

**Town of Sunset Beach
Monthly Tuesday Council Meeting
February 16, 2016**

MINUTES

Members Present: Mayor Ron Watts, Mayor Pro-Tem Carol Scott, Councilman Lou DeVita, Councilman Mark Benton, Councilman Peter Larkin and Councilman Rich Cerrato

Members absent: None

Attorney & Staff Present: Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Bonnie Schwerd, Finance Director; Rawls Howard, Planning and Inspections Director; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief; Lisa Joyner, Police Chief; and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

This meeting was held in the Fire Station #1 Training Room due to mold issues in Town Hall Council Chambers, Conference Room and Police Department Weight Room.

Draft Agenda Amendments

COUNCILMAN CERRATO MADE A MOTION TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE AGENDA:

- Authorization for Town Clerk to Advertise Board of Adjustment ETJ Alternate Member Vacancy and the Term Expiration Positions of Two (2) Members
- Mayor Comments

COUNCILMAN BENTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

Public Comments

John Corbett 1313 Canal Drive – Made a presentation to Council concerning the tides and cabanas placement; encouraged Council not to ban cabanas.

Denise Burns – owner of In the Shade Beach Canopies – Spoke in favor of allowing cabanas on the beach and willingness of cabana companies to work with Town to ensure all rules and regulations are followed.

Kevin Godwin – owner of Sandlappers Beach Supplies – Spoke in favor of allowing cabanas on the beach and willingness of cabana companies to work with Town to ensure all rules and regulations are followed; stated that beach rules need to be reviewed in the fall so the renters, companies and general public could be made aware of pending changes in advance of the season.

Jan Harris 206 North Shore Drive – Encouraged Council to ban the cabanas; advised that shade can be achieved with umbrellas.

Sue Weddle 706 North Shore Drive – Encouraged Council to ban the cabanas.

Pete Jelstrom 1135 Park Road – Advised that it is too late to ban cabanas now as people have already rented cottages and cabanas for the upcoming season; encouraged Council to revisit this in the fall.

Administer Oath of Office to Councilman Larkin

Town Clerk Lisa Anglin administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Larkin.

Cabana Ordinance Amendment Discussion

Councilman Benton advised that he doesn't want the cabanas banned if a solution can be found for the issues caused by the cabanas during high tides. Chief Dempsey recommended that no changes be made at this time. Dempsey advised that the high tide issues are only experienced for approximately 1 – 2 hours when the tide occurs during the busiest time of the day. Dempsey noted that very few issues were experienced last year. Dempsey advised that the 4-wheelers purchased last year had helped with the maneuverability of emergency personnel along the strand and made the emergency lane not as critical as in the past. The Council agreed to revisit the beach strand regulations including the allowance of cabanas in the fall.

Establishment of Environmental Citizens Committee

Councilman Benton requested Council to consider appointing an Environmental Citizens Committee to study environmental issues facing the Town and the related impacts, and to advise Council of environmental related topics that Council might want to consider for possible action. The Council held a brief discussion and reached a consensus that a Mission Statement needs to be adopted before advertising and appointing committee members. Councilman Cerrato will draft a Mission Statement and provide to Council for consideration during the March 7, 2016 Meeting.

Discussion and Consideration of Awarding Contract Concerning Shoreline Management and Pre-Dredging Analysis

Susan Parker, Town Administrator and the Council discussed the Analysis needed prior to meeting with State and Federal Agencies to determine if dredging permits can be obtained.

COUNCILMAN BENTON MADE A MOTION TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT AND PRE-DREDGING ANALYSIS TO MOFFAT AND NICHOLS. COUNCILMAN DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE. COUNCILMAN BENTON, COUNCILMAN LARKIN AND COUNCILMAN DEVITA VOTED YES. COUNCILMAN CERRATO VOTED NO. MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT ABSTAINED DUE TO A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. THE MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

Consideration of Awarding Beach Access Walkway Extension Contract

Susan Parker, Town Administrator advised that the qualified low bidder for the Beach Access Walkway Extensions is Carolina Creations at \$119,850.

