



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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, January 12, 2021, • 6:30 pm.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Hellyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm am. Mayor Hellyer, Councilmembers Drake, Holder, Pellegrino, and Keating were in attendance. Others present Town Administrator Shanahan, Town Attorney Crosby, and Town Clerk Sheri Medina. Mayor Pro Tempore Scoles attended by phone. Absent, Councilmember Dietrich.
- 2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - A. Invocation: Jeff Wood from the Oasis of Hope Church gave the invocation.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Hellyer led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. PUBLIC HEARING** - None
- 4. MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA** - None
- 5. MINUTES APPROVAL** - Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for November 24, 2020, Councilmember Drake seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only** (5-minutes per speaker)
- 7. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Atlantic Restaurant Group Update – Mr. Shanahan stated that at the last Council Meeting he was directed to investigate whether the Atlantic Restaurant Group removed property from the restaurant facility. If so, what was it taken legally, and what has happened to it.

Investigation revealed that the Interim Town Administrator gave the Atlantic Restaurant Group verbal permission to remove/salvage the doors and other unspecified materials, with a verbal agreement that they would use what they could in the new facility. Other items removed were: Wormy cypress on the ceiling, ice machines, cooking equipment, exhaust fans, and air conditioners.

The Town Administrator visited where the equipment was stored. The property identified as taken by the Atlantic Restaurant Group was visible, and Bill Howard stated that it would be used in the new facility where possible. A meeting has been set up with Consensus Construction to discuss how this will be done. The wormy cypress was taken down piece by piece, secured, and wrapped to preserve it.

Based on the investigation, the Town Administrator believes that the Atlantic Restaurant Group had been given permission to remove the items identified above. They have stored it and intend to use as much as possible in the next facility. If this would not have happened, it is a good possibility that the items would have been lost during demolition as the Town had made no arrangements to save it.

As far as the wood from the Pier being made available to the public - It is continuing to be cleaned up. The thought is to cut into three to six foot planks and sell for approximately \$10.00 a foot. Residents being the first to purchase, then after, if anyone wants to buy in bulk, they can.

B. Police reports - November 2020/ December 2020, Chief Hofmann summarized the departments monthly reports from November and December. After Chief Hofmann read his reports, he gave some information on K9 SIF and PFC Pinto. They were deployed several times, resulting in positive alerts, which resulted in the seizure of marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, and ecstasy off the streets of Surfside. Also, K9 Sif was deployed for a personal track. This was a suicidal person, and K9 SIF was able to track this endangered person across town for about 20 minutes to a location and located the person so that we could get medical aid and assistance to that person. So we're really proud of canine Sif for being able to accomplish that because tracks are very, very difficult.

To maintain our community-related work, Officers are having a lot of non-criminal contact with residents to build those community bonds. We want to get as much information to the residents as possible. Also, there will be Coffee with a Cop events, so our residents get to meet our officers.

This agenda is published pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-80(A) and (E). The public is invited to attend all meetings and events.

C. Discussion to extend the COVID 19 Emergency Order - Mayor Hellyer stated that we originally had an Emergency Proclamation dated March of 2020, declaring an emergency. Every time we declare an emergency, it's good for 60 days. Council extended it until June. If it were not extended, the town would not be eligible for any financial compensation or grants or anything else due to COVID if we weren't in an emergency. In September, we let it expire.

Councilmember Keating stated, I think the only operational change, or violation of an ordinance if you will, that would be remedied with an executive order, is to allow people to email in their comments to be read by the town clerk into the public record. Specifically, our meeting ordinance does not allow comments to be read by someone else. While we are under minimal or minimized participation with limited access into Chamber's, I think that is a practice that we should maintain.

Councilmember Pellegrino stated I think voting at home, we need to look at our ordinance that talks about that because there could be other situations when we get past COVID, you can break your leg and not be able to come in or another medical situation where you can't come in, but we may still want to have the option to vote. I do agree with voting at home, but I do not agree with updating the emergency order because this can be stretched out to who knows when. Councilmember Scoles agreed.

Mayor Hellyer stated there seems to be a consensus, or most counsel does not want to extend the emergency order. But it's the emergency order that gives you the ability to vote by telephone instead of being present. Also, I'm trying to allow everyone to be heard. We have a workshop for Chapter 2, which is the administration. We'll be talking about these things in the workshop and making quite a few changes to Chapter 2.

