

**Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
February 4, 2014**

**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:**

Trey Carter- Town Attorney Office Rep.  
Jane Kirk-Interim Town Manager  
Joseph K Rivenbark- Fire Chief  
Stephanie E. Hobbs- Town Clerk  
Mike Halstead – Police Chief  
Allan Libby- Tourism Director  
Phil Vorhees-Police Officer

**Members of Public Present:**

Jim Williams- 106 S. Topsail Dr.  
Paul Dorazio- 206 N. Topsail Dr.  
Flynn Crawford- 309 S. Shore Dr.  
Judy Madison- 106 N. Topsail Dr.  
Lenny Denittis- 206 N. Topsail Dr.  
Rocky Godwin- 302 S. Topsail Dr.  
Carol Ross- Watts Landing Rd.  
Shawn Smith- 206 N. Topsail Dr.  
Geary Matthews- 302 N. Shore Dr.  
Teresa Batts- 302 N. Topsail Dr.  
George Howard- 1408 N. New River Dr.  
Ron Wiese- 101 Dunes Ct.  
Joe Mosley- 205 D. S. Topsail Dr.  
Don Hall- Pender County ABS Chairman  
Debbie Wilson- 315 S. Topsail Dr.  
Dottie Netherinton- Topsail Beach

**A. Call to Order**

Mayor call meeting to order 7:00pm.

**B. Invocation**

Mr. Medlin gave invocation.

**C. Pledge of Allegiance**

**D. Special Recognition -Pink Heals**

Dedication of Fire Truck to Pink Heals Fire Truck Foundation

**E. Beautification & Appearance Recognition**

Home of the Month – Preston & Tiffany Walker at 286 S Kingfisher Ln.

Business of the Month – The Corner at 206 N Topsail Dr

**F. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Carter recommend approval of January 7, 2014 Regular Minutes. Mrs. Albury made the motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Helms. The motion was carried.

**G. Public Hearing**

**1. Text Amendment- Firearms / Weapons Possession**

Public Hearing Opened at 7:10

Mr. Carter explained that the Town asked to the town attorney to look into carrying concealed weapons in parks and recreational areas and to draft an ordinance to comply with state regulations. Concealed weapons are not permitted with an attachment such as a field or athletic facility, you may prohibit concealed weapons in the specific areas. Otherwise, if there is no recreational fields then concealed carry's would be permitted. In the two parks Soundside and the Nelva R. Albury Park they would be allowed to be carried. At the Community Center and the Kenneth Batts Park concealed carry's could be prohibited. A firearm would be able to be stored in a locked motor vehicle as long as it is stored in an appropriate place at any of the park locations.

Mrs. Albury asked if the Community Center would be included.

Mr. Carter stated only during an athletic event, but sure as long as there is athletic facilities.

Chief Halstead asked what about special events.

Mr. Carter stated the statue does not prohibit concealed carry at special events.

Public Hearing Closed at 7:15

Mrs. Albury made the motion to approve the text amendment with the addition of the Community Center. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and it was carried.

## **2. Proposed Roundabout on Island**

Public Hearing Opened at 7:17

Mr. Jim Williams- 106 S. Topsail Dr. stated that his chief concern is the parking across the street that provides roughly 250 parking spaces. That parking lot is fully accessed with the larger amount of traffic. The four leg traffic circle would cut all of the parking at that location. The three leg option leaves more of a larger parking option in the close business district. The pier parking would be horrible if this parking area was gone. A big draw to Surf City is the parking, free at that. Shore Dr is an opportunity for fire trucks and the difference is only a couple 100' in difference of travel. I am in favor of the three leg option.

Mr. Dorazio-206 N Topsail Dr. stated he has spoken too many of the businesses on N Topsail Dr, going with option 4 will make N Topsail a dead end street. And excessive amounts of traffic would then be forced on to N. New River. The four leg gives the option for travelers to go either way. It would enhance travel down N. Topsail Dr. The disturbance of travel would be more even, the three leg only hurts N. Topsail Dr. because of it being a one way street.

Mr. Flynn Carwford-309 S. Shore Dr. as a homeowner parking in the summertime is a major concern. In the summer parking is still full here, and many times the tourist park in the yards of the homeowners. That parking was a major concern with him and his neighbors,

Mrs. Madison-106 N. Topsail Dr. stated she has been there almost 20 years and she would hate to loose all of her traffic from drive by's.

Mr. Denittis- 206 N Topsail Dr. how many spots are we really loosing? Coming on to the island with the three leg a driver would only have one option to get off and then go round and around. With option 2 with four legs it gives another option to get off the roundabout. There would be two opportunities to leave the traffic circle. This would ease the flow in the circle, especially with trailer traffic and visitors, this would help to ease traffic flow. The three leg option gives one shot to go north.

Mr. Rocky Godwin-302 S Topsail Dr. stated his business is close to the area in concern. In the summer a lot of his business comes from foot traffic. Option 4 would leave a lot of opportunity for safe pedestrian travel.

Mrs. Carol Ross- Watts Landing stated option 4 would cut off parking for the IGA and the pier? Has there been any consideration for additional parking.

The Mayor stated that in order for the beach renourishment project to happen in the next five years, that one requirement would be more parking in the southern area of Surf City. At this time no one wants to have a parking lot next to them and we have not obtained any property. If and when the town hall was relocated that property would hopefully become a parking lot.

