



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
September 8, 2009 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deaton called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tem Truett and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Martin, Samples and Childs were present. A quorum was present.

Town Administrator Mr. Booth explained that the Horry County staff and council determined that additional library capacity was needed in this area. Surfside Beach has one of the highest use libraries in the area. Surfside Beach was offered the choice of enlarging the existing library or to have no library in town. If Surfside Beach council could not accommodate Horry County then Horry County would build a new larger library outside of town and close the existing library. Horry County informed Town of Surfside Beach council that a quarter acre of land would be needed in addition to the land currently occupied by the library. Mr. Booth stated that there is a lot of misinformation out in the public. The town is not going to close up any facilities in the park; it is not moving or closing any current uses. There is some green space that currently exists that will be utilized for this addition and this is the only part of the quarter acre the town is referring to for this addition. Years ago the town received a small grant that encumbered the entire park area and due to the town receiving this grant it now has to officially transfer usage and the cost for all of this transfer paperwork has cost the town more than the grant received. Mr. Booth added that this is a good future lesson for the town. Mr. Booth stated that the Surfside Beach town council unanimously approved providing a quarter acre to Horry County with quit claim deed which is a standard legal way to trade property; this was the advice of the town attorney at the time which was Mr. Durant and has since been confirmed as a legal proper way to transfer the land by the towns' current attorney, Mr. Smith. Town staff is currently in the process of requesting permission from the state and the Federal Government to transfer the park restrictions of this land to the planned park area at the corner of Surfside Drive and Poplar. This is not going to be a childrens' park; it is going to be a green area with trees and benches. Any information that is circulating that states any other use is false. This meeting is part of the process of getting State approval for this land and is designed to hear public concerns; it is not a discussion of the technical designs of the library; the town does not have a design of the library. The first part of this procedure is to transfer the land use and this is what the public hearing is being held for.

Mr. Samples thanked Mr. Booth for clarifying up the intention of the land transfer adding that he is aware that there is a lot of misinformation out there adding that Ms. Anna Johnson asked him the other day why the town was moving the park and this is not what is happening.

Mayor Deaton stated that the town will be discussing a land swap and not the library at this time. The library is a Horry County library. The town will be discussing the exchange of a quarter area use to another.

52 **2. PUBLIC HEARING**

53 **Mr. Joe Zoltak, 414 Pine Drive:** “I had something already prepared but I have to
54 capture quickly what Mr. Booth said and what he said a quarter acre, Fuller Park but
55 what he failed to say was that the town will also be losing half of the property of
56 Veteran’s Park. I urge everybody here in the room and go to the towns’ website and
57 where public hearing is announced, click on the plans and you’ll see for yourself how
58 much of Veteran’s Park is going to be consumed by this also. That there is no public
59 hearing required for that because that is not federally protected land. This conversion is
60 not needed; there is no justification to use this lot that costs taxpayers \$325,000 to do an
61 unjustified library expansion to again contradict what Mr. Booth said about the . . .”
62

