

**Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
October 6, 2015**

**Council Members Present:**

Mayor A.D. (Zander) Guy, Jr  
Mayor Pro-Tem Douglas Medlin  
Nelva Albury  
Michael Curley  
Don Helms  
W.J. (Buddy) Fowler

**Town of Surf City Staff:**

Charles Lanier- Town Attorney  
Larry Bergman- Town Manager  
Jane Kirk- Assistant Town Manager  
Stephanie Hobbs- Town Clerk  
Todd Rademacher- Planning Director  
Allan Libby- Tourism  
Randall Worthington- Public Works  
David Price- Public Works  
Joey Rivenbark- Fire Chief  
Barry Newsome- Welcome Center  
Kristie Grubb- Parks & Recreation Director  
Ron Shanahan- Interim Police Chief  
Jeff Johnson- Police Department  
Garrett Mauck- Police Department  
Phil Voorhees- Police Department  
Earlene Graham- Public Works  
Doug Skipper- Public Works

**Members of Public Present:**

**A. Call to Order**

Mayor called the meeting to order 7:00pm.

**B. Invocation**

Mr. Medlin gave the invocation.

**C. Pledge of Allegiance**

**D. Beautification & Appearance**

Home of the Month- Jim & An Bishop at 1224 N. Topsail Drive

Business of Month- Surf City BBQ at 204 A. N. New River Drive

**E. Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting Minutes- August 28 & September 1, 2015

Special Meeting Minutes- September 15, 2015

Mr. Lanier recommended approval of the regular and special meeting minutes.

Mrs. Albury made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and it was carried.

**F. Consent Agenda**

1. House Moving 504 S. Shore Drive

Mrs. Albury made a motion to approve the house moving at 504 S. Shore Drive. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and it was carried.

2. Demo at 326 N. Shore Drive

Mrs. Albury made a motion to approve the house demo at 326 N. Shore Drive. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and it was carried.

**G. New Business**

Anchors Watch Final Plat Approval

Mr. Rademacher stated the applicant, Saltwater Landing, LLC, is requesting approval of Section 3 of the Anchors Watch Subdivision. This site is zoned R10 residential and will allow for single family homes on 10,000 square foot lots. The developer has completed the development of 10 additional lots. Access to the project will be provided through a new street named Greenhow Court and the continuation of Montgomery Loop accessed off of Saltwater Landing Drive. Street trees have been provided along all street frontages. The site has also been inspected by the Fire Marshall for compliance. Lighting meets the requirements of the ordinance with lights at intersections and for every 6 lots. Sidewalks are provided along street frontages at a minimum of 5 feet in width and the developer has added appropriate truncated domes for ADA compliance at the intersections. Water and sewer has been reviewed for compliance by Town Staff and appropriate consulting firms for compliance with permits. Staff is recommending to approve the final plat as it has been developed in accordance with the approved plans.

Mrs. Albury made a motion to approve the plat as presented. Mr. Medlin seconded the motion and it was carried.

**H. Public Forum**

Mike Halstead 238 Masters Lane- He stated he has no ill will towards anyone but does feel the action of the board was wrong. He thanked everyone for their support. My family and I are very disappointed from the action of the council. After reassurance from the manager and mayor of not being fired; four hours later he was fired. He was forced to retire. Previous employees have been involved in illegal actions and were offered severance packages. He stated his post was well documented and a true statement. Ben Carson and other African Americans have supported his actions along with Donald Trump. I ask that you re-instate me now before this ends up in court.

Dwight Torres 823 Driftwood Drive- I would like to begin for thanking the council for allowing us to address our concerns. I am a veteran of 23 years of the armed forces. Most importantly I am a city member. He gave a historical background on Black Lives Matter. Black Lives Matter has participated in terrorist actions towards police and white people. He stated it is astonishing that the council is standing behind such actions. All members of this council take an oath to uphold the constitution. The right of free speech has been stifled in this case. We are all human and everyone makes mistakes, even police chiefs. I am respectfully asking this council to re-instate chief Halstead. This decision weighs heavily with the people of this community.

Randall Worthington 113 Seahorse Ave- Facebook is no place for public comments. You say things and they leave here and go around the world. It is embarrassing when you are in a leadership position and you say negative comments, all lives matter.

Rick Benton 1102 NT- He stated he has served on a public board for many years. There are always decisions that are stressful. Chief Halstead has served wonderfully for many years to this community. As a 30 year public office holder. It is those people that are leaders are held to a higher standard of discretion. The community deserves this as a whole. The best interest of the town was placed on the forefront. He stated he supports the mayor and council for this respective and respectfully. He ask if everyone in support of the council could show their hands.

