

**Town Council
Regular Meeting
January 7, 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:

Charles Lanier- Town Attorney
Jane Kirk-Interim Town Manager
Joseph K Rivenbark- Interim Town Manager
Stephanie E. Hobbs- Town Clerk
Todd Rademacer- Planning Director
Allan Libby- Tourism Director
Barry Newsome- Tourism
Ron Shanahan- Assistant Police Chief
Barry Newsome – Assistant Welcome Center

Members of Public Present:

Thomas Hodell
Jim Williams
Ron and Myrna Wiese
Bobby Owings
Vickie Farris

A. Call to Order

Mayor call meeting to order 7:00pm.

B. Invocation

Mr. Medlin gave invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Certificate of Appreciation

12th Annual Dolphin Dip to Brian Moxey

E. Beautification & Appearance Recognition

Home of the Month – Kay Grady at 2005 S. Shore Dr.
Business of the Month – Southern Emporium at 208 N. New River Dr.

F. Approval of Minutes

Approval of December 3, 2013 Regular Minutes Mr. Lanier recommend approval. Mrs. Albury made the motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Helms. The motion was carried.

Approval of the November 8, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes. Mr. Lanier recommended approval. Mrs. Albury made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and it was carried.

G. Public Hearing

1. Golf Cart Ordinance

Public Hearing was opened at 7:12p.m.

Chief Halstead stated as instructed by Council the department has investigated the golf cart ordinance.

Major Shannan stated he looked into 22 coastal communities in NC and 5 towns regulate golf carts and 17 do not. He personally spoke with each department that have ordinances. See attached “Golf Cart Study.”

Chief Halstead stated, “We have taken into specific consideration the impediment to traffic flow and safety to the public. At this time the department believes at this time the Town is not ready for golf carts.”

Mr. Ron Weise of Island Oaks stated his concern with safety being the foremost. Since then he has spoken to other citizens and observing golf carts at Ocean Isle, he retracted his previous statements. His current opinion is to not allow golf carts within Surf City. Golf Carts would only excel current problems and the cost of enforcement is going to be high.

Mr. Tim Hodell of 411 N Shore Dr stated that visitors tend to have a lack of concern for local ordinances. That the traffic will be horrible in the summer season.

Mrs. Vikki Farris of Sea Urchin Ct. stated she is agreement with the others. The traffic with golf carts will be even worse. The concern for safety is very high.

Mr. Fowler stated he commended the police department for their hard work and research on the golf carts.

Mr. Medlin stated he appreciated the public coming fourth with their comments.

Jim Williams of 312 S Shore Dr asked, "Does this affect those individuals who live in sound side communities who use golf carts to beach access."

Major Shannan stated that the cart may be used on private streets but may not cross or be used on Town or State roads without being DMV registered as street legal.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:21p.m.

Mr. Helms made the motion to resent the original motion due to the research by the police department. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fowler and it was carried.

2. Rezoning Jordan Ln

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:22p.m.

Mr. Rademacher stated that the applicants are requesting a rezoning of a parcel of land consisting of .91 acres (39,463 square feet) from G1 Governmental to R15 Residential. The rezoning would restrict the property to single family homes on minimum 15,000 square foot lots. The property requested for rezoning is owned by Pender Fire Corporation. This property is located on Jordan Lane behind the building formerly used as the Surf City Volunteer Fire Station. Adjoining properties are located in the Surf City limits as well as several properties located only within the counties jurisdiction. These adjoining properties are a mixture of single family homes, vacant land and the old SCVFD. Properties within Surf City are zoned R15 Residential and G1 Governmental. Properties in the counties jurisdiction are zoned RP Rural Preservation and allow for minimum 15,000 square foot lots. The Land Use Plan for Pender County, which covers this area, calls for this property to be Mixed Use which would be compatible with a rezoning to R15 residential. The Planning Board is recommending R-15 zoning.

Mrs., Albury questioned how many homes could they put on the lots.

Mr. Rademacher stated they could get two homes on the lots once rezoned.

Mr. Medlin made the motion to approve the rezoning to R-15. Mrs. Albury seconded the motion and it was carried.

H. New Business

3. Premier Forestry & Environmental Consulting

Mr. Rivenbark stated there is roughly 2100 acres at our spray field, located off of Hwy 50 that could use mainlining.

Seth Ward stated that Premier is a full force forestry and environmental agency. They currently hold a cliental including the City of Jacksonville. Forest management promotes forest health, mosquitos control, enhances wildlife. The first step is initial planning with aerial photos. The photo will then be broken down and go on foot to verify. From there the management plan is concluded and provides the best land use prescription that best meet the land best use. The main service line is controlled burning that naturally occurs, but using prescribed burns prevents natural disasters. Proper forest management provides for timber harvesting and it also an excellent way for the Town to make money. It also provides for a better spray pattern because of the density of the trees.

Mr. Rivenbark stated he and Gus Simmons have meet with them on site beforehand. The fee is about one dollar an acre for long term management. The selling of the timber will reimburse the initial loss.

Mr. Medlin stated this would allow for more spraying to be done.