63 **Mayor Deaton** cautioned Mr. Zoltak about naming individuals.
64

65 **Mr. Zoltak** stated that he is not attacking Mr. Booth just clarifying.
66

67 **Mr. Zoltak:** “Section 75 D paragraph 7 of South Carolina code requires that Horry
68 County library have a long range plan approved by the library board of trustees and
69 prepared in accordance with State guidelines using census data and specified formulas.
70 The library board of trustees does have such a plan which does not require the expansion
71 of the Surfside Beach library before the year 2015. Approval of this conversion will
72 condone a violation of the law. Town officials have attempted to declare the library a
73 public utility in section 17-88 of town ordinances; this would have reduced the business
74 as a structure from a residential lot from 75 feet to 25 feet; that attempt failed. Town
75 officials then attempted to execute a quit claim deed removing the .25 acres for Fuller
76 park knowing that the property was federally protected for recreation use only because
77 federal funds were used to purchase it. This attempt also failed. Now town officials are
78 requesting a conversion to create a new park at the lot at Poplar and Surfside Drive.
79 This lot was already planned for 51 percent park and 49 percent parking lot or ‘whatever
80 we can get away with’ as stated in public record by Mr. Booth on January 22nd, 2008.
81 This would permit town officials to circumvent town code which prohibits parking lots
82 in the R-2 district. South Carolina Parks Recreation and Tourism prohibits land
83 conversions of property that has already been planned for parks. SCRPT requires an
84 environmental assessment; it is public record on DHEC’s website that there are seven
85 known groundwater contamination sites within six blocks of this lot. These sites are
86 underground storage tanks. One of the sites is actually here on the town property next to
87 the fire station. Nearby residents on Surfside Drive had observed the odor of fuel oil
88 from a ditch in the rear of this lot a few years ago. I personally reported this to the
89 Surfside police department approximate 4 years ago. I trust that this contamination will
90 be addressed in the towns environmental assessment including test wells and reflected in
91 the land value of the property. Coastal plain surface waters are particularly vulnerable to
92 underground storage tanks contamination due to shallow water table, poor soil and the
93 proximity of these tanks to surface water bodies. Contaminated ground water could also
94 prohibit the growth of new trees on the property. SCPRT also requires that safety be
95 considered in the conversion application. On May 27th, 2008 Mr. Samples public remark
96 about ‘guys out drinking on the street by this lot’. On June 22, 2007 Public Safety
97 Director Christenson . . .”
98

99 Mayor Deaton stated that he would caution Mr. Zoltak one more time to not mention
100 names. Mr. Zoltak is addressing the body of council and would appreciate that he did

101 not mention names during his public comment. He could state 'town official' but could
102 not use names.

103

104 **Mr. Zoltak:** "Ok, strike Mr. Christenson, strike Mr. Samples. A town official also
105 identified the need to station officers at the business across the street from the park
106 during Bike Week. On January 22nd, now I'm not specific, on January 22nd, 2008
107 planning and zoning meeting concerns were expressed whether citizens of the town
108 would use a park at that location. It was also pointed out at that meeting, quote, 'if
109 anyone were to go pass that area at any given time, in the evening, one would find some
110 patrons from the business using the lot as a bathroom'. At the same meeting a nearby
111 resident also spoke about finding a drunken woman on her swing at 6 am in the morning.
112 I personally witnessed an individual leave that business on Easter morning, fall flat on
113 his face without breaking his fall in that lot. I circled the block to see how bad he was
114 hurt but the police and rescue squad had already arrived. Some of the reasons
115 supporting the fact that the new park is not equal or greater in recreational value are:
116 Fuller Park is completely shaded with mature trees, the new park has no mature shade
117 trees; Fuller Park is in the center of a residential district, this lot is on the fringe of a
118 residential district and likely the worse location in town for a park. Fuller Park is not
119 close to any known ground water contamination site, the new lot is in the center of a
120 cluster of 7 contaminated sites. Fuller Park is in a quiet residential neighborhood where
121 there are no adjacent bars or businesses, the new lot is adjacent to business with a known
122 history of patrons exhibiting drunken behavior. Fuller Park meets the needs of all age
123 groups from infants to seniors; the new lot will not meet the needs of this same age
124 group. Fuller Park has a water fountain and public restrooms for its patrons; there are no
125 known plans for this time for a water fountain or public restrooms at the proposed park.
126 SCPRT decision makers require alternatives to the conversion. I read this on one of
127 their websites where they actually did alternatives in form of a table for, actually, the
128 National Parks, the monument in DC. Some of these alternatives can be, do nothing,
129 whereby Section 75-1d, paragraph 7 of South Carolina State Law would then be
130 complied with. The other option is a new library at the South Strand Horry County
131 complex. A new library at the 14 acre plot near Deerfield which was annexed to
132 Surfside; this particular property was proposed by the Recreation Committee for the
133 town to purchase for recreational uses. I believe the price tag is only about 2 million
134 dollars for that. North Myrtle Beach just spent 2 million dollars for 3 lots in North
135 Myrtle Beach for a library, so, that could be considered here. If it went there then the
136 town could keep their name on it. I have here a table of list of these alternatives which
137 I'll share with you and I have a booklet that I made up for you all supporting all my
138 comments tonight in explicit detail an appropriate documentation. Do I give that to Mr.
139 Smith? Thank you for listening."

140

141 Janet Gainey, 8th Avenue S.: "I guess I'm also concerned because I wasn't very clear
142 and I know you can't answer me but I went previously and looked for site plans so I
143 wasn't aware that the land for the Veteran's Park would also be used for the property, so,
144 that's something new. I did see where it would come out so basically where all the kids
145 hide their Easter eggs, that looks like to where the parking lot would then move to?"

