



SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Civic Center, 829 Pine Drive, Surfside Beach, SC 29575
www.surfsidebeach.org - (843) 913-6111 (843) 238-5432

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, ● 6:30 PM.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Hellyer called the Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Councilmembers Drake, Holder, Kreklau, Stamey, and Mayor Pro Tempore Keating attended. Councilmember Kinken was absent. Others present were Interim Town Administrator Clemons and Town Clerk Medina.
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - A. **Invocation:** John Shaffer from Discover Church gave the invocation.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Hellyer led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MOTIONS RELATING TO THE AGENDA-** None
4. **MINUTES APPROVAL** – Councilmember Keating made a motion to defer the minutes' approval for January 24, 2023, until the next Meeting on February 28, for some last-minute editorial changes. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
 - A. **Lanny Kemble**, 714 Pine Drive, stated speaking as a resident, not a member of the Parking Committee. I have resigned from the Parking Committee. It's not business-friendly since we will not try to accommodate their employees. Section 9 - 16 (F), in which the Council issued 30-day parking stickers for employees of the E District at \$20 per month. The new ordinance has eliminated that section. If you did not eliminate that portion of the Ordinance, it could solve an employee parking issue for the E District. Under what recommendation was this removed?
6. **COMMUNICATIONS**
 - A. **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT** – Interim Administrator Clemons gave the Administrator report. (Fire Department advanced life support certification)

At this time, Chief Hofmann was invited to the podium to recognize one of the Police Department's officers - Officer Bishop.

On January 7, Officer Bishop was on patrol and doing an outstanding job of riding around some of our parking lots and checking some of our areas. It was a very cold night. He came up upon a vehicle that was backed up in the woods near Pizza Hut, got out of his vehicle and went to investigate to see what was going on. He discovered a female asleep in the car. He discovered this female was out of money, had no place to stay, and was in a tight spot. She said she was waiting for her boyfriend to get off work nearby. A few minutes later, the boyfriend arrived, and he confirmed the difficulties they were going through. In a very selfless, empathetic, and compassionate act, Officer Bishop took the couple across the street to the hotel, pulled out his personal credit card and paid for the hotel room for the night so they could have a warm place to sleep.

I just wanted to take a minute to show Officer Bishop we appreciate him. We want to recognize him because many bad things are sometimes said about police, and we're out there and doing amazing things. Sometimes our work is challenging, and we must make tough decisions.

Interim Administrator Clemons read a letter of correspondence from a resident. This letter spoke about Mr. Brian Gray. Brian works at the front desk in the town hall. The resident says Mr. Gray was very professional, polite, and a true pleasure to work with. Mr. Gray listened and responded with empathy and provided courageous and courteous feedback. These are qualities that any commander or leader should expect and appreciate. My family and I have been visiting Surfside Beach for 40 years. We feel at home in your community and believe that Surfside Beach represents all the good that has become the southern hospitality standard.

Chief Clemons stated that we need to share this information with the residents.

- B. PIVOT PARKING PRESENTATION** - Mr. Jared Glass' presentation consisted of the operations of Pivot Parking, the rates, processes of enforcement, and violations should they occur. (attached)

7. BUSINESS

A. FIRST READING – ORDINANCE 23-0953 – CHAPTER 9 -MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC -Interim Administrator Clemons stated before I speak to the reasons for this, I do want to take a minute to thank the Parking Committee for all their hard work.

Council approved changes to the parking program on January 24, 2023 Council meeting. Such changes in the policy require modifications and an amendment to specific provisions in Chapter 9. This ordinance repeals and replaces Sections 9 -7 to 9- 18 to ensure compliance with the motions made on January 24, 2023, Council meeting. Our desire is to amend the parking service sections of Chapter 9 consistent with the recommendations of staff and Pivot Parking.

Councilmember Holder motioned to approve the first reading of Chapter 9.
Councilmember Stamey second.

