



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
March 10, 2008
TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
ON 2008-2009 BUDGET MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hyman called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. Mayor Hyman, Mayor Pro Tem Truett and Councilmembers Hiatt, Samples, Martin and Tuttle were present. A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell & Director of Public Safety, Christenson, Finance Treasurer Hursey and Building/Zoning Director Donevant.

Mr. Booth stated that he wanted to go over the budget goals and objectives adding that these are what drives the town and gives council some substance to evaluate how the town is doing. Mr. Booth stated that the goal is to enhance the quality of life of both the permanent residents and visitors in the Town of Surfside Beach and in order to get to the goal the objectives need to be met and those are to complete Phase 3 and 4 of the road resurfacing; to complete a mile of sidewalk on Hollywood and 5th Avenue; to complete the dredging of the retention ponds/lakes which should take about 4 months; construct four additional crossovers to the beach; enhance the music and entertainment program in town; complete the planning and possibly begin construction of the fire station; and to provide a better police presence, especially during special events like Bike Week. Mr. Booth encouraged council to give their input as to what other objectives they see may need to be added. He is also looking for suggestions of other areas in town that need beautification. Mr. Booth reported that there are no increases in millage or fees, the revenues have increased by 2.77 percent, expenses are up by 4.69 percent overall which was due to salary increases, taxes and increased costs for workman's compensation. Mr. Booth added that the town would be going out for bid just as they had done with the health insurance to see if there are better fees for the other insurance as well.

Mr. Booth reported that operating expense is down by almost 1 percent. 61 percent of the expenses are salary, 21 percent is operational, which is down a little and capital items is up about 6 or 7 percent and this takes care of about 18 percent of the budget. The overall expenses are up 3.33 percent and a lot of this is because the town spent more on the capital improvements. Revenues are 4.3 million and the full time employee count is down by 6 and part time employees are up by 5. Some of the increase in part time in Public Works is for the summer program to assist in clean-up projects. Mr. Booth reported that the town has 5 more years of debt and then it will be debt free. Mr. Booth reported that Sanitation is an independent fund, which is owned by the citizens, it is a business and is not part of the tax base. He then added that the revenues are up by 1.6 percent and the expenses are down by 19 percent and the operating is down by 4.5 percent for a total of 11.8 percent and this will generate a surplus of 174,000 dollars. Mr. Booth reported that Grand Strand Water and Sewer has recently raised the towns rates for collecting 25 percent, it went from \$1 to \$1.25 and the town is currently doing a cost benefit analysis to see if we can do this cheaper in-house. Mr. Booth ended his report by stating that the town is actually taking in more money without having to raise sanitation rates.

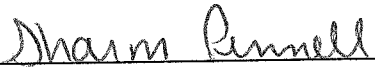
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON BUDGET

John Tellet, 337 14th Avenue South: "Thank you, I do have the legal notice that was in the paper for the meeting at 6 o'clock this evening, so it was in the legal section, and I hope that the time difference now doesn't make it illegal. I have two questions, I'd like to get both of them out first, projected revenue increased, according to the legal notice, it was \$134,735. We have a projected expenditure increase of \$175,375, this would be a shortfall of \$40,640 in the budget or approximately 85 percent of 1 millage point, so the first question is how we balance a budget with a 40,000 dollar shortfall? The second question, after seeing the stock market today, again, and the price of oil over 108 dollars a barrel that, with the depressing flux of the National, State and Local economy, on what do you predicate the projected increase in revenue? Thank you."


There were no other public comments on the budget.

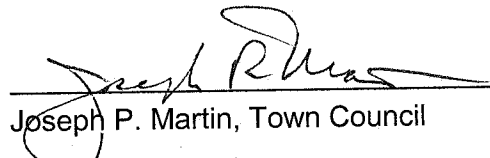
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**


Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

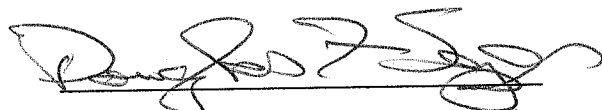
Approved: March 25, 2008

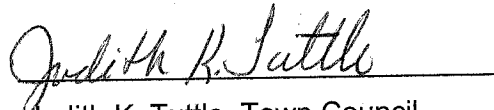

Roy Hyman, Jr., Mayor


Joseph P. Martin, Town Council


Rebecca J. Hiatt, Town Council


James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem


Douglas F. Samples, Town Council


Judith K. Tuttle, Town Council

Vacant

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.