



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

April 7, 2008 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hyman called the meeting to order at 6:30 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; Director Public Works, Taylor; Public Works Executive Assistant, Saleem; and Recreation Supervisor, Ellis.

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

Councilman Truett said the invocation. Mayor Hyman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mayor Hyman asked for approval of the regular meeting minutes from March 25th, 2008. Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 25th, 2008. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

There were no public comments on the agenda items.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Employee Recognition: 10 Years Service- Debbie Ellis**

Mayor Hyman asked Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Debbie Ellis to come to the podium where she was then recognized for 10 years of dedicated services in the Town of Surferside Beach. Mayor Hyman stated that Ms. Ellis started working for the town part time and then moved to full time where she has continued to give her dedicated a loyal services to the town. Mayor Hyman presented Ms. Ellis with a plaque, a pin and a check for her outstanding service (there was applause in the audience).

Ms. Ellis thanked the Mayor and Council for the award and for allowing her to do her job for the last 10 years, which she added that she happens to love and that it is the best job in the Town of Surferside. Ms. Ellis stated that she has been here for 20 years and considers Surferside Beach her home and added that she loves Surferside Beach and that she will see everyone in another 10 years (there was more applause in the audience).

**B. Building, Planning & Zoning Report: Ms. Donevant**

Ms. Donevant reported that 119 permits were issues with a valuation of \$1,119,685, and permit fees were \$12,283.23. Ms. Donevant stated that there was one commercial plan review for the building up at 901 Kings Highway North and added that it will be Ocean Gardens Chinese Buffet. It was clarified that it was the old Mammy's Kitchen location. Ms. Donevant made a note that the tent fee for \$20 on her report was not a Bike Week vendor it was a business putting up a tent for Bike Week. This was the end of Ms. Donevant's report.

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**C. Public Safety Report: Mr. Christenson**

Mr. Christenson presented his report that is on file. Mr. Christenson reported that the vacancy created by the departure of Kevin Prisco has been filled by Jonah Buck who is a 6-year veteran of the South Carolina Highway Patrol. Mr. Christenson stated that they are in the process of filling the new beach patrol position created through A-Tax funding. Mr. Christenson reported that Lieutenant Joe Matyjasik has just completed "Driving Instructor" training and officers Bailey and Trilety have just completed their 3-week "Legals" training. The Department also had 2 officers complete radar certification class and 2 officers attend "Active Shooting" training. Mr. Christenson reported that all of the parking meters are up and operational; some spots in need of additional signage have been identified and they are working on getting these signs. Mr. Christenson reported that the Police Department is on line with the Records Management System (RMS) through the County and they are in the final stages of training. The Voice Data recording system has been installed and is up and functioning. Mr. Christenson stated that the training unit would be training on traffic stops adding that this type training is very important because, statistically, many officers are killed during traffic stops. Mr. Christenson reported that his department is currently working on updating the website for Public Safety and added that they will present a demo to council for them to see the progress and get some feedback. Mr. Christenson stated that bid specs are currently being put together on the Ford Hybrid Escape. Mr. Christenson stated that he had included information on T3 motion vehicles that could be used on the Boulevard and can operate 24/7 at a cost of about 10 cents per day and added that it would also be a great PR tool and that they were going to be using them in Myrtle Beach. Mr. Christenson stated that this is just one of the innovative ways that the Police Department is looking into saving money on the rising gasoline costs. Mr. Christenson stated that Public Safety is looking forward to working with DP3 to get the fire department built as expeditiously as possible. Mr. Samples had an inquiry on the T3's and it was confirmed that the T3 vehicles run around \$10,000 and that they had won the 2007 innovation award and were unveiled at the Chief of Police Association banquet in Chicago. Ms. Hiatt questioned their life expectancy. It was not determined how long they would actually last but Mr. Christenson stated that they included two batteries and he thought they may last as long as a golf cart.

**D. Public Works: Introduction of new Public Works Director, Ty Taylor**

Mr. Booth introduced Ty Taylor to council and to the public in attendance (there was applause in audience). Mr. Booth stated that council has a copy of the Public Works report and added some information not included in the report. Mr. Booth added that they are going to begin testing for the lakes and will also be performing the flow analysis from the County to Lake Elizabeth. It was reported that the dredging would begin in a couple weeks starting with Lake Floral.

