



**SURF CITY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 1, 2021
Surf City Municipal Complex – 214 W. Florence Way
Stream Live: www.youtube.com/townofsurfcity
4:30 PM**

Council Members Present

Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor

William J. (Buddy) Fowler, Mayor Pro-Tem

Donald Helms

Teresa Batts

Jeremy Shugarts

Dwight Torres

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor
- II. INVOCATION - William J. (Buddy) Fowler, Mayor Pro-Tem
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Donald R. Helms
- IV. INTRODUCTION – Pender County Emergency Manager, Tommy Batson & Surf City Canine, Ace
- V. PRESENTATION – NCLM
- VI. BEAUTIFICATION & APPEARANCE COMMITTEE AWARDS -

Home of the Month: Larry & Tracy Williams at 1423 N. Shore Drive

Business of the Month: The Surf City Line at 2112 N. New River Dr.

VII. MAYOR'S REMARKS -

We ask that all in attendance please set your cell phones to silent or vibrate mode. The Council offers the public an opportunity to speak during the meeting. Comments should be limited to three minutes each and must be directly issue oriented with agenda items for this meeting, or an issue upon which the Council has control.

Citizen speakers will be acknowledged in the order in which they sign up to speak and will address all comments to the Board as a whole and not one individual Council member. Speakers will address the Council from the speaker's podium at the front of the room and will begin their remarks by stating their name and address. Discussions between Speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed.

Public comment is not intended to require the Council to answer any impromptu questions. Speakers are expected to be civil in their language and presentation. Any comments where the primary purpose is to promote business or candidacy shall not be allowed.

In accordance with the Council's adopted Rules of Procedures, Councilmembers shall reserve responses, if any, for the Council Forum on the agenda.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA -

Mr. Helms made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Torres seconded the motion and it was carried.

IX. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA -

****Items under Consent are generally of a routine nature. The Board may take action to approve/disapprove all items in a single vote. Any item may be withheld from a general action, to be discussed and voted upon separately at the discretion of the Council.***

1. CFOG Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update Contract
2. Final Plat Approval – Waterside Phase 3
3. Final Plat Approval – Magnolia Reserve Phases 2 & 3
4. Resolution No. 2021-14 – Surplus Items
5. Vector Control Contract – Pender County Health Dept.
6. Advisory Board Appointment – Damien Buchanan, Enhancement & Beautification
7. Business Registration Program & Ordinance Amendments
8. Resolution No. 2021-15 – Eminent Domain for Beach Nourishment & Erosion

Mr. Helms made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Batts seconded the motion and it was carried.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT - Citizens have an opportunity to address the Council for no more than three minutes per speaker on topics which concern agenda items of this meeting.

James Clinton at 1007 1st St. stated his concerns with the noise coming from the bar Tortuga's Nest. He asked that the bars reduce their noise to 11pm and complained about the patrons of the bars.

Randy Raynor at 7012 7th St discussed the parking at the north end of town. He stated there is no signage at the north end to let people know that you can no longer park there. He stated he received a ticket on Friday from Pivot Parking. He requested parking at the handicap ramp.

Wendy Russo 1008 1st St. stated her complaints against Tortuga's Nest regarding the loud noise. She also stated that there are fights in the parking lot. She stated he has safety concerns from the patrons leaving the bar and coming onto her property.

Neil Anders 1011 1st St stated he has been a residence for sixteen years and the bars have always been a problem. He stated the officers come out and they are very corgual, but the neighbors need assistance to protect them. He requested higher fines.

Ginger Rouse 610 Roland Ave. discussed her issues with loud trucks driving through late at night. She stated this past weekend sounded like a dragstrip. She requested an additional no wake sign at the entrance to the canal. She questioned the two-hour parking on Roland Ave. She also voiced concerns with not being able to obtain a free pass for parking.

XI. PUBLIC HEARING –

9. Right of Way Closure – 2100 Block N. Shore Drive

Open Public Hearing at 5:07pm

Michelle DeLyon at 318 Sea Star Circle stated she has been in conversations with Mr. Peterson regarding his proposal for the two un-buildable lots at the north end of town. She discussed her concerns with the building of a gazebo and the parking in that area.

Kelly Gates 306 Sea Star Circle stated her concerns are with the new proposed construction and the noise or patrons that will come along with it. She discussed that patrons from the bars have mis-used her property after leaving the bars.

Ron Wulachih at 410 Sea Star Circle requested that the town not close the right-of-way due to the lack of vegetation and dune in that area. He questioned the handicap parking and road maintenance. He stated the Surf City Line is impeding their property with the smell of food, trash and their view. There was discussion on the closure and the turnaround radius.

Close Public Hearing at 5:31pm

Mr. Helms made a motion to approve the resolution to close the right of way in the 2100 block of N. Shore Drive. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and it was carried.

XII. OLD BUSINESS –

10. FY 2021-2022 Budget Approval

Mr. Breuer gave a brief update on the FY 21-22 budget. He stated there were no imposed rate changes, the addition of new positions, a cost of living increase of 2% based off the consumer price index. CPI are for the new public park, a dump truck and chipper, a street sweeper and streets projects.

Mr. Helms made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Torres seconded the motion and it was carried.

XIII. MANAGER'S REPORT -

- **New Town Hall** – Thank you again for the wonderful ribbon cutting ceremony here. Staff continues to acclimate into the new space and work on very minor items. We are still awaiting a directional sign to be installed in the parking area to help guide visitors to the police department and council chambers.
- **Beach Nourishment** – Federal Project
 - The PPA has been sent to both towns for review and execution. All in all, the document has remained consistent and final dollar amounts have been included within the Agreement.
 - Through analysis, Surf City has approximately 50-parcels that will not be eligible for federal funding due to their undeveloped or eroded classification. This makes up approximately 8-9% of the overall length of the project in SC.
 - Conversely, there is approximately 20-21% of NTB that will not qualify for federal funding.
 - I am doing some calculations to determine how this may impact the interlocal agreement with cost responsibilities being based on lineal foot of project area.
 - The PPA cost estimates were derived from the Developed and Undeveloped properties contained in the Letter Report.
 - Also, in regard to the Letter Report, it was documented that the Town had met its obligation on the total number of parking spaces to meet the recreational requirements of 785, the report documents 803. We will work

to meet the distance requirement prior to Phase 1 of the project going to contract.

- The project has been broken up into 3-phases to stay on track. Phase 1, which is anticipated to begin at the Topsail Beach/North Topsail Beach town line on December 1. Phase 2 will pick up from Phase 1 and continue the remainder of the town limits to NTB. Phase 3 will be for NTB in its entirety.
- We have a scheduled call with the Corps on Thursday morning to go over any final questions, I have a couple in regard to the in-kind contributions and eligible expended funds.
- Beach Nourishment Committee – We will be holding a Beach Nourishment Committee meeting tomorrow, June 2nd at 10am here at Town Hall.

- **Paid Parking**

- Parking continues to progress. An internal policy document has been created and shared with Pivot to help guide theirs and our decision making.
- Last week, we were able to locate an additional 50 or so parking spaces to add to the overall capacity, to be used for golf cart parking.
- We continue to evaluate the parking map and overall functions and make adjustments
- We have created an online parking map to help guide folks to available parking within Town.
- Staff is currently working on developing a request for proposals to seek guidance on overall capacity as it relates to short term/mid/and long range solutions to continue to build parking capacity for our beach.

- **Hurricane Preparation**

- Mr. Horne invited all department heads and other support staff to a hurricane kick-off meeting last week. We heard from Mr. Steve Pfaff with the weather center and also continue to build an Incident Management Team that has tertiary levels of response as it comes to the 4 primary cores of functionality.
- Also, the Town received reimbursement from FEMA pertaining to Hurricane Isaias in the amount of approximately \$30k. Mr. Horne and Mr. McCole worked diligently to obtain that funding.
- This was also a topic of conversation at last week's meeting as the documentation and procurement methods have tightened up to a centralized process. So, the opportunity to discuss this with department heads was good to make sure everyone is on the same page.

- **Station 25**

- I met with Chief Wilson this morning at Station 25 to assess the damage from the sewer back up. He was swift in responding to the incident and has already had a professional restoration company out to help with the cleanup. Insurance has been notified.

- **Economic Resiliency Project**

- Just a reminder to please review the draft document and offer any suggestions to me. I'll work with UNC to make any last-minute adjustments then start working with community partners to offer this as a tool.

- **Utilities**

- Staff met with USDA two weeks ago to talk about preliminary financing for any potential upcoming capital projects, they remain willing and able to help the Town if needed.

- Staff also met with project representatives from SUEZ, who is responsible for the oversight of the AMI conversion project. Site surveyors will be out this month looking at water meter vaults and access to them to make sure when they move forward on the project there is no major obstructions.
- Staff is taking this opportunity to begin addressing the Right of Way clean up project and will do as much coordination as possible. The Town will begin messaging on the AMI project soon to get residents acclimated to the project and the overall work that will be necessary to complete the project.

XIV. COUNCIL FORUM -

Mr. Torres thanked the board for their leadership and the manager for their work on the budget. He congratulated the police department for their risk assessment award. He stated he was happy to be back in person and in the new facility. He let the residents at the north end know that their voices have been heard regarding the noise complaints.

Mr. Fowler echoed Mr. Torres sentiments towards the town and staff. He stated the budget was passed with no tax increases. He stated a lot of the questions that come up can be found on the town website. He spoke on social media postings and opinions. He discussed that the council works hard to have a happy harmonious community.

Mrs. Batts welcomed everyone to the new facility. She discussed that paid parking was mainly put in place for beach nourishment but also for respect, so that private property rights are respected. She stated she understood the noise complaints and they would investigate. She thanked everyone for participating in Bridge Jam.

Mr. Helms thanked everyone for attending and for the concerns regarding the noise at the north end. He thanked all the employees for their hard work. He congratulated the police department for their risk award.

Mr. Shugarts stated he echoed the comments are his board members. He stated the publics comments are never dismissed or unheard.

Mayor stated he appreciated everyone attending and voicing their opinions. He briefly spoke on hurricane season. He invited everyone back.

XV. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORTS -

Brian Edes, Town Attorney stated he spoke on Friday morning regarding eligible properties with USACE. He stated the PPA has an addition of article 16 regarding future appropriations. This is a safeguard for the town given the length of time the project will span.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT -

Mr. Torres made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Helms seconded the motion, and it was carried.