



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

August 2, 2010 ♦ 5:30 P.M.

**TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Mayor Deaton and councilmembers Johnson, Blair, Dodge, Smith, Childs and Samples were present. Staff present: Appointed Interim Administrator, Fellner; Clerk Pinnell; Special Events Supervisor, Ellis and Athletics Coordinator, Stalnaker.

2. BUSINESS

a. *Decision Paper: Approve Funding for Dixie League World Series*

Ms. Fellner reported that the town has two teams going to the Dixie League World Series. There is an expense involved in this and this is not a planned or funded expense adding that it is not something that happens every year. The town had one team go to the World Series last year and it is very rare that it happens. Ms. Ellis put together a decision paper and listed various ways to fund the expenditures. The team has a fundraiser at Beef O’Brady’s this evening and the team has asked Wal-Mart if they could set up a table and ask for donations for the team. A spreadsheet was provided to council showing the worst case scenario in funds needed which would be \$11,018.65. The town would take into account the expenses for each team if they won all games. If the teams did not go all the way to the end there would be less expenditures needed. It was confirmed that some of the costs could be offset by fundraising. Ms. Ellis provided possible ways to decrease costs. It is anticipated that when the Scipio land complex opens up there would be a deduction in the future Surfside Beach teams and funding sports events would decrease. Ms. Fellner reported that there is revenue of \$1,711 from the Dixie district tournaments that was not budgeted so this could potentially go towards this cost and donations could be solicited from local businesses. Ms. Dodge asked if the town could ask the parents to consider paying for the children’s hotel rooms. Ms. Ellis stated that most of the hotel rooms are paid for at the World Series by the city that is hosting the event. Ms. Ellis stated that one team is in Alabama and it takes 12 to 13 hours to get to the series and the other team is leaving Thursday to go to Louisiana which is a 15 hour drive; the teams will more than likely rent vans to get to the locations. Ms. Ellis stated that it depends on who is hosting the tournament adding that last year it was in Florence and Florence paid for the hotel rooms and this year the State was in Sumter and Clemson; the total request includes the cost of the two State tournaments and this year the kids had to pay for the hotel rooms and the gasoline costs more. Ms. Ellis reiterated that the request would be for the scenario if both teams won. Mr. Samples stated that years ago he helped coach the Dixie Youth girls’ softball team; his daughter was on the All Star team and the parents were told up front that it was a traveling team and the parents would have to cover the costs of traveling. Mr. Samples stated that he does not know how the boys’ teams operate. Mr. Samples stated “I guess a decision was made, not by council but internally, to fund last year.” Ms. Ellis

52 stated that last year the administrator approved funding but it was nowhere
53 near this amount as far as possible cost. Ms. Ellis stated that last year the
54 State was in Florence and the kids did not have to pay for the motel rooms; the
55 World Series was in Mississippi and the kids stayed in the dorms of the Junior
56 College so there were no costs connected to that stay either. Ms. Ellis stated
57 that in Mississippi each team had a host family who helped to provide meals
58 after each game. Ms. Ellis stated that it is different wherever it is held. Mr.
59 Samples stated that we are all proud of the kids but it is no secret that the
60 Town of Surfside Beach already substantially subsidizes the Recreation
61 program.
62

63 Mayor Deaton stated that he is a professional coach and worked with youth
64 his entire career; almost 40 years adding that it is the best investment that one
65 can make. As a community investing in its youth is probably the best return it
66 could yield for the future. Quality in a program is unique; this community has
67 approximately 300 participating kids and the town provides good programs.
68 Mayor Deaton stated that as a marketing tool the town could not get better
69 advertising or press than the team winning the Dixie All Stars for the Town of
70 Surfside Beach. Mayor Deaton stated that this town gets a lot of bad press
71 and this is good press adding that image is important. Mayor Deaton stated
72 ‘when I got elected I wanted to change the image of Surfside; I didn’t want
73 the perception that we were competing with Atlantic Beach; I want the
74 perception that we were out here as a good strong community and that comes
75 from the bottom up; not from the top down, so, I have no problem funding this
76 program.’ Mayor Deaton stated that “these guys are our heroes; these guys
77 are our champions.”
78

