaguars Lair.

Closed Session

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) TO CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY RICHARDSON CONCERNING LITIGATION WITH THE PALM COVE PROPERTY OWNERS. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0.

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

The Council met in Closed Session for approximately 30 minutes and consulted with Attorney Richardson concerning litigation with the Palm Cove property owners.

Adjournment

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MAY 19, 2015 COUNCIL WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL 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

*The May 19, 2015 Work Session Minutes were approved by Council during the June 29, 2015 meeting.