

MINUTES
TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
Regular Called Meeting/Work Session
May 3, 2010
6:45 p.m.

Members Present

Mayor Ron Klein
Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita
Councilman Bob Bobinski
Councilwoman Karen Joseph
Councilwoman Carol Scott
Councilman Wilson Sherrill

Others Present

Mike Isenberg, Town Attorney
Gary Parker, Town Administrator
Cindy Nelson, Interim Secretary

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION/MEETING 6:45 P.M.

The work session began with Carol Scott presenting concerns to the Council. Scott informed the Council that the wildlife contract had been signed. In the contract; it states they will follow all Town Ordinances in terms of how things are built, including lights. Scott further said the current lighting regulations needs improvement, such as addressing light pollution. Scott suggested the Planning Board consider the matter.

Scott participated in the Beach Sweep and noticed people had trash grabbers that consisted of poles with nails in them to pick up trash. She went on line and researched grabbers and found that 30 grabbers could be purchased for \$270.00 which includes shipping and the Town would have them available for other Beach Sweeps. Scott requested this be put on the Budget Work Shop agenda for approval to purchase.

Scott asked for this topic to be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting. She said we need to look at our policy on requesting information for bids from potential contractors.

The last item Scott presented was a about a letter that was sent to Council members by citizens requesting that the Town send a letter to Legislature to endorse the Coastal Resource Commission's (CRC's) request for 8 recommendations if Terminal Groins are approved.

Mike Isenberg suggested that a review of the lighting policy could go to the Planning Board without discussion from the Council.

Gary Parker gave the Administrators Report:

Parker talked about placement of recycling containers. The container on the beach will be toward main street on the left side and it will be fenced on all four sides; it will be locked between the hours of 6 pm and unlocked at 7 am the next morning.

Parker continued to say the second container will be placed here at Town Hall; it will also be screened and locked.

Parker read a letter from the Census Bureau that thanked the Town for the use of the Chamber room while they were performing their duties and the letter specifically recognized Judy Presnell for all her help.

Mayor Ron Klein read a letter addressed to the Chief of Police from a citizen who called the police department on April 20, 2010. The letter recognized Keith Horne for his outstanding assistance and service.

Mayor Klein proceeded to read another letter by a citizen who used the beach wheel chair. They were very appreciative and thankful for this service.

Karen Joseph acknowledged Kim Cochran, the Town Clerk, “for her 14 years of service not only to previous councils and staff members, but to all the residents of Sunset Beach. She was a great asset and she will be missed.”

7:00 pm

Agenda Items 1 & 2: Call to Order and Pledge

Mayor Klein called the meeting to order and led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approve or Amend Agenda-No amendments

4. Public Comments On Agenda Items Only

The Mayor asked if there were any public comments other than the issue of Terminal Groins. No comments made, the Mayor proceeded with the meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Called Meeting of April 5, 2010 and a Special Called Meeting of March 26, 2010.

Motion by Wilson Sherrill moved to accept the minutes as presented for both sessions, second by Joseph. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Terminal Groins Presentation: Rob Young, PhD, Professor of Geosciences, Western Carolina University, Len Pietrafesa, PhD, Director of External Affairs, NC State University.

Dr. Pietrafesa spoke on various items concerning Terminal Groins. He referenced several documents, which were available as handouts to the Council and the public.

The presentation lasted approximately 45 minutes.

Some of the points Dr. Pietrafesa spoke about were issues surrounding sea level rise, coastal storms, and coastal erosion.

Once the presentation was over, the Mayor informed the public that this was the second in a series of presentations concerning Terminal Groins.

With that said, the Mayor invited the public to speak:

Jan Harris of 206 North Shore Dr.: Harris read her letter of opposition in response to Terminal Groins. She made a request in her letter that the Council send a Resolution to the General Assembly that the CRC recommendations be included as a part of any legislative action that permits Terminal Groins. Harris then proceeded to read four of the eight negative effects of Terminal Groins from the CRC. In that, Harris asked if the Council would seek legal opinion on whether or not all of the conditions as written would cover Sunset Beach. If they don't, then, ask the State Legislature if they would amend the language so that they would. She questioned if Sunset Beach falls under the category of adjacent beach or adjacent property as stated in the CRC conditions.

Ray Zetts of 402 2nd St.: requested the Council reject Terminal Groins and questioned the Council on where they stood with this issue.

Harry Simmons, Mayor of Caswell Beach: Simmons said Caswell Beach is involved in the Terminal Groin issue. Caswell Beach has no intention of building a Groin, however, Bald Head island is interested in building one. Simmons described at length his support of Terminal Groins. He did feel though, that the CRC's eight recommendations were important.

Debbie Smith, Mayor of Ocean Isle Beach: Smith spoke about the challenges of living in a coastal environment and suggested all the towns work together to resolve those challenges. She spoke in favor of Terminal Groins and gave examples of Terminal Groins already in place. Smith reminded Council of a time when Sunset Beach had a serious erosion problem, and how the towns worked together to resolve it. She stated that under certain circumstances she believes Terminal Groins can be good and that she would not propose anything that would cause problems on her beach or any one else's beach, and further supports the CRC's eight recommendations on Terminal Groins.

Allen Holden, Mayor of Holden Beach: Holden said every island is different. He described the erosion problem Holden Beach had in the 70's, and how the town formed a Groin of sandbags. Holden said that all the towns should work together.

Katie Hovermale of 1419 Bay St.: Hovermale wanted to personally request of the Council to encourage the legislature to keep the ban on Terminal Groins.

7. Reports

- a. Administrator Report-previously given.
- b. Police Report-Lisa Massey said there has been an increase in citations. Massey said there have been several complaints of speeders and other violations.
- c. Public Works-See report
- d. Inspections-See report
- e. Fire-See report

8. Old Business

a. Appointment of Planning Board Member

The Mayor asked the Council for a recommendation.

Scott recommended they appoint Carol Santavicca to the Planning Board.

Second by DeVita. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Bike Plan Survey and Engineer Quotes

c. Beach Restroom Facility Quotes

Parker suggested discussion for Items 8b and 8c be postponed until the June meeting.

Motion by Scott to postpone items 8b and 8c till the June meeting. Second by Sherrill.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Appointment of Beach Parking Study Committee

Scott explained that 21 people applied to be on the parking committee. Scott further explained Ron Watts and Marc Kaplan; who are business owners on the island, applied to be on the committee. Scott proposed that Ron and Marc be additional members and that nine more members should be chosen for the committee. The Mayor added that Watts and Kaplan would sit on the committee in an advisory manner.

Ideas were discussed on how to choose nine people. One of the suggestions was to draw names from a “hat”.

Joseph said the committee should function in their own way and bring the Council their best ideas.

The committee shall also select a chairperson and secretary.

Joseph supported drawing names.

Motion was made to draw names. Second by DeVita. Motion carried with one opposing vote by Scott.

Nine names were drawn from two “hats”; one hat representing the island and the other representing the mainland. The names pulled are as follows:

Janet Dancy, Jay Eriquez, Richard Gresham, David Jenkins, Jan Harris, Clara Newell, Jim Thomas, Herb Tinger, Sue Weddell.

9. New Business

a. Presentation of Beach Parking Lot Alternatives

Parker stated the Council received a cover memo and site plans, the cover memo indicated there were three options. Parker proceeded to present each of the options:

Option 1: Would add 148 parking spaces to the beach front for a total of 202 spaces, this is double the amount of option 2 at double the cost.

Option 2: Would add 68 spaces several hundred feet off the beach front. This option is not recommended as it would be too far from the beach and add 68 spaces at a cost of one and half million dollars.

Option 3: Would add 26 spaces to the existing lot on the beach front. This option is recommended, as there is no cost for the land, will accommodate the restroom facility, and also, fits well with the focus of the community being a family beach.

DeVita interjected the new street parking committee is separate from the beach parking issue. DeVita would like the Council to consider the idea of generating revenue by putting in parking meters for the general public and decals for the residents. This will also help generate revenue for the up keep of the parking area.

Scott hoped the parking committee would study the potential use of parking meters elsewhere on the island. Scott also stressed the need for the parking committee to evaluate the parking demands when vehicles are parking in the right of way; the island is not able to absorb all the parking demands.

Joseph said the Parking Committee's first meeting should be with the council. Joseph did not recommend the use of parking meters; meters are not user friendly and not at all attractive and would not fit in with the overall look of the beach. Joseph added that she is in favor of the 3rd option for the beach parking.

Mayor Klein stated that Myrtle Beach has issues with enforcement of parking meters. The cost of enforcement outweighs the benefits.

Scott thought decals for cars may work better.

The consensus was this will be up to the parking committee to review and come up with ideas.

b. Presentation of Proposed Budget & Setting Workshop

Parker informed the Council the meeting dates for the Budget Work Shop are set for May 13, 2010 at 9:00 am and May 27, 2010 at 1:00pm. Parker thanked the staff for their hard work in putting the budget together.

Parker presented highlights of budget expenditures. The total overall general fund total \$5,495,852.00. This is a two percent increase over last year. The final adoption of the budget will be in June.

c. Amendment to Section 151.149 (A) (1) (b). Fences in a Side Yard Abutting a Street Right of Way.

Call for a Public Hearing. **DeVita moved to set the Public Hearing for June. Seconded by Bob Bobinski. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion moved to the CRC recommendations for Terminal Groins.

Scott stressed that she is not in favor of Terminal Groins, and wants to see a letter sent to legislators that the CRC recommendations be met.

Brief discussion ensued.

Motion Scott moved that Sunset Beach send a letter to legislation recommending if they decide they are going to permit Terminal Groins that they do so with the conditions recommended by the CRC. Seconded by Sherrill. Motion carried unanimously.

A Resolution will be written up and brought to the May 13, 2010 Budget Work Shop.

Further discussion ensued on the Terminal Groin issue and how to word to Resolution. Isenberg said the Resolution can state whatever the Town wants it to state.

10. Public Comments

Eddie Alegre of 1767 Beach Drive: Alegre said he was here to speak on the side yard fences. He has concerns living on 179 and has a handicapped son. He already started erecting a fence. He submitted a letter from a caseworker and pictures of the fence to the Mayor.

Fred Mitchell of 1104 Canal Drive: is disappointed the Council did not make a motion against Terminal Groins.

Charlie Nern of 647 Oyster Bay Drive: would like to see parking eased on the islands side streets as it is a safety issue.

Rich Cerato of 517 Twisted Oak: asked the Mayor if he would request of the Beacon to publish the grant information for the 2nd fire station.

Linda Rudick of 1008 Park Rd: wanted to remind the parking committee that parking needs will change after the bridge is built.

Ed Gore of 435 Shoreline Dr W.: Gore told the Council that the changes being recommended for the empty lot is actually a street with parking and is not a lot.

No other Public Comments being made; the Council entered into an Executive Session for personnel matters at 8:55 pm.

Personnel matters were discussed with no action taken.

Motion to adjourn at 10:20 made by Scott. Seconded by Joseph. Motion carried unanimously.

Adopted this 7th day of June, 2010

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Mayor Ron Klein

Attest:

Lisa H. Anglin
Town Clerk