

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Monthly Council Work Session  
September 22, 2015**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Mayor Ron Watts, Councilwoman Carol Scott, Councilman Terry Johnson, Councilman Wilson Sherrill and Councilman Mike Williams

**Members absent:** Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita

**Attorney & Staff Present:** Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Rawls Howard, Planning Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief, Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief; Lisa Joyner, Police Chief and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Mayor Watts called the Work Session to order.

**Draft Agenda Amendments**

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADD TO THE AGENDA A DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE SUNSET AT SUNSET TOWN BOOTH STAFFING BY COUNCIL MEMBERS. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A SECOND. THE MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

Mayor Watts advised the Closed Session is not needed and will be removed from the agenda.

**Public Comments**

None Heard

**Beach Patrol Operation Review**

Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief and Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief, provided the Council a review of the Beach Patrol Operation noting that the pilot program to allow medically-trained personnel to manage the Beach Patrol Operation was a success. Childres provided the following incident summary:

- 15 major injuries
- 79 minor injuries
- 16 missing persons – Personnel assist with finding missing children mostly.
- 6 water rescues – Dempsey advised that the water rescues consisted of 3 rip currents victims and 3 citizens that entered the water to help. Beach Patrol personnel Nicki Atkinson, Josh Wallace and Matt Gaskins were on the stand and able to enter the water and assist immediately while Captain McDonald and Fireman Wells with the assistance of several citizens launched to boat to complete the rescues. Dempsey advised that the boats work well but wave runners, from a launch perspective, would work better.
- 20 public assist – Personnel assisted beach goers get on and off the strand.
- 4 animal rescues - Dempsey advised that the majority of the animal rescues pertained to birds and turtles and that Carmel Zetts and the Turtle Watch Program volunteers were a great asset.

Councilwoman Scott advised of complaints received concerning unleashed dogs. Dempsey advised that dogs off leashes, owners not properly disposing of animal waste, nudity and beach goers bringing glass on the strand presented the most enforcement challenges of the season. Dempsey advised that the Beach

Patrol season has now ended but personnel will respond to the strand if notified of violations. Police Chief Joyner stated that police patrols could be increased.

Concerning tents, Dempsey advised that the emergency access boundaries were adhered to by most and noted that only 1 – 2 broken tents were recovered daily for disposal by the public works department staff. Dempsey advised that the majority of the tent violations were committed by the tent companies and requested Council to consider banning the commercial tents while continuing to allow private tents, if permissible.

Dempsey advised that the Beach Patrol and Fire Personnel have completed de-briefing meetings and will begin training for next season soon. Dempsey advised that the beach equipment worked well and the equipment cleaning and maintenance is being performed now.

#### **Discussion of Main Street Priority List – Crosswalks**

Susan Parker, Town Administrator, reminded Council that during the September 8, 2015 Meeting, Chad Kimes, NC DOT, requested Council to submit desired crosswalk placement locations for consideration. Dustin Graham, Public Works Director, recommended 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> Street be submitted for consideration. After a brief discussion, the Council agreed to submit 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 29<sup>th</sup> Street to NC DOT for crosswalk placement consideration.

#### **Discussion of Ordinance Amendments Concerning Bike Paths**

The Council discussed subsection (a) of the proposed Ordinance Amendment for §72.12 concerning “no person may stop, stand, sit....”. The Council agreed that subsection (a) was unnecessary and requested its removal and the revised Ordinance Amendment for §72.12 to be placed on the October 5, 2015 agenda for consideration.

#### **Public Comments**

Mark Benton 409 40<sup>th</sup> Street – Commented concerning a letter received from Karen Joseph, Sunset at Sunset Co-Chairwoman, concerning candidates campaigning on location at the festival.

Karen Joseph 915 Sandpiper Bay Drive – Commented that the Town has historically not allowed candidates campaigning on location at the festival.

Charles Nern 647 Oyster Bay Drive – Commented concerning the Veteran’s Memorial and thanked the Town for allowing the memorial in the Park.

Rawls Howard, Planning/Inspections Director – Reminded Council of the Land Use Plan Update Meeting scheduled for September 30, 2015 at Sea Trail Conference Center.

#### **Adjournment**

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 COUNCIL WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Town of Sunset Beach**  
*Ron Watts, Mayor*

Submitted by:

*Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk*

\*The September 22, 2015 minutes were approved by the Town Council during the November 2, 2015 meeting.