146

147 Mr. Samples: "Kind of, sort of."

148

149 **Ms. Gainey:** “Kind of sort of? That’s what it looked like to me so if everybody would
150 like to go to look at the Surfside Beaches website and check out those plans and actually
151 see where the site plan is, so it looks like part of the green area where all those nice little
152 trees are, like I said, my two children go there and hide Easter eggs and things like that;
153 that’s going to be gone. I do own the land that is directly beside the property, you can
154 use my name Joe, I do own the first house and I’m the one who had a swing set up in the
155 front yard and during Bike Week the lady ended up on my swing and very difficult to get
156 her removed from that property and that was at 6 am on a Saturday morning so I’m not
157 sure what time she arrived there but I got to go yard saling and she didn’t want to leave.
158 I think we’ll see more of that, it’s a busy area down there; I can’t see, we’re talking
159 about putting trees and a few benches, that’s not exactly the type of park I’ve heard.
160 This is the first time I’ve ever heard that said by any of the town officials that it would
161 just be trees and a few benches. I heard it was going to be children’s park, I’ve heard
162 different things that it would be a skateboard park, different options are being put out
163 there. Again, you hear a lot of things, don’t know what’s going on but I feel like we’re
164 not, the citizens of Surfside Beach are not hearing everything that we need to be hearing
165 so that we can understand what’s going on. We elect all of our officials, all of you
166 sitting up on this board and we expect you to give us good information so that we can
167 give you feedback on where we stand. I don’t think we’re getting that. I don’t think the
168 public behind me has heard everything that there is to hear about this new library and I
169 know I haven’t, so, it’s better that you have an informed citizen group than people that
170 believe that you guys are up there making decisions on your own not based on what we
171 really want, so, thank you for listening to me, I don’t think it’s an equitable trade of
172 land.”

173
174 The Mayor cautioned the public in attendance to refrain from applauding, jeering or
175 cheering during the public hearing.
176

177 **Peter Mcvean, 112 Oak Drive N:** “I am concerned that any swap of land, any
178 substitution of recreational land must be of equal or greater use than the existing. I do
179 not believe that the proposed Sundown park is equal to the space that would be lost at
180 Fuller park. Fuller Park has trees; it is contiguous to a playground; it provides a place
181 for children to run and play and hide as my grandchildren do quite frequently. The
182 proposed Sundown park is adjacent to Surfside’s business district; a 24 bar and
183 restaurant; not saying that the bar is open 24 hours, but the building, the business is. It is
184 one block off of Business Route 17, an exceptionally busy road; it is within 50 yards of
185 the new entrance or exit to the fire department that provides an access to the rest of the
186 town for the fire department. Fuller Park is in a residential area adjacent to homes;
187 adjacent behind the library to a walking area and I believe that that makes a significant
188 difference the fact that it’s down the road from the business district is significant. I’m
189 against the transfer of any land from Fuller Park for the purposes of increasing the
190 parking lot of the library. I would suggest if you have to increase the size of the library it
191 should be two stories and avoid taking any additional land, however, I do not understand
192 why we need a larger library here when there are other areas at the county that are
193 significant short of library privileges and resources, particularly where there are a
194 significant number of children who are attending school, whether it be elementary,
195 middle or high school and it’s very difficult for them because we have limited public
196 transportation in Horry County. This library should be closer to a population center
197 where we have significant child population. Thank you very much.”

