

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Monthly Tuesday Council Meeting  
January 19, 2016**

**MINUTES**

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

**Members absent:** Council vacancy

**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**

MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE AGENDA:

- Closed Session for personnel
- West End Bridge Permit Discussion
- Palm Cove Discussion Concerning Fill Ordinance
- Cabanas Discussion
- Budget Planning Session Logistics

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

**Candidate Robert Donnelly Presentation**

Mayor Watts advised that Mr. Donnelly is unable to attend the Candidates Forum scheduled for Friday, January 22, 2016, therefore, he is being allowed to make his 5 minute presentation today. Candidate Robert Donnelly made a 5 minute presentation to Council regarding why he wants to be considered for the Town Council vacancy.

**Public Comments**

Jean Hutchinson 436 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Spoke in support of the Sunset at Sunset event and requested direction from the Council for the Committee.

John Corbett 1313 Canal Drive – Spoke in support of the Sunset at Sunset event.

**Town Hall Update**

Susan Parker, Town Administrator advised that air quality testing performed in Town Hall resulted in the discover of mold issues within the Council Chambers, Conference Room and Police Department Weight Room. The areas have been sealed and Staff is proceeding with mitigation action.

**Consideration of Approval of Resolution Submitting Comments to DOEM Regarding the South Carolina Call Area for Wind Energy**

MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE ISSUANCE OF WIND ENERGY LEASES WITHIN 24 NAUTICAL MILES OF NORTH CAROLINA'S SHORES TO THE DOEM REGARDING THE SOUTH CAROLINA CALL AREA. COUNCILMAN CERRATO SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-0 VOTE.

**Establish Budget Exercise for Staff to Identify 10% Budget Cuts and effects for Reporting during Budget Planning Session and Meetings**

Staff was directed to perform an exercise to determine 10% of budget cuts and the effects the cuts would have for discussion during the Budget Planning Session in March.

**Budget Planning Session (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) Topics and Logistics**

The Council discussed the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Budget Planning Session agenda. Items identified include:

Records Management System  
Revenue Generation Sources  
Staff Training/Development  
Tourism Expansion  
Cost, equipment and Personnel Sharing Ventures  
Cost of Employee Benefit Program  
Board Term Limits

The Council reached a consensus to hold the Budget Planning Session at Town Hall instead of Sea Trail as in the past.

**Council Procedures Regarding Meetings and New Member Transition**

The Council discussed allowing citizens to have 3 or 5 minutes for public comments. The Council agreed to 3 minutes. The Council decided that once the Council appoints the person to fill the vacancy, the oath of office will be administered and the person will be seated at the beginning of the next Council meeting.

MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ESTABLISH THAT THE COUNCIL MEMBER CHOSEN TO FILL THE VACANCY WILL START AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING AFTER SELECTED. COUNCILMAN BENTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-0 VOTE.

**Park and Recreation Trust Fund Discussion Related to Town Park Contract and Obligations**

Susan Parker, Town Administrator, advised that Staff, Mayor Pro-Tem Scott, and Councilman Benton met with Representative from the Park and Recreation Trust Fund on site followed by a meeting at Town Hall to discuss options. In an email received January 12, 2016, the representatives advised the following:

- There are options to amend the project that are consistent with the proposed project and contract. This would keep the Town in good standing within the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund program and with the Parks and Recreation Authority.

- a) **Renovation and relocation of the floating dock/pier:** As you pointed out, you have renovated the pier and made it more accessible and much safer. It would be nice if it could be moved and was actually “floating”, however the cost in relocating it seems to be more costly than previously expected and a floating dock/pier may actually be unsafe with large wakes frequently crashing in.

**Solution:** We think that the Town has met the requirements of this item because although it is not floating and is not relocated, park users can still fish from/enjoy the pier/dock and it appears to be a safer and more accessible feature. We ask that before the project closes out, be sure to have a building inspector, etc. look over the pier/dock to ensure complete safety.

- b) **Construction of observation deck out into the water:** Although you haven’t started this element yet, as we discussed on site, the following will be acceptable.

**Solution:** The Town may build the observation deck along the shore, instead of out into the water. We understand that costs on this item exceeded your estimates and we believe park users may receive a similar viewing experience from an observation deck along the shore.

- c) **Construction of covered seating area/gazebo (2,000 SF):** It was brought to our attention that there is some concern about building a large structure in the middle of the property and the thought that it may obstruct the view of the water, be an eyesore, etc. There was conversation about completely deleting this amenity or possibly moving it and altering the size.