Councilmember Keating stated in reading through this there are certain portions of these modifications that I'm not in favor of. Beyond that, we are making a significant paradigm shift in our parking strategy. I think there are a little bit more changes and organizational modifications required in this document. It no longer flows properly. There are an awful lot of typos and inconsistencies in terminology. So, at this point, I would not support passing first reading of this ordinance.

Councilmember Kreklau stated I would like to mention the employees, and I have nothing against them; in fact, I'm strongly in favor of giving town employees a pass to park, but I think if there's a checklist when an employee quits or is discharged, we should make sure that it's on the list that they get removed.

Interim Administrator Clemon said there is a process that they go through, and we can certainly add that to the list.

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

B. A-TAX RECOMMENDATIONS FY 2022-2023 – Director King stated this would be money left over from last year. After the audit, we have \$376,000 left that we usually spend the next year. We don't have to do that. What we did was we got a recommendation from the Accommodations Tax Committee. We then get department requests regarding what they would like to purchase.

Councilmember Stamey asked if there would be a time to be able to ask the departments if some of the requests are necessary.

The Clerk called Point of Order; you need a motion on the table to open for discussion.

Councilmember Holder made a motion to accept the recommendations from the A Tax Committee. Councilmember Stamey second.

Councilmember Keating stated that there's nothing here for counsel to act upon. This is not a resolution of the Council. This is not an ordinance. This is merely a recommendation being put forward by the A-Tax Committee. I think a discussion is appropriate to have a better understanding of what this recommendation may entail. Our ordinance requires Council to act by final form of resolutions, and ordinances as appropriate.

Interim Administrator Clemons stated after a discussion with us tonight, we will go back, and we can do a resolution and a budget amendment for the signatures of all the Council members for the money to be allocated to be used. This is not accepting this resolution to be able to purchase. It is just accepting their recommendations for consideration.

Councilmember Keating made an amended motion to clearly state that the Council is voting to acknowledge the resolution presented by the Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee, based on their meeting of January 26, 2023, and not to infer any approval of the allocation of the funds. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

C. TRAINING/CERTIFICATION/COMPLIANCE OFFICER – Chief Hofmann stated the South Carolina Legislature passed ACT 218 in May 2022. This unfunded mandate requires all South Carolina law enforcement agencies to alter their policies and training functions in many areas. ACT 218 further requires that agencies maintain state or federal-level accreditation or undergo on-site compliance audits by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. Agencies not in compliance may be fined up to \$1,000.00 per day per violation and may have all officer certifications held in abeyance until compliance is reached. These mandates require constant monitoring and action on the part of the police department to remain compliant. Currently, the Police Chief and Lieutenant hold the only required Basic Instructor certifications and are the only firearms and driving instructors. The department has been without a Defensive Tactics and OC (pepper spray) instructor for nearly five years.

In FY 2018/19, one of three investigator positions was frozen and has remained unfunded. The police department has requested that this position be re-funded in FY 2020/21 and FY 2021/22. During budget discussions for FY 2022/23, the request for funding for this position was deferred to be considered for mid-year funding. No budgetary increase in salary and benefits is needed in FY 22/23 as the cost should not exceed \$40,000.00 (4 months' salary and benefits) and can be absorbed by funds remaining from open positions not yet filled. I also request to fund one police vehicle for the position at an estimated cost of \$60,000.

Councilmember Stamey made a motion to allow Chief Hofmann to hire a training officer—Councilmember Drake second.

Councilmember Drake asked when asking for a vehicle whether it must be new. Is there somewhere we can look to find a low-mileage vehicle?

Chief Hofmann stated that he looked on the GSA website, but those cars are high miles, which is why they are for sale. Some may not even be rated to withstand rigorous use.

Chief Hofmann stated that hiring the officer is more important than the vehicle if he must choose.

Councilmember Holder spoke about the Public Safety class in Columbia. South Carolina has raised their requirements. We have no choice but to be able to train our officers.

Councilmember Stamey stated he is on board for hiring a new officer, but we need the car right now.

Councilmember Kreklau stated that he is behind this, but it is hard on small towns when it is mandated but not funded.

