



TOWN OF SURF CITY

FEBRUARY 15, 2019 WORK SESSION

MINUTES

Council Present:

Mayor Douglas Medlin

Mayor Pro-Tem William J. (Buddy) Folwer

Nelva Ablury

Donald Helms

Teresa Batts

Jeremy Shugarts

Call to Order

Mayor Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Introductions & Welcome

Today's Work Plan

1. Emergency / Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. Ordinance Amendment Sec. 15-4
3. Welcome Center
4. Resource Institute

Town Council Work Plan Items:

1. Item 1: Emergency Management Strategic Plan Presentation

Mr. Horne explained the planning process and the length of time it takes to put one together. Staff has worked through many aspects of a plan and it is very involved and is coming together. He went on to explain the emergency management process, mission statement, collaboration, coordination, and processes. He explained that emergency management is more than a hurricane, that it is designed to cover all emergency hazards and address the needs of the community. Mitigate, prepare, respond and recovery of the four stages of emergency management. This is a community involvement it takes stake holders, staff members, and citizens to frame this document, this is not just for the government this is for the whole. Surf City is a member of the Southeast Region of Hazard Mitigation. Surf City is in two counties and Onslow is not a member of the Southeast Region Hazard Mitigation. However, he stated he was in talks

with Onslow County and they are going through the process now. We need to make this a priority and move forward. His top six goals:

- I. Develop and maintain a town wide risk-based program
- II. Formally create and EM program within town government
- III. Implement
- IV. Response and Recovery
- V. Education
- VI. Establish and increase resource management

Mr. Fowler questioned the format that was already in place, and stated he wanted something back to Council by May.

Mrs. Batts stated that everyone hates to think the worst, but you never really know what are the what if's. After the fact there are always the would of and should of. Based on what James has said today this is a full time position, you say give him what he needs. This is a lot of time for emergency operations.

Mr. Shugarts questioned the position if it would be moved internally or advertise for.

Mr. Helms stated to stay within.

Mr. Fowler stated we have a manger-council form of government for a reason. At budget time she should tell us that and work those numbers.

The Council came to a consensus to move James Horne into the Emergency Management position as a lateral move and to move forward with the documentation.

2. **Ordinance Amendment Sec. 15-4 (b) Containers Generally**

b) On or after August 25, 1992, it shall be unlawful for any owner or occupant of any dwelling unit to maintain trash cans/containers and/or trash bins or stand on the public right-of-way.

This section of the ordinance pertains to the amount of time that containers can be in the ROW after pickup. Currently in Surf City we have three regular pickup days (Monday-Wednesday) & a seasonal pickup day (Friday, May-September). Previously staff defined the time-frame as 48 hours after pickup and has been policy. Council has the choice to amend the ordinance to specifically define a time-frame, which could only be amended with an ordinance change; or define a time-frame of choice as internal policy. At any time, the time-frame needed to be altered it could without an ordinance amendment, which would be timelier.

Mrs. Loftis discussed the amendment of the ordinance to define a specific time or do it interlay as a policy. It is easier as time goes on to amend a policy than an ordinance. But either way this is needed to give staff direction.

Mr. Helms stated it was not the towns responsibility to move these carts, they need to be removed in a timely manner.

The Council came to a consensus to define an ordinance to put a specific time frame on the removal of the cans and a staggered progressive fine.

3. **Welcome Center**

Mr. Shugarts stated he has previously spoken on his concerns about the budget and the Welcome Center. He wanted to see a re-configuration of the services at this location.

Mayor stated that management has been looking at the Welcome Center and the possibility of it being managed by Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Shugarts asked about the expense a good stewardship for our community.

Mr. Fowler state 1/3 of the \$300,000 is for debt service. The land and location there is one of the most valuable locations in all of town.

Mr. Shugarts stated he would like to see us work with the Chamber there, that the salaries are high. He can't wrap his mind around the high expense.

Mr. Fowler stated this facility could be re-advertised and re-packaged to bring in more. He agreed but the did not think moving the chamber into the building was a good idea as its current location is most suiting.

Mrs. Loftis stated that Chad Merritt would love to have the opportunity to re-work that facility. He has previous experience with facility rentals and is currently over grounds and facilities.

Mrs. Batts stated that the facility is an asset to our community. The chamber is for all surrounding communities and Surf City is for Surf City promotion.

Mayor stated the chamber is not even open on the weekends, which is why the town initially took to incentive to put the welcome center there.

Mr. Helms state that the town pays a ton of money to the chamber every year, and they are not open on the weekends when the largest majority of our visitors are here.

Mr. Shugarts stated if we moved the chamber and they didn't pay rent any more than they could possibly pay someone to work the weekends.

Mr. Fowler stated we are a family valued beach, which is what the welcome center promotes. The chamber is for the businesses not the families. The Chamber does not complement our vision statement. Let the Chamber do what they do and the town focus on the family value of our town. He agreed that re-packaging the welcome center is a good idea but not moving the chamber.

Mrs. Albury stated let's leave the center alone and not move the chamber in.

Mrs. Batts agreed the fees need to be adjusted, and after going through the lease troubles we have had lately she requested a policy that the town would not lease properties anymore.

Mrs. Loftis stated we are a government entity we are not in the business to make money but yes, we could re-cover some of our losses by raising fees or re-modeling. There are four years left on the debt service. During the budget season we can do some hard focus and get quotes.

Mrs. Loftis explained that recently legislation passed to give \$5 million dollars to Topsail Island and Resource Institute (RI) is the administrator of these funds for 5% fee. She stated she felt that this was a political exchange for RI as they have no coastal connection. The three towns on the island have been meeting about RI and we have been task to appoint one member from each town to align which towns get specific funding for specific projects. RI has been given a list of optional projects throughout town. Originally beach nourishment was submitted, and we received information back that beach nourishment is not an eligible project, then we then received information that is was eligible. In the legislation there are not specifics as to what qualifies or does not qualify. We are not sure who is making the rules as to where the funds go and what projects. The other two towns have appointed an elected official.

The Council came to the consensus to appoint Mrs. Batts and move forward with working with RI.