



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING Civic Center, 115 US Highway  
17 North, Surfside Beach, SC 29575 [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org) - ☎ (843) 913-6111  
☎ (843) 238-5432**

## **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, September 28, 2021, • 6:30 PM.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Hellyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mayor Hellyer, Councilmembers Drake, Holder, Keating, Pellegrino, and Mayor Pro Tempore Scoles were in attendance. Others present were Town Administrator Shanahan, Town Attorney Crosby and Town Clerk Sheri Medina. Absent was Councilmember Dietrich.
- 2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
  - a. Invocation:** Tom Cox of Surfside Christian Church performed 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 September 14, 2021, Regular Meeting.** Councilmember Scoles made a motion to approve the minutes for September 14, 2021, as presented. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
  - a. Benton Blakely,** 414 North Ocean Blvd., stated he has wanted to build an addition onto his home for some time. However, now the Flood Maps Ordinance as currently written, it has prevented him from building. He encouraged council to pass the new flood map to alleviate the restrictions on his project.
- 7. COMMUNICATIONS**
  - a. PUBLIC WORKS MONTHLY REPORT –** Director Adair gave the Public Works monthly report.
  - b. FINANCE REPORT -**Mr. Shanahan gave the Finance report.
  - c. DISCUSSION – UPDATE ON NEW TOWN HALL PROPERTY.** Mr. Shanahan spoke about the progress of the new town hall, from the Purchase date of August 16, 2021, to date. Wire and cables have all been installed. The fire system and security system are to be installed in October. The projected move for the employees is the end of October. Administrative services provided by the town will reduce October 26, 27th, and 28th due to the move. All off our emergency services will still be available. The rezoning of the property from Commercial to Public Land is in process and should be completed in time for the move. The employees have been offered to work from home, and a couple is taking advantage of it.
- 8. BUSINESS**
  - a. 1<sup>ST</sup> READING ORDINANCE #21-0933, CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE VII LANDSCAPING AND TREE PROTECTION, DIVISION 2 TREE PROTECTION.**

Councilmember Pellegrino made a motion to adopt Ordinance 21- 0933 Councilmember Holder second.

Ms. Carol Coleman from the Waccamaw Council of Governments stated that the Planning Commission discussed the tree ordinance at their last meeting. A lot of information, past ordinances, minutes, and three ordinances from other areas were reviewed. The Planning Commission concluded that the ordinance from 2017 had the best language. This language in this ordinance is to encourage the property owners to keep existing trees, not necessarily to have to add trees to their property. Some of the languages was cleaned upped.

There's language in there now that says trees are to stay unless they get approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals because one of the complaints was trees are required to be planted for new construction to obtain a certificate of occupancy; then, miraculously, these trees disappear over the next few weeks after C/O was given. They also recommend adding a tree mitigation fund. Right now, the language for funds that are acquired due to penalties goes into the general fund. If a mitigation fund is created, this will give the town the ability to plant more trees.

Mayor Hellyer asked if the Stormwater Committee was included in the discussion of this ordinance, and if not, there should be some discussion to get their input.

Ms. Coleman stated we could do that before the second reading. More so, I don't think some understand the hundreds of gallons of water that trees take. The more you cut down, the more flooding we will have, which is why saving the large trees is essential.

Councilmember Keating stated I don't think we're taking a critical eye to language in evaluating what is causing problems for our residents. Why do they want to circumvent the ordinance and cut trees every Saturday? This ordinance is already in place, and it is already part of our rules. So, it is not as if we cannot do enforcement currently. I would recommend that this be tabled again until we can do a complete critical evaluation, use the arborist, use some of the floodplain management resources who are also looking at Chapter 14, which is flood protection and stormwater policies.

Councilmember Pellegrino stated I think we need to make a decision. In parts of town, there are no trees near Ocean Blvd. Then you move more into the center of town, and there are a lot of trees. It's beautiful. I don't think we need to re-create the wheel. This Ordinance has much better wording than the current. So, it's a choice; I think we should. This is much better wording. It will stop the problems we have going on right now, giving our staff a tool to enforce it properly. We'll be able to keep all our beautiful trees, and it will help with stormwater, whether people agree with that or not.

Mayor Hellyer stated he would vote for the first reading contingent that it gets reviewed by the Stormwater Committee and an Arborist reviews the Ordinance.

Councilmembers Scoles, Holder, Pellegrino, and Mayor Hellyer (conditionally) voted in favor. Councilmembers Keating and Drake voted against. **Motion carried.**

**b. ANNUAL BEST OF THE BEACH BALLS MEATBALL CHALLENGE** – Stephanie, From the Champion Autism Network (CAN) Organization, stated this event raises money for the CAN Organization. Tickets will be sold to allow people to test and vote on the best meatball. The competitors will not be selling anything. What is being requested from the town are tents, tables, chairs, electricity and hanging a banner on Surfside Drive.

Mayor Hellyer stated that since Surfside Beach promotes Autism Awareness, he suggested this be a town-sponsored event.

Councilmember Keating stated that if this is a third-party event, again, we need an agreement in place stipulating the scope of responsibilities and insurance to protect the town, stating vendors should have business licenses. It would be handed like any other third-party events we have had, and all should be treated the same. If we make this a town sponsored event, then we need to ensure proper budget is available to support it and recognize the towns insurance would now be utilized.

Councilmember Pellegrino made a motion to make the Best of the Beach Meatball Challenge a town sponsored event. Councilmember Scoles second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

**c. RESOLUTION 21-0141 DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AND CONTACT PERSON FOR PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021.** - Mr. Shanahan explained this resolution is to designate a representative for the American Rescue Plan Funds. The designees will be Mr. Shanahan and Director King. Mr. Shanahan indicated that the Town would receive approximately \$2.5M over the next two years by participating in this program.

Councilmember Keating clarified that this is part of the federal COVID stimulus program. Any funds received by the town for its participation will have certain restrictions on how they may be used. We would need consider the best use of the funds at the time they are received.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept Resolution #21-0141 naming Mr. Shanahan and Director King as the representatives for the American Rescue Plan Act. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

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

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

**a. Councilmember Scoles** stated thank you to everyone for coming out tonight. Thank you to our departments for their reports. I appreciate it. Also, thank you to Mr. Shanahan for all his hard work in getting our employees out of harm's way. To the candidates, good luck and I welcome anyone to come to speak to me if you have any questions.

**b. Councilmember Holder** stated it's nice to have a short meeting. I want to thank the Police and Fire department for all they do. The event this past weekend had a great turnout, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the event on Saturday. Have a good night.

**c. Councilmember Keating** stated thank you to everyone for coming out. We did have a somewhat short meeting. We're all headed in the right direction. It is getting better and better, understanding initiatives and what we can do to help protect our residents and make it the place everybody wants to be. We are working hard to become more business-friendly and easier to work with. Unfortunately, it doesn't always end up successful at any given time, but we're trying to improve. Please have some patience. Changes are not easy, they are often very messy before you get to the fruits of your labor. We do have the Family Festival coming up on Saturday. Sheri and KSBB Committee members are working hard on the Fall Festival, and we appreciate all their efforts; it should be, yet, again, another successful event. Stay safe and have a good night.

**d. Councilmember Pellegrino** stated Thanks to everyone for coming out tonight. Nice to see everyone here. Thank you to Ms. Coleman for answering all my questions. Good luck to the candidates. Social media gets creative during election time. Some are true, and most are not. Have a good night.

**e. Councilmember Drake** stated, thank you for coming out. Everyone should come out to the Meatball challenge; that's going to be fun. It was good to make it a Town sponsored event due to insurance reasons. Everyone comes out, get something to eat, and has a great time. Have a good night.

**f. Mayor Hellyer** stated we branded our town as being autistic friendly. It only makes sense to make this fundraiser a town-sponsored event, which helps raise money for their cause. The music in the park has been great, and I would invite everyone to come down to the park. Thank you very much for coming, and have a good night.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to the Freedom of information Act §30-4-70(a)(1), Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, discipline, or release of an employee. Act §30-4-70(a)(2), Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements.**

Councilmember Keating made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:44 pm pursuant to the Freedom of information Act §30-4-70(a)(1), Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, discipline, or release of an employee; and §30-4-70(a)(2), Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

Councilmember Keating motioned to resume the regular session for Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 8:19 pm. Councilmember Holder second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

**12. Council may take action related to matters discussed in Executive Session**

Councilmember Keating stated as there was no action taken in the executive session, I move to re-appoint John O'Brien to the Construction Board of Appeals and Dusty McCracken to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

**13. ADJOURNMENT** - Councilmember Keating made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

**Surfside Beach Town Council**

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Bob Hellyer, Mayor

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Debbie Scoles, Pro Tempore

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Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

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Michael Drake, Town Council

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Paul Holder, Town Council

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Cindy Keating, Town Council

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David Pellegrino, Town Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Sheri Medina, Town Clerk

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary 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), the 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 Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org) and the town's LED marquee.