



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

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2023, • 6:30 PM.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Hellyer called the Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Councilmembers Drake, Holder, Mayor Pro Tempore Keating, Kinken, Kreklau and Stamey attended. Others present were Interim Town Administrator Clemons and Town Clerk Medina.
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
  - A. **Invocation:** Mark Minkin from Discover Church gave the invocation.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Hellyer led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance 23-0954 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH TO AMEND the FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mayor Hellyer opened the Public Hearing.  
There was no comment from the public.  
Mayor Hellyer closed the public hearing.

4. **MOTIONS RELATING TO THE AGENDA** - None
5. **MINUTES APPROVAL** – Councilmember Drake made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2023, meeting. Councilmember Stamey second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None
7. **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - A. **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT** – Interim Administrator Clemons gave the Administrator's report.

Chief Clemons spoke about the upcoming events: Neil and Pam's ribbon cutting on Friday, March 31, 2023. The Easter Egg hunt will be held on April 8. Public Works will have their Hazardous Household waste drop off on April 14. 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Department hired a new Captain, Kevin Wiltbank. There will be several budget meetings over the next couple of weeks. Also, there will be a special meeting on April 5 for the Administrator interviews. All are welcome to come.

**B. PIER UPDATE** – Chief Clemons gave a few highlights regarding the pier. The shade structure will start next week. The trestle is being removed. The design team is in the process of reviewing the gate system at the end of the pier.

Electricians are scheduling the final inspections. The timber railing is 90% finished.

For the podium spray insulation, Consensus provided a change request to the town, and the design team is currently reviewing that, and the design team is reviewing the gate system at the end of the pier.

I want to take a few minutes with the Council to make a recommendation regarding these security cameras that the Council voted on and approved at the April 14 Council meeting. We discussed the escalation in the cost associated with the cameras. This discussion led to a motion and a second that the Council approved. But along with that approval, there was the removal of the 30-day general condition days that Consensus had put into that change order. This was communicated to Consensus.

To reiterate, the change order was Consensus to remove the additional charge for 30 days for those general conditions. Still, they request that the contract be extended an additional 60 days. They're not charging for the general condition days, but they would extend that contract by 60 rather than the 30 general condition days. This also reserves the right to deem necessary general condition days that could be part of the 60-day contract extension.

My recommendation at this time, after talking with the design team, is that we delay the installation of the security cameras until the pier is finished, and then we can go back and we can put the security cameras.

Councilmember Keating stated typically, when they add the general condition days, which cover things like the additional work scope, we must extend the schedule that now alleviates any pressure for liquidated damages, but it also includes additional warranty obligations extension are all builder's risk insurance policy. This is about \$12,000 a month. I would caution blanketing the situation and say we're not accepting the general conditions. There is an actual cost behind some of those attributes that the contract we have burdened.

Chief Clemons spoke about the completion date. The date was April 16, the substantial completion date. That date has been moved to May 2. The day has been moved because of the railings, which was a discussion for a long time, and due to the moving of the HVAC system. To answer your question right now, from the Consensus perspective, we're looking at May 2 for substantial completion, but remember that substantial completion, not completion.

**8. BUSINESS**  
**A. Ordinance 23-0954 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH**  
**TO AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.**

Councilmember Stamey made a motion to accept Ordinance 23-0954.  
Councilmember Holder second.

Director King stated this is housekeeping that we wanted to clean up before the end of the year. We Removed \$288,675 for the Safer Grant, which we did not get. That overstates the revenue, and so are the salaries.

Accommodation. We had about \$300,000 left from last year, and the approval of 251,000 we went through at one of the previous meetings. The projects we didn't finish last year we had to carry forward to this year, and then some other new ones; we had to fix the roof of the police station. The dispatch equipment was delayed, we got the license plate reader, and the restroom is finished this year rather than last year at Children's Park. And we started to do engineering on the beach at Fifth Avenue. That's a total of 166,625.

Councilmember Keating stated when we had our budget meeting, we talked about the things that we're going to change; one of the things was the recommendation was made could we increase the amount of money given to Champion Autism Network.

There were some things that weren't deferred that I did not see in the first draft of our budget or a tax allocation. There was a drone. The original request for a drone was \$50,000, but it was reduced to \$ 35,000, giving about a \$15,000 difference. And I had said, or recommended at the time since April is Autism Awareness Month, that we should take some of that 15. I recommend amending this to include an additional \$10,000 to the Champion Autism Network.

I believe it was Councilmember Kinken that there are still some pending recommendations from the Pier Committee to enhance certain pier features that we will look at once it's completed.

Councilmember Keating made an amended motion to accept Ordinance number 23-0954 to include an additional Accommodation Tax allocation of \$10,000 to the Champion Autism Network. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

## **B. SANTEE COOPER PRESENTATION**

Interim Administrator Clemons stated the town is in a position, through our franchise fund with Santee Cooper, to begin engineering on our next phase of underground wiring. We completed 3<sup>rd</sup> North to 3<sup>rd</sup> South in 2013 and 3<sup>rd</sup> South to 9<sup>th</sup> South in 2017.