COUNCILMAN CERRATO MADE A MOTION TO AWARD THE BEACH ACCESS WALKWAY EXTENSIONS CONTRACT TO CAROLINA CREATIONS TOTALING \$119,850. COUNCILMAN DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Budget Ordinance Amendment for Walkway Repairs

COUNCILMAN CERRATO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR THE BEACH ACCESS WALKWAY EXTENSIONS. COUNCILMAN DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Discussion Concerning Outside Agency Funding Requests

Bonnie Schwerd, Finance Director, requested direction from the Council as to soliciting for outside Agency funding requests. Council reached a consensus to defer this item to the March 22, 2016 Planning Session.

Report of Town Hall Parking Compliance

Rawls Howard, Planning and Inspections Department Director, advised Council that Town Hall is in compliance with parking for an office building. However, the building is used for public assembly also.

Report of Census Boundary Map

Rawls Howard, advised the Council of census boundary maps that are being corrected to encompass all properties within Town limits.

Consideration of Revised Inter-local Agreement with Brunswick County for Building Inspection Services

Rawls Howard requested the Council to approve the revised Inter-local agreement with Brunswick County for Building Inspection Services on an on-call basis due to personnel issues.

MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BRUNSWICK COUNTY FOR BUILDING INSPECTIONS SERVICES. COUNCILMAN CERRATO SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Update of Angel Trace Roadway

Councilman DeVita advised that contact has been made with Brunswick County and Sea Trail concerning the washed out area and the placement of Road Closed Signs at the entryway from Sunset Blvd. North and Old Georgetown Road. Councilman DeVita will contact Becky Nobles with Coastal Communities for assistance.

Update of Town Website Discussion

The Council briefly discussed communications, the website, records management systems and videoing Council meetings. A comprehensive review will take place during the March 22, 2016 Planning Session.

Consideration to Authorize Town Clerk to Advertise Board of Adjustment ETJ Alternate Member Vacancies And Term Expiration of Two (2) Members

MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VACANIES AND TERM EXPIRATION POSITIONS. COUNCILMAN CERRATO SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Mayor Pro-Tem Scott requested the Clerk to email the Council the questions that are sent to applicants that apply for positions and to summarize the procedure established for interviewing the applicants so Council can discuss during the March 22, 2016 Meeting.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Watts advised that the new Council made a request of CAMA to assign a new CAMA Field representative for this area. Mayor Watts advised that Sean Farrell has been assigned.

Mayor Watts cautioned the Council members to be mindful of comments they are making in public.

Agenda Items for March 7, 2016 Meeting

The Council added the following items to the specified upcoming agenda:

Mission Statement for Environmental Committee	03/07/16
Street Lights Discussion	03/07/16
Meeting Procedures and Rules	03/22/16
Audio System Update	04/04/16
Debris Removal Contract	04/04/16
Park Rules including No Smoking	04/19/16
Island-wide Speed Limit of 25 mph	04/19/16

Public Comments

Jan Harris 206 North Shore Drive – Thanked Council for being concerned about the environment and suggested that one person appointed to the Committee be required to attend all CRC, FEMA and Coastal Federation meetings; advised that dredging Jinks Creek is a bad idea.

John Corbett 1313 Canal Drive – Advised that the dredging cost will be paid by the property owners that benefit from the dredging project through assessments of the dredging and maintenance fees.

Anthony Street 1714 Stanbury Road – Advised the Council of his candidacy for a seat on the Brunswick County Soil and Water Board.

Recess

MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO RECESS THE FEBRUARY 16, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING UNTIL 12:00 NOON. COUNCILMAN BENTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Closed Session

COUNCILMAN DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO RECONVENE THE MEETING AND TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) TO CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY RICHARDSON AND NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) PERSONNEL. MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The Council met in Closed Session for approximately 30 minutes, received legal advice from Attorney Richardson and discussed a personnel matter.

COUNCILMAN BENTON MADE A MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Closed Session (Cont.)

MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO RECONVENE THE OPEN MEETING. COUNCILMAN BENTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Susan Parker advised that the Town Council authorized Attorney Richardson to obtain a special consultant and discussed a personnel matter.

COUNCILMAN DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 16, 2016 MEETING. COUNCILMAN CERRATO 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 February 16, 2016 minutes were approved by Council during the March 7, 2016 meeting.