



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 MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 26, 2020, • 6:30 pm.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Hellyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mayor Hellyer, Councilmembers Drake, Holder, Pellegrino, Keating, and Mayor Pro Tempore Scoles were in attendance. Others present Town Administrator Shanahan, Town Attorney Crosby, and Town Clerk Sheri Medina. Absent, Councilmember Dietrich.
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - A. Invocation: Kirk Lawton, Ocean Lakes Campground
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Hellyer led 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 January 12, 2021, and January 19, 2021, Councilmember Holder seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only** (5-minutes per speaker)
 - A. Judy Henion, 11th Ave North, stated I read about Trees for Tomorrow, and I understand we need to protect trees in our coastal communities to have trees planted and places that we need to protect, like the right of ways. We need to be very cautious of that. One other thing about the disbursement of A-tax, the purchase of more police vehicles, and why we continue to buy all new. We might have other avenues because we are a small beach town, and we seem to have a large fleet. So, we could take advantage of the state's expenditures and maybe, save some money for the Town because it's the residents that foot that bill.
7. **COMMUNICATIONS**
 - A. **Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce** – Presentation on the marketing efforts of the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce on behalf of Surfside Beach by Karen Riordan. Councilmember Keating asked, are you involved or trying to initiate anything that encourages the 12 month season of visitors for Surfside Beach, such as monthly festivals or other events that will draw the people to the area in October, November, December, January, and February, not just focused on summer visitors. Mrs. Riordan stated one of the things that we had talked about is maybe ramping up our initiatives in local festivals. We've been able to expand into spring sports because we have so many youth sports, they come into the market at that time. Spring has been expanding. We are actively looking, keep blowing out our festival and an event calendar, typically, more things into that period, of particularly February, March, April, before we didn't go over for each summer. We do some sporting events, and we hear from more promoters that they want to put more into September and October. We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you and the town on ideas that people have for blowing out those events.
 - B. **SCDOT – Palmetto Pride** – Director Adair stated Surfside Beach gets recognition for participating in the adopt a highway program. We pick up all the litter and debris on the highway regularly, and we are recognized every couple of years by them as an appreciation by SCDOT. In addition to that, we also take care of the landscaping as well.

Councilmember Keating asked, do we ever do anything to encourage the citizens to come out and do a cleanup event? Director Adair stated we don't have anything organized in that respect. We have a couple of town groups that have almost formally adopt the beach access near the houses to clean up the cigarette butts or what-not on the ground. They keep it tidy, which we appreciate that.

Councilmember Keating stated I'm thinking about the other streets in town, we could organize a litter clean-up campaign. We used to do that, where I used to work, and we would go up and down the road with our little garbage bags and grabbers picking up litter.
 - C. **Finance Report** – Given by Director King

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D. Public Works Monthly Report – Given by Director Adair

E. Trees for Tomorrow – Councilmember Pellegrino stated I've talked about it several meetings ago, that we have a situation where, over the past 20 years, we've done a lot of construction and cut down the trees. Now, certainly more often, houses on the back end, old houses are being knocked down, and they're cutting down trees and building two houses on the lot, or a bigger house. If we're going to cut down these big trees, we need to replace them also, at some point. So my wife did some research and went and looked at some different opportunities and organizations, including Trees for Tomorrow. They give free trees. They are saplings, not that big, but you have to start somewhere. She did talk to the administrator, and they talked about some possible options on Public Land, just to initiate the process and see how the process goes. We should include the public and ask the public if they want free trees for their property.

I'm requesting from Council consensus for the administrator to work with Trees for Tomorrow on this first phase of 20 to 25 trees on our public lands. We have that spot on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Willow, and there is only two little tiny Palmetto bushes on it.

Councilmember Scoles stated I'd like to thank David and Beth; both look into this and provide this opportunity for the Town because we have had some clear-cut lots. Another one that's being built on next to me was clear-cut several years ago, and there was no penalty to the owner of that property, and there were some beautiful trees on those properties such as Magnolias and Live Oaks; I think it's advantageous for us to start replacing some of these trees, especially on our public land.

After further discussion, the consensus of the Council was to have Mr. Shanahan work with Director Adair and Trees for Tomorrow to start the process of planting trees on public land.

8. BUSINESS

A. A-Tax Resolution – Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Purchases – Director King explained the funds were deferred from last year due to COVID for the procurement of a Kubota 4-wheel drive utility vehicle, and an additional restroom unit. Councilmember Holder made a motion to accept the Resolution for the purchases from A-Tax funds allocations. Councilmember Drake seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried**

B. Emergency Ordinance - Mayor Hellyer stated we had an emergency ordinance that modified the conduct of public meetings. In March, we extended it to be applicable to July. Then, in September, we let our emergency ordinance lapse. If it laps, the question is, Councilmembers are not allowed to vote and attend the meeting electronically because that's not in our ordinance.

