



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

June 9, 2008 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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7 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

8 Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tem
9 Truett and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Martin, Samples and Childs were present.
10 A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell and Director
11 of Public Safety, Christenson.

12
13 **2. INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

14 David W. Pohto of the First Baptist Church in Surfside Beach said the invocation and
15 Mayor Deaton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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17 **3. MINUTES APPROVAL**

18 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 27, 2008.
19 Mr. Samples seconded the motion. The motion was amended by Mr. Johnson to approve
20 the regular meeting minutes from May 27, 2008 with changes from # 6 Business Item,
21 Wrecker and Tow Fees, to add Mr. Childs name in the opposed vote. All voted in
22 favor. MOTION CARRIED.

23
24 **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only**

25 There were no public comments.

26
27 **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

28 **A. *Building, Planning & Zoning***

29 Mr. Booth reported that the Kids Festival was currently taking place in town. Mr.
30 Booth reported that the Building Department has slowed down considerably and
31 anticipates things to remain the same for the next year. Mr. Samples asked if there
32 was an approved stormwater plan in place at Harbor Lights. Mr. Booth answered that
33 there was. Mr. Samples asked if we were monitoring it to ensure that the building
34 that is going on is consistent with this plan. Mr. Booth stated that he was out there
35 today based on a number of complaints he received and there is a plan in place
36 regarding the drainage regarding the diameter of the pipes. Mr. Samples stated that
37 he would like to see the plan. Mr. Booth stated he would have Ms. Donevant go
38 over it with him. Mayor Deaton asked Mr. Booth to set up an appointment with Mr.
39 Samples.

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41 **B. *Public Safety Report***

42 Mr. Booth reported that this report included a comparison of the last three years of
43 Bike Week and it has been staying very constant. There is going to be an effort in
44 the County to slow this event down. There will be more police presence, Daytona
45 has tried this with limited success but they still have Bike Week. Mr. Booth added
46 that there is nothing that is going to stop Bike Week but they will be trying to slow it
47 down. Mr. Booth reported that there is a cost involved with police overtime they
48 have been paying out; money collected on tickets issued goes to Columbia. Mr.
49 Booth reported that they are currently advertising for Victim's Advocate and to
50 replace an officer that recently left. Mr. Childs commended Chief Christenson for
51 having a community policing/service officer; he believes it is a great idea and that he
52 could prove to be a great ambassador for the town whom many tourists will have

53 direct contact with. Mr. Booth reported that the Ford Escape Hybrid has just been
54 ordered for \$28,000. Ms. Blair commended Mr. Christenson for presenting such a
55 very well written report. Ms. Blair asked about the 35 animal calls in May and what
56 kind of animals this involved. Mr. Christenson stated that sometimes their
57 department handles these calls and sometimes they refer them to Horry County
58 Environmental Services and they usually involve raccoons and dogs and cats running
59 loose. It was confirmed that the town does not own traps. They get them from the
60 County. Mr. Martin stated that this council has approved vendors for Bike Week in
61 the past and asked if staff was recommending them to not do this in the future. Mr.
62 Booth answered that the town will take the lead from the Alliance and they have not
63 set any direction as of yet; it is still in discussion. Mr. Booth added that the town can
64 choose to do whatever they want to do but prior to making a recommendation he
65 would like to see what the other communities are going to do. Mr. Samples asked
66 Mr. Booth to provide Council with the revenue from vendors during Bike Week.
67 There was additional discussion as to fees charged during Bike Week. Mr. Samples
68 added that Mr. Martin reported that the Council supports Bike Week and expanding
69 it that it is pretty well known on the record that he does not support Bike events in
70 town. Mr. Booth stated that the town is not trying to expand it; it is trying to contract
71 it. Mr. Samples stated that he understands this but this is his point; he would like to
72 know how many vendors and how much money did the town generate from the
73 vendor fees. Mayor Deaton added that he is sure that council will be discussing this
74 issue in the future because it is a very important one to the community.
75