The next realistic project will be 3<sup>rd</sup> North to 9<sup>th</sup> North. This is due to enhancing the aesthetics of the "central hub" and being significantly less expensive than completing 9<sup>th</sup> South to Melody Lane. (4.3 million vs. 8 million estimates).

The utility allows us to go into the red as much as 3 years' accruals without interest or penalty. We can engineer and build out the 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> North project over the next 3 years, going into the red, and would have to let the fund build back up. The next phase could be started in approx. 2035. This lag to build funds will be the new normal.

Funds have been placed in the proposed budget to begin engineering. The fund grows at about \$400,000 per year. The recommendation is for the Council to move forward, with

the third North, to nine North, with the underground wiring project, and direct staff to proceed with those points.

Councilmember Stamey made a motion to accept the recommendation. Councilmember Holder second.

Mayor Hellyer stated that twice a year, Santee Cooper gives us a check for their franchise fee, which we have for even operating the electricity in our town. And there's an agreement that not only do we get a franchise fee check, but they also put money aside for future projects. We've used that fund before to do our underground utilities. It's not like we need to put this in the budget to get anything done. It's not like we're borrowing money to get this stuff. The money is there.

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

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None**

**10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS**

**A. Councilmember Drake –** Thank everyone for joining us online and in person. Thank you to John Adair for getting Santee Cooper squared away for us. We have a lot of things coming up. All the Easter events. It would be nice to see the whole town come out for that. Thank you.

**B. Councilmember Kinken -** I want to thank everybody here and the people listening in. Special thanks to Diana; she has put tremendous work into the budget. The Chief is doing a great job. We're very fortunate to have him here. I'm looking forward to our interviews with potential replacements. There's so much going on, and it's all on his plate. I want to thank all our staff, who give good feedback to Diana and the Chief. We're very fortunate to have the public safety people that we have. We're very fortunate to live here.

**C. Councilmember Kreklau -** I'd like to thank everyone for coming out. I see some new faces; come on back. Always good to see people take an interest in what's going on. I want to mention that everyone should at least stop and say hi at Neil and Pam's on Friday for their re-opening; it has been a long time coming. They're a staple, and pretty much everyone who lives in town has at least been there a few times. Have a good night.

**D. Councilmember Keating -** Thank everybody for coming out and for their feedback. I think we're getting very close to being on the right track with Chief Clemons's leadership and stepping up and taking the position of interim Administrator. It's never easy, especially when we're dealing with the budget and bringing the pier project to completion, some of the other challenges, misunderstandings and miscommunications and differing opinions that we run into constantly. I think we're getting there. I want to thank the Business Committee under the leadership of Tom Banish. They had their first business with a twist. It was a re-introduction of the business committee to the business community. Many of our business owners didn't even know we had a committee

there to help them. It was very well attended and supported by our local businesses and those kinds of opportunities to interact, ask their questions, and seek counsel. I wanted to thank Tom, especially since he's here. Thank you for your help and your team. Stay healthy. We'll see each other in a couple of weeks. Thank you.

**E. Councilmember Holder** – Thanks to everyone for coming out. I attended the Opening Day of the Youth Association. There were over 300 kids. It was great to see all the kids in their uniforms having a great time. Have a great night. Thank you.

**F. Councilmember Stamey** - I would like to start by saying thanks to everyone coming out. Thanks to the staff, Diana, and the Chief. All the departments we have here now are great staff. They work hard for everyone. I want to touch on what Paul said this Saturday to the kids. I got to throw a few pitches. The kids were having fun. I would like to recognize that group for all the work they do. If you can, watch the kids play; it is a lot of fun.

We have a lot of meetings coming up. I'd like to see everyone come and listen. Please, anybody interested, we have the meetings going on next week. We will get to meet some of our candidates for the administrator job. Thanks to everybody.

**G. Mayor Hellyer** - Everybody's been talking over the last year about Huckabee. What should we do? It needs maintenance, and we are doing all this work and not getting anything back. We have had some sit-down meetings with the Youth Association. We talked about everything. The Council toured Huckabee's field. Their snack bar had a fire. It was not good at all. During these talks, the Youth Association tore out the snack bar and rebuilt it at their own expense. They have replaced the stairs that were damaged. They got some businesses to donate \$4000 for the dragger to level out the fields. Huckabee is working with us, and we still need to go into negotiations. When you go out there and see 300 kids, they're all there because they're all having a good time. The smiles on their faces. I think that is a good thing.

Neil and Pam's did a soft opening the other day, and I hear that place has been packed. I don't know what it will be like, at four o'clock on Friday, but I would like everybody to come and show them that we support them. Have a good night.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** - Councilmember Stamey made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

**Surfside Beach Town Council**

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Robert Hellyer, Mayor

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Cindy Keating, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Chris Stamey, Town Council

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LaVerne Kreklau, Town Council

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Michael Drake, Town Council

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William Kinken, Town Council

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Paul Holder, Town Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheri L Medina, Town Clerk

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes a summary of minutes of the Meeting that was digitally recorded and is not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you, provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the Town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Council Chambers.