



SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Civic Center, 115 US Highway 17 North, Surfside Beach, SC 29575
www.surfsidebeach.org - ☎ (843) 913-6111 📠 (843) 238-5432

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 22, 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, Deputy Administrator Woodruff, and Town Clerk Medina. Town Attorney Crosby was absent.
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - a. **Invocation:** Nathan Sweet of First Baptist Church of Surfside performed the invocation.
 - b. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Hellyer led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA** - None
4. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Councilmember Keating made a motion to approve the minutes for February 8, 2022, Regular meeting and February 11, 2022 Workshop meeting. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Agenda Items Only - None
6. **COMMUNICATIONS**
 - a. **Pier Update** with John O'Brien from Consensus Construction and Jonathan Sigman of Collins Engineering. Mr. Obrien stated the podium is complete. The construction trestle is 70% complete. Starting tomorrow [Wednesday, February 23rd], the wall panels for the buildings will be formed. In the next 60 days, we will have the handicap ramp, monument stairs, and the staircase inside the stair tower finished. We are currently waiting on Surf Diner to submit the requested information to move forward. They have requested many changes that does cause some delay. There are some coordination issues or challenges that we have to work through with the Surf Diner. We did a site visit today with Jonathan, going over what we have coming in. There are a lot of challenges. Now that we're in the home stretch, we have a couple of challenges becoming critical to resolve. We have the siding challenge. There's a manufacturer issue with the special commercial grade siding. We're working on a solution with the design team. We have some issues with the specified lighted handrails, and the specification for installation of insulation under the podium. There's an intent to put insulation underneath the podium, which may or may not be needed. We're looking into it. We are also currently working on some options for the parking lot. It's important to know that the construction of the pier is phase one. When we report that when the project is substantially complete, the buildings are a shell with an operational pier. For it to be completely operational, with the required upfits of the buildings, it will be early next season. There may be other additions, such as some kiosks or things of that nature. We continue to have material supply issues. For example, plywood comes from 5 or 6 different sources. We can't specify one source. That's part of how we've been working together to ensure that items are received when needed, because of the supply issues. We are trying to keep everything on schedule. We are bringing in the 3rd bridge-building crew. The marine contractors are bringing the third crew to accelerate the pier construction.

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Councilmember Stamey thanked Mr. Obrien and Mr. Sigman for the presentation. He also asked if there was a known completion date. Mr. Obrien stated that they are working to an accelerated schedule and shooting for October 2022. We won't know exactly how much we'll make up on the pier until we get this third crew.

Councilmember Drake asked if there is a list of all the changes from Surf Diner that will be charged against their \$200,000 that comes from the town and does that include any engineering time that will be billed? Mr. Obrien stated that he, Collins, and other engineers have a log to ensure that they do not go over the allotted amount.

Councilmember Keating asked what the town could do to help you? Mr. Obrien stated we need to keep up the open communication. When items need town approval, we need to have that quickly to make sure we stay on track. Mr. Sigman stated that the town could help in getting more timely responses from the Surf Diner since the project team does not have a contractual relationship with the Surf Diner.

b. **Finance Report** – Director King gave the Finance report.

c. **Police Department Report** – Captain Miller gave the Police Department report.

7. **DISCUSSION** (motions pertaining to discussion items permitted)

a. **Santee Cooper, Underground Utilities.** – Mayor Hellyer stated I ask for this to be put on the agenda because everybody's asking about the underground utilities and our schedule and how we're going to do it. This week, we met with Santee Cooper, who came in to give us our franchise check. We get a franchise check from Santee Cooper twice a year. They presented the check for \$153,000. We also had an in-depth conversation about underground utilities. We talked about the projects that we have currently forecast for the underground utilities. The three projects we are looking at are along Ocean Blvd from 9th Ave S to Melody Lane that would cost ~\$3-9M; 3rd Ave N to 9th Ave N that would cost \$3-9M; and 9th Ave N to 16th Ave North that would cost \$1-3M. These projects are funding through a cost sharing account with Santee Cooper. Our Santee Cooper account has approximately \$700,000, and that's not enough for any of the three projects. We usually allow the fund to build up for 3 years before planning the next project. However, since planning and engineering takes approximately one year, we could consider using the current funding for the next project planning. It's just a matter of when the money is available.

