



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
October 13, 2009 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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10 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

11 Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tem
12 Truett and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Martin, Samples and Childs were present.
13 A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell, Police Chief
14 Christenson, Grounds Supervisor Newell, Public Works Director Taylor, Treasurer
15 Hursey and Events Coordinator Ellis. Attorney Mr. Smith was also present.

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17 **2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

18 Chaplin Don Turner gave the invocation. Mayor Deaton led the pledge of allegiance.

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20 Mayor Deaton announced that a previous long time employee, Willie Small, passed
21 away. He had been with the town over 30 years.

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23 **3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

24 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Samples seconded
25 the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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27 **4. MINUTES APPROVAL**

28 Mr. Childs made a motion to correct a typo on page 5 line 238 minutes dated September
29 22, 2009. Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the minutes with correction. Mr. Martin
30 seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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32 **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only – 3 minutes per speaker**

33 *Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North:* “I see on the agenda that we’re going to talk in
34 executive session about the purchase of a property. I wonder if during this session you
35 could tell the people sitting out here what that property might be. Thank you.”

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37 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

38 **a. *County Councilmember Howard Barnard: Check Presentation***

39 Councilman Howard Barnard stated that several weeks ago the Mayor Pro Tem
40 Truett and Councilman Childs approached him with a proposal to assist the
41 recreation department. The town wanted to finish a pavilion and provide some
42 scoreboards at the parks in town. Councilman Barnard presented a check in the
43 amount of \$30,200 to assist with these costs.

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45 Mr. Booth announced that the town is taking up a collection for a headstone for
46 Willie Small and if anyone wanted to contribute Mr. Grady would be taking
47 collections.
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b. *Building Report*

Mr. Booth reported that the building permits are down adding that this is an indication of the economy. Mr. Booth stated that the building department is focusing on reviewing the zoning ordinances. The ordinances pertaining to signs and setbacks are going to be put on top priority and should come to council fairly shortly. Mr. Booth stated that this department is also working on a community rating system which should affect the flood insurance rates. The town currently has 1,773 homes currently listed under flood insurance and by doing this review individuals could save approximately \$34 per policy.

c. *Public Safety Report*

Mr. Booth reported that there were some bikes in town for Bike Week and there were no problems. Mr. Booth thanked Mr. Truett and Mr. Childs for their participation in the dunking booth at the Family Festival which ended up drawing in \$1,000 for breast cancer. Mr. Booth reported that the event drew a large crowd. The town will continue to promote town events and they have all proven to be successful so far.

Mr. Booth stated that the fire department is going through some training. Accidents have decreased with the end of tourist season. Mr. Martin thanked Public Safety Chief Christenson for his participation in the dunking tank as well. Mr. Truett stated that Coastal Carolina football team also had five volunteers participate in the dunking tank; they also had three players volunteer for the taser exhibition.

d. *Administrators Report*

i. *Update on Projects*

Mr. Booth reported that the town is slowing down on some projects so that they can get to other projects. Yaupon parking lot has been completed with the final addition of palm trees. Plantings will be placed at town entrances. The fire station project is on track and will be completed on time stressing that the town is paying for the fire station in cash. The town will be doing a pilot project on Ocean Blvd by 14th Avenue North where individuals have been parking vehicles. The project will include removing the sand, putting in some soil and planting some palm trees. This is a demo project to see how Ocean Blvd could look and it will also keep individuals from parking in that area. The town would like to push people towards the paid parking lot areas. The town currently has some palm trees out at its site. When staff removes plantings they store them to reuse somewhere else in town. The 50/50 projects are ready to start; they have 7 projects on the list. The town will start promoting the projects and Willie Myers will be in charge of them. Mr. Booth commented that every time Mr. Myers works on the 50/50 projects he gets compliments.

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96 Mr. Johnson stated that he has a concern regarding the pilot planting
97 project to go in on 14th Avenue North. He stated that this is one of the
98 two designated surfing areas in town and he is not sure that surfers
99 would walk from the 17th parking to the surfing area with their boards.
100 Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Booth to consider this prior to starting the
101 project. Mr. Booth stated that the town is currently looking at some of
102 the vacant lots in the area and would be proposing a partnership with
103 these owners to make them paid parking areas and the funds could be
104 split. Mr. Booth added that he would bring this back to council once he
105 received some responses.
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107 Mayor Deaton asked when the parking plan would be completed. Mr.
108 Booth stated that it would be a few more weeks. Mayor Deaton stated
109 that he would like to see the town wait until the parking plan is
110 presented before initiating any other proposed parking areas. Mr. Booth
111 confirmed that nothing would be initiated prior to council receiving the
112 parking plan.
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114 Mr. Samples asked when the fire station is anticipated to be completed.
115 Mr. Booth answered that it would be completed by the end of January.
116 Mr. Childs stated that he knows that Mr. Booth has a lot of projects and
117 suggested to council that the town consider having a project
118 coordinator; there are many projects that start and then council does not
119 know the status after 6 months. Mr. Childs stated that he would like to
120 see a tracking system put in place. Mr. Childs suggested using someone
121 in the building department since things in that area were slowing down.
122 Mayor Deaton suggested placing the item on a future agenda for
123 discussion.
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125 *ii. Sign at the Pier*

