



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
March 25, 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; Captain Miller and Finance Treasurer Hursey.

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

15 Councilman Samples said the invocation. Mayor Hyman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
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17 **3. MINUTES APPROVAL**

18 Mayor Hyman asked for approval of the special meeting minutes from March 4th, 2008
19 with the change made. Mr. Samples made a motion to approve the special meeting
20 minutes from March 4th, 2008 with the change made. Mr. Truett seconded the motion.
21 **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the
22 minutes from the regular meeting and the budget public hearing held March 10, 2008.
23 Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**
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25 Mayor Hyman asked all of the candidates that were present at the meeting to stand and
26 introduce themselves. The following candidates running for council stood and
27 introduced themselves: Bob Childs, Vicki Blair, Mark Johnson, Judy Tuttle, and
28 Rebecca Hiatt. Mr. Truett and Mayor Hyman introduced themselves stating that they
29 were running for mayor.
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31 **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only**

32 There were no public comments on the agenda items.
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34 **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

35 **A. Proclamation #08-63: Disabilities Awareness Month**

36 Ms. Pinnell read the proclamation on file and it was approved.
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38 **B. Employee Recognition: 10 Years Service- Arron Miller**

39 Mayor Hyman asked Captain Arron Miller to come to the podium where he was then
40 recognized for 10 years of dedicated services in the Town of Surfside Beach.
41 Mayor Hyman stated that the town was very proud to have someone like Captain
42 Miller to be a part of Surfside Beach and then presented him with a plaque (there
43 was applause in the audience). Captain Miller stated that it has been an honor to
44 work in the Town of Surfside Beach; a town that was willing to take a chance on him
45 even though he did not have the experience at the time and added that he is looking
46 forward to working with the town for another 10 years and thanked the Mayor and
47 council for everything they have done (there was additional applause in the
48 audience). Mayor Hyman stated that it speaks well for the town when it has people
49 who have worked for the town for 10 years; it also has some that have worked 15 to
50 25 years as well. Mayor Hyman stated that next month there would also be another
51 10-year recognition of services awarded.
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53 Mayor Hyman stated that another candidate running for election had just arrived and
54 asked him to state his name. William Rempfer running for town council stood and
55 introduced himself.

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C. Finance Report: Ms. Hursey

Ms. Hursey presented the report that is on file. Ms. Hursey reported that business licenses have collected over \$805,000 for the year and they are in the process of getting ready for the renewals for the following year. Hospitality and local accommodations taxes are comparable to prior years; there has not been any decrease in these to date. Ms. Hursey added that collections on parking tickets are continuing and over \$10,000 has been collected to date. In general the Finance Department is getting ready for year-end, which is March 31st and they are preparing for the annual audit.

D. Administrator's Report

Mr. Booth reported that he had met with the Corp of Engineers to discuss the town's outfall project. He added that the meeting was very positive and they will be putting the package together to move forward and as the congressional money comes down, their recommendations go up and at that point they will decide which projects they are going to do. Mr. Booth reported that the Corp has some extra money from the beach renourishment project and they will use this money to install sand fences; this is a savings of \$100,000 to the town. Mr. Booth added that he thought he would have to put a package together and go to A-Tax for these funds but now he will not have to. Mr. Booth stated that he has a meeting scheduled with the Corps project manager on Thursday and they will review the beach so that they can begin putting the fences up.

Mr. Booth reported that the town will be initiating ways to save on gas usage such as not idling vehicles and not making unnecessary trips; each department will be coming up with different plans to help reduce the usage and added that he does not see the price of gas coming down. Mr. Booth reported that the Elections will be on April 8th and will be held at the Surfside Methodist Church and the Civic Center. Mr. Booth reported that there will be a candidates forum on Sunday, March 30th at 3:00 PM and they will be opening the doors at 2:00 PM. Mr. Booth introduced Mr. Tom O'Dare from the Myrtle Beach Herald who will be sponsoring the event and added that the town is just providing the space for it to be held. Mr. O'Dare stated that the Herald is very proud to be hosting the Candidates Forum this year and added that the format would consist of a very basic question and answer session with the council candidates going first and then the three Mayoral candidates going second. There will be 3 minute answers and rebuttals and there will be a sign-up sheet available until 2:45 PM in the back for members of the public to give suggested questions for the candidates. Reporters Tom O'Dare and Paul Gable will be asking the questions. Mr. O'Dare stated that he thought it would be fun if all of the candidates provided a desert for the audience for an informal and interactive session following the forum.