198 **Shelby Smith, 911 Cedar Drive N:** “I live at 911 Cedar Drive North, some 1 blocks from
199 the library and about that equal distance away from, well, maybe not that many blocks
200 away from the Sundown Bar. Each of you has this prepared sheet I have. I am against
201 the proposed quarter acre Fuller Park land exchange for the Sundown Bar across the
202 street lot. It does not meet the value test of an equal or improved recreation result from
203 the exchange. Maybe there is another more suitable site. Seven reasons, Fuller Park
204 acreage is all a green landscaped park and all is used for recreation and family children
205 use. For the Sundown lot approach only one half will be green park-like; the other half
206 will be parking spaces. Number two, we need more green recreation park space in
207 Surfside not less. Three, reducing the size of Fuller Park diminishes family park-like
208 recreation in Surfside and is not what our town founding Fuller family would have
209 wanted. This is a memorial park named in honor of that founder. Four, we need more
210 parking in mid-town Surfside Beach; the twenty businesses including two restaurants
211 and two bars now have only 37 total parking spaces. All of this proposed exchange lot
212 should be used for parking in my view. Having it split 49 percent parking 51 percent
213 landscaping, park-like greatly diminishes the additional parking spaces needed for the
214 local businesses. Five, the impact on close-by neighbors in the R-2 zone residential area
215 around the library will be undesirable due to additional traffic, noise and structural
216 impact on the natural landscape look of the area. I can understand this. Six, it appears
217 that the proposed expansion does not fully comply with existing zoning ordinances,
218 parking ordinances and environmental ordinances. Seven, and I thought alot about this, I
219 have never understood the actual need to expand more than double the size of our local
220 library from 7500 square feet to 17,848 square feet. A smaller expansion would seem
221 more reasonable and consistent when used by our 6,000 resident population and that of
222 neighboring small communities of Garden City and Murrells Inlet and we do have a new
223 larger Soccastee municipal library only 5 miles from Surfside Beach. Why the very big
224 229 percent expansion? Just one example of the scope of the size; we now have 10
225 public computers in our library; the expansion calls for 42 public computers plus a few
226 extras at key locations. What is the expansion reality on the other functional areas of the
227 library? Thank you for considering these related points.”

228
229 **Randle Stevens, 412 1st Ave N:** “Let me just say that I’m 100 percent against the land
230 swap and here are the following reasons. The land is 60 feet from an adult drinking
231 establishment called the Sundown biker bar and sports bar. The fact that the city of
232 Surfside would consider putting any public park next to an adult drinking establishment
233 where the patrons partake of alcoholic beverages that stays open all day and into the late
234 night and early morning, is beyond comprehension. To put a park next to an adult
235 drinking establishment where children and parents and park-goers would be subject to
236 patrons who may leave and drive any kind of vehicle, or car, truck, motorcycle,
237 whatever it may be, in a drunken manner and possibly cause a death in that park by a
238 drunk driver, is beyond comprehension. This would set a bad precedence state wide.
239 This is irresponsible government, at best. If other cities, if you did this and other cities
240 did the same thing, then cities all across the state would be requiring parks in the most
241 undesirable locations and I believe the South Carolina Park recreation Tourism and the
242 National Park Services never chosen a park next to and adult oriented business. What’s
243 next? A public park next to an adult strip club? Or in an area zoned all for adult
244 businesses and based on a quote from Ms. Gainey, she said I could quote her in July 14th,
245 2009 she quoted that there was a drunk on her front porch swing which her land is right
246 next to the proposed park. Your town administrator says we’re going to put benches