Councilmember Keating stated I think there's another component. It's one thing to conduct electronic meetings like we did when COVID first hit. We did conduct our meetings via Go To Meeting. So that's one thing, but electronic participation, when the meeting is being held in chambers, is a different situation. According to our ordinance, we would want to address the Town Clerk's ability to read the resident comments while being limited in face-to-face participation. We can pass an emergency ordinance at any time. Right now, we are meeting in chambers. We are restricted with resident participation, and therefore we appeal to the residents for emailed comments to be read at the meeting. We would need to put in an emergency ordinance because that is not allowed by our standing ordinance, but I don't support electronic participation when meetings are held in chambers.

Councilmember Scoles stated if a Councilperson is not comfortable being in this chamber, especially when this pandemic and now we have a new phase of it coming out, everyone's not able to get the vaccine yet. I mean, I'm on a waiting list. I think it should be a right of someone to participate and vote if they're not comfortable being in this chamber because we are not sitting six feet apart. Some people are not keeping their masks on, and I have issues with that.

Councilmember Pellegrino stated I disagree with Emergency Order right now. I do agree with Ms. Scoles. When people can't be at a meeting, they should be involved in a meeting if it's a medical situation. I disagree with the emergency ordinance.

Councilmember Drake stated I still think that we need to be present to vote. That's very important.

Mayor Hellyer stated that if we were going to do it, we would need to do it with an emergency order instead of a change in the ordinance, which we will discuss later this evening. I think that these are different times right now; things are going where one-day things are going good, one-day things are going bad. We don't know where it's going right now. I don't want to restrict anyone, especially a Councilmember, from having their fair vote.

Councilmember Holder made a motion to extend the emergency order for an additional 60 days. Councilmember Scoles second.

Councilmember Keating stated, I would recommend we defer this to the first meeting in February and have the actual emergency ordinance that we're anticipating approving or rejecting in front of us. Councilmember Keating made a motion to

postpone the emergency ordinance vote until the first meeting in February to entertain the ordinance's specific language before the vote. Councilmember Pellegrino second. Councilmembers Keating, Pellegrino, Drake, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmembers Scoles and Holder voted against it. **Motion Carried.**

C. Decision Paper – John Director Adair – Public Works equipment. Director Adair presented a request for funding to procure a new backhoe to replace unit #992, a new beach tractor to replace unit #960, and a new Dodge Durango administration vehicle to replace the 2009 Ford Escape. Director Adair explained that beach equipment is usually retained for two years due to the corrosive environment. Then they are traded while they still have good trade-in value. Councilmember Keating made a motion to approve the purchase requested by Public Works. Councilmember Holder second. Councilmembers Keating, Holder, Drake, Scoles, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmember Pellegrino voted against. **Motion Carried**

D. Decision Paper – Chief Hofmann – Police vehicles. Chief Hofmann presented a request for funding to procure a new police vehicle replacing a 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe, with the remaining funds from this year. This vehicle would be a part of the assigned vehicle program. Councilmember Keating made a motion to approve the purchase of a police vehicle. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

E. Decision Paper – Chief Williams – Command light. Chief Williams presented a request for funding to procure a command light. Chief Williams stated the new fire truck was fitted for this light to be installed. He explained the funds were deferred last year due to COVID. Councilmember Drake made a motion to grant the purchase of the command light for the firetruck. Councilmember Scoles second. Councilmembers Scoles, Holder, Keating, Drake, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmember Pellegrino voted against. **Motion Carried.**

F. Chapter 2 items

A. Section 2.42 – Councilmember Pellegrino made a motion to modify section 2.42 to allow voting by teleconference. Councilmember Scoles second. Councilmember Scoles, Holder, and Pellegrino voted in favor. Councilmembers Keating, Drake, and Mayor Hellyer voted against. **Motion failed.**

B. Section 2.61 Appointment of Committees - Councilmember Pellegrino made a motion to change the language in Section 2.61 to say persons can only sit on one Statutory Board but can sit on multiple ad hoc committees. Councilmember Scoles second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

C. Section 2.111 Appointment of Town Administrator. Mayor Hellyer made a motion to clarify the language in Section 2.111 to state the Town Administrator should reside within a 30 minutes' response time. Councilmember Scoles second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

D. Section 2.209 Bidding Procedures. - Requirement for the local newspaper. Councilmember Keating made a motion to retain the requirement for Newspaper notice. Councilmember Drake second. Councilmember Keating, Pellegrino, Drake, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmembers Scoles and Holder voted against. **Motion Carried.**

E. Section 2.20 Reimbursements. Councilmember Keating made a motion to require reimbursement of actual expenses upon receipts' presentation for such expenses for compliance with state law. Councilmember Holder second. Councilmembers Keating, Holder, Drake, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmembers Scoles and Pellegrino voted against. **Motion Carried.**

F. Chapter 2.5.23 Alcohol sales and Consumption. Tabled until further review of this section.

G. Board of Zoning Appeals Appointments- Tabled until next meeting pending input from the committee chairman.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Town Services or Business Conducted (5 minutes per speaker)

A. Veronica Collins, 713 Ocean Blvd. I just want to comment on Chief Hoffman's vehicle, the Ford Explorer, and not to take anything away from the Ford Explorer, but I think we may have missed an opportunity to bargain hunt a little bit because he didn't mention a willingness to call if I'm not mistaken, the GSA and see if they have anything laying around for 50,000 or fewer miles, that might be one third the cost. So, a couple of phone calls, maybe save us a few shekels, \$20,000 or whatever,

B. Gary White, 315 Lakeside Drive, stated when building the bathrooms, they should also consider putting urinals. When you go in there, the paper, you can't reach the ones down the end.

C. Judy Henion, 11th Ave North, we have some opportunity here in the offseason to do some arts and cultural things that we can invite local schools once they return. Maybe some universities have a festival in the park, arts and sculptures and that type of thing. A friend of mine from Australia is sending information that I would like to show you and present to you. Inviting people to build on their arts and bring tourism as a result of having sculptures or our displays that sometimes remain in the

town, and sometimes they're auctioned off. If we could look at opportunities to expand on what we do, instead of having a slate of events that we do every year and just roll it out, let's look at outside the box a bit. Possibly, even like for some sponsorships, because there are plenty of companies that would sponsor events here in town, and I'm sure you might even find residents who would be willing to go out and solicit those types of things. And now I would be more than happy to help and assist with that. Because I think the town residents would appreciate getting donations from corporate sponsors to run events in town instead of using tax dollars.

10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS

A. Councilmember Scoles, I'd like to thank everyone for participating in the Council meeting and all of the report and wants additional monies for equipment that I know our Town needs desperately at this time. Thanks again to Beth and David Pellegrino for the research that they did on the trees. I think it's a wonderful idea. Everyone have a good evening, and please continue to stay safe. Thank you.

B. Councilmember Holder. Thanked everyone for coming out and listening online. We've got quite a bit accomplished. David, I to thank you for bringing the Tree information. You know, we need to care about our trees. They couldn't make a difference. Thank you.

C. Councilmember Keating, Again, I'd like to thank everybody who made an effort to come in chambers and all online and watch live streaming. I just wanted to give a little bit of an update that we got from the administrator about the pier; you know, some people have been reaching out to me and saying "what's going on? Nothing's happening. We had this big flurry of activity and now nothing." Well, many things are going on behind the scenes. There's a lot of engineering being done. There's a lot of permitting, reviews, and approvals. The Value Engineering alone makes some design and structural changes for improved safety and security, and lower costs. All of those design changes need to be fully vetted and approved through the process. Director Adair and Town Administrator Shanahan are working very hard with the contractors, the architects and the engineers to make sure that what will be presented for construction is in the best interest of the town and will provide us the most structural integrity and the safest pier we can have. So, be patient. I'm told there are about 150 truckloads of material to be on their way for us to start this project. I don't think you'll be disappointed for too much longer before you start seeing some real activity, and then I'll probably get the comments and saying, Can you make them quiet? So, thank your lucky stars for right now that it is quiet because it's not going to last. So again, thanks for coming out. Again, I thank everyone for your email and your Facebook messages. I do appreciate you support. I try to acknowledge everyone. So, stay safe. Stay healthy, and we'll see you next time. Thank you.

D. Councilmember Pellegrino. Thanks for coming tonight. We covered a lot tonight, longer meetings, it was good. I'm glad we talked about the trees. Next year, I think if we asked residents if they want to plant trees on their property. I think a lot of them would. I think that would be positive as we're not infringing on any property rights and not doing anything to promote an HOA. I think a lot of people take advantage of that. So, I look forward to the rest of the process this year and moving forward next year. I will not be at the next meeting. I'll see you in a month. Have a great night.

E. Councilmember Drake. Thank you for coming out tonight, tuning in, and Live Stream. Take Care, and Keep Safe. I'd like to thank Chief Hoffman, and Chief Williams, and Diana. I hope you get what you needed.

F. Mayor Hellyer, we've been getting a lot done; I'm glad to see the progression we're doing. We're going to work on this tree project, and we're working on a community garden. The trees are essential. In this town, the town administrator said he's working on the tree ordinance right now to make sure that we have stuff going on, but we're working we're getting that done. We're trying to be transparent. You can see that we're live streaming now. You know, everybody has more information now than they did before. So hopefully, we're going to get our communications better. Bear with us. We're going to get better.

G. Mr. Shanahan, Town Administrator, I just want to make the residents aware of all of the Council's hard work. What you don't realize is about a month ago that every Councilmember was given that whole chapter 2 and given a homework assignment, spend time reading it, identifying areas they'd like to see change, and putting that together. From there, we had a workshop that took several hours, with a lot of good debates. So, I just want you to know how much time and effort your Council put into making that happen, and I thank you for your work.

11. ADJOURNMENT Councilmember Drake made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm. 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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