8. **BUSINESS**

a. **SURF DREAMS** – Phil Jackson, Surf Dreams Foundation, stated I'm here to get permission and approval for our annual Take-a-Kid's Surfing days and our Carolina Cup Surf contest. We have decided to add one more Take-a-Kid Surfing day because it was successful last year. We had over 120 kids at each one. This is free for everybody, kids in and around our community who do not have surfing accessible to them daily. We provide the surfboards and instructors. It's just a fun event to come out and have a good time. Last year, we moved the Carolina Cup contest from Garden City to the Holiday Inn in September, we had almost 300 entrants. Over 40% of those were from out of town, even Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. This year, we're expecting about 350 to 375 participants. We're adding a live webcast to be broadcast all over the world. We're going to be doing live music at the Holiday Inn and a Hawaiian Party. Of course, all of this will be family-friendly. We have the support of the Holiday Inn, and we have the support of the police department and the beach services, and now we're asking for support from you. To make it happen, we're coming a little early because we have a lot of planning, and we want to make sure that we get the approval and start our planning process.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept Surf Dreams Foundation's proposal for Surf Clinics in April, May, June, July, and August and conduct the Carolina Cup Pro-Am Surf Contest in September. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

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b. SECOND READING ORDINANCE #22-0945 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH TO AMEND the FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET – Director King

Councilmember Keating made a motion to pass the second reading of Ordinance #22-0945, amending the fiscal year 2021 - 2022 Municipal budget. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

c. RESOLUTION #22-145 - COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE - MR. Shanahan

Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept Resolution #22-145, the Community Garden Charter. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

d. RESOLUTION #22-146 - A RESOLUTION TO DISBAND THE SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Mr. Shanahan

Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept Resolution #22-146, to disband the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

e. RESOLUTION #22-147 - PIER COMMITTEE – Mr. Shanahan

Councilmember Keating stated, I have one modification under the makeup of the members for this committee. It stipulates that the committee will be made of five members, each member must be either a resident of the town or own a business in the town. I want to recommend that we add some qualifications of experience that candidates would have some retail property management type, or other relevant type of experience to bring to the committee. Since we're going to be looking to them to be making recommendations on the best uses and the best alternative, the relevant experience would be helpful to understanding the nuances of leasing the property and how to situate the marketing aspects of the businesses on the property.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept Resolution #22-147, the Pier Committee Charter, with the addition of experience qualifications for each candidate member. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

f. RESOLUTION #22-148 - WORRELL 1000 CATAMARAN RACE – Robert Blomquist

Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept Resolution #22-148 to suspend specific ordinances to allow the Worrell 1000 Catamaran Race. Councilmember Stamey second.

Mr. Blomquist stated the Worrell 1000 Race is a race that goes from Florida to Virginia. It last came through Surfside Beach in 2018 before the pandemic. It made a stop at the Holiday Inn, where they're proposing now Holiday Inn. Essentially, what they are looking to do is, start in Florida, and then they hit various checkpoints along the way. They would arrive here on May 16th and depart the following day on May 17th. Their arrival would be approximately around three o'clock in the afternoon. They are looking at having anywhere from 13 to 17 catamarans to be temporarily stored on the beach. They would bring those boats ashore, lay them on the beach right there in front of a Holiday Inn the following day and about 10:00am, they would depart and continue on their race.

All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

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g. DECISION PAPER – Request for Police vehicle – Captain Miller

Councilmember Keating made a motion to authorize police department to procure a replacement vehicle to replace vehicle number #536, the 2013 Ford Interceptor sedan, with the assumption that the town will obtain \$10,000 in insurance proceeds and a \$4000 grant for the in-car camera solutions. Councilmember Drake second.

On February 1, 2022, vehicle #536, a 2013 police interceptor Sedan was involved in a vehicle collision while stopped at a traffic light. The accident was not our fault. The vehicle is considered a total loss due to age, mileage, and condition. We received \$10,000 from the insurance, which is a blessing. Each year, the police department budgets two police vehicles to maintain proper fleet safety and a practical capital replacement schedule. This is one of the vehicles due to be replaced in the 2022-2023 budget cycle. The loss of the vehicle was unplanned. Procurement of government vehicles is estimated to be 8 to 12 months due to the market. However, there are some vehicles available now. If allowed to procure one of these vehicles at this time, it would help us maintain the fleet. If approved, this vehicle would reduce the capital motor vehicle request for the fiscal year 2022-2023 by 1 vehicle. Director King stated I recommend allocating a maximum of \$55,700 in Hospitality Tax funds to procure a new police vehicle for the police department to replace the total loss police vehicle.

All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Town Services or Business Conducted

a. Lee Zulanch, Benjamin's Bakery, stated I hope that the town continues the Farmers market this year. It brings a lot of patrons to the Bakery.

b. Rafael Yeukel, Surfside Beachwear, spoke about a permit he applied for some time ago and has not received approval yet.