247 there well I reckon' we're going to have drunks on the benches next, so you're going to
248 have to have the police patrolling this area because one, number one you've got a bar
249 there and I have personally passed by that area that you own and many times have seen
250 people urinating, people stumbling all over to get their keys and get their car and drive
251 off. So many times I've seen things that just, I wished I could have called a cop right
252 then because we could have had a DUI arrest and believe me, I'm against drunk driving.
253 All a person has to do is go to the local park, the South Carolina website and look up,
254 this right here, local parks. Anybody in this audience can look up this; in this
255 description of local parks does not fit what we would call the Sundown park. It says, in
256 in cities and towns throughout South Carolina you'll find fun parks with flowering gardens,
257 lakes, trails, natural areas, soccer area fields, areas for handicapped children,
258 playgrounds, golf courses and more. The Department of Park and Receptions
259 Committee providing the public with social, cultural and recreational activities for
260 everyone to enjoy the year round. Once again, we'll be the laughing stock of the whole
261 state of South Carolina and all the visitors when they come down and they say, well look
262 at that they put a park right beside a beer joint. You all went through all kinds of mess
263 with the smoking ordinance so you just ask yourself about that. The other thing is the
264 land at 808 Surfside Drive which is the address for your considered land swap is
265 adjacent to land that was involved in a contaminated area of where the city of Surfside
266 had a diesel fuel. Because of this diesel fuel this area has excess chemicals of concern
267 within 50 yards of the proposed land at 808 Surfside Drive. With the high water table
268 this (sic) of contaminates by the city of Surfside poses a hazard to possible patrons of the
269 proposed park at 808 Surfside Drive and I get that from this letter dated March 26, 2008
270 from one of your town officials from DHEC and this is a quote, the report indicates that
271 chemicals of concern are present in the soil and water from the tank pit at concentrates
272 that exceed risk based screening levels, so let's build us a park when your lands
273 contaminated; we got a bar right next to it, it makes no sense. I wish government could
274 have some common sense because I don't see it right now. Thirdly, this issue has been
275 politicized; the town administrator tried to make this issue a political issue. July 14th,
276 2009, he implored the whole town council to write your local state senators and your
277 local house representatives to get this pushed through; get the powers up there to write a
278 letter to your senator to get to write a letter to the Park, Recreation and Tourism and say,
279 let's get this land swap done. Now I know for a fact where I live, there's a bunch of land
280 around me that's a much more, much better, if you wanted to make a little small park, I
281 mean, if anybody wants to go down to 412 1st Avenue north and just look around my
282 home, you got land all around me and you want to build a park next to a beer joint? I
283 can just see the parents taking their kids up there and the guy stumbles out of the
284 Sundown bar (sic), you can smell diesel fuel if you walk up on the land in the ditches.
285 Everybody knows that oil and gas floats on top of water, so, the main thing that I'm
286 going to do, all this information, I'm sending it on to the Park, Recreation and Tourism,
287 to the powers that be up there and I'm also going to call my senator, Mr. Cleary, and
288 forget the house members name, slips my mind, but he lives right here on the lake and
289 I'm going to tell them, we don't want a park next to a bar; we don't want a park which is
290 next to a diesel oil contamination with chemicals. This land that has been considered for
291 a park at 808 Surfside Drive fails to meet the location value and anybody who's been in
292 real estate, you know the most important thing in real estate is location, location,
293 location, for a public park and it fails to meet the safety standards. Let me ask you
294 would you like your child to be over around that park; a little small kid and possibly eat
295 some of that dirt, contaminated with chemicals? Would you like to take your wife and

296 your child down there in the midst of the summer when the Sundown biker bar and
297 sports bar is going at full tilt and the music is blaring and the guys are walking out
298 drinking and smoking and everything, which they still do by the way. This is a public
299 safety issue. It's not for the health, the safety of not only the citizens of Surfside but the
300 thousands and thousands of citizens that come down here and use our public parks.
301 We've got plenty of land but we don't need this as a park. Use it for something but not a
302 park, that's the last thing that I'd ever even consider using it for. Let's use some
303 common sense and let's forget about this and look for something better elsewhere and
304 you know all here's town officials know you have other alternative land being available;
305 all you got to do is look on your city map and you'll find it. Thank you."
306

307 **Rebecca Hiatt, 719 North Myrtle Drive:** "When it was brought before council about
308 purchasing this lot it was told that we needed this for parking and I agreed with it. Right
309 now on Tuesdays if there's court, Tuesday, Wednesday, whenever there's court there's
310 supposed to be parking places just for the towns employees and then you got people at
311 the civic center and the volunteer firemen can't park here; you got to go somewhere else
312 to find a parking place. Most of these parking places are already marked off for
313 somebody in particular; there's very few parking places out there and putting a park in a
314 residential area, I don't think a single one of you all would want a bench beside of your
315 house called a park and how many benches is it going to take to be equivalent to .25
316 acres of land especially benches where there is a bar right straight across the street from
317 it and a lot of them from that bar park there so I have some real concerns with that
318 location. I do agree with, we do need to improve the library but for a two mile town to
319 need one as large as what they have in Socastee. I don't really think we need anything
320 that big, especially if it's all on one floor. if it was built up two stories I think it would
321 be a lot better for this town but the one time they said they could not do that or would
322 not do that but I don't think we need to overbuild a library for a town this small. Thank
323 you."
324