**Solution:** While we believe the covered seating area/gazebo would be extremely attractive and would be greatly used by park patrons as was proposed, we respect the opinion that built as such, may be seen by some as distracting from the natural beauty of the park. However, removing it completely from the project would violate the terms of the contract by not providing the amenities agreed upon. It will be acceptable, however, to move the “covered seating area/gazebo” to another part of the park. Likewise, it will also be acceptable to build a smaller structure. The goal here is that the same type of facility will be available to park patrons as was proposed in the grant proposal and was accepted by the Parks and Recreation Authority.

Council directed Staff to determine cost to make dock safe and to determine if the dock width is grandfathered in. Staff was also directed to draft letter to Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Representatives requesting extension and advising what amendments the Council is proposing for the Park project.

### **Sunset at Sunset Discussion**

The Council discussed the event history and reached a consensus to support the Sunset at Sunset event for 2016. Council will attempt to find a non-profit agency to consider assuming the management and organization of future events and give the Committee a final answer concerning the continuation of the event by September 2016.

### **Disposition of Directives Discussion**

The Council reviewed the Disposition of Directives, and removed stalled items and budget consideration items from the list.

### **Island Paid Parking Consideration**

The Council discussed island paid parking and the legislation required to retain the penalty revenues. Mayor Watts advised that the legislation was not passed by the General Assembly last year but that Senator Rabon will attempt to get it passed this year. The Council reached a consensus to hold a paid parking discussion in April.

### **Town Hall Parking Issue**

The Council discussed the Town Hall parking issue and directed Staff to provide the parking requirements for Town Hall during the next Council meeting.

### **Angel Trace Road Discussion**

Councilman DeVita requested contact be made with the Angel Trace Roadway owners to discuss placing signs at each end to warn motorists that the roadway is impassible. Brunswick County Public Utilities also needs to be contacted concerning the exposed sewer and water pipes.

### **West End Bridge Permit Discussion**

Councilman Cerrato requested Council to approve a Resolution opposing the proposed bridge for the West End development. Susan Parker, Town Administrator, suggested the Council obtain a legal opinion from the Town Attorney before taking any action concerning the west end development.

### **Palm Cove Beacon Article**

Councilman Cerrato requested the Council consider an investigation into how the fill ordinance was omitted from the UDO. Rawls, Howard, Planning and Inspections Department Director, advised that the Planning Board is currently comparing the old Zoning Regulations to the UDO to determine if anything else was omitted.

### **Cabana Discussion**

Councilman Benton requested the Council to consider banning Cabanas for the upcoming season. The Council reached a consensus to add this discussion to the February 16, 2016 meeting in order for the cabana companies, rental agencies and citizens to be made aware that a discussion concerning the banning of Cabanas will be held.

### **Establish Agenda Items for February 1, 2016 Meeting**

The Council added the following items to the February 1, 2016 Agenda:

- Attorney Contact Rules
- Liaison Appointments
- West End Bridge
- Annual Report
- CAMA Field Representative

### **1<sup>st</sup> Street Beach Access Walkway**

Parker advised that the 1<sup>st</sup> Street walkway is 540 feet long. ADA guidelines recommend a shaded area every 60 feet along a walkway. Staff is recommending a shaded area be constructed at approximately 300 feet which is halfway.

COUNCILMAN DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO CONSTRUCT A SHADED AREA ON THE FIRST STREET WALKWAY. COUNCILMAN BENTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE. COUNCILMAN DEVITA AND COUNCILMAN BENTON VOTED YES. MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT AND COUNCILMAN CERRATO VOTED NO. MAYOR WATTS BROKE THE TIE AND VOTED YES. THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 3-2 VOTE.

**Public Comments**

Jan Harris 206 North Shore Drive – Questioned when the Fill Ordinance will become added to the UDO.

George Johnson 215 Crooked Gulley Circle – Thanked the Council for conducting a good meeting.

James Stokes 658 Kings Court – Spoke in opposition to the proposed gazebo size and suggested a smaller version; suggested the island parking signs need to be clarified; thinks paid parking will have a negative impact and drive visitors away; advised that many cabanas are set up but never used.

**Adjournment**

MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 19, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING. COUNCILMAN CERRATO 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 January 19, 2016 minutes were approved by Council during the February 1, 2016 meeting.