



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
May 13, 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. Mayor-Elect Deaton and Council-Elect Blair, Childs and Johnson were present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell; Director of Public Safety, Christenson; Fire Chief Packard; Building & Zoning Director, Donevant; Parks & Recreation Supervisor, Ellis and Public Works Assistant, Saleem.

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

Councilman Samples said the invocation. Mayor Hyman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Hyman welcomed all in attendance stating that this was a very special meeting where the newly elected officials would be sworn in to Surfside Beach Council.

3. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Truett made a motion to approve both the workshop and regular meeting minutes from April 21st, 2008. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

There were no public comments.

5. **BUSINESS-2008 MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

Clerk Pinnell read Resolution #08-071, which is on file, acknowledging the 2008 Election results. Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the Resolution as stated. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Mr. Booth presented the plaques of acknowledgement:

Councilwoman Judy Tuttle for ten years of dedicated service to the Town of Surfside Beach. Ms. Tuttle accepted the plaque and gave her thanks. (There was applause in the audience).

Councilwoman Rebecca Hiatt for four years of dedicated service to the Town of Surfside Beach. Ms. Hiatt thanked the residents for allowing her to represent them for the past 4 years and stated that it has been an honor to serve. Ms. Hiatt thanked Joe Martin and Judy Tuttle for assisting her when she first got on council. She thanked Mayor Roy Hyman for representing the town to the best and fullest and added how all of the elected officials respect him and love working with him and how he has built an excellent relationship with them, which has benefited the town in so many ways. Ms. Hiatt thanked the employees for making the town what it is. Ms. Hiatt stated that one of her goals was to raise the employee pay scale, which has been done, but she still feels that it needs further attention. Ms. Hiatt stated that another one of her goals was to get a new firehouse and to have a master plan for the rest of the town complex. One of her goals was to increase the town ISO rating, which happened and has benefited each property owner in insurance cost savings. Ms. Hiatt stated that she supports the town purchase of the pier and also hopes that the council will revisit the smoking ban and consider the businesses it has effected. Ms. Hiatt thanked the businesses in town for all they do adding that she was amazed when they stepped up and paid the vet bill for the K-9 dog the town lost and then contributed \$10,135 towards the purchase and

57 training of a new dog. She added that she is sorry that the dog was given to the county.
58 Ms. Hiatt gave a special thanks to all of the workers in Public Works and Recreation for
59 all they do for the town. Ms. Hiatt wished the new council the best of luck. (There was
60 applause in the audience).

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62 Election Commission member Camellia Lane was presented a plaque for over 30 years
63 of dedicated service to the Town of Surfside Beach. Mr. Booth stated that it is hard to
64 find dedicated volunteers like her and thanked her for her hard work. (There was
65 applause in the audience).

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67 Mayor Roy Hyman was presented a plaque for 22 years of dedicated service to the
68 Town of Surfside Beach adding that the town had ordered another larger plaque they
69 will present him in the near future. Mr. Booth thanked Mayor Hyman for his years of
70 service adding that his heart was always with the town. (There was applause in the
71 audience). Mayor Hyman stated that all good things must come to an end and he has
72 enjoyed being the Mayor of Surfside Beach because he loves the town so much. Mayor
73 Hyman added that he has enjoyed representing the people of Surfside Beach and
74 thanked all of those individuals that voted for him and thanked his wife and daughter for
75 supporting him all these years. (There was additional applause in the audience).

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77 **7. ELECTED OFFICIALS INSTALLATION**

78 Mayor Allen Deaton was sworn into office by Judge Blanton. Judge Blanton then swore
79 in councilmembers Vicki Blair, Bob Childs and Mark Johnson.

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81 **8. MAYOR PRO TEMPORE** – Election announcement. Councilmembers handed in their
82 secret ballot to Clerk Pinnell who read the results. The results were read as the votes
83 being unanimous for Sammy Truett (this should have been read as the votes being a
84 “majority” of votes for Sammy Truett. There were 5 votes for Mr. Truett and 2 for Mr.
85 Martin) Sammy Truett was chosen by the majority to continue his position as Mayor
86 Pro Tempore.

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88 **9. COMMUNICATIONS**

89 Mayor Deaton stated that there would be a change in format and that the Town
90 Administrator will be presenting the various department reports and that the Department
91 Heads would no longer present them. Department Heads would be available to
92 augment the report if needed.