325 **Lawrence Belanger 714 1st Avenue North:** "I came here for a different issue that's
326 coming up later on but this has caught my attention and I'd like to just address a few
327 things. We used to own a property at 723 1st Avenue North which is abutted to that lot
328 when Mr. McQuiddy went to go build an office building there I found it ironic that he
329 got shot down and he wanted to give half the land for the city for a parking lot and he
330 couldn't put his office building there but now the city can do what they want with it.
331 The issue I'm getting at is the Kerosene. I have three minor children at home; there
332 were times you couldn't go out in your backyard because the smell was so strong. I was
333 going to report it to the army corp of engineers three years ago but then we transferred
334 the property and sold it so I never got around to doing it but that is a true issue. I used to
335 think it came from the gas station but from what I'm hearing it might be coming from
336 the police station but it is an issue that you have to address because as a past resident
337 who lived right there, there were days you couldn't go out in that backyard, it stunk so
338 bad, it was obnoxious, so, to put the park in (sic) in my opinion they'd have to get the
339 clean up first. The other thing is putting benches there, if you want to see what benches
340 do next to a bar, remember what happened at Nance Park in Myrtle Beach; they removed
341 them in a hurry. I think within a year those benches were removed and it wasn't just
342 nighttime drunks; it was daytime vagrants. It is not a proper place for a park, in my
343 opinion, especially when you were going to have a nice professional office building at
344 one time and refused it and now you're going to put that and the other thing is I'm

345 hearing here the expansion of the library. I don't know enough about it to say yes, no or
346 I agree with it but what I'm looking at is with the rapid growth of Horry County and
347 especially now Deerfield's starting to build over there; they're starting to build on the
348 golf course and so forth; you're talking about expansion now. In ten years, is that going
349 to be enough of an expansion or are you going to have to take more and do you know
350 how you're going to expand in the future? Will this be enough for the next 40 years or
351 just the next 10 years? Has anybody considered that? Thank you."

352
353 **Mary Ann Hunt, 516 Cypress Drive:** "I just want to say we like the library where it is
354 and I'll tell you why. I am raising two granddaughters; they volunteer at the library most
355 of the summers, 3 or 5 days a week; they go to the library on a regular basis. Now if this
356 is over in Deerfield or in Socastee, I mean, then we've got to get in a car and drive them.
357 We live 4 blocks, they ride their bikes and other children do too because they hang with
358 other kids that go there a lot. Also if any of you have been there in the morning you've
359 seen mothers walking their babies in strollers for the Children's reading thing, all the
360 stuff that Ms. Glenda plans for the library and is well used. To even think of moving our
361 library to Socastee, 5 miles over is ridiculous and also you have a lot of seniors that ride
362 their golf carts almost every day, so I think, just leave our library alone where it is and if
363 these gentlemen want to drive to these faraway places fine, let them do it. Thank you."

364
365 **James Gainey, 8th Avenue South:** "Let me clarify the reason why Surfside can't make
366 the land beside the Sundown a parking lot is because it is zoned residential. Surfside
367 Beach knew this when they bought; this is why they said 51 percent park and 49 percent
368 parking lot. I was telling my daughter about Surfside wanting to take the park away and
369 put it beside the Sundowner and she said that may not be a bad idea because then the
370 parents could have a beer while their kids are at the park."

371
372 **Rosemary Purcel, 519 15th Avenue:** "I've heard all about this I can take. Put it by a bar
373 so the mothers can have a beer while the kids are playing, it's not meant to be a park
374 where kids play. I'm with the Friends of the Library and we got up a petition last time
375 this came up and we had over 2,000 names in favor of this. Now you got a handful of
376 people out here that want to oppose it. I can get another petition up if you need it? But
377 we had over 2,000 names on there and my understanding was this is going to be a
378 parking lot but am I correct in saying that you had to have a small portion of it in park
379 before you could put the parking lot in? That was our understanding. Like I say, it's not
380 a park you expect people to go to; it's a place to park when you're shopping or going to
381 the dry cleaners and there will be a couple of benches and a few bushes there, big deal,
382 next to a bar or not."

