



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING Civic Center, 115 US Highway
17 North, Surfside Beach, SC 29575 www.surfsidebeach.org - ☎ (843) 913-6111
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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 11, 2022, ● 6:30 pm.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Hellyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mayor Hellyer, Councilmembers Drake, Holder, Kreklau, Kinken, Stamey and Mayor Pro Tempore Keating were in attendance. Others present were Town Administrator Shanahan, Town Attorney Crosby and Town Clerk Sheri Medina.
- 2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
 - A. Invocation:** Mr. Shanahan gave the invocation.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Hellyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA:** None
- 4. MINUTES APPROVAL:** Councilmember Keating made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 14, 2021, Regular meeting and December 16, 2021, Special Meeting. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
 - A. Gary White,** Lakeside Drive, commented that he would like to read the parking committee Resolution, but it was not attached to the agenda. He is considering joining that Committee.
- 6. COMMUNICATIONS**
 - A. Pier Update** – Town Administrator Shanahan began the pier update by showing a drone video of the progress. Mr. Shanahan stated they completed the podium concrete slab. The metal buildings panel system has begun to be delivered. An erection of the buildings will start the week of January 17. The structural steel beams and columns for building A, the restaurant, is underway and 95% complete. The marine contractor continues to erect the construction trestle as they proceed over the water, which will extend 300 feet. The tressel will be removed once the pier is finished.
- 7. DISCUSSION** (motions pertaining to discussion items permitted): None.
- 8. BUSINESS:**
 - A. Surfside Beach Community Garden Charter** - Councilmember Keating stated since we've never formally established this Committee, I think it's a little premature to continue to be discussing the charter, missions, and so forth. We need to take this input from the community garden team and formally create the resolution to establish the Committee as we've done for the pier committee.

Councilmember Drake stated it looks good and in talking with Laura and Yvette over the past few months, they've worked hard on putting this together. The amount of vegetables they're growing is unbelievable. There has been a lot of community involvement and many different people. It's doing a great job. So, we need to put this on the next agenda for a resolution.

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B. Parking Committee – Resolution #22-144 – Councilmember Keating stated that, in reading the proposed resolution, the only comment I have is to be more specific about the number of members anticipated on the Committee. I would recommend that the Committee “consists of seven members” to be clear. So that in the future, we know when there are openings.

Councilmember Drake stated that I was looking forward to this because as Surfside grows, that's mainly the growth of our adjacent neighborhoods. The population is dense on our beach, and accesses are limited. If you decide to go to the beach, there should be a parking place for you as a resident, and that's very important to me. I'm glad to see this come back.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept the resolution contingent upon the correction stipulating that the Committee will consist of seven members. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

C. Harbor Lights – Mr. Shanahan gave some background on the Harbor Lights HOA request. They did agree when the development was created to pay for the upgraded decorative lighting fixtures. After some research, the Town now pays for the same lighting fixtures along Ocean Blvd and other streets. Mr. Shanahan recommended that the Town also assumes the fees for these lights.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept ordinance 22 – 0944, pending a comment I will make. Councilmember Drake second.

Councilmember Stamey stated that the original agreement was for the HOA to pay this fee, and they agreed, so I think they should continue to pay.

Councilmember Holder stated we need to know if the fee the Town pays is the same as the fee that the HOA is paying, and also there are other developments that we do not pay for the lighting, so will we assume theirs also?

Councilmember Keating stated I think based on the discussion we had over this the first time in December; we agreed that since the Town has undertaken to implement these more decorative light fixtures throughout the Town, they would now be considered a standard product. So, the ordinance needs to be drafted to amend the provisions of ordinance #13- 0765, stipulating that the fixtures installed in the Harbor Lights development are considered standard and therefore would be subject to no additional charge. I think it's just a matter of using this same decorative design throughout the Town as we transition to underground utilities, in whatever projects it is, as becoming our standard light fixture. The way ordinance #13 - 0765 was written, the Town pays for standard light fixtures. If we consider these a standard for use within the Town, there would not be additional fees. So, I think the ordinance needs to be rewritten in that manner.

Councilmember Kreklau stated my thoughts are, yes, they did agree to pay for it, and my first reaction would be, let them keep paying for it. Street lights, in my opinion, are more of a public safety item. You need 1 or 2 on every block, so you know somebody's coming up behind you, or you see somebody walking down the street or do you can somewhat prepare or go the other direction? If you choose to. I somewhat disagree with the public developed or private developments that we maybe should even provide them with limited lighting.

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Councilmember Kinken stated, in the beginning, there were many things that this particular HOA agreed to. We're not talking about a considerable expense for the Town or the individual, less than \$6 a month for the 49 houses there. If we approve this, we don't know how many more developments will ask the Town to pay for theirs. I feel like it's under control right now. I don't think that now is the time to take on more expenditures.

Councilmember Drake stated I'm for it because we need more lighting in Surfside, decorative lighting, especially on Ocean Boulevard South.

Mayor Hellyer stated that Harbor lights went out of their way to make the roads to DOT standards and then gave them back to the Town. So, I would think that since the roads belong to the Town, the Town has responsibility for lighting.

Councilmembers Keating, Kreklau, Drake and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmembers Stamey, Holder and Kinken voted against. **Motion carried.**

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Harry Kohlmann, 10th Avenue north. I want to speak up on the vote the parking committee. I'm glad you reinstated the parking committee. Hopefully, you'll listen to the recommendations. Some of the Councils refused to listen to the parking committee. Especially about the E district, and now we have problems there. People spent a lot of time and energy on those committees making great recommendations, saving us a lot of money and making us a lot of money. You have only seven weeks until the parking is back in effect, March 1. You're going to have a rough time trying to get stuff done before the parking enforcement goes into effect. There is a lot of development going up in this County. We have the best beaches. We don't have a lot of parking, folks—the most important thing in this town: the residents, second homeowners, and tourists. If the tourists have no place to park their golf cart on no place to sit on the beach, they're not coming.

10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS:

A. Councilmember Stamey, I appreciate everybody who came out. Until we get more lighting in our Town, these poles are not standard, which is an expense. So, I appreciate people recognizing that that's \$3500 the Town will be picking up that it didn't need to. I'm glad everybody's here. I hope you had a nice holiday and hope to see you at the next meeting.

B. Councilmember Holder, Happy New Year to everyone. It's good to see everyone here tonight and online. We've got a lot of great things going on. As we've talked about the Pier and what we're doing now, they're seeing its growth. I hope we can have a great year and one financially successful for the Town. Have a great evening.

C. Councilmember Keating, I want to thank everybody for coming out and for those that may have called in. We've addressed a few things here tonight. I think, in general, the Town is moving in the right direction. We see a lot of improvements with the way we are addressing some of our operations, getting a better handle on what part of our ordinances can and should be changed, as well as some functional operations and how people interface with the Town. We're working on our new website as we move forward with that. We hope to have that up and running by the end of May. June 1, we should see a new and improved user-friendly website. That will allow you to access information easier and enable the Town employees to keep relevant and updated information on the web page

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themselves without going back to the developers and some of the burdensome operations of the current web page. So, I think that will come a long way in the transparency and communication of information. I know Robert is working very hard to get the 2022 event schedule together and get some of that organized, and for that, I thank him very much. He's been given quite a task because the council continues to say that we want this a year-round destination. We want to be the #1 family beach in South Carolina. To do that, we need something going on every month. We need to keep our residents busy. We need to keep tourists interested in coming back year after year, after year, and at all times of the year. Again, bringing Robert on board was it was a spectacular idea. I think he's doing a great job. He is moving us forward and embracing our mission of becoming the number one family beach in South Carolina. I hope you all had a great holiday, and you took some time to rest and enjoy family and friends. For now, this is our first meeting of 2022, and I look forward to the rest of them. Thank You.

D. Councilmember Kreklau, I'd like to thank everyone for coming out to those that call them there, watching online. Happy New Year. I want to thank our public works, fire, police department, and everyone who doesn't get thanked very often, even though we all depend on them to do the job. Continue to take an interest in your local government, please. Thank you.

