



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

August 31, 2010 ♦ 5:15 P.M.

PUBLIC SAFETY  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Chairman Johnson and Subcommittee members Blair and Smith were present. Staff present: Interim Administrator Fellner; Clerk Pinnell, Public Safety Captain Miller and Fire Chief Packard.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only – 5 minutes per speaker**

*Howard Gold, Tartan Lane, Myrtle Beach:* “I was a police officer in the town here at Surfside for 10 years. I’m a retired former city police officer; I retired as a Captain. I was working patrol, canine; I was in charge of our marine division for the inner harbor and my last 10 years I was on the Police Commissioner’s staff. When I came to Surfside, of course I got a nice retirement but I didn’t come to Surfside for the money, I came, at that time, I was the first Beach Patrol Officer that we had here; I was the combination Beach patrol/Community Service Officer/Public Information Officer for the Police Department, Animal Control Officer, which I had to wrestle a couple alligators in my time here, so it was a very . . . full time Beach patrol because I’ve always believed that the Town of Surfside has one industry and that’s the beach; you don’t have the beach, you don’t have anything. You could have all the businesses you want but that’s the bread and butter for Surfside. I happened to have had the pleasure of being one of the training officers for Arron Miller, here, when he first came here and at that time, of course, Police and Fire were separated and it was great; you have a great Fire Chief, you know and he should do what he just does best and that’s run and handle the Fire Department and the Chief of Police which I’ll call Arron the Chief, if you don’t mind, I know he’s a Captain but that puts us on equal terms and I think he’s above me know and I think he does a great job and he should run his Police Department and they should be separated. Only job of the Police Department when I was here was to hook up the hose as we wrapped it around the fire hydrant because we were the only guys to help the Fire Department at two o’clock in the morning, there were only two of us; one police officer and one fireman, so we hooked the hose up by the time the engine got to where it was going, you know, the volunteers were there. When Arron Miller came here I just knew right from the very beginning that he was going to be pretty good; he was a young guy, who only made about 17,000, 18,000 dollars, I believe at that time but the Police Department was divided up with half young guys, new guys and a lot of us retired guys which made the Police Department a well balanced and a well organized division because us older guys, you know, where, we wouldn’t jump out of the car right away we’d follow them for a couple blocks, get to they’d get tired and then we’d exit; the new guys, they’d jump out of the car and try to chase them down for two blocks and we’d ride alongside the suspect and the police officer until we got a little further so it was a great balance there and I hope that, I’d like to see, I hope this department goes back to that a little bit because a lot of us retired officers, you know, we have a very good pension now, we haven’t lost that yet and so we certainly didn’t come here for the

52 \$16,000 that I made a year when I came here but in closing, I would just like to say that,  
53 you know, I think , I know you all might not have the exact say in it but I think you have  
54 a good blend of police and fire, you know, I think that today it takes not like 20 years  
55 ago where police and firemen were dumb and could work as one unit; one could do the  
56 other. Police don't want to be firemen; firemen don't want to be police or we'd have  
57 done it but I'd just like to tell you I think you got a great guy here; I've been out of the  
58 loop; I've been retired, I retired in 1999 from here so I had 33 years; I promised my wife  
59 after 30 years I wouldn't be a police officer anymore so, that's all I have to say. I think  
60 it should be separated; I think that's the way to go; I think that's the correct way to go so  
61 that both of these gentlemen can run their departments professionally and the way it  
62 should be run, not somebody that thinks they know both procedures, but, I'd certainly  
63 like to see them have a shot and I think he's make a good Chief and I think you got a  
64 good Fire Chief here, even though he paid be 10 bucks to say that, but thank you very  
65 much, that's all I have to say."

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67 Mr. Smith made a motion to go into executive session. Ms. Blair seconded the motion.  
68 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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70 **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

71 FOIA 30-4-70(a)(1) personnel matters.

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73 Regular session reconvened.

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75 **4. ADJOURNMENT**

76 Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Blair seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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79 Approved:

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81 Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

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89 Vicki W. Blair, Subcommittee Member

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89 Roderick E. Smith, Subcommittee Member

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93 Mark L Johnson, Chairman, Subcommittee Member  
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102 **Clerk's Note:** This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. This meeting was transcribed by Clerk Pinnell . In  
103 accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on  
104 file in the clerk's office. The agenda was posted on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting  
105 notice was also posted on the town marquee.