383
384 **Guy Lanham, 1020 Hickory Drive:** "I am in the minority here tonight but I'm totally in
385 support of keeping the library. Now there may be some issues on this park and I don't
386 know all the details with all this stuff these guys gave but I think it would be a sad day
387 for this town if we lost the library for several reasons, one, the education reason, I mean,
388 we're always talking about educating the kids and what better place to educate the kids
389 than the library and we can walk to, as one lady said, bicycle to it and I go to the
390 Socastee library occasionally for meetings; I'd rather have the meetings here, personally.
391 Secondly, the library as a centerpiece of a town puts a little class in the town; it makes it
392 a better place to live. A good example, my son lives in Davidson, North Carolina and in
393 that town, the main part of that town, the centerpiece is the library and it just adds class

394 as I say. Thirdly, that can make some money for this town. You know it's inviting to
395 tourists, particularly snowbirds who come down here and spend 6 months, 3 months and
396 spend a lot of money and I see them at that library all the time and some people get upset
397 because the snowbirds go in the library. I think it's great. So, just from an economic
398 standpoint I think we'd be better off to keep this library and I totally agree, why would
399 anybody want to take a library out of a town and put it over in Socastee. If you're going
400 to do that you might as well put it in North Myrtle Beach, what difference does it make?
401 Now, there does seem to be some issues with this, what they're calling the Sundowner
402 park, from what it sounds like maybe we need a little more law enforcement over there,
403 but, I think that stuffs got to be worked out and as I say it would be a sad day for this
404 town if we lost the library. Thank you."

405
406 **Joseph Medrick, 514 5th Avenue N:** "I really didn't plan on saying anything this
407 evening, I really didn't as you can tell, I'm either the last speaker or one of the last but
408 the thing that concerns me the most is for our town to be talking about utilizing land that
409 is contaminated for any use whatsoever. I'm an old guy, I had a life at one time where I
410 kept up on details but now I just try to keep up with my grandson and go fishing
411 occasionally and so forth, so, but as I recall the federal government and I don't know if it
412 pertains to this piece of property or not, so, I'm just suggesting that perhaps we, and I'm
413 sure somebody looked at that, Ty or someone, whether we'd be violating any kind of
414 federal law by utilizing land that is known to be contaminated without a clean-up of that
415 land and I do know that land clean-up is extremely expensive and I don't even know
416 because there's disposal of the earth and so forth and so on, so, I really don't know if
417 that can be done, if that's feasible but I think that really should be taken a hard look at.
418 The library thing is important for sure, but really got me bothered is that we're thinking
419 about utilizing land for any purpose without some type of clean-up study being done. If,
420 you know, the benches I agree, that's just going to be for the convenience of the drunks.
421 that's all there is to it. Also I'm an old guy that doesn't like to be blackmailed and call it
422 what you want, it seems like maybe that's where they're putting us and another point,
423 that the contamination and the last issue is that I have not and I apologize I've lived here
424 for 14 years and other than being called in this room for court, it's the first council
425 meeting or public hearing that I've attended so like I said I used to have a life but now
426 I'm busy doing other more important things, but it seems to me like that if half of the
427 things that were said here this evening are true then I think we're trying to skin a cat in a
428 way to get around it like we're using 51 percent for green space, 49 percent for parking
429 ant that's just a feeble attempt to circumvent the true intentions. The true intentions are
430 to put a parking lot there; the true intentions are not to make a green space. We're just
431 trying, in my opinion, to circumvent what, our intent is to circumvent the law to get our
432 means to, as you can tell I used to speak a lot but I'm rather nervous here this evening
433 but I think you get the point, that we're just, the means justifies the end or the whatever
434 way but yeah, I think you get my point and again, but I would really like to see you take
435 a study on contamination. Maybe the land is fine. Maybe it's ok to be used for parking
436 lot; I doubt if half the things that were said tonight are true, I doubt it could be utilized
437 for a public park but it could be utilized for something else, again, I go back to the fact
438 that I'd hate to have somebody just kind of get in my face and tell me to do this or we're
439 going to do that, so, that's what you're elected to do, make decisions, and hopefully
440 you'll take the citizens point of view and do what's best for our town, whatever that may
441 be. Thank you all."

442

443 Mayor Deaton stated that he feels that the council has heard a fairly good balance of
444 both sides and asked if anyone had anything really pertinent that is different than
445 anything already heard.

446
447 There were no other public comments and there were no council comments.

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449 **3. ADJOURNMENT**

450 The Public Hearing meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

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452 Approved: September 22, 2009

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460 K. Allen Deaton, Mayor

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465 Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

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470 Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

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475 Robert F. Childs, III, Town Council

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Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

Mark L Johnson, Town Council

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on file in the clerk's office. The agenda was posted on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee.