



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 26, 2008 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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8 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

9 Mayor Hyman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Hyman, Mayor Pro Tem
10 Truett and Councilmembers Hiatt, Samples, Martin and Tuttle were present. A quorum
11 was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell & Director of Public
12 Safety, Christenson, and Finance Treasurer Hursey.

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14 **2. INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

15 Councilman Truett said the invocation. Mayor Hyman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
16 Mayor Hyman welcomed all in attendance.

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18 **3. MINUTES APPROVAL**

19 Mayor Hyman asked for approval of the budget workshop meeting minutes from
20 October 25, 2007. Mr. Samples made a motion to approve the budget workshop
21 meeting minutes from October 25, 2007 as written. Mr. Truett seconded the motion.
22 **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Hyman asked for approval of the
23 minutes from the February 11, 2008. Mr. Samples moved to approve the February 11,
24 2008 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Truett seconded. **All voted in favor. MOTION**
25 **CARRIED.**

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27 **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only**

28 There were no public comments.

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30 **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

31 **A. Finance Report**

32 Ms. Hursey presented the report on file. Ms. Hursey reported that the Business
33 License Department is preparing for their annual renewal process and they plan on
34 mailing out over 2,900 applications and will be mailed out the first week of April. Ms.
35 Hursey reported that the real estate collections to date are \$1,865,000, which is just
36 under our budget and she added that with two months of collections left she sees no
37 problem in meeting the budget for this year. Ms. Hursey reported that parking ticket
38 collections are going well, 2007 and 2005 outstanding tickets were mailed out and
39 they are about to mail out 2006 and they have collected almost \$7,000. Ms. Hursey
40 reported that the Finance staff recently attended a User Group Conference to go
41 over some updates they have coming out and they also have a new product coming
42 out as well. Mr. Samples stated that he wanted to commend all of staff for the hard
43 work in putting the budget together and added that they do appreciate the hard
44 work. Mr. Martin stated that he would second that and also stated that he wants to
45 add because he knows that there is public concern regarding the slow down of the
46 building industry and the building permits have dropped along with the income to the
47 town however the business licenses have more than made up for it. Mr. Martin
48 added that the town is doing just fine and no one needs to worry. Mayor Hyman
49 stated that the town had a budget workshop meeting the night before and this was
50 the first time that the town had a zero budget. Mayor Hyman added that we are
51 under where we were last year and there is no tax increase and the town is in great
52 shape. Mayor Hyman added that they appreciate Ms. Hursey and Mr. Booth on all
53 the work they have done on the budget and keeping the town in good shape.
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B. Public Works

Mr. Booth presented the report that is on file. Mr. Booth reported that there have been 4 additional 50/50 projects that have been completed and the town is pushing forward on these adding that he believes these to be good projects. They are good for both stormwater quality and the quality that it brings to the residents. Mr. Booth stated that he is requesting the next Council meeting to be changed to March 10th due to his having to go back to CTC for a funding request. Mr. Booth stated that CTC wanted to come out and look at the project prior to approving it so he needs to go back March 11th. Mr. Samples made a motion to change the next Council meeting to Monday, March 10th. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Booth reported that the beach renourishment project is pretty much finished for Surfside Beach. They had gone back and went over a few problems that were brought to their attention. Mr. Booth stated that the beach is looking good but the bad news is with the high tides we have been getting especially with the full moons the town is really losing a lot of the beach renourishment. Mayor Hyman stated that it would come back, it is called shifting sand.

D. Administrator's Report

Mr. Booth reported that he had an audit a couple of weeks ago regarding the Phase II Stormwater permit. He met with all of the State organizations and they went over the permit in detail line by line and they are satisfied that we are in much better shape than most communities. Mr. Booth stated that he would continue going forward and plans on continuing the process with education. The town has identified its pollutant as coming from animal waste including birds. Mr. Booth stated that another issue is yard chemicals used but our primary pollutant is the waste from animals. Mr. Booth added that this audit was generated by a complaint and he is sure that the complaint came about from there being talk of putting a basketball court in a particular area. Mr. Booth reported on the property owned by the town, which is located on Poplar and Surfside Drive stating that the plan is to rezone it but it cannot be rezoned until it is owned by the town and there is one more payment. Mr. Booth stated that the town currently has the funds to make this payment and would be presenting an issue paper at the next meeting for Council to decide whether to pay it off early or not. Mr. Booth stated that the town would soon begin replenishing this fund with the money from the meters that it would be getting shortly. Mayor Hyman asked for further information for the public on the use of the attachment for the mower, which was approved the previous night at the budget meeting. Mr. Booth explained that the attachment has a drum, which spins and cuts the grass. It goes into the ditches and cuts the grass and does not remove the grass, as the previous machine would do. When the grass is removed as previously done with a backhoe it leaves the mud and silt and this in turn runs into our lakes and this is not what should happen and the grass stops this from happening. Ms. Tuttle asked if there was a schedule regarding planting of grass seed for the ditches so they can get to the condition where we could use this machine and Mr. Booth stated that the ditches are currently in good condition and as long as we do not use the backhoe they should remain in good condition. The ditches, which were cleaned with the backhoe, will get sod or grass seed. Ms. Tuttle asked if this included the ditches that have been dug down to the water tables and Mr. Booth stated that it did. Mr. Booth stated that some of the debris removed from the lakes could be used to help fertilize the ditches so that they grow quickly. Mr. Samples asked when the next Stormwater Committee meeting was scheduled for. Mr. Booth answered that it is on March 5th at 5 o'clock.