126 Mr. Booth reported that the town would like to build the sign at the pier
127 in-house. The cost would be under \$5,000 to build the sign in-house.
128 There are current limitations in the pier fund. Mr. Booth presented a
129 rendering of a sign given by the Beautification Committee as a sample
130 of what the town would be creating. The town would go out for
131 proposal on the actual business signs that will go on the structure built
132 by the town. Mr. Booth stated that he would like to keep the cost under
133 \$5,000 and do the sign in-house unless there was objection from
134 council. Some of the other proposals the town received were costs
135 between \$9,000-\$12,000. Mr. Booth stated that he feels that the pier is
136 a center point in town and he does not want to block it with a large sign;
137 the businesses at the pier already have some signage at their locations;
138 these businesses would also be advertised on the town sign; it will be
139 attractive. Mayor Deaton added that the town has been going through
140 the town ordinances and asked how long it would be before council is
141 presented with a sign ordinance. Mr. Booth stated that this is one of the
142 ordinances that will be fast tracked to council. Mayor Deaton stated
143 that town would certainly not want to put any type of sign that would

144 not be conforming to a future proposed ordinance. Mr. Booth stated
145 that the current ordinance allows a 100 square foot sign and the Mayor
146 added that this may change in a new proposed ordinance once it is
147 evaluated by Planning & Zoning. Mr. Booth stated that the town does
148 not want large signs and feels that this is part of the problem on
149 Business 17; the town has allowed too many signs, too large and too
150 close together. Mr. Martin stated that the proposed drawing has
151 dimensions of 10 feet wide by 12 feet high. Mr. Booth stated that the
152 sign would be modified to a smaller size. Mr. Booth added that the
153 objective is not to block the view of the pier.

154
155 Mr. Samples asked Mr. Booth to provide a new sketch to scale with
156 proper dimensions. Mr. Booth stated that he will provide a new sketch.
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158 **7. BUSINESS**

159 **A. *Decision Paper: Fire Station Budget Amendment***

160 Mr. Booth stated that the town budgeted 1.9 million for the fire station. Santee
161 Cooper was going to come in and do the underground wiring and pay for it; Santee
162 has since informed the town that the town would need to pay for the underground
163 wiring up front and then get reimbursed by Santee Cooper. Mr. Booth requested to
164 amend the budget to reflect the added cost for underground wiring. Mr. Martin
165 asked when Santee Cooper would be reimbursing the town. It was confirmed that
166 the town would be reimbursed with the fiscal budget year. It was confirmed that the
167 \$300,000 for underground wiring would be coming out of the towns' underground
168 wiring funds. Mr. Samples requested the town get this reimbursement agreement in
169 writing. Mr. Truett had a question regarding the cost of the underground wiring for
170 the entire block; he recalled that the total cost was to be approximately \$800,000.
171 Mr. Booth confirmed that the price came down and that the \$300,000 included the
172 entire block plus the fire station. Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the budget
173 amendment for the fire station. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in favor.**
174 **MOTION CARRIED.**

175 **B. *Decision Paper: Passive Park Budget Amendment***

176 Mr. Booth stated that the budget for the Passive Park project needs to be adjusted.
177 The project for the senior wellness trail will be reimbursed from grants. The bids
178 came out to \$24,536 and there is grant money available for this amount. This project
179 is a 20 percent match. The project will be done in-house as in kind labor. Mr.
180 Samples made a motion to combine items 7B and 7C so that council can discuss
181 them both. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION**
182 **CARRIED.**

183
184 Mr. Samples asked if any material other than concrete was discussed to be used with
185 concrete being a very hard substance to run on. Mr. Booth stated that the material
186 needs to be handicapped accessible. Mr. Samples asked about rubberized materials
187 stating that concrete is an impervious material. Mr. Childs stated that asphalt is less
188 expensive than concrete. Mr. Johnson stated that the town would need to look at the
189 durability aspect as well when choosing a material. Mayor Deaton stated that the
190 town would need to look at the effect on the environment as well. Mayor Deaton