Shawn Smith-206 N Topsail Dr. stated that Jim Williams has valid concerns, but as a new business we are very concerned with loosing business by loosing traffic.

Mr. Geary Matthew-302 N Shore Dr. stated that all the residents north of the roundabout to Surf Condos can not get out unless they go out to N New River.

Teresa Batts- 302 N Topsail Dr. is in favor on option 4.

Mr. George Howard- 1408 N New river stated he understands the concern with traffic because he is defiantly going to loose traffic but he is in favor of option 2.

Mr. Weise asked if a traffic study has been done on either one of these studies

Mr. Medlin stated that there has been a traffic study done and that both are good options but option 2 offers a better design.

Mr. Voorhees stated he is out in the summer time and he understands the traffic problems. From a safety issue he believes that option 4 would be a better option.

Mr. Dorazio asked what the fire department thought.

Mr. Crawford stated if traffic is backed up around the circle Shore Dr will have to be utilized either way.

Joe Mosely-205 D. S. Topsail Dr. stated he is in favor of the three leg because of parking. There is just no parking on that end of the town.

Mr. Weise asked when does this have to been finalized.

The Mayor stated the DOT asked for it on January 20 and we asked for a delay until our February meeting.

Public Hearing Closed at 7:42

Mr. Helms stated that the fire department's problem is that with option 4 the parking and pedestrians will be a delay in response. The truck ladder is long and takes a great distance to turn the truck and option 2 is not going to be enough room.

Mr. Fowler stated that during the public hearing 7 people voted for each option tonight. After much research and talking with people and speaking with DOT, he concluded that option 4 will move traffic faster and at a greater ease. It also allows for more traffic south of Roland Ave and parking is desperately needed for beach re-nourishment. Emergency vehicles will create no more major concern then they are currently experiencing. Pedestrian traffic will be safer with option 4 keeping us a family friendly beach, a safe beach.

Mr. Fowler made a motion to support the three leg option, option 4 roundabout. Mrs. Albury seconded the motion and it was carried.

## **H. New Business**

### **3. Pender County ABC**

Mr. Hall stated he is here tonight to answer any questions that anyone may have. He is also thanking you for your support in the new distribution in the event of the closing of the store in Atkinson. Due to the weather last week the Towns check should be in the mail next week.

The Mayor stated that Mr. Hall calls once a month to let anyone with concerns or questions be known. Thank you for your time.

### **4. Resolution Opposing Insurance Rates**

Mr. Curley made the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Albury seconded the motion and it was carried.

### **5. Resolution Speed Limit to DOT**

Mrs. Kirk stated that we recently met with DOT and they are currently doing a crash study for the Food Lion area. If we could wait on the speed limit till the crash study was concluded.

### **6. Beautification & Appearance Appointment**

Mrs. Albury made a motion to approve the appointment of the two requesters. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and it was carried.

## **J. Public forum**

Debbie Wilson-315 N Topsail Dr we are a group of local artisans that are seeking approval of using the park for a farmers market. We would not be blocking any parking. We would be open every week on Tuesday at the Nelva Albury Park, it would be closely modeled after Wrightsville and Wilmington. Only a certain section would be used, a drawing has been submitted.

Mrs. Dottie Nettherington -Topsail Beach the issue does concern me, our goal was to increase tourism in our town. Our events last year in Topsail Beach greatly benefited the restaurants and businesses, it brought forth more tourism. The historic society benefited greatly. Surf City has a variety of menus to attract tourists. Currently there are around 6 to 7 galleries here in Surf City. A new market in Surf City would saturate the market in this area. This new market would only be 6 miles from the current one in Topsail Beach. This is a request to not allow the duplication our market here in Surf City.

Mr. Fowler stated that he is not personally standing in the way of any business venture. Competition is part of business, this competition will open the opportunity for the participation of both markets.

Mrs. Albury stated that she is glad to hear they are open on separate days. It opens the opportunity for both markets to grow.

Mr. Helms made the motion to approve the use of the park as requested. Mrs. Albury seconded the motion and it was carried.

#### **K. Council Forum**

Mr. Curley stated that North Topsail Beach has sent a request for notification that they are seeking a representative to come and talk to them about Habitat Conversation Plan and Incidental Take Permit. When Todd gets back I am going to have him get with the N. Topsail Beach Planning Director in regards to the Plan.

#### **L. Manager Report**

The Chamber of Commerce has applied for a special events permit for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hops of Topsail

Mr. Helms made the motion to approve the special events permit for April 26, 2014. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mrs. Kirk stated that Waste Management and the Town have been meeting to better service the citizens and businesses. The new contract would change pickup days, routes, and billing which is will outsource to Waste Management.

Mr. Helms made the motion to approve the new contract. Mr. Medlin seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mrs. Kirk stated that the Premier Forestry contract has been submitted and it is a two year contract but list at any time for a two week notice for the cancellation of the contract. This would manage the 2,000 acres at Juniper Swamp. The final loan modification has come in at a rate of 2.99%.

Mr. Fowler made the motion to approve the contract. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and it was carried.

**M. Town Attorney Reports**

**N. Adjournment**

Mr. Helms made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler 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