Mr. Booth stated that the town had received a certificate of financial excellence, which is a very prestigious acknowledgement and then acknowledged the fine job that the finance department has been doing and especially the job that Ms. Hursey has been doing. Mr. Booth reported that garbage is collected in the north end on Mondays and in the south end on Tuesdays and on Wednesdays the town picks up on Ocean Blvd. and also collects yard refuse and added that this one day a week, to collect yard debris, is not significant in the Spring and he would like to add a schedule next year where they could pick up more often. Mr. Booth reported that on Thursdays the town truck goes out to the landfill and on its way it stops to pick up the garbage of customers outside the town. The cost is approximately 1 dollar for gas and depreciation of the truck and the out of town customers are charged \$16.50, which gives the town a total of a \$10,884 profit. Mr. Booth stressed that

111 taxpayer dollars are not being used to pay for any of this outside pickup; this is an
112 enterprise fund owned by the town, it can be a franchise and it could be turned over
113 to a business. Mr. Booth wants to see how the summer season goes with the out of
114 town pickup before moving forward on this program. Mr. Booth stated that there
115 currently is no delay in garbage pickup to the residents in town due to them picking
116 up outside of town. Mr. Samples asked for clarification that out of town garbage is
117 being picked up only on Thursdays and Mr. Booth stated that this was the only day
118 and Mr. Samples stated that the reason he asked for clarification was that this was
119 different information than what was reported previously. Mr. Booth apologized but
120 he has gone over this and it is only on Thursdays on the way to the landfill when
121 they pick up. Ms. Hiatt asked about recycling. Mr. Booth stated that they pick up
122 garbage including recycling. Mr. Booth reported that some contractors leave debris
123 that the town ends up picking up and Mr. Samples asked if the town could check the
124 permits of contractors and follow up on what is left behind so that the town does not
125 have to pick up what they leave behind. Mr. Booth stated that the town would need
126 to follow up on this procedure.

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128 Mr. Booth reported that he would need a consensus on a proposal that the Myrtle
129 Beach Chamber is proposing to Surfside. Mr. Booth reported that the Myrtle Beach
130 Chamber is currently holding approximately \$30,000 for Surfside Beach. Their
131 proposal is to spend approximately \$6,000 on marketing Surfside Beach at a
132 ballgame in Raleigh-Durham. Mayor Hyman stated that he and Mr. Booth had a
133 meeting with Mr. Brad Dean from the Chamber and he explained to them that they
134 would be promoting vacation destination Surfside Beach with a Surfside Beach Day
135 up in Raleigh-Durham at a ballgame. There was additional discussion about the
136 remaining \$24,000 that is available and Mr. Booth stated that the Chamber wanted
137 to set up a meeting the following week to talk about shooting a new video for the
138 town. Mr. Booth added that the excess of brochures that the town already has
139 would be distributed. Ms. Tuttle asked if the promotion would only be at the
140 ballgame and Mr. Booth stated that it would be centered around the ballgame but
141 this would also include it be advertised in the local news and on television and they
142 would provide small give-aways with the Surfside Beach logo on them. **It was**
143 **consensus of Council to approve the Surfside Beach Day at the ballgame in**
144 **Raleigh-Durham.** Mr. Booth stated that he would also need consensus of council
145 on a request he received the other day from the Waccamaw Baptist Church to hold
146 a half hour prayer on May 1st, 2008 in front of the town hall on the lawn. Mayor
147 Hyman stated that he has no problem with prayer being done anywhere and Mr.
148 Truett agreed. **It was consensus of council to approve the ½ hour of prayer on**
149 **May 1st at town hall.** Mr. Martin commented on the Santee Cooper letter of the
150 review on the town which was provided in the council packets and added that most
151 of the items listed for potential savings are within the town's power to take care of
152 and asked Mr. Booth if he would be addressing these items and Mr. Booth stated
153 that they would be addressing these. Mr. Martin asked if the HVAC system they
154 addressed in the Council Chambers was the one that council allocated funds to
155 replace and Mr. Booth answered that it was. Mr. Martin asked if they were advising
156 on the energy efficiency on the new unit and Mr. Booth stated that they were. Mr.
157 Samples asked if an appraiser had been hired for the Pier and Mr. Booth stated that
158 one has and he also has the appraisal. Mr. Samples stated that once council
159 reviews the appraisal he would like to have council direct Mr. Booth to get with the
160 owner of the Pier and set up a mutually agreeable time to meet in executive session
161 with the owner to discuss. Mr. Booth stated that he would provide the appraisal to
162 council this week and he would make the meeting for the following week. Mr.
163 Samples stated that previously they had not been given the opportunity to sit down,
164 as a group, with the owner to discuss. Mayor Hyman stated that he and Mr. Booth