E. Councilmember Kinken, I want to thank everybody for being here and listening in. I agree with LaVerne and our staff, public works, police; they do a great job. And we should appreciate them because we live in a great town. They are responsible for that. I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year. As far as Harbor Lights, I don't want you to think I dislike your neighborhood. I love your neighborhood. We usually do a golf cart ride through there when I have visitors because it's such a pretty place. I hope someday that all our streets look like that, but it takes a lot of money. I don't see it happening anytime soon. I don't think that we should be paying. Thank you for coming, and I hope you all have a great week. Thank you.

F. Councilmember Drake, I'd like to thank everybody for coming out tonight and tuning in, and Happy New Year to everyone. And again, we do live in a beautiful town. It is a beautiful place, and thank you to our police department, Fire Department, Public Works, and Robert for all the work you've been doing with organizing our events. Yes, we do want to be the destination year-round. Surfside always has something going on, and we want to share that with the world. You want to share it with the communities. Again, thank you very much for coming out.

G. Mayor Hellyer, We've got a big year coming up, a lot of stuff coming up. If you look at what we did last year with our Fall Festival and our meatball challenge and all of the events that we had our July 4 and everything else, we had record numbers compared to what we had before. If you doubt that, look at the Christmas tree lighting this year; that was huge. It's all because our town employees are doing such a good job. So, I would ask you when you see the Town employees going around, like the guy picking up the debris in your yard, I would stop and say hi, and thank them for the job they do because they do a heck of a job. We've got a whole lot going on this year. We still have to figure out what we're going to do for the Pier, what we're going to do for the pier's management and what we're going to do for this summer's Farmer's Market. I'm hoping everybody can work together. Council seems to be working a lot better now, and we'll see what we can do to make it a happier place. But it's all for the residents, and I thank you very much.

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11. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1), Discussion of appointments to Surfside Beach Committees.

Councilmember Keating made to motion at 7:17 pm to convene an executive session in accordance with FOIA Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss potential appointments to the Surfside Beach committees. Councilmember Holder seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

12. MOTIONS RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION. The council may take action on matters related to Executive Session.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to reconvene the public session of the Town Council meeting for January 11 at 8:20 pm. Councilmember Drake seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Keating stated that while no action was taken in the executive session, I'd like to make a motion to appoint Mr. Zach Baker, Mr. Rodney Schilling, and Ms. Robin Parton to the business committee and reappoint Mr. Phil Vassar and Mr. Lee Zulanch. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Cindy Keating was appointed to be the council liaison for the business committee.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to appoint Mr. Douglas Weis and Mr. Jeremy Church to the Accommodations Tax Committee. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember LaVerne Kreklau was appointed to be the council liaison for the Accommodation Tax Committee.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to reappoint Mr. Ron Mask and an appointment of Ms. Laura Colbert to the Stormwater Committee. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Chris Stamey was appointed to be the council liaison for the Stormwater Committee.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to appoint Mr. Alex Samsel to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Drake second. Councilmembers Keating, Kreaklau, Drake and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmembers Stamey, Holder and Kinken voted against. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Paul Holder was appointed to be the council liaison for the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to reappoint Mr. Jon Dougherty to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilman Michael Drake was appointed to be the council liaison for the Zoning Board of Appeals Committee.

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Councilmember Keating made a motion to appoint Mr. Tom Dodge, Mrs. Diana Taylor, Mr. Rodney Schilling, Mr. Harry Kohlmann, and Ms. Jen Woodbury to the Parking Committee. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Bill Kinken was appointed to be the council liaison for the Parking Committee.

Mayor Hellyer will continue to be the council liaison for the Keep Surfside Beautiful Committee.

Councilmember Keating stated that the Senior Committee was not mentioned in this packet. We need to figure out if we need to continue that Committee or reach out to other organizations and decide whether that ad hoc committee will continue.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Councilmember Keating made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 pm. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert Hellyer, Mayor

Cindy Keating, Mayor Pro Tempore

Chris Stamey, Town Council

LaVerne Kreklau, Town Council

Michael Drake, Town Council

William Kinken, Town Council

Paul Holder, Town Council

Attest: _____
Sheri L Medina, Town Clerk

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