**E. Administrator's Report**

Mr. Booth stated that after talking to some of the owners of the rental units they noted that they were down 55% in rental units from this time last year and added that Bike Week may not have as many visitors this year and added that this may be driven by the gas prices and economy. Mr. Booth stated that he has moved many of the campaign signs and it is not his intention to remove them at this point. Mr. Booth reported that the business sign ordinance would be presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission for re-evaluation. Mr. Both added that the plan is to eventually go through all of the ordinances and re-evaluate them and then bring to council any changes that might need to be made. Mr. Booth reported that he and Ms. Donevant plan on reviewing the businesses and their signage. Mr. Booth

106 reported that the beach cleanup is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> and there is a plan to  
107 begin manicuring the beaches this month and that it should take approximately 30  
108 days. Mr. Booth wished everyone luck in the election the following day. Mr. Booth  
109 reported that he would not be around the evening of the election because he and  
110 Mr. Taylor would be attending the CTC meeting in Conway to request funding for  
111 the town. Ms. Tuttle stated that she appreciates the initiative taken in getting the old  
112 Mammy's Kitchen renovated. Mayor Hyman made a note that the previous owner,  
113 Jimmy Calhoun, passed away the previous week and questioned whether he still  
114 owned the property and it was confirmed that it was sold. Mr. Samples asked for  
115 confirmation on which pond the town was starting with dredging and Mr. Booth  
116 stated that it would be Floral Lake. Mr. Booth stated that there would be a  
117 Stormwater meeting on Wednesday and the committee would be presenting a  
118 priority list of lakes to determine which order they should be done in. It was  
119 confirmed that there would be three and possibly a fourth lake done. Ms. Hiatt  
120 stated that she had heard that there were still complaints of drainage problems  
121 behind her on Juniper or Cypress and Mr. Booth stated that he would take a look at  
122 it after the next rain. Mr. Samples asked if P&Z was addressing the signage issues  
123 and Mr. Booth stated that they were and that council would be notified of items  
124 brought to P&Z. Mr. Samples stated that the way the county does it is based on  
125 road and frontage and if a shopping center has a sign it does effect the number of  
126 signs that businesses are allowed. Mr. Booth stated that he likes this approach.  
127 There was some additional discussion on signs and parameters. This was the end  
128 of the Administrator's report.

130 Mayor Hyman recognized the candidates running that were in the audience and  
131 they were Bob Childs, Bill Rempfer, Vicki Blair running for council and on the dais  
132 running for council were Judy Tuttle and Rebecca Hiatt and running for Mayor were  
133 Roy Hyman and Sammy Truett. Mayor Hyman instructed the audience to come out  
134 and vote and to vote for who they felt would be the best to represent the Town of  
135 Surfside Beach and added that everyone should do their homework and should not  
136 just vote for someone because they promised something.

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139 **6. BUSINESS DISCUSSION**

140 A. *Carlton Williamson of Climate Control: Vendor Request Bike Week.*

141 Carlton Williamson presented his request stating that this would be the fifth year  
142 doing this event in Surfside Beach and went on to state that his request is for a  
143 special events permit for the Harley Davidson Bike week May 9<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.  
144 Permission was being requested to have vendors on his property in Surfside adding  
145 that things are slow and they are not sure how many people they would be having  
146 this year; may be the same and may be less. Mr. Williamson stated that last year  
147 the town made several thousands of dollars on license and permit fees for that week  
148 and he had always worked in the past with the town and staff and has never had a  
149 problem. Mr. Williamson stated that the layout would be the same as in the past  
150 and the request also included approval to sell beverages and alcohol as done in  
151 previous years in order to compete with other vendor areas in the county; it would  
152 be supervised and kept under control. Mr. Williamson added that he was looking  
153 forward to a successful event this year and wished everyone luck in the election.  
154 Mr. Truett asked how many vendors he had last year and Mr. Williamson answered  
155 that there were about 9 or 10 vendors and it was confirmed that he would provide  
156 his own security and that nothing has changed from his request last year. Mr.  
157 Samples asked how late he served alcohol last year and Mr. Williamson stated that  
158 they close at 9 o'clock, before dark, and confirmed that he would be doing the same  
159 this year. Mr. Martin asked if Mr. Williamson took care of the improvised signage