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7. BUSINESS

i. Issue Paper –Lake Dredging

Earthworks was in the audience to answer any questions that may arise during this issue paper presentation. Mr. Booth presented the issue paper on file. Mr. Booth reported that the lakes need to be prepared prior to them getting cleaned out and this would involve the help of both Recreation and Public Works. There are many limbs of trees hanging into and over the lakes and they would need to be trimmed. Mr. Booth stated that there are some unknowns involved. The town is asking the contractor to take out a certain amount of debris and it is unknown as to what kind of debris and how much is in the lakes and it is unknown as to what kind of problems the town will run into. Neighbors of the lake have indicated to Mr. Booth that everything from lawn furniture to large oak barrels went into these lakes. Mr. Booth stated that prior to the hurricane going through the town the lakes were considerably deeper and in the mean time there has been about 10 feet of silt that has gone in on top of the debris so the town will only be removing 3 to 4 feet of the silt. Mr. Booth stated that if they run into a problem during the process he might have to come back to Council to decide on what to do. Mayor Hyman asked what the depth of the water would be. Mr. Booth stated that it would be 5 to 6 feet. Mr. Samples stated that his recollection of the bid package was that it was to be 10 feet from the shoreline. Mr. Booth stated that this was correct. There was additional conversation regarding the lakes and that the town would be taking care of the obvious problems. Mr. Booth stated that he went to Greenville to meet with the company they are recommending for the job; Cooper, Sand and Gravel. Mr. Booth stated that this is a smaller company and he likes that because this project will take some time, approximately 3 to 4 months. Mr. Booth stated that this company is looking to dewater the silt rather than place it in large bags. Mr. Booth stated that there are sometimes problems with the bags because they break and leave a mess and he would have been concerned about putting the bags on our ball fields because if anything happened it would take a while to get the fields back to working order. Mr. Booth added that this procedure would be less disruptive. Mr. Booth stated that if the bid is accepted the plan would be to begin in approximately 60 days and he would start with the less disruptive lakes during our busy tourist season. Mr. Booth stated that he went around with the Stormwater Committee and they chose areas that could be for the dredging process. Mr. Booth stated that he would need permission, in writing, from the church and others to use their property. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the Cooper, Sand and Gravel bid as presented. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. Mr. Samples stated that according to the Secretary of States website this company has been incorporated and doing business in South Carolina since 1982 and based on the references that were provided which indicated that all of their recent customers where very satisfied and the fact that it is also in contrast to the previous million dollar bid presented he believes that it appears that the town is getting a good deal. Mr. Samples asked if we were fully budgeted for the \$645,205 and Mr. Booth answered that we are currently looking to do 4 lakes; one lake they cannot get into so they are going to take that one out. There was discussion and confusion as to which lake was being taken out with reference to Myrtle and Magnolia. Mayor Hyman stated that the request is to approve the whole package so that the town could work on getting right-of-ways from the residents located on the other lake. Ms. Tuttle stated that the amount was brought up in the previous nights budget and it was confirmed that is was and it was for \$485,000. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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ii. Appraisal for Pier

Mr. Booth reported that Ingram Corporation has just finished appraising a pier for Oak Island and this will be their 4th Pier that they have appraised. Mr. Booth stated that the amount for the new appraisal was approved through the A-Tax Committee. Mr. Truett made a motion to accept the \$4,000 to appraise the Pier. Ms. Hiatt seconded the motion. Mr. Martin stated that he believes that this is a waste of the taxpayer's money. The owner of the Pier had told Council what he wanted for the Pier, the town make an offer below that and there was no counter offer so he feels that the price is the price and that the owner does not plan on going down so he believes that this is a waste of money. Ms. Hiatt stated that she was under the impression that Council was directed to come back with a reasonable offer and that the owner was willing to negotiate as long as the offer was reasonable. Mr. Booth stated that the comment from the owner was to bring back a reasonable offer; he did not think the original offer was reasonable and that is why he did not accept it. Mayor Hyman stated that he is favor of getting another appraisal because there were some questions, which arose on how the original appraisal was written. Mayor Hyman stated that he also believes that we are wasting time if we make an offer of less than half of what they want for the property so we need to get another appraisal to see what is more realistic. Mr. Booth added that once the appraisal is done the company would also come and talk to Council. **All except Mr. Martin voted for. Mr. Martin voted against. MOTION CARRIED.**

