



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, February 9, 2021 • 6:30 pm.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Hellyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mayor Hellyer, Councilmembers Dietrich Drake, Holder, Keating, and Mayor Pro Tempore Scoles were in attendance. Others present Town Administrator Shanahan, Town Attorney Crosby, and Town Clerk Sheri Medina. Absent, Councilmember Pellegrino.
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - A. Invocation: Given by Thomas Cox, Surfside Christian Church
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Hellyer led in the Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor stated that the town of Surfside Beach had somebody come in and take a look at both Council Chambers and town hall. In doing an inspection, they found some mold. We don't know the extent of this as of yet. So, I ask everybody that's here tonight to make sure that you keep your masks on. They are going to do more extensive testing come tomorrow, and we'll figure it out. If they have to do remediation, or it's unsafe here, we may move over to the Civic Center until everything gets done. I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING** - None
4. **MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA** - None
5. **MINUTES APPROVAL** Councilmember Drake made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, with changes for January 26, 2021, Councilmember Holder seconded. Councilmembers Scoles, Keating, Holder, Drake, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmember Dietrich abstained. **Motion Carried.**
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None
7. **COMMUNICATIONS**
 - A. **Fire Department Report** – Given by Chief Williams. Chief Williams gave a summary of the Fire Department December and January monthly reports. Chief Williams also stated on March 2, 2021, at 7:45 am; the Fire Department will be presenting "The day in the life of a Firefighter" to the councilmembers. If any community members want to come and see what the fire department does daily, please come. We just can't wait to show you what we do. Many times, you just see the fire trucks sitting, and not a lot of activity is going on. We do a lot of training, we continuously train. So, we always are ready when a call comes in.

Councilmember Keating asked if we did any data evaluation on what may be contributing to the increase in call volume? Chief Williams stated we do more and more medical calls. Also, with COVID restrictions, a lot more people are staying home.

Councilmember Drake raised the question if the Fire department billed for calls. Chief Williams said they do not bill. Councilmember Drake stated that might be something we need to look into if you can collect per the insurance aspect.

Chief Williams stated most departments around here do not collect any revenue from responding to those types of incidents.

Administrator Shanahan stated he would work with Chief Williams to gather information and bring it back to the Council.

Councilmember Holder asked if the training you had, January 14th, were the volunteers included?

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.

Chief Williams stated yes, every firefighter that is interior. You have to meet that criteria for South Carolina to be State certified. We have some support personnel, they go, and they do more or less equipment, or fire trucks, put it in places where the interior guys can grab it and go inside. We are also adding more volunteers.

Councilmember Keating asked if the RING doorbells are linked on the Search Side Beach Fire Department web page. Chief Williams stated you could go onto "neighbors" on the ring app and see updates from the Surfside Beach Fire Department.

B. Pier Update - Mr. Shanahan stated that all of the existing piles have been removed from the beach area. While doing that, we found some substantial pieces of concrete, so we're removing them because that'll just help with the construction. Intercostal is waiting to finalize a study for the typical loads on the access trestle and the access ramp. As soon as they get that information in, and they expect them any day, they will start construction within the next couple of weeks after that. Consensus provided anticipated numbers of special inspections required for the various construction stages, and Collins Engineering will submit this information and get the special inspections RFP out.

Consensus stated that they'd have a list of Value Engineering within the next week or so, and we'll put that together and bring that before the Council. They are working on a three-dimensional model of the pier of what it will look like based on the contract. We're working with Consensus to ensure that the risks insurance will be where it's supposed to be so that there will be nothing dangerous.

8. BUSINESS

A. Community Garden – Councilmember Drake stated we've met with John Adair and identified 10th Ave South, All Children's Park, as a location for the community garden. The property section was donated to the Town. Mr. Adair is checking to make sure there are no restrictions on the property. The portion to be used is approximately 40 feet by 110 feet. It is appropriate for what we want to do.

Administrator Shanahan stated with the direction of the Council, I will, for the next meeting, come up with a process on how we're going to make it happen. What we're going to make it look like and how it will be managed. Right now, my goal is maybe to address one of our committees and see if they'd like to take ownership and manage it.

Councilmember Keating stated there would need to be a cost summary and just what that cost commitment is for the town. Then from there, it should mostly be in the volunteer's hands.

Mayor Hellyer stated in that section of the lot, there is a bench with two trees that is a memorial bench that was put there by past residents and family, we have all intention to leave that where it is. There is currently a water line there from an old restroom.

B. Resolution 2021-204 Sale of Pier wood – Councilmember Scoles stated the resolution needs to be clarified as to the wood limit per Wednesday.

Mayor Hellyer stated the whole concept of limiting it to 10 feet per person was to give everybody a chance to get some. Each person is allowed 10 feet per Wednesday.

Councilmember Keating stated that she knew of a business in town that would want enough wood to build a restaurant table. Also, there should be a clause added to this resolution to readdress after 90 days so that if there is a large amount of wood left, we can open it up for people to purchase larger amounts of the wood.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-204 to modify adding an expiration date. Councilmember Dietrich second. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS

A. Councilmember Scoles –I'd like to thank everyone that participated in tonight's meeting, and Chief Williams, thank you very much for your report and information. Appreciate the job that you guys do. I hope everyone stays safe during this pandemic, and we'll see you in a couple of weeks.

B. Councilmember Holder - I like to thank everyone that came tonight. I'd also like to thank Mr. Williams for a great presentation tonight and a great job in our fire department. Appreciate it. I just wanted to say I'm getting my COVID vaccine tomorrow. And I hope each of you gets your vaccine as soon as you can. Please stay safe, and we will see you next time.

C. Councilmember Keating - As usual, thank everybody for coming and for dialing in, and those who are watching live streams. Our agenda tonight was a little bit light. But, we do have several things in the works. I believe we are still drafting an emergency ordinance, discussing reading public comments, and allowing council members' remote participation. We have the long-awaited Chapter 17, hopefully coming back. I had an email exchange with Carol Coleman to update some provisions based on some comments I provided to the final version of Chapter 17. This is the same version or the same ordinance change presented to the Council for the first reading on January 28th of 2020. So, it will be going to a public hearing since it constitutes zoning changes the end of February. Hopefully, we can get that through the process so we can move on with the additional changes and reviews out there.

We also have finalized the Chapter 2 changes discussed at a public hearing and at the last meeting. So, we are not just focused on the pier, but we're also focusing on getting our code of ordinances cleaned up. There's a lot of things in there; you heard Chief Hoffman a couple of meetings ago talking about how they're updated. So, we are stepping through the Code. We're getting ready to address Chapter 5 for the elections and moving through the town's administration and the town's operation. So, keep your eyes out for that information, that will be coming shortly. So, with that, I hope everybody has a good night. Stay safe, stay healthy, and see you back here in two weeks.

D. Councilmember Dietrich - Good evening. First and foremost, thanks for coming out tonight. Second of all, it is nice to be back. I think Cindy covered it well. We've got a lot to do; we'll get it done. It's not going to creep over us. We'll just take care of it as it comes along. Thanks for all your help. So thank you all, God bless. Be safe, and go home, and enjoy your life. Thank you very much.

E. Councilmember Drake - I'd like to thank everybody for tuning in, coming out tonight; I appreciate it. Let's support the business community for some of the stuff they've been getting done. A lot outside dining at the Wooden Spoon. It's got nice outside dining. I encourage you to visit them; it's very nice. They did a bunch of painting, looks good. With Valentine's Day, you can visit Beach Buds. If you can spread some money around and help your community, I appreciate you doing it. Make sure you visit our restaurants and our local businesses need your help. They want to see us. Thank you very much, and have a good week, and we'll see you in two weeks.

F. Mayor Hellyer - A whole lot is going on. I was looking at an email today sent to the Town Administrator who forwarded it to me, saying that their neighbors didn't have any Internet. They didn't know where to go to get the COVID vaccine. If there are some senior citizens that don't have internet or do Social media, I think that we're going to be working on trying to get our residents involved and seeing who needs help, and trying to address that issue. It's all about taking care of our residents. I thank Bill Shanahan for what he's done for us in the work that he's done. He's met with the committee members. He's met with all the chairmen of the committees. He's, he's met with the citizens. He's met with everybody. I think you're doing a wonderful job, and we support you 100%. We're working on the pier. We're going to get it done. Let's just take some time for us to get to work on ourselves a little bit better. So, thank you very much and thanks for coming out. Have a good evening.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Keating made a motion to close the Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session pursuant to South Carolina Code section 30-4-70 (a)(2) to receive legal advice and discuss a proposed class action settlement agreement 2019-CP-26-01732. Councilmember Drake second.

Councilmember Drake made a motion to re-enter regular session. Councilmember Keating second.

12. MOTIONS RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Councilmember Keating made a motion to authorize our Town Administrator to enter into and execute the Proposed Class Action settlement agreement with the City of Myrtle Beach for itself and as a class of similarly situated Plaintiffs' versus Horry County on behalf of the Town of Surfside Beach. Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

13. ADJOURNMENT Councilmember Holder made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Councilmember Keating 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

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), 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 and the Town's LED marquee.