Councilmember Keating made an amended motion to allow hiring the additional officer and hold the additional vehicle to a later time. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

9. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS

A. Councilmember Stamey – Happy Valentine’s Day. Again, thanks to the officer for showing the courtesy of responding to somebody and going above and beyond duty. I want to send a thank you out to him. I want to thank the Fire Department; great job. That goes for all our staff, and we have a good staff. I’m glad we have this workshop coming up on July 21. Get out here and tell us what you would like to see. What’s your opinion? If you don’t, we don’t know. So, get out, and do your part. Goodnight!

B. Councilmember Holder – I want to thank everyone for coming out. Happy Valentine’s Day. I want to congratulate Chief Hofmann on his new officer. Congratulations to the Fire Department for their certification. I know the importance of medical responders firsthand. I hope everyone comes out next week for the Comprehensive Plan meeting. Good night.

C. Councilmember Keating - I want to thank everybody for coming out. Like others, I wish everybody a very happy Valentine's Day, especially taking time away from your loved ones if you have not brought them with you tonight. I do want to thank all our committees and our volunteers. They work hard. They genuinely have their heart in the right place and want to do the right things. We had a business committee meeting today. We've got a good group of business owners, really focusing on revitalizing our business community and changing our reputation of being difficult to deal with. We'll be expecting more and more recommendations from the business committee going forward regarding some of the sticking points. I know they are in the process of starting, and hopefully, what will become quarterly business forums to get our business owners together with the business committee representatives to have an open dialog. We are short-staffed in just about every department, no matter how you look at it. We've got, generally, a good team of employees working together, trying to get the job done. That

doesn't mean it's perfect, but we are getting better. With that, again, Happy Valentine's Day. Stay safe, stay healthy. We'll see you in a couple of weeks.

D. Councilmember Kreklau - I'd like to thank everyone for coming out and calling in. I guess the night's theme is Happy Valentine's Day, so I'll do that. Other than that, I don't have a whole lot to say. I'll let everybody get home and do what they want. See you in a couple of weeks.

E. Councilmember Drake – I want to thank everybody for coming out and tuning in. The law enforcement aspect is something that we need desperately. We do have to have good people to do training for the Police Department. I agree with that. They must have good guys. They're more advanced today than they've been in 20 years. I want to ensure we ask for the right equipment because it's so expensive nowadays. I also agree with Mr. Kreklau about the Senators. We need to give a call to the House of Representatives. If they mandate this stuff, we need to look at them to come up with some money because we have a two-mile town. Thank you, Mr. Clemons, for developing the advanced life support initiative. That's very much needed. I'm glad the Fire department stepped up. We'll see you in two weeks.

F. Mayor Hellyer - I think we've had a great discussion tonight, and it's all about providing services to our residents. The fire department stepped up. The police department stepped up. All our town employees have stepped up to make the life of the residents a little bit better. As a result of what we're doing, we must have different rules coming out. You won't be able to park in the pier parking lot with your town stickers. That is a separate entity on the pier related to pier revenues. We have decided not to charge the walk-on fee for the first year, at least. There's some give and take a little bit everywhere, and we will be working on a give and take for everything we need to do. There are a lot of unknowns that are coming out; we don't know what our final totals are on the pier. We don't know what our budget just for next year. We're working on all that, so it's important. Now that we're doing our comprehensive plan, we're planning for the next ten years. It's hard to look into the future, but you can see that we do our comprehensive plan a couple of years after the Census is done. All that new data is there, the education, population, and everything else that we have, we can use to go and move forward on what we're doing. I would ask everybody to be involved in the comprehensive plan. Maybe you don't want to come in and do any work on the documentation. Your thoughts are important. Everybody in this town must have some input into it because it's where we're planning what will happen here for the next ten years. So, with that, I hope to see as many people at the workshop as possible, and you all have a good evening, and we'll see you next time. Thank you.

- 10. ADJOURNMENT** – Councilmember Drake made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Councilmember Keating 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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