10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS

a. Councilmember Stamey stated I thank all of you for coming out. Have a good night. I was glad to hear the update on the pier. I hope we all got a little more information on when it will be completed or when they hope it will be completed. Hopefully, it will come in under budget.

b. Councilmember Holder stated I wish everybody had a great 2-22-22; it's a very unusual day. Thank you for coming out tonight. It was a pretty long meeting already. Thank you for the information on the pier. Thank you.

c. Councilmember Keating stated I want to thank everybody for coming out in those if anyone's tuning in. It's always very encouraging to see a full house, knowing that the people are showing their interest in the operations of the town, the decisions that are made, and some of the rationale behind them. I'm a bit disappointed that we did not have the first reading for the revision of Chapter 12 that we discussed last week. In our workshop, we discussed making changes for policy for third-party planners and event promoters that come to town. It's long overdue that we start being a little more consistent with how we handle our events with third parties that want to come to our Town. We need a lot more consistency in many areas to be fair to everyone, so I'm a bit disappointed that that hasn't come forward because you it's now going to be another month before that's finalized at best. I'm happy that Mr. Jackson has decided to keep Surfside on the Surf Dream's Foundation's agenda. That's always been a very profitable event for the foundation and the town as well bringing all the participants and visitors. I think we've done some good things tonight. We've finally formally established the community garden committee that has actually been in operations for the better part of a year. I'm very anxious to see what we can bring together for the pier committee and get some creative ideas on making that the destination for the Grand Strand. I think we've got some very exciting things about happen for the Surfside. As always, stay safe, stay healthy, and we'll see you here in a couple of weeks.

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d. **Councilmember Kreklau** stated thanks all for coming out and listening, and I'm glad to hear that pier is on budget and on time. We'll see in two weeks.

e. **Councilmember Kinken** stated, first, I want to thank our staff for all the work they do. I also want to thank our Public Works, because what a fantastic job they do to keep our town clean. The Fire Department and the Police Department they do a great job for this town, and we're lucky to have him. I also enjoyed the pier report. It's a very complicated project. I am glad to see the Surf Dreams and Catamaran race have chosen Surfside to be the place to be held. This is the kind of entertainment function we should have. So, it is something good for Surfside. Thank you for participating and listening; and you all have a great week, and we'll see here in two weeks.

f. **Councilmember Drake** stated I'd like to thank everybody for tuning in and coming out, visiting with us tonight. The Carolina Cup is part of the Surf Festival. Things are great; glad Robert's going to be advertising that for them, and Mr. Jackson, it's a wonderful thing to bring the community together, the kids together, to do something very fun and productive. Thank you for what you do for the police department. We'll see you all in about two weeks. Thanks very much.

g. **Mayor Hellyer** stated we've had a full schedule tonight and a lot of stuff going on. Earlier, we had a meeting with Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful and Robert, our Public Information Officer, and we've talked about what we're going to do and what we have coming up. We've got a lot planned for this summer. We will have the Barbecue Festival, Surf Dreams, and Beach Sweeps. We have a whole lot going on. We invite you all to get out and get involved in this and make this wonderful place that we know it is. Thank you all for coming, and we look forward to seeing you at these events. So have a good evening.

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Executive Session pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, (a)(2), Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, and to receive legal advice where the legal advice relates to pending, threatened, or potential claim or any other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:21 pm. Councilmember Holder Second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Keating made a motion to resume the regular session at 9:30 pm. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

12. **Motions resulting from Executive Session.** The council may take action on matters related to Executive Session.

Councilmember Stamey made a motion to accept the settlement proposed by the attorney tonight. Councilmember Holder second. Councilmembers Stamey, Holder, Kreklau and Kinken voted in favor. Councilmembers Keating, Drake, and Mayor Hellyer recused themselves. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Keating made a motion that we appoint Mr. Jeff Floyd III to the Construction Board of Appeals. Councilmember Stamey Second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Keating made a motion to appoint Mrs. Yvette Hellyer, Ms. Linda Barrick and Ms. Sandra Barnes to the Community Garden Committee. Councilmember Kinken second. Councilmembers Stamey, Holder, Keating, Kinken, Kreklau and Drake voted in favor. Mayor Hellyer abstained. **Motion carried.**

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Councilmember Keating made a motion to appoint Mrs. Tabitha Mull, Mr. Alex Samsel, Mr. Dusty McCracken, Mr. Robert Kraus and Mr. John Hiatt to the Pier Committee. Councilmember Holder second. Councilmembers Holder, Keating, Kreklau, Kinken, Drake and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmember Stamey voted against. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Holder made a motion that the administrator work with the Waccamaw Farmers Market to secure the Farmers Market for the summer. Councilmember Stamey seconded. Councilmembers Stamey, Holder, Kreklau, Kinken, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmembers Keating and Drake voted against. **Motion carried.**

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Keating made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 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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