191 asked if Mr. Booth could come back with suggestions on a “green” walkway. Mr.
192 Booth stated that the material may be the condition of the grant and if it is the
193 condition of the grant the town would need to go that route. Mr. Truett brought up
194 the use of pavers. Mr. Taylor stated that pricewise, concrete was the less expensive
195 material to use and it came in a lot less than other materials; the cost would be 3
196 times as much if pavers were used and the grant would not cover that added cost. It
197 was confirmed that the gazebo would not be moved and Veteran’s Park would not be
198 affected. Mr. Booth stated that if the town closes 1st Avenue, Passive Park will go
199 right across. Mr. Booth stated that the town parks would be joined at 1st Avenue.
200 Mayor Deaton stated the closing of 1st Avenue is part of the library expansion as
201 well. Ms. Blair confirmed with Mr. Booth that the town just needs to show the grant
202 coming into the budget before it is shown to go out of the budget. Mr. Booth stated
203 this was correct and that the town already budgeted \$9,000 and the grant should
204 cover the vendor cost and the matching portion would be done with in kind labor.
205 Ms. Blair also added that runners can run on all types of surfaces. Mr. Samples
206 stated that this park is a senior park and anything to make them more comfortable
207 should be considered when choosing surface materials. Mr. Martin moved to
208 approve the amended budget as submitted. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. **All**
209 **voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

210 C. *Decision Paper: Passive Park Select Bid Vendor*

211 Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the bid as recommended by staff. Mr. Childs
212 seconded the motion. Mr. Johnson read off the three proposals for the record.
213 Ascent Construction of Murrells Inlet came in at \$47,073, Surface Works of Conway
214 came in at \$29,158.76 and the lowest bid from Carolina Ground Management of
215 Conway came in at \$24,536. Ms. Blair confirmed that there were 2 additional bids
216 that came in that were incomplete. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

217 D. *Decision Paper: Façade Grants*

218 i. *Pit Stop Car Wash*

219 This submission was for landscape. The total estimate came in at \$2,800 and the
220 total to be considered by council would be 50% which came to \$1,400. Mayor
221 Deaton stated that the owner has spent quite a bit of money in the recent
222 remodeling of the building. Mr. Samples made a motion to approve the façade
223 grant of \$1,400. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION**
224 **CARRIED.**

225 ii. *Twins Building*

226 Mr. Booth presented the submission for façade funds for the painting and power
227 washing of the building. The 50% match amount to be considered is \$4,583.68.
228 Mr. Samples stated that he lives close to that building and the building was
229 remodeled a few years ago. The proposal is to paint the existing façade; the block
230 around the sides of the building needs enhancement. Mr. Samples stated that he
231 feels that the building is currently in good shape. There was some discussion
232 regarding inclusive and exclusive portions of the building. The request was to
233 exclude the North and South sides. Mayor Deaton stated that requirements could
234 be included in a motion. Mr. Truett made a motion that in addition to painting the

235 façade that the block walls on the north and south sides of the building must also be
236 painted in order to qualify for the grant money. Mr. Martin seconded the motion.
237 Ms. Blair asked if the grant would be increased. The cap amount was discussed.
238 Mr. Johnson stated that he was under the impression that the purpose of the façade
239 grant was for physical changes to an existing building or to remodel and he does
240 not feel that the town should be paying for pressure washing and painting of
241 existing surfaces on buildings. Ms. Blair, Mr. Martin, Mr. Truett, Mayor Deaton
242 and Mr. Childs voted for issuing grant funds towards presented project. Mr.
243 Johnson and Mr. Samples voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**
244

245 **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

246 *Ann Dodge, 15th Avenue North:* “I wanted to say thank you, all of you and to all of our
247 employees in town for the Fall Festival. I think it was the best one yet and I say that
248 every year and every year it gets better. Thanks so much. I also read in the newspaper
249 about one of our councilmembers graduating from training for elected officials and I
250 wanted to commend him on that. It takes a lot of dedication to do that, a lot of time. It
251 made me curious to find out if all of our council people have training for elected
252 officials. I am aware that it is not state mandated but I think it’s very important that
253 everybody know what they’re doing sitting up there on the dais. We have three new
254 councilmembers that are still going to the training and one other councilmember has
255 completed it. Two have had no training and that bothers me very much. I don’t know
256 how anybody can do a job without appropriate training because specific training is
257 necessary especially up here. So, therefore, I’m requesting that you consider passing an
258 ordinance making it mandatory that every elected official, town official, have
259 appropriate training. Municipal Association provides it; there are other places that also
260 provide it. It is something that is necessary and we would expect it. That’s it. Thank
261 you.”
262

