



## **SURF CITY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 4:30 PM**

**Surf City Municipal Complex – 214 W. Florence Way**

**Stream Live: [www.youtube.com/townofsurfcity](http://www.youtube.com/townofsurfcity)**

### **Council Present:**

*Mayor Teresa B. Batts*

*Mayor Pro Tem Don Helms*

*Councilman Buddy Fowler*

*Councilman John Koloski*

*Councilman Jeremy Shugarts*

*Councilman Hugh Cannady*

### **Staff Present:**

*Amy Kimes, Community Development Director*

*David Price, Public Utilities Director*

*Carla Citarelli, Town Clerk*

*Allen Wilson, Fire Chief*

*Jodi Shepard, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director*

*James Horne, Emergency Management Director*

*Jason Lingle, IT Director*

*Chris Wright, IT Specialist*

*Phil Voorhees, Police Chief*

*Jeff Johnson, Police Captain*

*Melissa Moore, Finance Director*

*Kyle Breuer, Town Manager*

*Brian Edes, Town Attorney*

*Matt Abruzzo, Communications Specialist*

- I CALL TO ORDER - *Teresa B. Batts, Mayor*
- II INVOCATION – *Nick Adams, The Gathering Surf City*
- III PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – *Michael Alexander, student at Surf City Schools*
- IV SPECIAL RECOGNITION - *Citizen Appellate Committee- Ms. Kimes, Community Development Director, recognized the committee, beginning with a brief explanation of what they do as a 3-member committee with alternates.*

*Motion to approve the agenda minus item #2 under Public Hearings made by Mr. Helms, seconded by Mr. Koloski, all in favor, motion carried. Item #2, a special use permit has been requested by the applicant to be postponed until the December 5, 2023, meeting.*

V BEAUTIFICATION & ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE AWARDS -

Business of the Month: *Blue Ridge Boutique - Presented by Sandi Monroe and Trudy Solomon of the Beautification & Enhancement Committee to the owner.*  
Home of the Month: *1028 1<sup>st</sup> St., Fire Lily Properties – No one present to accept.*

VI MAYOR'S REMARKS -

*We ask that all in attendance please set your cell phones to silent or vibrate mode. The Council offers the public an opportunity to speak during the meeting. Comments should be limited to three minutes each and must be directly issue oriented with agenda items for this meeting, or an issue upon which the Council has control.*

*Citizen speakers will be acknowledged in the order in which they sign up to speak and will address all comments to the Board as a whole and not one individual Council member. Speakers will address the Council from the speaker's podium at the front of the room and will begin their remarks by stating their name and address. Discussions between Speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed. Groups of individuals seeking to speak on the same topic of concern will need to pick an individual speaker to represent the group as whole. Public comment is not intended to require the Council to answer any impromptu questions. Speakers are expected to be civil in their language and presentation. Any comments where the primary purpose is to promote business or candidacy shall not be allowed.*

*In accordance with the Council's adopted Rules of Procedures, Council members shall reserve responses, if any, for the Council Forum on the agenda.*

VII ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – *see above*

III APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

*Items under Consent are generally of a routine nature. The Board may take action to approve/disapprove all items in a single vote. Any item may be withheld from a general action, to be discussed and voted upon separately at the discretion of the Council.*

1. Approval of Minutes- August 1, 2023 & August 18, 2023
2. Budget Ordinance Amendment – Earl G. & Inez Batts Recreation Complex
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment – Crane Truck
4. Board of Adjustment appointment of ~~Peter Sloan~~ (*see comments below*) as Chair and Will Tate as Vice Chair

*Motion to approve consent agenda, removing Peter Sloan and replacing with Stanley Griffin as chair in item number 4 Board of Adjustment appointments; made by Mr. Helms, seconded by Mr. Koloski, all in favor, motion carried.*

IX PUBLIC COMMENTS -

*Sandi Monroe of 316 N. Shore Dr., chair of the Beautification & Enhancement Committee. She introduced the next couple of projects, which include planting in the large planters on Roland Ave. Oct. 21 9-11AM Soundside park is the next street sweep. They are also continuing the cigarette butt program and will report back on that soon.*

*As a private citizen, she questioned a sign laying on the ground at the corner of Roland and N. Topsail Dr.*

*Stanley Griffin – First, he questioned the GFL trash service, especially since July 4. Their service has declined. Second, he wanted to remind everyone of the Paddle 4 Troops scheduled for September 16 at Sears Landing.*

**X PUBLIC HEARINGS** – *Introduced by Town Attorney, Mr. Brian Edes. He began by explaining the process of a Special Use Permit hearing, including swearing in anyone who would be testifying. Mr. Charles Riggs interrupted, asking to speak directly to the council. He advised that the property owners of Public Hearing #1, would like to table this item and make adjustments to their plans before coming back to council in November of 2023. Motion to table this to November 2023 meeting made by Mr. Helms, seconded by Mr. Koloski, all in favor, motion carried. The public evidentiary hearing was not opened.*

- 1. Special Use Permit – McDaniels Batts/James Howard Batts, PIN 4235-34-9541-0000 & 4235-34-8404-0000 – Postponed until November 8, 2023 by request of property owner.*
- 2. ~~Special Use Permit – Equity Trust Co FBO Robert S Green IRA, PIN 4235-54-2362-0000~~ – Removed from approved agenda; postponed until December 5, 2023.*