8. BUSINESS - None

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Town Services or Business Conducted - None

10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS

a. Councilmember Holder -Thank you, everybody, for coming out and tuning in. It's been a crazy couple of weeks here. I think once we get the vaccine for COVID, we will be in a better place. Also, at the pier, you're going to start seeing some work done pretty soon. I think tomorrow they're saying the crane will be there, and you're going to start seeing work there. All of those things are important, and thank you for coming.

b. Councilmember Keating - I want to thank everybody for coming tonight and listening in. Special thanks to our New Town administrator that is accomplishing some things we've asked for, such as live streaming without having to ask Chad and Elizabeth. That's a great accomplishment. Thank you, sir, for that, I appreciate you and I'm sure most of our residents do likewise. I'm very impressed with you, sir. I must say thank you very much. You have a full plate, and you are on top of everything. I'm very thankful you're with us and that you're here to lead our town. I appreciate it, and I just want to make sure you know that. Otherwise, it has been relatively quiet. It's not that we're not facing challenges on many fronts, but things are happening. Things are being addressed. We've got communication's going. We've seen a lot more out of our police department on their social media, which I think is fabulous. We're getting much better at addressing different mechanisms to communicate. I think that's helping the situation, that's helping our reputation, and it's helping our residents understand where we're headed. We're not entirely there yet, but we're getting better. We're getting a lot better! I have great hopes for 2021, and I think it's going to improve our town. I also want to thank all the residents and all the people I run into while out. I walked into a place the other day, and I got a round of applause! I appreciate the support, appreciate the kind words, appreciate the constructive criticism, and don't necessarily appreciate some of the threats I get, but can't please everyone. So, with that, I want to thank everybody for tuning in, and I hope everyone can participate in some manner in the workshop on January 19th to address our Town's administration.

c. Councilmember Pellegrino - Thanks for coming tonight, for watching. Thanks for the live stream Sheri, that's working out well. That's a good improvement. I'd like to thank Mr. Shanahan also; we know we're working on the pier and getting that going and pending items, and he's pushing through them and getting stuff straightened out and getting this information out so we can move forward; thank you for that. We just need to keep enjoying our little town here, a little paradise, because it seems like the world is falling apart around us. But anyway, and we can still enjoy ourselves here. Have a good night.

d. Councilmember Drake - I'd like to thank everybody for coming out tonight and live streaming. I'm very happy to see that. That's very good. And as Paul said, they're going to have some more equipment down there this week. Just want everyone to take care through the COVID-19 situation. As David mentioned, we do live in a beautiful little town. Wonderful place. Just remember that.

e. Councilmember Scoles - I'd like to thank everyone for coming out this evening and extend a thank you to Sheri and Mr. Shanahan for the information they provided us on the pier. Also, once again, I'd like to thank Chief Hoffman. We have a great police force, and I appreciate everything they do in this town and thank you for your excellent Report tonight. Everyone, please stay safe and see you at the Chapter 2 workshop. Thank you.

f. Mayor Hellyer - I want to thank everybody for coming out. I can't believe in the last two months the amount of work we've gotten done here. We had the groundbreaking, and you haven't seen much since. There is a lot of stuff being done behind the scenes. We're trying to do our Value Engineering, getting the price reduced that we're going to pay. That's important that we get that done. Tomorrow, they're going to be putting up the crane to pull the remaining pylons out. And they're going to start to build the Trestles too. Mr. Shanahan has been giving me daily updates, and he just gave us a pier schedule on what Consensus Construction says they're going to do. A timeline on how everything is going to be working. The next thing is that the Police department's been doing a great job. They're doing a great job on social media and keeping the public informed. Mr. Shanahan has also had workshop meetings with residents to talk and express their concerns. We're trying to make things as transparent as possible, and I think we're doing a great job communicating. If there's anything that we're not doing or anything that the residents want, just let us know, and we will work on it. That's a promise that Mr. Shanahan has given to us, and he's going to work with us to improve this town and let us move forward. So we're looking forward to that, and I want to thank everybody for coming tonight.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Keating stated I don't believe we need an executive session to discuss appointments to town committees. I'm not sure that satisfies the exclusions from the FOIA for an executive session. No motion to enter executive session was made.

Councilmember Keating stated we have six applications for committees, and five of those are already on the committee that just wishes to be re-instated into that position. For those re-appointments, I would like to hear from the chairman of those committees to provide their opinions, and are these members in good standing on the committee? Do they show up to meetings? Have they missed any or how many meetings, etcetera? We should do this as a matter of practice, to make sure we're making the right decisions for the town, these committees' leadership needs to come and present these renewals.

Mayor Hellyer asked that the Board of Zoning Appeals be placed on the next agenda.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to appoint:

- a. Gary Livesay, Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee,
- b. Sammy Truett, Business Committee,
- c. John Gilchrist, Business Committee.

Councilmember Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

12. ADJOURNMENT Councilmember Keating made a motion to adjourn at 7:34 pm. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert Hellyer, Mayor

David L. Pellegrino

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

Cindy Keating, Town Council

Michael Drake, Town Council

Debbie Scoles, Mayor Pro Tempore

Paul Holder, Town Council

Attest: _____
Sheri L Medina
Town Clerk

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