263 *Shelby Smith, 911 Cedar Drive North:* “I’d like to say something about the pier sign.
264 Six foot by ten foot is smaller than that right there. It seems rather small. I wouldn’t
265 want to block the pier either but it seems to me at the end of Surfside Drive and right at
266 the focal point of the town we should have something distinctive. We’re deserving and
267 if the \$5,000 is a problem, you know, we should go beyond it. If the sign lasts 10 years
268 at \$500 a year it’s a little more than a buck a day. We deserve something distinctive
269 down there and I’d really like to see something nice there at that point, well landscaped
270 around it, as I know that we’re going to be doing.”
271

272 **9. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

273 *Mr. Childs:* “Ms. Dodge I agree with you on this training. When you’re on a board and
274 you’re required to do training and I think council, the three new ones here are in the
275 process, I think I have one to go, I can’t get it any faster than they give it to me; that’s in
276 February but if we don’t all go to that training, you’re right, we’re not on the same page.
277 One’s pushing, the other one’s pulling so I do agree with you, they are very informative
278 courses and I do enjoy going to them. Thank you.”
279

280 *Mr. Samples:* “I would echo councilman Childs remarks and also agree with Shelby.
281 We spent two and a half million dollars on a pier, we’re spending money upgrading it, it
282 is the towns’; we bought it because it was the towns’ focal point. We need a well
283 designed, attractive, useful sign, that’s something we can be proud of at the opening of

284 the pier. It is the focal point for many of our events. I just want to say thank you all for
285 coming out. With respect to a question about a particular property, Mr. Dodge, before
286 council would take any action on that property, I'm sure that it will be discussed in great
287 detail publicly. Thank you."

288
289 **Mr. Truett:** "I'll go a step further as far as the property. This property has actually been
290 discussed in our Parks, Recreation and Special Events Committee so it's not a huge
291 secret. The land is located right across the street, 14 acres; it's the old Moonwood
292 project. It's an opportunity we'll discuss in just a few minutes. I appreciate everybody
293 coming out."

294
295 **Mr. Martin:** "When you're down at this end you get to say 'same thing, same thing'. I
296 agree with Ms. Dodge about the training, for those who are wondering, I've completed
297 that training several years ago from the Municipal Association and I agree with Mr.
298 Smith about the sign for the pier; it needs to be something that is impressive and we can
299 be proud of and helps people find their way and know what they're finding at the pier so
300 I guess I just seconded a few things and thank you for coming."

301
302 **Mr. Johnson:** "Thank you ladies and gentlemen. If you have any concerns or
303 comments call me or send me an e-mail, please, markjohnson@surfsidebeach.org.
304 Thank you for coming out. This is your town. Thanks."

305
306 **Ms. Blair:** "I will sixth everything that's come down the line today. Thank you for
307 coming. I did want to congratulate Director Christenson on the new website for the
308 police department and invite everyone to take a look at that and at the job they're doing.
309 Everything is very positive these days and it's exciting to be a part of it and so we're
310 glad to see all of you out and sharing those with us. Thank you for coming and drive
311 safely going home. Thank you."

312
313 **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION- FOIA 30-4-70(a)(1) Discussion on Committee**
314 **Appointments and FOIA 30-4-70(a)(2) Proposed Purchase of Property**
315 **Mr. Truett made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Martin seconded the motion.**
316 **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

317
318 **Mr. Truett made a motion to remove Vincent Olivetti and Edgar Cornelius from the**
319 **Board of Zoning Appeals. This motion leaves two openings on the Zoning Board of**
320 **Appeals. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**
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11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Approved: October 27, 2009

Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

K. Allen Deaton, Mayor

Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

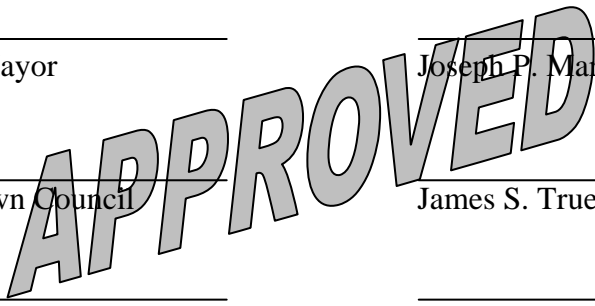
Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

Mark L Johnson, Town Council

Robert F. Childs, III, 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.