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94 Public Safety Report Report

95 Mr. Booth reported that there have been reports of motorcycles being stolen during this
96 Bike Week and there have been numerous accidents. The beach patrol is currently on
97 duty along with the beach services including the raking and lifeguards. Mr. Booth
98 reported that we are in the process of doing a new video to promote Surfside Beach
99 and will be filming at the beach. Mr. Booth reported that a new officer recently hired has
100 just resigned so the town is now looking for another officer.

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102 Mr. Booth reported that the town employees are looking at ways to save gas. Mr. Booth
103 stated that the town is looking into changing the debris pick-up routine; instead of
104 driving around town looking for debris the residents may need to call in for pick-up; this
105 will save on gas costs. Mr. Booth reported that the gym has been a popular item with
106 employees. Mr. Samples stated that the new sanitation trucks make two trips down one
107 road to pick up on each side and recommended that this be reviewed. Mr. Booth stated
108 that they are talking about putting all the trash on one side of the road for pick up which
109 is currently being done by many towns.

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Building, Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Booth reported that the building permits are down; the town inspector will be moved back to part time. Mr. Booth stated that staff is looking into redoing some of the building ordinances and they will be presented to the Planning & Zoning in the next month or so. Mr. Booth stated that the main focus in Building and Zoning would be reviewing our ordinances. Mr. Booth stated that he would be informing council of these ordinances ahead of time so that they are aware of what will be presented to Planning & Zoning. Mayor Deaton asked if there were any questions regarding Building, Planning & Zoning. There were no questions from council.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Booth invited councilmembers to tour and be shown various projects around town and to see what the town is looking to achieve in the future. Mr. Booth stated that he is also available week nights and weekends. Mr. Booth added that the town has the best staff he has ever worked with; they work together as a team. Mr. Booth presented a PowerPoint presentation representing town vision. Mr. Booth stated that he is aware that the residents in town want a positive change and a positive attitude in town. Mr. Booth showed photos of signs adding that this is one of the ordinances they are going to be working on. Mr. Booth stated that he would be using the Beautification Committee as an instrument in assisting Planning & Zoning to create ordinances to present to council, which will help enhance the town's look. Mr. Booth showed photos of various strip malls in town one including The Southern Attic who performed some beautification on the outside of their business. Mr. Booth used this and The Red Awning as examples of beautification ideas that do not cost a lot of money but make a difference. Mr. Booth stated that a storage unit facility will be going in on 17 and he wants to make sure that Surfside Beach puts some architectural standards into the ordinances to save the look of the town; he does not want to see the town become a town of storage units. Mr. Booth reported that the Beautification Committee is currently looking at our town entrance signs and how to enhance them. Mr. Booth stated that the town is getting ready to go out for a \$200,000 enhancement grant for the downtown area on Surfside Drive; to expand sidewalks, put in benches and more attractive trees. Mr. Booth reported that the town has just received \$161,000 from CTC to pave Ocean Blvd. Ocean Blvd. will then be taken over by the town. The town has just received a grant for \$26,000 for a fitness trail to be put in Passive Park. Mr. Booth stated that the signs on the beach would need to be reviewed and changed; we are a friendly family beach and want to portray that in our signs. Mr. Booth stated that he will be bringing up various visionary ideas at future meetings and would request input from council whether they agree with the visionary idea or not; he will need to know whether he should move forward or not.

Mr. Childs stated that Mr. Booth was in the process of contacting Clemson University Architectural Landscape Department and asked what the status of that was. Mr. Booth stated that he was in contact with them and has no results back; he has also been in contact with some local colleges as well and is still pushing to get someone to volunteer for the town project. Mr. Childs stated that it was his understanding that Clemson was willing to do this but we were unable to get back to them. Mr. Booth stated that he thought it was the other way around but he would check. Mr. Samples stated that he thinks Mr. Booth is right on target with where he is heading and would like him to keep pushing in that direction.