160 that was a previous problem and Mr. Williamson stated that it was taken care of.  
161 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the vendor request. Mr. Martin seconded the  
162 motion. **All except Mr. Samples voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**  
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164 B. *Jamie Keats of Jammin' Leather: Vendor Request Bike Week.*

165 Mr. Keats had a request for the possibility of vendors coming in and added that he  
166 had no intention of having any product vendors out in the parking lot; he is looking  
167 for a motorcycle service vendor with Victory Motorcycles being interested in  
168 displaying at his location. Mr. Keats stated that he does not want to fill his parking  
169 lot and does not want his event to look like a carnival; he wants just a simple  
170 accessory vendor to service the customers coming through. Mr. Keats handed out  
171 a parking lot layout to council. Mr. Keats stated that the event would not be different  
172 than what he did last Fall; he would have the charity auction for American Red  
173 Cross for 4 days and the blood mobile would come in. The auction would include  
174 auctioning off leather merchandise they donate in addition to what is donated by  
175 suppliers. Ms. Tuttle asked if the motorcycle vendor would be set up in the location  
176 shown in the drawing and Mr. Keats stated that it would be located there or possibly  
177 in front of the saloon section which is a restaurant currently not open. Mr. Keats  
178 stated that he would like to keep the parking lot as empty as possible with just some  
179 nice displays. Mr. Martin stated that Mr. Williamson had coordinated with Public  
180 Safety and asked if he had done the same. Mr. Keats answered that he has not  
181 made any firm arrangements with anyone at this point; he would bring plans to the  
182 Police and Fire Departments so they are aware of the event as they did in the Fall.  
183 Mr. Christenson added that he does not have a problem or concern with this event.  
184 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the vendor request. Mr. Samples seconded  
185 the motion. Ms. Tuttle asked if alcohol would be served and Mr. Keats answered  
186 that the café has a license and it would be set up in the decking area. Ms. Tuttle  
187 stated that they put a restriction on Williamson that he could not sell alcohol after 9  
188 o'clock and Mr. Keats stated that they normally close at 8 o'clock and will have  
189 extended hours to 9 o'clock on Friday and Saturday and that would be the extent.  
190 **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**  
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192 Mayor Hyman announced that the scheduled executive session item was resolved  
193 and therefore this item would be eliminated from the agenda.  
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195 **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General. – 5 Minutes**

196 *Jamie Keats, Jammin' Leather:* I might want to bring up with you at a later date whether  
197 it's the same council, I wish everybody good luck on that, but in reference to the zoning  
198 restriction that I had for the property that was set in place for the restaurant to be built  
199 and that's all with intents and purposes is going to happen. We've had some serious  
200 inquiries, a lot of inquiries and we had two leases drawn up and one was actually taken  
201 out and one was intended on being signed but the reason why it was denied was for the  
202 smoking ordinance and I was not aware, but at the time that the restriction was put on  
203 me, I had no problem with it, every intention, my intentions are still good and they will be  
204 carried through, but the fact that I lost a very strong tenant, or possibility of a strong  
205 tenant, due to the smoking ban, and that was the final straw in the decision of the tenant  
206 to take over the space, it became a problem for me, and the only reason why I'm even  
207 mentioning it is that not because I'm complaining about it at all, it's the possibility of  
208 abating or adjusting it under the circumstances because after the smoking ban came  
209 into effect it put me at a hard position to negotiate with any potential tenants, so I'm kind  
210 of between a rock and a hard place and I lost a very good tenant with that lease, it was  
211 about two months ago and it should have been signed. I wanted to bring it to your  
212 attention and I appreciate you keeping it in mind.  
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214 **8. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

215 Ms. Tuttle: "I want the public to know that we did receive, within the last two weeks, a  
216 pier appraisal and my opinion is that it puts us in a real good negotiating position and  
217 hopefully we'll be able to secure the pier for the benefit for all of us."  
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219 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

220 Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn at 7:06 PM. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All**  
221 **voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**  
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Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

227 Approved: April 21, 2008

**APPROVED**

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232 Roy Hyman, Jr., Mayor

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232 James P. Martin, Town Council

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238 Rebecca J. Hiatt, Town Council

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238 James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

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243 Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

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242 Judith K. Tuttle, Town Council

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248 Vacant

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256 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and  
257 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  
258 was posted on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the  
259 town marquee.