iii. Public Works Director Recommendation

Mr. Booth reported that he spent the previous Friday performing interviews of various individuals; he also went out and tried to recruit. He recruited 2 individuals with one turning him down. Mr. Booth added that he had a lot of good candidates but is really looking for someone who is already doing the job and can step right in and take over without having to be trained. Mr. Booth stated that he is recommending Ty Taylor who he had recruited once before about 7 years ago; he had worked with him previously and was very comfortable with him. Mr. Booth stated that he currently does the same job and has experience with garbage and stormwater and he has been doing this for many years. Mr. Booth added that he knows how to work with employees and he is not dictatorial; he gets out there and works along with them. Mr. Booth stated that Mr. Kirk was also out working as well. Mayor Hyman introduced Mr. Taylor and his family who were in the audience. Mr. Truett made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Town Administrator. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Hyman announced to Mr. Taylor that he now has a job in Surfside Beach. Mr. Taylor thanked the Mayor (there was applause in the audience).

Mr. Booth stated that with elections coming up there will be signs put out and displayed and if there is a problem with someone's signs he will call the candidate and ask them to take care of the situation. Mr. Booth stated that he would not be measuring and surveying the signs but if they are too close to the road or in an obviously not acceptable place he will ask you to move it but he will not be going out in a code enforcement fashion. Mayor Hyman stated that there had been occasions where homeowners have moved signs when they cut their grass and don't move them back so on some occasions it is not the candidate. It was also reported that signs must be removed within 5 days after the election. There was discussion as to changing the April 8th Council meeting to April 7th and the DP3 Meeting. Mr. Booth stated that the fire department did sustain some damage today from the 55-mile per hour winds. Rain came inside and some of the siding came loose. Mayor Hyman recognized Steve Strickland from Earthworks who was in the audience and stated that he appreciated his being there. Mr. Booth added that they were there during the Phase II audit and they did a very good job assisting him with it.

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210 **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General. – 5 Minutes**

211 *Bob Childs, 14th Avenue North:* "You've got to get that name of that, Magnolia is no
212 problem, I think you're looking at Floral, that wrong name keeps popping up, I
213 remember at the Stormwater, we have plenty of access to get into Magnolia."

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215 There was additional discussion as to what lake it was that they were referring to earlier
216 and it was determined that it was Holly.

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218 Mayor Hyman thanked Mr. Childs for pointing this out.

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220 Mayor Hyman asked Mr. Taylor when he planned on moving to Surfside Beach and Mr.
221 Taylor answered that he planned on moving in March and would start work on April 1st.

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223 **9. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

224 Mr. Samples: "In years past when we've had elections, I think as a matter of courtesy,
225 we have always recognized the candidates who come to the meetings and we've asked
226 them to stand, identify themselves and give at least their address so we can determine
227 whether or not they really live in town, not that we've ever had that problem (laughing in
228 audience) but I kind of like for us to go back to that tradition. I think it's a good tradition
229 because we are a community and win, lose or draw we need to recognize the people
230 that put their hats in the ring and go through the process because as you know, it's a lot
231 of work, so, I'd like to see us do that."

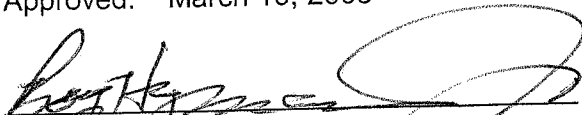
232
233 Mayor Hyman: "We'll do it next Council meeting, we did it right after the filing was over
234 and we recognized everybody and just basically the same people are here every time,
235 we don't hardly have any new people so that's why it hasn't been done, so if you want
236 to go back to it, we can certainly go back to it."

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238 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

239 Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 P.M. Mr. Martin seconded the
240 motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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242 
243 Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

244 Approved: March 10, 2008

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247 Roy Hyman, Jr., Mayor

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249 Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

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252 Rebecca J. Hiatt, Town Council

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255 James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

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258 Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

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261 Judith K. Tuttle, Town Council

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263 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. In accordance with FOIA,
meeting notice and the agenda were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on file
in the clerk's office. The agenda was posted on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception
area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee.