



**TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**July 9, 2007 ♦ 6:00 o'clock p.m.**

**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hyman called the public hearing regarding the Fire Station of Surfside Beach to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Hyman, Mayor Pro Tem Truett, and Councilmembers Hiatt, Martin, McKown, Samples, and Tuttle were present. A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth, Clerk Pinnell.

Mr. Booth stated that we have shown the Council and various citizens the Surfside Beach Fire Station and the current condition that it is in and they have also toured the Fire Station in Murrells Inlet to see what a Fire Station should look like. Mr. Booth stated that the needs for a new Station have been expressed over the years and it is now time to hear the views of our residents. Mr. Booth also stated that a new Fire Station could be built without increasing taxes; we would look to go to a revenue bond using some of the funds from the meters.

Bill Black, 214 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South: "I've been a resident of this municipality since 1963, in fact, that was before it was a municipality. I'm also proud to say that I'm an associate of the Fire Department, I'm the, actually the Assistant Chief and I'm proud to say that we have quite a few of our folks here tonight. A couple of quick things and some of you may know this already and probably do, since you stated this issue, we really never had a *real* Fire Station. At one time the Fire Department was based in the main entrance of this building, we're now in a building that was designed to be the city garage and it was never designed to be a Fire Department, if you had the chance to go through it you'll see it's in need of repair, I think your own engineering studies show that it's probably not the best place to be during a hurricane, the volunteers themselves over the past years have spent money out of our own pockets and time to replace some of the interior walls in that building, do the painting, quite honestly, most of the furniture was either donated by firemen or other residents or we paid for it out of our pocket. This is a situation where I think it's time has come that we go ahead and bite the bullet and let's build a Fire Station, build if we need to so we can use it for multi-use, there could be a room for meetings, a number of things in that building. It's, I think, something that's time has come. Thank you."

Bob Hanson 15<sup>th</sup> & Hollywood: "Mr. Mayor, members of the council, Mr. Booth, Mrs. Pinnell, I'd like to speak in favor of building a new Fire Station. I believe the time is right and I believe if you can come up with the finances, and my major reason is Mr. Booth built and outstanding Fire Station in Malabar Florida, I've seen it, it is attractive and also looks to be very functional. It has three large bays with a second story over it and two small bays on the right hand side for smaller vehicles and if he can do it there, I'm sure he can do it here. Thank you very much."

Tom Dodge 15<sup>th</sup> & Poplar North: "We need this Fire Station more than we need most anything else in town. If we get a heavy hurricane here and they have to take the trucks out of town like they did in the past, short after we got here, we evacuated over to Soccastee High School and I look out the window and all of our fire trucks are over there, there's no protection here in town. So we need a new building that will withstand a hurricane that we can keep our police and fire here so that we don't have to put up with looters or whatever but the building is in horrible condition and we need a new building."

Cecil Chandler, Surfside & Hollywood: "I don't know how to say this but, it's really *bad* in there, I've been in there, I've visited the Fire Department several times, these guys do a great job they come by my house almost every night for something (laughter in audience) and I was looking, they were saying this building could withstand up to 70 mile per hour winds, if we have a hurricane, which we're due, hope to God we don't have one, but if we're due what's going to happen when they leave, you know, we're not going to have any protection and he said, the best part, if we've got the money, I think it would be great if we just go ahead and do it. I really do. I think it's very worthwhile, I mean these guys do a lot and give a lot and I know they spend a lot of their money too. Thank you."

P.L. Mabry 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North: "It's certainly true that we certainly need a new Fire Station and we need one because, we have to, one thing we have to understand is that our help, most of it is volunteers. These are people that give of themselves with very little coming back to them, if anything, we need to support them by having a decent facility for them. You know I'm going to say only your needs and not your wants but you also need something, right now you have very little, you can almost say you have nothing but we need to support our people and we need to have the proper equipment for them to have a Fire Station. Thank You."

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Shelby Smith 911 Cedar Drive North: "There's no doubt about the need and this service to the town is just so essential. Back in early June, I want to just come up to show you three pictures, this is the old fire truck and the care in which this fire truck is maintained, it's a twenty year old fire truck and it impressed me so much to see the kind of quality that that vehicle still fights fires, still out there, so it's not a question of care and maintenance of the building and so forth, these professionals really maintain their equipment. That building is beyond maintaining, it's time for a new building and this service and our town certainly deserves a new building. Thank you very much."

Evan Bofilios-owns business at 415 Hwy 17 N: "I grew up in Surfside, my parents live on 311 Poplar Drive South so I've been here when this building right here was a parking lot to the Police Station so as a business owner, we need the Fire Department, it will give them a better response to a business in case of a need, God forbid we don't have anything like that but, to have it available it's a wonderful thing. Thank you."

Lieutenant Tom Richards, Surfside Beach Firefighter: "The building has gotten to the point where the past five or six years, I sleep on the coach in the duty room because I don't feel safe on the second floor. When it rains and the wind blows, the ceiling tiles flow across the ceiling like a wave, like you see in the baseball games. The town needs to have a building that is going to be safe for both it's paid people and it's volunteers. They do, do a lot for us and we really need it. Thank you."

There were no other public comments.

Mr. Booth then asked council if they would like to go out for bids for an architect. Mr. Booth stated that it may take several months to go through this process and this is not a request for a proposal but it would be to search for a professional service. Mr. Booth stated that he would have various architects give presentations to council. Ms. Tuttle confirmed that it would be a "request for qualification." It was the consensus of council to proceed with a request for qualification.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Hyman thanked those in attendance for their input and stated that he appreciated their support. Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn. Mr. McKown seconded the motion. **All voted in favor.** Meeting was adjourned at 6:12 P.M.

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Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

Approved: July 24, 2007

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Ray Hyman, Jr., Mayor

**APPROVED**

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Rebecca J. Hiatt, Town Council

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Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

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William M. McKown, Town Council

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Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

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James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

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Judith K. Tuttle, 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.