Mr. Booth stated that the towns year runs April to March and it is out of cycle with the State, Accommodations Tax and other local municipality year ends and he would like to work on changing the town year end to be in sync with everything else which is June through July. Mr. Booth reported that the town has reduced personnel by 6 employees

165 and they have hired some temporary and part time employees but what he is in need of
166 is a secretary. Part of this position will be paid by A-Tax; this individual will also be
167 working on the town website. Mr. Booth reported that the town currently has 2
168 websites; one is our own and one is visitsurfsidebeach.com, which was constructed to
169 market our local businesses. This website is also connected to the Myrtle Beach
170 website. Mr. Booth stated that he has had a request from several councilmembers to
171 hire an arborist who would look after the towns' grounds and trees. This individual
172 would also be an intricate part in the Beautification Committee. Mr. Booth stated that he
173 is looking for feedback on this. Mr. Samples stated that it was brought up previously
174 that the Public Works may not be trained on maintaining the town plants and
175 landscapes and added that it is clear that the Crepe Myrtles in the median need to be
176 maintained and have not been. Mr. Samples stated that the town needs someone who
177 is skilled in landscape whether it be an arborist or some other professional. Mr.
178 Samples stated that he agrees that the landscape issues in town need to be addressed.
179 Mr. Martin stated that the town had used an arborist in the past and that there is a very
180 good arborist in the area who is available on an on-call basis. Mr. Martin stated that
181 there was a beautiful oak tree awhile back that was not doing well and this individual
182 determined that there was a bug infestation, it was treated and saved. Mr. Martin stated
183 that he agrees that the town could bring in an arborist. Mr. Booth stated that his street
184 guys are great; they fix potholes and perform many other duties but they are not
185 landscapers. Mr. Booth stated that one of the plans is to redo the median strip on 17
186 and he would like to get someone who knows what they are doing and it may not end
187 up being an arborist; the town may not be able to afford one. Mr. Truett stated that he
188 agrees and stated that we just added \$100,000 of our budget to beautification of 17 and
189 he believes that an arborist may be good at times, like the situation Mr. Martin just
190 mentioned, but he would like to see someone with more landscaping experience to
191 assist in the towns needs. Mr. Booth stated that he would look for someone that can do
192 landscaping. Mayor Deaton stated that we could add this to a future agenda. Mr.
193 Booth stated that we could go this way but he has the positions already opened. He is
194 not trying to add a position he would just be filling a floating position. Mr. Booth added
195 that there are a few positions he definitely needs and one is a secretary. Mayor Deaton
196 asked if Mr. Booth was asking for a decision tonight. Mr. Booth stated that he is not
197 asking for a decision, he is asking if there is an objection; if he adds staff positions he
198 will ask council for a decision. Mr. Booth reported that he would be discussing the
199 purchase of the pier with council at an executive session. (Copies of the pier appraisal
200 were handed out to council). Other town legal matters would also be discussed at this
201 executive session. Mr. Booth handed out the revised Personnel Policy, which will be
202 presented to council at the next meeting to adopt. Some language has been changed
203 because of new Supreme Court rulings but it is basically the same policy that the town
204 has had for a while.

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206 Mr. Booth reported that in regards to code enforcement the town has been reactive as
207 opposed to proactive but since many complaints have been coming in on vacant
208 properties and junk in yards the town will begin to go out and begin requesting
209 individuals to comply with town ordinances. Mr. Booth added that they want to protect
210 the trees but want the owners of lots to take care of the underbrush. Mr. Booth stated
211 that he personally takes care of code enforcement and one reason is that he wants one-
212 on-one contact with the public; he feels that he is best suited to talk to the public directly
213 and he makes it clear to them that it is not a bureaucrat that wants it done, it's the town
214 that wants it done. Mr. Booth reported that the Municipal Associations' annual meeting
215 would be held July 16th through the 19th. Mr. Booth reserved 8 rooms at the Marriott
216 and will need to know by next month who will be going. Mr. Booth stated that he
217 recommends that all of council go; it is an interaction with other mayors and
218 councilmembers from other towns and it is very educational. Mr. Booth reported that