76 **C. Administrator's Report**

77 Mr. Booth reported that the Sun Fun Festival in Surfside was this past Sunday and
78 next year the town will be looking into providing more entertainment and events.
79 Mr. Childs stated that he spent the whole day at the Sun Fun Festival and wanted to
80 report that it was not advertised on the marquee and asked who took care of the
81 marquee. Mr. Booth reported that the Facilities staff takes care of this. Mr. Childs
82 stated that this event needs to be advertised more with perhaps a banner over
83 Surfside Drive; he literally had to walk the beach to get kids to participate; bocce ball
84 was advertised and there was no bocce ball and people asked why. There were
85 inquiries as to why there was no band and they were told that some bands do not like
86 to bring their instruments on the sand Mr. Childs stated that he thinks that the town
87 could get bands down there that would like the recognition and would be willing to
88 bring their instruments. Mr. Childs added that there were quite a few people who
89 were disappointed. Mr. Booth stated that the town would work on having more next
90 year.
91

92 Mr. Booth reported that he wants to create a Ground Department. He currently has
93 some people in Public Works and some in Recreation and he would like the
94 Recreation Department to concentrate on the sports and entertainment and not have
95 to be concerned with the lakes and grounds. Mr. Booth stated that in some areas
96 some things fall through the cracks so he would like to organize it where each
97 department knows exactly what they are responsible for. Mr. Booth added that he is
98 not downplaying the recreation because they will now have more access to staff to
99 assist them in putting up tents and helping them with events. Mr. Booth added that
100 Public Works has a lot of equipment that could assist. Mr. Childs stated that he is
101 hoping the new Parks and Recreation Committee could help organize events like the
102 Sun Fun; he added that he believes that we need to think a little out of the box and

103 add some new ideas. Mr. Johnson asked for confirmation that the purpose was to
104 have a maintenance and an administrative section and Mr. Booth answered that this
105 was correct. Mr. Booth added that the Grounds Department would be responsible for
106 all park and town grounds. Mr. Martin asked if we are creating another department
107 in need of a Director and Mr. Booth stated that he is just creating another entity
108 within the Public Works and it was confirmed that there would not be a new manager
109 reported to Mr. Booth. Mr. Booth added that there would be not reduction or
110 increase and they would report to the Public Works Director and the Recreation
111 reports to Mr. Booth. Mr. Childs stated that about a week ago a citizen who is also a
112 veteran asked about the maintenance of the Veteran's Park adding that the plaque
113 had been vandalized and there were no flowers planted and it was not being
114 maintained. Mr. Childs added that he believes that this could be a good challenge for
115 the Beautification Committee and he noticed at the War Bird Park it looked like
116 someone stole a medallion there too and was wondering if the town could look into
117 getting a stone carved eagle that cannot be stolen. Mr. Childs added that he believes
118 that this should be a priority project and went down today and noted that it still has
119 not been addressed. Mr. Childs stated that he did not want the gentleman to have to
120 call him again and would like to see this taken care of adding that we are going into
121 July and we missed April, May and almost June. Mr. Booth reported that flowers are
122 being planted there; arrangements have been made. Mayor Deaton added that
123 perhaps this Parks and Recreation Committee could address these types issues. Mr.
124 Booth reported that many communities have a lot of committees and this town did
125 not seem to have very many and their job is to represent the community and they
126 give input, review the budget and make recommendations on what is wanted and
127 needed. Mr. Booth stated that he agrees that the town needs to reenergize and a
128 recreation committee would definitely benefit the town; he sees many people
129 wanting to volunteer. Mr. Booth stated that if there were no objection he would
130 begin to look into getting this going. Mr. Truett, who was the chairman of the last
131 Recreation Committee, said they had negotiated with the county regarding the Scipio
132 Lane property and never got into the items Mr. Booth has mentioned but he added
133 that he believes it is a good idea and he would like to volunteer to represent council
134 on the committee. Mr. Booth stated that this committee would also deal with
135 recreation event situations that come up between the kids, parents and staff. Mr.
136 Booth added that we have a great sports program and we will have a great
137 entertainment program; recreation is what identifies the town and input from a
138 committee will really make a difference. Mr. Truett added that requests to be on
139 certain teams and being certain coaches used to happen in Surfside Beach but it no
140 longer happens; the town has two very qualified woman running the sports programs
141 by the book and according to State standards. It was confirmed that the Recreation
142 Committee request would be placed on a future agenda as a business item.

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144 Mr. Booth reported that dredging of the lake is beginning either today or tomorrow
145 morning. The equipment has been set up by Cherry Lake and that is where the work
146 will begin. Mayor Deaton thanked Pastor David for his church, the First Baptist
147 Church, donating their property to set the equipment up on so that they can perform
148 the dredging. Mr. Booth thanked Mr. Blair for fixing the sound system. Mr. Marin
149 asked about the date of July 9th for the start of Floral Lake and how firm it was. Mr.
150 Booth answered that it was just an estimated time and not firm at all. Mr. Booth
151 added that Cherry should take 30 days and once it is complete they will move on but
152 things could happen. Mr. Samples stated that he assumes we have a signed contract

153 with the dredging company and asked if there is a schedule attached to the contract.
154 Mr. Booth answered that there was not. Mr. Booth added that they have 365 days to
155 complete the entire project; the town has come up with a schedule themselves.
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157 **6. BUSINESS**

158 A. *First Reading Ordinance #08-640- Stormwater Fees:* This item was deleted from
159 the agenda and was noted that it would be brought back at the next meeting.

160 B. *Issue Paper: Authorize Signatures on Town of Surfside Beach Cash Accounts §2-*
161 *186*

162 Mr. Booth stated that this is to remove the signature of the previous Mayor on
163 accounts and to replace it with the new Mayor. Mr. Samples made a motion to
164 approve the request as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mayor Deaton
165 recused himself from voting. **All remaining voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**
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167 **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

168 *Mr. Galloway, 210 8th Avenue South:* "First I want to say to you guys, I have nothing
169 personally against either one of you, I don't know any of you personally but I'm going to
170 tell you something, you are all supposed to be working for Surfside and those people out
171 here. We sit back there; we don't know what's going on 90 percent of the time. I'll tell
172 you what I'm going to do. I'm inviting you guys to come down to my house, one day
173 this week, I got something I want to show you and tell you that you don't know a thing
174 about and if you care anything about Surfside and the people in it you will come to my
175 house. This one on one ain't worth a dad gum, it's he said, he said. I'd love every one
176 of you to come but I want at least four of you to come to my house and let's have a talk.
177 If you care anything about Surfside and the people in it you'll be there. That's all I got to
178 say."
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180 *Ron Ott, 7th Avenue North:* "Again I guess I'm here to talk about Lake Elizabeth. It's
181 been many years and it seems like every time I come up I'm talking about Lake
182 Elizabeth. When I first moved here and Mr. Booth doesn't know it, the lake was full of
183 trash, it was really nasty looking and I can tell you this, that lake is clean of trash, on the
184 surface, I don't know what's in the bottom but I hardly ever see any trash go by any
185 more at all. I want to get the good things out first. Today, we clear cut the other side of
186 the lake and it's, those people that own that property, it may be their right but from a
187 person that sits over there and I have the privilege to sit over there all the time and look,
188 I know that the silt that was right there was just removed by Horry County, now we have
189 nothing but dirt and what was it, 16, 17 months ago, Horry County had a big digger in
190 there and dug it out, maybe 15, 20 dump trucks full of silt was taken out of there. Now I
191 believe that they're going to do something in there but I want to make sure they're going
192 to do something in there but I want to make sure they're going to do something. I don't
193 want to see all that dirt and silt run back in there, all we need is one storm and what we
194 had there before was a sandbar, right in there and all, we had little trees growing in there,
195 I thought that some of the contractors were going to build houses on it that's how big
196 that sandbar got, so, and I think this is the first meeting that I heard everything
197 everybody said and it's pretty good. Bob Blair, thank you."
198