Mr. Fowler stated that thinning and cutting needs to be done now. He stated we are in bad need of over all control and that there is a great amount of timber that could be cut and sold. It was under management when the property was brought but has not been since. The initial cost is minimal to what the town stands to gain. If the Town does not do something we could possibly loose what we currently have.

Mr. Curley asked if the trunks that are in the ground be removed.

Mr. Ward stated that the trunks will be left in the ground. The City of Jacksonville has been allowed to spray more acres since the forestry management has taken place.

Mr. Helms stated his only concern is how much damage are those loggers going to create when they come into to thin the trees. Who will be responsible for the spray fields?

Mr. Ward stated that is their part of the contract. They make sure the contractors due their part safely and with care. We also pick and choose the logger.

Mr. Fowler made the motion to ask Premier to prepare a bid for the council to consider going under forestry management. Mr. Medlin seconded the motion and it was carried.

4. House Moving 6022 6th St

Mr. Rivenbark stated there has been an issue with a house moved into Surf City a few months ago. Currently the house is on the wrong lot and CAMA has not issued a permit. We are currently working on changing the ordinances of house moving.

Mr. Rademacher stated that the dwelling at hand is a double wide mobile home leaving the Town through N Topsail Beach.

Mr. Fowler made a motion to allow the house to be moved provided all the permits are issued, all fees have been paid and that it must be completely removed within 48 hours of initial move being started, and that the lot has been properly inspected to meet town ordinances. Mr. Helms seconded the.

Mr. Curley asked who will notify N Topsail Beach.

Chief Halstead stated that the police department will notify N Topsail Beach that the house will be coming through.

The motion was carried.

J. Public forum

Mr. Williams stated he is concerned about the bridge coming to Surf City. There were two options with the traffic circle, one with 3 legs and one with 4 legs. The main concern of the Town was the fire truck entrance and exit into the traffic circle. The latter truck is still going to have to go through the traffic circle no matter what. Secondly, the fire truck could still take Shore Dr. He stated his main concern is parking that the parcel in concern has around 250 parking spots and in the summer it is 2/3 utilized on a slower day. Either way the IGA is in a losing situation, but losing all of the parking is more detrimental to the Town. I would like for Town Council to take another look at the roundabout circle for the new bridge. To the State what the Town believes of the upmost importance. Beach nourishment is tied to parking, this is tied to what brings people to our beach. He stated he personally lives in Wilmington and the parking is horrendous. Many people from Wilmington choose to come to Surf City because of the ease of parking and access.

Mr. Fowler stated he thanked Mr. Williams for his speech. Parking is a major importance to the Town and detrimental to our businesses. He recommended the council taking a second look at the roundabout.

Mr. Fowler made a motion to send a letter to DOT to change the Town's opinion to the 3 legged roundabout. Mrs. Albury seconded the motion.

Mr. Helms stated the council should take another look first before the letter is sent.

Mr. Curley agreed with Mr. Helms.

Mr. Fowler withdrew his motion, and Mrs. Albury withdrew her second. Mr. Fowler made a motion to revisit the roundabout at the February meeting.

Mr. Hodell stated congratulations all the employees and staff for the park at Christmas. It looks just super!

K. Council Forum

Mr. Cutely stated that he thanked everyone for coming tonight on this very cold evening.

Mr. Medlin stated he thanked everyone for coming and for all of their comments.

Mrs. Albury stated she thanked everyone for coming and expressing their concerns for each item on the agenda. Have a wonderful New Year and God Bless you all.

Mr. Fowler stated he hoped everyone had a wonderful New Year. He wanted everyone to take note at all that is currently going on at the Community Center.

Mrs. Grubb stated that she has prepared a 2014 list of events that Parks and Recreation are involved with or in. We do partner with certain businesses throughout the year. This year we added a Pirate Cruise with Santa it was a fun success and next year it is on slate to do even more dates. We are trying to bring revenue to the Town in the off season. Our staff has really worked hard to reschedule to provide more activities and longer hours for the members and citizens.

Mr. Folwer stated that the community center is a diamond in the rough, the staff has really worked hard at making that diamond shine. There is always activity at the community center. The youth has really grown and there has been a great growth all around. The staff, parents, and community staff really do a super job. He stated the town should be honored to have such a place.

Mr. Helms stated he thanked everyone for coming and to have a Happy New Year. He stated to be careful with heating homes as to avoid house fires and health hazards.

The Mayor stated that Jason Lingle's grandmother passed about two weeks ago and they sent a nice thank you letter for the flowers we sent. He too thanked the public for their input. It is very important to make the public input known.

L. Manager Report

Mrs. Kirk stated she has a loan modification resolution to be signed. This resolution would save the town around one million dollars in interest over the life of the loan.

Mr. Helms made the motion to approve the signing of the loan resolution. Mr. Folwer seconded the motion and it was carried.

M. Town Attorney Reports

N. Adjournment

Mr. Helms made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Folwer seconded the motion and it was carried.

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

Attest:

Stephanie Edwards Hobbs, Town Clerk