165 sat down with the owner and he knows Sam Scalise pretty well, as a business
166 person, and he can tell them right now that if council thinks they can get the Pier for
167 what they all talked about previously then they are wasting the Administrator's, the
168 Mayor's and Mr. Scalises time. Mayor Hyman added that he wants the Pier and
169 council needs to decide if they want the Pier because it is left up to "3 more council
170 people whether they want this Pier or not". Mayor Hyman added that Mr. Scalise
171 would not sell it for the previously proposed amount discussed and it is up to council
172 to "make up their mind" before going into executive session. Mr. Booth stated that
173 this new appraisal is more comprehensive and was done by a company who just
174 finished doing appraisals on other Piers so he believes that this appraisal is much
175 easier to read.

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177 **6. BUSINESS**

178 A. *Request to contract auditor for another year.* Mr. Booth stated that he would like to
179 go our for bids this coming summer but the town needs to be covered by an auditor
180 so the request would cover the town for another year until a bid is submitted; this bid
181 process will take approximately 3 months. Mr. Samples made a motion to approve
182 the recommendation of staff to contract the current auditor for one more year until a
183 bid is submitted. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Truett asked for confirmation
184 that a bid would be sent out and Mr. Booth stated that it would be bid by this
185 summer. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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187 B. *i. Ordinance #08-635 to Adopt 2008-2009 Budget:* Mr. Booth presented a review of
188 the budget via a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Booth stated that funds for lake
189 dredging were moved into the following year since they were unable to do this
190 project the previous year. Mr. Booth presented the allotted money added for
191 beautification. Mr. Booth reported that hospitality has \$512,000 into the good and
192 the accommodations tax is \$3,800 with a total to the good being \$112,600. Mr.
193 Booth reported that the sanitation fund is positive by \$174,000 and if that continues
194 the town should see a modest rate reduction. Mr. Booth stated that the breakeven
195 for Myrtle Beach is 20/20. The total for the town is \$286,000 of unexpended funds.
196 Mr. Booth reported that property tax is showing an 8 percent increase, which is due
197 to new construction and revenues and licensing shows a 3 percent increase,
198 franchise is 7 percent. Mr. Booth reported that interest rates have come down quite
199 a bit so they are down by 16 percent. The total plus revenues will be plus 2.77
200 percent. Mr. Samples had a question regarding the new construction increase and it
201 was confirmed that it captures the previous year. Mr. Booth reported that the
202 salaries and benefits are up 4.6 with some of it being the cost of workmen's
203 compensation and Mr. Booth added that they would be going out for bid on this. Mr.
204 Booth reported that the total expenditures are up less than 1 percent. Mr. Booth
205 reported that property tax is right at 2,033,000 and the business license is at
206 \$1,500,000, which is becoming a major contributor to the town's budget and is going
207 up all the time. Mr. Booth reported that franchise fees are \$500,000, the total
208 revenues are at 5 million, salaries are at \$2,554,000; there is a high concentration of
209 workers in police and fire. Mr. Booth reported that benefits are at \$736,000 and the
210 total expenditures come to \$1,125,000. Mr. Booth presented the revenue analysis
211 chart which showed most of the money is coming from property taxes, permits and
212 business licenses. Mr. Booth reported that salaries and benefits are a major
213 expense and to get the overall cost down the town will look into going out for bid on
214 workmen's compensation and the overall insurance for the town is being reviewed
215 as well. Ms. Hursey has also been looking into other areas of savings; the town is
216 looking into getting quotes from local banks for savings and Ms. Hursey has been
217 looking into getting bulk rate postage, which should bring a large savings to the town
218 as well. Mr. Booth reported that the majority of expenses are in the Police