**XI OLD BUSINESS** – *Ordinance Revision Section 16-18 (b)- Presented by Mr. Breuer. The citizen appellate committee’s role in the right of way approvals or denials is in question. Council expressed the desire to keep the committee involved in the process.*

*Mr. Fowler made a motion to approve the revision, seconded by Mr. Helms, all in favor, motion carried.*

**XII NEW BUSINESS** – *Budget Ordinance Amendment – Fire Engine Repair – Chief Wilson explained that the fire truck was involved in an accident last year at no fault of employees. Repairs were covered by insurance, but the insurance money must be accepted into the budget in order to pay vendors who made the repairs. Motion made by Mr. Helms to approve, seconded by Mr. Fowler, all in favor, motion carried.*

**XIII MANAGER'S REPORT -**

*Tropics update - I'd like to thank staff for their work and attention from Tropical Storm Idalia. The Town fared well and had minimal damage. Roadway flooding was our biggest issue to deal with and thankfully after it stopped raining, water levels subsided. Communication across the board was well maintained. We continue to monitor active storms in the Atlantic and stress to be prepared now and please don't wait until the last minute.*

*Old PD Property - Unfortunately, we did not meet our reserve to sell the old PD property, the high bid was \$1.5 million. Therefore, we'll continue to market the property for future sale.*

*Traffic Signal Timing - As a follow-up to our last meeting, I wanted to provide you with an update on the traffic signal timing that is leading to delays, primarily on exiting traffic from the Island. NCDOT division staff as well as staff in Raleigh reviewed some of the issues we've been seeing with traffic being backed up. As a result, adjustments will be made, and the final tweaks will be made in the coming weeks. As noted, we're at the tail end of the season and they will revisit the system again next year, toward the end of June, to try and identify any additional improvements.*

*S. Shore Stormwater Project - The Town received two bids for the project after readvertising from the initial bid opening. It is anticipated that a contract and budget amendment will be presented to Council at their September workshop. With this project, NCDOT will begin doing their portion by installing the necessary piping under the roadway so that this can be completed prior to their larger resurfacing project. Beginning next week, they will begin cutting asphalt and setting manholes, which will require periodic lane closures; and then, starting October 11<sup>th</sup>, a continuous single lane closures will begin for them to install drop inlet boxes and lay pipe. Once this is completed, the cut areas will be patched. This portion of the project is expected to be complete by November 30<sup>th</sup>. A dedicated website has been developed with project details and*

information and will be updated if schedules change. You'll be able to find this under our "Special Projects" page.

*Skatepark Design - We've been able to sign contracts for the new skatepark, part of the Earl G. and Inez Batts Recreation Complex. Artisan Skateparks will be doing the design and construction of the new facility and will be meeting with the design team, parks advisory committee, and staff to help refine the end product. We'll schedule that meeting for the beginning of October.*

*Utilities - The Sea Oaks and NC210 water tanks are scheduled to be cleaned in the coming weeks, so if you see people up there working that's what is going on. Well #6 is under construction, we're expecting our first state inspection of that this week. This will tie into the larger water infrastructure project, bringing redundancy and resilience to the Island by providing a second waterline under the intracoastal waterway.*

*9/11 Walk - The annual 9/11 memorial walk will be held next Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, starting at Soundside Park. The walk begins at 8:46 am so if you plan on participating, please be early.*

#### XIV TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT - No report

#### XV COUNCIL FORUM –

*Mr. Koloski thanked everyone in attendance and town employees for working during the storm last week. Mr. Fowler noted the abundance of people over Labor Day weekend. He thanked citizens for their patience. He mentioned safety being an issue and encouraged anyone who has visitors to speak to their family and friends about being safe when visiting the ocean. He spoke of possibly improving traffic issues, followed by a thank you to the police and fire departments.*

*Mr. Helms thanked everyone for coming, and thanked employees for their work during the storm. He also stressed the dangers of the ocean. He also mentioned the 9-11 walk on September 11 that will start at 8:46AM and invited all to attend.*

*Mr. Shugarts mentioned that he met with the manager earlier in response to Sandi's comment about the sign that was down and in response to Stanley Griffin's concern about the garbage pickup. He mentioned Surf City Live and that the tickets sold out on the first day. He said that they have collected over 200k to go towards the event. It is a positive event for the community that brings in more people but doesn't cost the taxpayers any money. He then spoke about the parking company and his appreciation for them. As a council, they decided that paid parking would be a better choice than raising taxes for beach nourishment. In addition, this council made sure that the tax paying citizens get 2 free parking passes. He last added that the advisory boards for council should be appreciated. He then recognized all the chairpersons that were present in the audience.*

*Mr. Canady thanked everyone that came out and thanked the town staff.*

*Ms. Batts asked everyone that serves on a committee or board in Surf City to stand up and they were recognized and thanked. She then spoke on paid parking and the purpose it serves. Due to paid parking, taxes did not have to be raised; otherwise, they would have to be raised approximately \$0.05 to match that revenue.*

*Ms. Batts spoke on communication during the storm (Hurricane Idalia) last week and how she would prefer to over communicate than not.*

XVI CLOSED SESSION- Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (5)

*Motion made by Mr. Helms to go into closed session, seconded by Mr. Koloski, all in favor, motion carried.*

*Closed session commencement 5:06PM*

*5:29PM Motion made to return to open session by Mr. Helms, seconded by Mr. Fowler, all in favor, return to open session*

XVII ADJOURNMENT- *Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Helms, seconded by Mr. Koloski, all in favor, meeting adjourned 5:29PM*