199 *Lonnie Hopkins, 712 Cedar Drive North:* "I'm going to follow up on Ron Ott's clear
200 cutting of the Lake Elizabeth. As Ron stated, there's a tremendous amount of silt and

201 dirt that's going to run into this lake due to this clear cutting and we all know that the
202 Town of Surfside should be in the midst of the clean water act which is going to have to
203 happen and it states, if I remember correctly, that you're even going to have to sweep the
204 street to keep the dirt and sand and so forth out of the lake and the waterways to the
205 ocean. Now, by cutting these trees and all the vegetation, it's just going to compound
206 the problem more and the second thing is, in the clean water act it states that all lakes
207 and vegetation and retainer ponds should have vegetation around it to filter out the silt
208 and dirt and fecal matter that's going to the ocean and we're just defeating the purpose in
209 every way shape and form of it. Now, I will commend the Town and County for doing
210 one thing, like Ron stated, they did clean up the Bi-Lo ditch on the other side, there's
211 just one problem to what they've done, we had one six foot pipe coming under Business
212 17 into Surfside from the Bi-Lo ditch, the County has now put two 6 feet pipes on the
213 other side and Lake Elizabeth cannot handle any additional water. One of the 6 foot
214 pipes is plugged off at Business 17, now what's going to happen, Deerfield and those
215 people on the other side are going to want to put more water to the lake and that's going
216 to compound the problems more and like I said, it's stubbed off at Business 17 right now
217 so I know they're doing a lot of work over there and they want to bring a lot more water
218 in this direction so we're going to have more problems to Lake Elizabeth. It is maxed
219 out today and it's going to continue to be a problem if we don't stay on top of it and this
220 clear cutting is a step that should not be done and in the minutes and so forth that is
221 presented to the building and zoning deal, it's stated in here that they wanted to keep the
222 natural vegetation present if possible, you know, keep it there. It says a large tree buffer
223 zone on 10th Avenue footage they want to retain that, the buffer along Lake Elizabeth be
224 coordinated consistent along all lots with lake rear yards and that was in, presented to the
225 town council from my understanding when this development was taking place, so I don't
226 know what was finally passed but it's going against all the laws of nature and the
227 washing of a lot of dirty and dry lakes and it's very dirty now due to the retainer pond on
228 the other side and the other thing is the council should get abreast and stay on board with
229 Steve Gosnell of the County and everything because we had a very good working
230 relationship with Steve Gosnell and all the people of the County in our work we did not
231 the lake in the year 2000-2001 so some of you are well abreast of that, so thank you very
232 much."

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234 *Sue Wall, 510 Poplar:* "Last time, last meeting you talked about garbage, trash and all
235 that and I don't know if I didn't catch it or whatever but I'm just wondering how you
236 were going to do it, you were saying something about it being cheaper and that. Where I
237 live there are 3 buildings, 4 apartments each, everybody pays \$15 a month for a
238 dumpster out front and to me personally, I think that's a lot of money. Second of all I
239 can barely reach the thing and now that, thank you, I got my recycling thing, I don't
240 even hardly used two bags of garbage a week and that's a lot of money to be paying for a
241 stupid dumpster I can't reach and when I do finally get it open I got to smell it, you
242 know, I was just wondering, you know if somewhere along the line I can find out what
243 they are going to do and hopefully it will be cheaper some how."

244
245 Mayor Deaton asked Ms. Wall to set up an appointment with Mr. Booth to address this.

246
247 *P.L. Mabry, 15th Avenue North:* "Two things I want to talk to you here tonight about and
248 the first thing is I want to thank you, thank staff, thank Mr. Booth for taking care of, or
249 finding a position for Willie Smalls. I know I got up here and spoke about 2 to 3 months
250 ago about Willie Smalls, he's a 25 year veteran here in this town or more, an elderly

251 gentleman which needs our help and I say our help meaning a structured environment
252 because it would be more beneficial to him then it is to have money is to have a
253 structured environment. I do want to say thanks again, if I was critical at the time, of
254 which I don't think I was, I've never been critical (laughing in audience) but, see I have
255 people commending me for that, they know better. Now, I'll be critical now, sine I got
256 through my little soft area here. I heard word, last council meeting, something about
257 sanitation billing, billing out for sanitation instead of having Grand Strand Water and
258 Sewer Authority combining up, piggy backing it on their bills. The cost of adding
259 employees to do that, the equipment, the fact of having to post each account that come
260 up there to town hall here and says 'I want to pay my sanitation bill', someone has to
261 stop and post that, make the deposits, it is not cost effective to do that, I want you to
262 consider it and also if you will look back over the records, many years ago, we wrote off
263 about \$50,000 worth of debts that we could not collect. The law says that you'll still
264 pick up the sanitation, you can't stop picking that up but the point is, I want you to check
265 the records, I think you'll find it's not profitable, it's not economical for this town to go
266 back in to hiring people to do that to make it a bigger bureaucracy than what it is today.
267 That is not being critical that's just being as honest as I can phrase it and not use any
268 adverbs and adjective that I shouldn't be using. The Lake Elizabeth, when you do
269 construction you're required to put up erosion control around the areas in which you are
270 working, that is a requirement. I don't know where this requirement is being met, but I
271 do think that we have a requirement to enforce the laws that are required when it comes
272 to breaking the erosion control problems that are set up in this State and are required by
273 this State. They are required by OCRM and other agencies. That's all I have to say to
274 you tonight. Thank you. I want to welcome each of the new 4 members, including the
275 Mayor who's one of the 4. I'm glad to see you here and I know that you'll do the best
276 job you possibly can because every issue stands on its' own merit, it's not a matter of
277 anything else. Thank you. I hope you'll enjoy it. I enjoyed it for many years and I
278 sometimes enjoy being on this side of the fence because I get to look at you straight in
279 the face when I tell you what I got to say and Joe can appreciate that at least he knows
280 that I haven't got behind your back (SIC) thank you very much."

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282 **8. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

283 *Mr. Johnson:* "Being a former Planning & Zoning Commission member, I'm kind of
284 disheartened as to what I've been hearing concerning Lake Elizabeth and some of the
285 comments were made that stipulations were actually, in fact, in place for a barrier of
286 trees near the lakeshore and from my recollection that was the case and I don't know
287 what happened between that period of time and this evening and when this taking down
288 of the trees occurred, but I have to say I'm very dismayed that the fact that it did happen
289 and you know, I don't know why it happened and I wish I did, but I'm very upset that
290 something like that happened and I just would like a further explanation as to what's
291 going on up there."

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293 *Mr. Truett:* "I agree with Mark and there was a situation that happened, must have been
294 three years ago, we had some clear cutting of timber in the Town of Surfside Beach and
295 they were levied a hefty fine for ignoring the law and if that be the case this time, I think
296 it ought to be handled in the same, same strictness."

297
298 *Mr. Martin:* "I agree with Mr. Truett and Mr. Johnson we really need to take a hard look
299 at what happened there and I would appreciate a more in depth explanation at the next
300 council meeting. Also I appreciate Mr. Mabry bringing up the sanitation billing issue

301 and if there were going to be any change made I would hope that that would be brought
302 up at a future council meeting to have a full discussion. The thing is, Mr. Galloway's
303 invitation to stop and talk to him, I will certainly do that. Thank you Mr. Galloway."

304
305 *Mr. Childs:* "I would just like to thank Robert Blair for, we finally hear Robert, thank
306 you very much, you did a great job and that was hard work and thank you so much."

307
308 *Mr. Samples:* "The Harbor Lights situation is something that, for everyone's
309 information, I think, probably a month ago, maybe less, 3 or 4 weeks ago I know that
310 we, I think we had the police out there, didn't we, on a weekend, stopping them from
311 clear cutting because one of the citizens in town called me and I went out there, and in
312 fact, that's what was going on, it was tough communicating with the folks that we were
313 dealing with but they got the drift that they weren't supposed to be cutting trees down. I
314 went out there this evening and they clear cut, there's no other way to say it, I'm sure
315 they kept the big oaks but the fact of the matter is the reason they did it, of course, is
316 pretty simple, they want everybody to have a clear view of the lake and I can understand
317 that from a real estate sales standpoint but the problem is, we're going to be dealing
318 with, it worsens the water quality. I can remember, all I want to be is consistent, I can
319 remember a fellow next to Bill Thomas on Cedar Drive trying to cut 2 or 3 little, what I
320 thought, were little straggly pieces of tree out and we stopped him. What I want to know
321 is what happened and I don't want excuses made, we've known that they wanted to
322 clear-cut. I want to know who dropped the ball and then I want to make it right."

323
324 *Ms. Blair:* "Just to concur with my fellow councilman, serving on the Planning and
325 Zoning with Mr. Johnson, this project, many of you have shared those planning and
326 zoning sessions with us, you know that this came before us multiple times before it event
327 came close to being something that we would approve and I'm very distressed as well
328 that we are now facing this debacle that has happened over there and I certainly look
329 forward to hearing some reason and what the answer is going to be to that."

330
331 *Mayor Deaton:* "I refrain from comments generally and I'm going to try to in the future
332 but this is something that is very dear to my heart. I helped write our tree protection
333 ordinance for the Town of Surfside Beach. I spent a lot of time on it and I don't know
334 that it's being enforced properly. I'm not accusing anyone of anything. I would like to
335 say that I would like to see a code enforcement officer; you know we can't afford gas
336 these days but we can afford to pay attention and that's what someone needs to be doing.
337 I know the protection ordinance because, like I said, I was an intricate part of that and I
338 see trees being cut down every day. I don't know if we're just collecting the fee for a
339 \$1,500 tree and there's no mitigation going on. I really don't know what's happening
340 but I am concerned. I don't know that anybody's paying attention and that's no
341 accusation towards the administration, the administrator or anyone else but I know that
342 we've had some positions that are open at this point in time. I feel that we need
343 someone that pays attention. We need someone that's going to be around our
344 communities. We are not that large of a community. Someone can be, on a day-to day
345 basis, finding out what's going on. My concern is that someone gets a permit for a tree,
346 let's say 20 inches in diameter and then all of a sudden somebody up the street says 'well
347 look I got a tree that needs to come down also' so you got the same person with that pink
348 or yellow or whatever color the permit is in the windshield and they just ride a half a
349 block down and the chainsaws crank up and there you go. Actually I had, in my
350 neighborhood, an experience the other day where I heard chainsaws for almost 7 straight

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hours, now that's a long time for chainsaws and that's a lot of trees and I told the Administrator I will not ever overstep my bounds. I'm not going to meddle in the day to day operations of the Town of Surfside Beach but I did call the Administrator and he did check and he said there were permits in place but my concern is that it's just like when you call a plumber and you see the plumber next door and you got a drain problem you're going to go 'hey buddy can you fix my drain' and I think some of that may be going on. If we don't have someone paying attention then I think it's a perpetual situation that needs to be corrected. I'm going to leave it alone right there. I would like to thank Mr. Blair for correcting all of these problems that we've had for years and years. We had problems when I was here 8 years ago and this sounds pretty good. I've got a loud voice anyway, but, I can hear myself, thank you sir."

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Truett made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

10. BUSINESS


The meeting reconvened at 8:28 PM. Mr. Truett made a motion to appoint Charles Seibold, Bob Hanson, Ron Saunders and John Culbertson to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Samples made a motion to direct the Administrator to enter into final negotiations with the owner of said property. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Approved: June 24, 2008

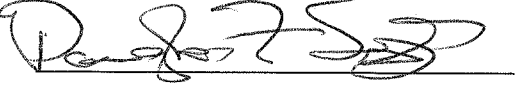

Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk


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.