79 Ms. Ellis answered a question posed earlier by Ms. Dodge asking for the
80 parents to pay. Ms. Ellis stated that the team that is going to Louisiana that
81 won their state in Clemson already purchased their own new uniforms; the
82 State does not provide uniforms for the older league. The parents paid \$50
83 apiece to have the South Carolina uniforms printed. The other team that went
84 to Clemson paid \$1,500 for a van to get to Clemson. Ms. Ellis stated that the
85 parents have already put some money into the kids’ games. Mr. Smith made a
86 motion to approve a budget amendment for the All Star team expenses related
87 to the Dixie Leagues State and World Championships and not to exceed
88 \$11,018.65. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. Mr. Samples asked which fund
89 this would come from. It was confirmed that it would come out of the general
90 fund recreation budget. Mr. Samples stated that he would hope in the future
91 that the league would undertake more fundraisers at an earlier point; not only
92 to fund this type of special event but to also defray costs of those individuals
93 who may need financial assistance in the future. Mr. Childs stated that he
94 would like to associate himself to Mr. Samples’ comments. Mr. Johnson
95 stated that he agrees that the quality of the athletes has increased and this is
96 something the town should be proud of and strongly urged Ms. Ellis and
97 anyone else to review future situations adding that this is a matter of planning
98 ahead. Mr. Johnson stated that he does have a problem with the amount of
99 money being budgeted for this; he would like to help them but he also feels
100 that the kids and the parents should do all they can to assist.

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102 Mr. Smith stated that he supports the resolution but also agrees that it is
103 important that the kids try to raise as much money as they can on their own
104 adding that in some areas parents are required to raise a certain amount of
105 money to support the teams and would recommend them to do this going
106 forward and that the Recreation Department should encourage this. Mayor
107 Deaton stated that in his experience he owned a gymnastics/karate school for
108 25 years and won 13 State championships, 9 regional championships and 3
109 national championships; 3 karate national championships and 4 national dance
110 championships and added that it is extremely expensive. Mayor Deaton stated
111 that he recalls when Councilman Johnson's daughter was on his team and they
112 had to send out a letter stating that they were in the need of \$7,000 to meet
113 expenditures for the gymnastics team. As a company they had to "eat about
114 \$7,000 for championships." Mayor Deaton stated that they did not anticipate
115 the level they would reach back to back, but it does occur. Mayor Deaton
116 stated that he and his wife were the last ones to get paid but he considered it
117 an investment; it was their commitment to the youth in their community.
118 Mayor Deaton stated that they had thousands of athletes come through their
119 program and never once demanded payment or uniform coverage because
120 they are children and not every parent is capable of financing the level of play
121 that their child achieves. Mayor Deaton stated that someone at some point has
122 to "foot the bill and it cannot always be the parents." Mayor Deaton stated
123 that these athletes have achieved something perhaps that would be achieved
124 once in a lifetime and if they achieve it twice than that is even more amazing.
125 Mr. Johnson asked if the interim administrator could contact the County
126 council members to see if funds are available from the county to assist with
127 the funding for the Dixie Youth since many of the team members do not live
128 in town but in the county. Ms. Fellner stated that she would be happy to do
129 this. **Ms. Blair, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Dodge, Mr. Smith, Mayor Deaton, Mr.**
130 **Childs voted for. Mr. Samples voted against. MOTION CARRIED.** Ms.
131 Ellis commented that last year the team also won the sportsmanship award and
132 won it again this year.

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134 *b. Decision Paper: Award Split Pump Contract and Amend Budget-HVAC*
135 *contract*

136 Mr. Childs made a motion to award the \$24,911.00 contract to Thomas
137 Incorporated. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. **All voted in favor.**
138 **MOTION CARRIED.**

139
140 *c. Administrators Update*

141 *i. Skate Park bid*

142 Ms. Fellner reported that an error was made on the original bid sent out.
143 Ms. Fellner stated that she had requested the bid to go out at the direction
144 of council which was for asphalt and unfortunately it went out as concrete
145 and it needed to be rebid. The bid was immediately rewritten once the
146 error was found and it was posted to SCBO and the town website. Ms.
147 Fellner stated that she directed the Public Works Director to contact all the
148 bidders to explain that the bids for concrete would be too high and that it
149 would need to be rebid as asphalt. By law the bid must run for 10 days or

150 two weeks given business days. The ending date for bids to be received
151 would be August 13th. Mayor Deaton asked if there have been a lot of
152 complaints this summer regarding the skate park. Ms. Pinnell stated that
153 she has not received additional complaints regarding the skate park this
154 summer. Mayor Deaton stated that the town has a resolution to extend the
155 skate park on 13th Avenue until August 1st. **There was consensus of**
156 **council to keep the skate park open until a new park was built.**
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159 **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

160 *Jo Cribb, 113 12th Avenue S.:* “I just wanted to say that nothing has changed with
161 the skateboard park and it is still very noisy and I’ve had to take my two little ones,
162 my nephew and my little niece in the house because of the language the other day. If
163 you can promise us it’s going to be moved, that’s all I want.”
164

165 *Mayor Deaton:* “Yes, ma’am it’s going to be moved. We are moving it; we’re going
166 to put it right over here.”
167

168 *Wes Sparkes, 1410 N. Dogwood:* “I’m concerned at the design of the current skate
169 park. When it was initially proposed they had 4,000 square feet of land and I was
170 looking at the bid documents today and there’s 2,816 square foot of land. The work
171 that I did when I served on our brief lived Parks and Rec advisory committee and I
172 was researching types of construction, square footage and costs per square foot,
173 unfortunately the day that I was to turn in that data the ball had already run in every
174 which way and we have what we have currently. The professional designers of these
175 facilities tell me that a normal municipality would have between 10,000 and 15,000
176 square foot. A small municipality would be well served with 6,000 or 7,000 square
177 foot. 2,800 square foot would be, for the most part, not unusable but it might be used
178 only by one person. The equipment that we have currently, we were generously
179 given by luck, I mean, just dumb luck; a lady in Florence and it’s my understanding
180 that the proposed budget range for what we’re looking at is about \$14,000; there’s a
181 lot of drainage. I think it would be a decent second step to get it out of these people’s
182 neighborhoods. I think the location is great but in the long term I think the amount of
183 square footage is not going to serve this community well and I think the money will
184 be not well used that way, I mean, my personal opinion, I would really be honored to
185 do some work and planning and help us look at types of construction; how much
186 square footage, perhaps suitable places to put it and go back and let’s do some
187 homework before we make decisions and spend the money and make sure it’s going
188 to be right for the town because I really fear that if we put \$14,000 into this piece of
189 land and it’s not really going to work, then that’s going to be the end of our skate
190 park.”
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192 Mayor Deaton stated that the future plan is for the town to have room for expansion
193 and added that he feels this is a starting point. Mayor Deaton stated that “being
194 within our own boundaries I think that we have a lot more leeway towards expansion
195 and we would certainly welcome any of your input.”
196

197 *Mr. Sparkes:* “I would be happy to serve on the committee. The previous opportunity
198 I had to serve on the committee I made suggestions and at the committees request did

199 actually do work and returned in the following meetings with the work that I was
200 asked to do and I stayed within the parameters that I was asked to do, so, I would be
201 honored . . .”

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203 Mayor Deaton instructed Mr. Sparkes to leave his contact information with the town
204 clerk.

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206 **4. ADJOURNMENT**

207 Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All voted**
208 **in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

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210 Approved: August 24, 2010

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212 Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk
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219 K. Allen Deaton, Mayor

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219 Roderick E. Smith, Town Council

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225 Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

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225 Ann Dodge, Town Council

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230 Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

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230 Mark L Johnson, Town Council

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237 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor Pro Tempore

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241 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. This meeting was transcribed by Clerk Pinnell.
242 In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete
243 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
244 area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee. When *** is used a section of the transcription is inaudible.