Dorothy Royal 103 Atkinson Pt Rd- She stated she is constantly battling with Holly Ridge, and she is always impressed with Surf City and their actions. The problem is that the community did not have the opportunity to speak their comments. She stated she didn't know what the fast action was all about. Their concern is why is their friend, and chief taken away in such a rush.

Brandy Cufflin 11 Magnolia Ct- What we have here is a rushed and injustice program. The hasty manner in which the meeting was called was hasty judgement in your power. Perhaps you should consider re-instating Chief Halstead. A petition was submitted.

Barbara Matthews Island Inn- She stated that the statement that was read was not comprehended. None of the statements made was made against a certain ethnic group. The remarks were against groups of people who were calling for the deaths of cops. The NAACP does not govern this town. Statements such as these have been made preciously by other chiefs across the nation.

Jenifer Thomas 123 Gold Coast Drive- I do not personally know him, but my heart goes out to him. He has served this community for 17 years unblemished. One mistake from 17 years and take it all away. She stated she felt it was wrong.

Gigi Oberland 1123 S Topsail Drive- She stated she didn't know a whole lot about this but explained herself as a peace maker. We are all human and everyone makes mistakes. One mistake doesn't call for being fired.

Mac Murray 1821 S Shore – as a previous principal in Raleigh and then Superintendent at the Wake County school system, the last part of this career was in Pender County as Superintendent. One thing I learned is there is a higher standard for public employees. Sometimes is cumbersome and in can be awkward. You must adhere to this higher standard, it is a necessary aspect for public trust.

Larry Rice 712 Cockle St- It is important to be held to a higher standard is a must. But to tell the truth is more important. I heard every word that went on in this room from outside the door. It is beyond me to why he could not speak the truth.

Dona Grubbs 277 Watts Landing Rd- Is there a policy written for social media.

Tim Hodell 411 N. Shore Drive- I have been in business for 50 years and have had 100 employees over the years. Each of us have had comments they wanted to say but it is the nature of the position. He was a representative of the town no matter the time or place it was the matter in which it was said.

Marty Martin 1825 N. New River Drive- I hope the council makes the right decision tonight. A higher position requires you to hold your tongue. He was hired by the city not the council. I hope he gets a second chance because everyone does deserve a second chance.

Richard Roy 103 Atkinson Pt Rd- He stated that they are not against the town, they are just satisfied with the decisions. He called for respect for the chief.

Brandy Cuff Southern Magnolia Ct- At the time of Sept 2015 there was not a policy for social media in effect for the Town. The only one is place was for the police department.

Mike Halstead- regardless of the decision of tonight. I do not hold anything against of you. He ask for the right to retire with dignity.

## **I. Council Forum**

Mr. Curley stated he thanked everyone for their input. If anyone has anything to say we are willing to listen. He thanked everyone for their conversation.

Mr. Medlin thanked everyone for coming. There are always many sides to every story. There is no ill will towards anybody. The employees of the utility department have worked day and night for the last few days. They have done a wonderful job.

Mrs. Albury stated she thanked all of the utility department. She thanked everyone for coming out and their opinions. There are no hard feelings towards anyone. God Bless

Mr. Fowler stated it is refreshing to hear the comments from all of the speakers who have presented themselves in a very professional manner. We did have a lot of water in the past few days. The utility department did amazing! He encouraged everyone to come out and get involved in the community center.

Mr. Helms stated he thanked everyone for their comments. Everyone conducted themselves in a very professional manner. He personally thanked the utility department.

Mayor stated we are thankful for everyone and their professionalism. We have some great employees here in town. Our people here in Surf City give us the edge, we are proud of their service. He thanked everyone for their professionalism. Council has been very diligently working to obtain funding to compensate for the damages we sustained. We are hoping to raise the state of emergency with in the next few days.

## **J. Managers Reports**

Mr. Bergman stated the storm was come with very high lunar tides. The state, county and town have all declared a state of emergency. The employees have done a great job in keeping the town going. We have some significant erosion damage on the beach. We are currently doing damage assessment at this time. There are places that may require some repaving. There has been significant flow increases to the sewer treatment plant. The NC EMO we are working with them on an estimated cost of damages.

**A. Town Attorney Reports**

Mr. Lanier stated he had no reports at this time.

The Council took a consensus on changing their opinions from their actions on September 15, 2015 in regards to the chief's retirement. No one had a change in opinion and their actions stood.

**K. Adjournment**

Mr. Fowler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Albury seconded the motion and it was carried.

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A.D. (Zander) Guy Jr., Mayor

Attest:

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Stephanie Edwards Hobbs, Town Clerk