219 Department because they are labor intensive. Mayor Hyman asked for a motion to
220 accept the second reading of this ordinance as presented. Mr. Truett made a
221 motion to accept the second reading of Ordinance #08-635 as presented. Mr.
222 Samples seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**
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224 *ii. Continue 5 mils 5 Year Capital Fund Stormwater/Improvements/Maintenance*
225 *Ordinance #08-636:* Mr. Booth reported that the Federal and the State are requiring
226 a revenue source to take care of stormwater projects; the town has a choice and
227 could do a separate impact fee or a mil levy like is currently in place. Mayor Hyman
228 stated that operating is 28 mils, capital replacement is 3 mils, debt service is 8 mils
229 and stormwater continuation for 5 years is 5 mils, which totals 44 mils and noted
230 that this has been on the books for 5 years and is at the lowest Surfside Beach has
231 had in a long time. Mr. Booth added that the average is 124 mils; Atlantic Beach is
232 130 mils and the other towns along the Grand Strand are in line to what we are
233 currently at. Mr. Samples made a motion to accept the second reading of
234 Ordinance #08-636 for the 5 mil stormwater as presented. Mr. Truett seconded the
235 motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**
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237 **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General. – 5 Minutes**

238 *Ann Dodge, 15th Avenue North:* “My husband and I own property at 513 Cypress Drive
239 South, we recently used the 50/50 program, the public works department did a
240 marvelous job and I commend Mr. Booth for continuing that program. Thank you very
241 much.”
242

243 *Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North:* “Want to congratulate Arron, he’s a great cop. I met
244 him day one on the job and he’s done a good job ever since. Now for the good stuff. I
245 think Mr. Booth owes Mr. Mabry an apology for the way he came off on the dais last
246 week, last council meeting, to verbally attack Mr. Mabry for discussing Willie Smalls. It
247 was very small of Mr. Booth to do that. No taxpayer should have to face a reprisal for
248 expressing an opinion in this forum. We go through life with friends and acquaintances,
249 many more acquaintances than friends, however, I consider Mr. Samples to be a friend.
250 I hope that what I have to say does not change that, but say it, I must. I think Mr.
251 Samples was completely out of order at the last council meeting, he ended the session
252 with an accusation against the Mayor and then turned the meeting into a political rally
253 for Mayoral candidates. The town council meeting is not the place to become a political
254 rallying forum. I commend Mayor Hyman for letting him get away with it, it should not
255 have been allowed to occur.”
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257 **8. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

258 *Mr. Samples:* “Tom, you will always be a friend of mine and I appreciate your comment
259 and it was certainly not my intent to turn it into a political rally. What I was responding
260 to was an anonymous political flyer that had made charges that were clearly directed at
261 myself and the individual whom I support. I think it’s a crying shame when we have
262 people that are unwilling to put their name behind these charges. Rest assured I would
263 never do that. If I have an issue or a claim to make you’re going to know it. You may
264 not agree with it, you may not like it but you’re going to know where I stand on it and I
265 wish everybody else would show the same bigness in the position they take instead of
266 being small.”
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268 *Ms. Tuttle:* “I think all of council got, by mail, some beautification ideas from Shelby
269 Smith and I would just like to offer a thanks to him. They’re good ideas; and that we
270 have recently formed a Beautification Committee and also appropriated \$150,000 to
271 that committee and I think Shelby’s ideas will be helpful to the committee.”
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Mayor Hyman: "I agree with that, Ms. Tuttle, and I agree it needs to go through the proper channels before it comes to council. Let them make a recommendation to council. Any other council comments?"

There were no additional comments from other council members, Mayor Hyman continued with a comment.


Mayor Hyman: "We're not free to smoke but we do have freedom of speech and I don't know who wrote this thing, what Doug was talking about, but people can say what they want to and people can print what they want to and they're not breaking the law, but that's not my style, I want you to know that and I don't know if Doug's trying to implement me on that or not but you know, we can't take everybody's rights away. You read what you read and you read into what you read and I take it with a grain of salt and I let it go, but I didn't see any names on that thing; Doug was the one that implied that it was him and Sammy, you know, not anybody else, but I'm through with that but the real good part, and I'm proud of this, that my wife will be recognized at the South Strand Republican the 28th of this month to be awarded the *Woman of the Year for the South Strand Republican Party* and Darlene I'm proud of you (applause in audience) and she didn't know I was going to say that but I'm proud of her because she's always willing to do whatever it takes to get things done and I appreciate that."

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**


Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

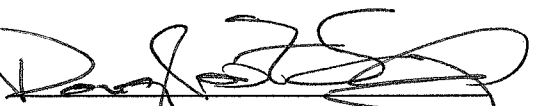
Approved: April 7, 2008

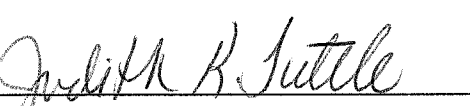

Roy Hyman, Jr., Mayor


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.