219 the rooms were reserved at a very good rate of \$100 per night. Mr. Booth reported that
220 there will be Surfside Beach Day at a ballgame in Raleigh Durham and stated that if any
221 councilmembers were interested in attending they are welcome to go. The council had
222 authorized Myrtle Beach Chamber to use the funds they have from us from A-TAX to
223 sponsor this event. The cost was about \$6,000. Mr. Booth reported on the Alliance
224 Group meeting in Washington. Mr. Booth, Mayor Elect Deaton, the Mayor and Manager
225 of North Myrtle Beach, the Mayor of Myrtle Beach and their Manager all took the trip.
226 They saw 8 senators and congressman and received \$220,000 per town to do the
227 stormwater project they are working on. Mr. Booth stated that one voice was not
228 enough and this group works well together and there is much camaraderie within the
229 group. Mr. Booth stated that on May 23rd there would be an employee cookout at
230 Huckabee. This is for the employees only and the council and their families are invited.
231 Mr. Booth stated that he would be going to Greenville on the 22nd to talk to the
232 architects about the fire department.
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234 Mr. Martin asked about the \$220,000 mentioned and if it was for a specific project. Mr.
235 Booth stated that it is for the outfall project the corp of engineers will design; it is for all
236 of the outfalls and is part of the 11 million dollars and the town will fix them all. Mr.
237 Martin asked if it included moving the outfall to 5th North. Mr. Booth stated that this is
238 part of it. Mayor Deaton stated that the \$220,000 is for engineering and design; this is
239 the first allocation; it is the start of the 11 million dollar process. Mr. Martin stated that
240 he wants to make sure we are still talking about relocating the 5th Avenue outfall. Mr.
241 Booth stated that they were; it would be moved to 4th Avenue. He already gave the corp
242 of engineers the design on that. Mr. Samples asked for an explanation on the
243 visitsurfsidebeach.com website; he was under the impression that Myrtle Beach
244 Chamber was managing it. Mr. Booth stated that they helped develop it but we now
245 have to manage and maintain it. It was confirmed that this website is independent of
246 the Myrtle Beach Chamber website. There was confirmation that the website would be
247 used to help promote businesses in town. Mr. Booth stated that we would be going out
248 business to business to ask them to be a part of our website. Mr. Samples asked if
249 there was a better more efficient way to contact the businesses and see what interest
250 they had rather than going business to business. Mr. Booth stated that they were not
251 exactly going to physically do that.
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253 **10. NEW BUSINESS**

254 #08-0637 2007-2008 budget amendment: Mr. Booth stated that every year the budget
255 needs to be amended since during the year various items originally budgeted change.
256 Mr. Booth stated that \$440,000 has been added to the general fund. \$203,000 is due to
257 the town getting more money from CTC, \$126,000 was to pay off a land purchase early,
258 it saved the town \$4,000 to do this and this particular land needs to be owned before it
259 can be rezoned. \$172,000 was due to salaries being raised to be more competitive,
260 especially in the police department. Sanitation funds were adjusted due to more repairs
261 and fuel increases and recycling bins. The town will be getting most of this money back
262 from the waste authority who is giving the town \$6 per cart. The town brought in more
263 in accommodations tax; it needs to be spent so the budget will need to be amended.
264 \$563,000 in hospitality was not spent since the town did such a good job in contracting
265 out the Myrtle Basin project, the town is able to keep this; this is on the plus side.
266 \$40,000 in local a-tax was not expected; it needs to be spent; the budget will be
267 modified. \$619,000 in capital projects is not being spent due to the town saving a lot of
268 money on cleaning out the lakes. Mr. Booth reported that if we add all of this the town
269 is still in the plus range. Mr. Booth stated that he needs to amend the budget for the
270 auditor. Mr. Truett made a motion to amend the 2007-2008 budget as prepared. Mr.
271 Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**
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11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Deaton stated that during public comments the public is requested not to address a particular individual. If anyone needs to have a conversation with a certain councilmember their numbers and addresses are available and they can contact them.

