



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2015 ♦ 6:00 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Samples called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Samples, and Councilmembers Childs, Mabry, and Stevens were in attendance. Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino and Councilmember Johnson were absent. One seat is vacant. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann, and Police Chief Keziah.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS.** (3 minutes). There were no comments on agenda items.

3. **BUSINESS.**

A. Police and Fire Radio Purchase, Administrator Fellner. Ms. Fellner explained that Horry County is moving forward with its purchase of digital radios to comply with P25. Town Council was asked to concur to an expenditure of \$175,008.30 from capital replacement for police radios. Technically, the funds could be from hospitality revenue, but with upcoming beach renourishment pending, she advised against depleting those funds. By purchasing radios, it will eliminate fixing and or flashing old radios that would have to be replaced next year and to take advantage of the large discount fourth quarter pricing by Motorola. A grant was submitted for the fire department radios, but an answer will not be received before October 2016. If grant funds are not awarded, Ms. Fellner said she would propose to purchase the radios required in the fourth quarter 2016. That way, if the county has its digital infrastructure in place by 2017, which is the current plan, the town would be ready.

Ms. Mabry said for the record, "Will you state exactly why our radios won't work with the new infrastructure. I just want to make sure the public understands that; why we're buying these radios." Ms. Fellner said because they have to support the digital platform, and the town has a few radios that will, but this expenditure is to replace the ones in the police department and police vehicles.

Mr. Childs said often we hear about wants and needs. He had talked with Ms. Fellner today. This is not a want; it is a need. Ms. Fellner said that was correct; it is an unfunded Federal mandate.

Mr. Stevens pointed out that has probably been on the radar since 2012. It has been discussed over and over again that this change was coming and we have had ample time to think about it. If we can get a discount on the radios, we need to act. Unfortunately, the state and county are changing, and we certainly do not want to be caught with radios that do not work in the event there is a terrorist attack in the town.

Ms. Mabry moved to approve the expenditure for the purchase of police radios as discussed. Mr. Childs seconded.

Mayor Samples said this is something occurring county-wide, and the first responders all needed to be able to communicate.

Mr. Stevens asked if the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) was also moving to the digital platform. Chief Keziah said SLED operates through a state system that is P25 digital. The town is on the county system and must use equipment like it uses.

Mayor Samples said a great discussion of this has been ongoing for a couple of years, and the time has finally arrived. We are acting today to take advantage of lower pricing. Ms. Fellner said it was about a \$20,000 savings; the purchase order has to be created by December 18th. Mayor Samples said

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55 that was why the special meeting was called; to take advantage of the savings. He applauded council for
56 willingness to meet to take advantage of the savings for the town citizens.

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58 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
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60 **B. Medical Insurance Rate, Administrator Fellner.** Ms. Fellner said the insurance provider will
61 increase medical insurance premiums by 3-percent. She proposed that the employee percentage
62 increase by 1-percent for a total of 10-percent, and that the town percentage decrease by 1-percent for a
63 total of 90-percent. The 3-percent increase is approximately equivalent to \$15,031.08. Of that amount,
64 the increase to the town would be \$5,548.68, and the increase to the employees would be approximately
65 \$9,482.40. The amounts were approximate, because as employees add or subtract family members from
66 their plans, the dollar amounts vary. As done every year, Ms. Fellner was reporting this information to
67 Town Council before the annual contract was executed.
68

69 Ms. Mabry said the fact that the medical insurance premium only went up 3-percent is almost
70 unheard of. Most municipalities start off thinking the premium will go up at least 10-percent, and are
71 rarely disappointed. To find out that we only have a 3-percent increase speaks well for staff, and I know
72 that they worked very hard to get that number down as low as they did. She applauded Ms. Fellner and
73 her staff for doing all they could to save the town as much money as possible and provide the most that
74 we could provide for the employees.
75

76 Ms. Mabry moved to direct Ms. Fellner to execute the contract for the employee medical
77 insurance. Mr. Stevens seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
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79 **4. ADJOURNMENT.** Ms. Mabry moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:08 p.m. Mr. Childs
80 seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
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82 Prepared and submitted by,

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Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

86 Approved: January 12, 2016

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89 Douglas F. Samples, Mayor

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91 _____
92 David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

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94 Robert F. Childs, Town Council

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96 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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98 Mary Beth Mabry, Town Council

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100 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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102 Vacant Seat

103 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded.
104 Appointments to hear recordings may be scheduled with the town clerk, or you may bring a flash drive to
105 obtain a copy of the audio recording. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were
106 distributed to local media and interested parties. The agenda was posted on the town website, the entry
door at Town Council Chambers, and in the Town Hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted
on the Town marquee.