Janet Bamberger, 324 Lakeside Drive: "First thing I'd like to, I have a public safety issue, but first I'd like to suggest that someone be in charge of the public address system and make sure it's on, we sat here for a half hour and didn't hear half of what people were saying, but anyway, and I'd like to thank the Mayor and the two councilmembers that were part of the Surfside Beach cleanup, that I saw in the paper, thank you and I love the sidewalks on Hollywood also, anyway, my concern has to do with a, as I said, a public safety issue and in the paper this week was a letter to the editor that really contained the same thoughts I have, since I've been a victim of what Sammy called a couple Sundays ago we had this discussion an accident waiting to happen. I was an accident and that has to do with these crossover streets that we have that are accidents waiting to happen. I happened to try to crossover, I was in a right at the same time a person coming the opposite direction went into the left lane which was my lane, since I couldn't clear the lane that was coming toward me, that woman ran into me, I had \$500 to pay I don't know what she had to pay but the person I think that was guilty got away with nothing and when I talked to the police officer I said 'what's the law' and he kind of looked at me and said 'well it's common sense', well, anyway, what I'd like to suggest is what this person from Murrells Inlet wrote and I know all we can take care of is Surfside Beach and that is maybe that we paint a line down the center of these two lanes or put some arrows in or something that tells people who don't live here how to drive and cross because I don't think many people do. This gentleman that wrote the letter said 70 percent of the people who drive, who turn, don't turn correctly, so and I thought, well, this can't be too expensive, it does take time, I don't know if there's any 1950 laws that prohibit this or whatever, I hope there aren't, and I can't see where it ruins the appearance of the city and it seems to me it sure would save some accidents. So could I suggest that you consider very seriously doing something, whether it be paint a line, paint arrows or both so that we can avoid some of these accidents that really are happening and I see some of them myself. So thank you for this time it's nice to live in a place where you can come up and say these things. Thank you."

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Martin: "Two comments, I'd like to request that, this is my first comment, I'd like to request that the next council meeting that the town administrator and the town clerk research sound systems and bring some recommendations to council to improve this sound system. Could you hear me? I'm asking to have the sound system improved. That's number one and number two we have two new members of council that were both on the Planning & Zoning Commission, we had another two members of the Planning & Zoning Commission that have resigned. We are in serious need of volunteers for the Planning & Zoning Commission. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Pinnell our town clerk and let her know you are interested, the town needs you. Thank you."

Ms. Blair: "Thank you Mr. Mayor, obviously mine's not working either. First of all I know most you who or any of you who have ever attended Planning & Zoning meetings with me find it hard to believe I sat through an entire meeting and said nothing but it does happen and so I'm awed by being here on both by your faith in me and pleased that Mr. Booth refers to the 'old council' as opposed to the young council (laughing in audience). I'm sure we'll be paid back handsomely, but anyway, thank you for this honor and for

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allowing me to represent you in this way and in that vein and in response to Councilman Martin I would love to volunteer my wonderful husband who, at no charge to the town, check out this system and try to get us a better sound system.” (applause in audience).

Mr. Childs: “I too would echo what Ms. Blair said and I’d like to thank everybody for being here today and thank you for the position that you’ve given me and I’d like to particularly thank Ms. Tuttle for all her help in the past that you’ve given me. Every time I had a question I go to her, and Ms. Hiatt, if she’s here, I would like to thank her and by all means our Mayor, former Mayor, Roy Hyman, he has just been a dear friend and any time I had a problem he was right there and I would just thank you Roy, personally for your service to the town Ms. Tuttle and Ms. Hiatt also. Thank you.”

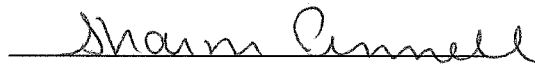
Mr. Johnson: ‘I, too, would like to thank everyone for their confidence in me and you can actually do me one more further favor by showing up at the next town council meeting and the next town council meeting and the next town council meeting. This is your town and we are here to serve you, be sure to let us know if you have any concerns and again, thank you for your confidence and see you next council meeting. thank you.”


Mayor Deaton: “Well, I would just like to thank everyone. This is a wonderful town. It’s Mayberry by the sea as I said for the 4 months of the campaign. I have a lot of confidence in this council. I have a lot of respect for this council. I have a lot of confidence in you and I have a lot of respect for you also. This is kind of unusual here, we’re talking about personal issues here but we’ve just been elected and it’s appropriate. From now on it’s going to be addressing a council as a body and we’re going to address you as residents and it’s going to be a very professional business-like meeting and we do appreciate your participation in our town business. Thank you very much.”

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

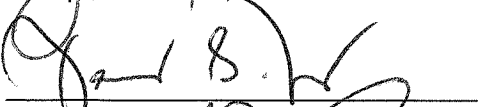
Approved: May 27, 2008


Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk


Allen Deaton, Mayor


Joseph P. Martin, Town Council


Vicki Blair, Town Council


James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem


Douglas F. Samples, Town Council


Mark Johnson, Town Council


Bob Childs, Town Council

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.

