



Town of Southern Shores

"A Town of Volunteers"

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Recessed Council Meeting

July 29, 2002

9:00 a.m.-Pitts Center

1. Mayor Sutherland called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. Mayor Sutherland led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mayor Sutherland recognized Julian Bibb, intern reporter for the Sentinel by presenting him with a Town mug. He is returning to the Raleigh/Durham area. He thanked Council and stated that he has enjoyed working on the Outer Banks.
4. Public Comment-No one signed up to speak.
5. Public Hearing-Town Hazard Mitigation Plan update

Mayor Sutherland stated that the state submitted criteria to have the plan updated and approved by August 1, 2002 but since has extended that deadline for approval until November 2003.

Mike Hejduk, Code Enforcement Administrator, suggested that Council reconvene the Floodplain Management Planning Committee to review and discuss the upcoming suggested changes. He stated that some of the committee members have changed and new appointments need to be made.

M. Hejduk presented a visual presentation reviewing the mitigation hazards to be addressed in the updated version of the Town's Hazard Mitigation and Floodplain Management Plan. Areas of discussion were wind, flooding, wildfire, shoreline erosion, and freezing/snow/ice.

Mayor Sutherland recommends that no action on suggested changes be taken today but to reconvene the committee. All agreed.

6. Long Range Plan review

Mayor Sutherland stated that Council accepted the plan as submitted but has not adopted it. He opened the floor for discussion by Council. Each chapter was discussed. See list for discussion and action if any.

7. Maritime Forest/Vegetation Report

Mayor Sutherland stated that Council accepted the plan as submitted and now will review the recommendations.

Mayor Sutherland stated that the committee provided policy options for Council's consideration and of those the developing and maintaining a widespread educational program was agreed upon to be the best. He stated that this program chaired by Dick Wood is already in progress.

D. Wood stated that the committee is gathering materials and should be ready in a few weeks to submit something for Council's review. He stated it would be in the form of single sheets of information to be sent to property owners. He recommended that property owners of undeveloped lots should be the first to receive the information. He stated that a matching grant has been applied for and the information of the awarding of the grant should be known in late October. He stated that the town might need to supplement funds for the printing and mailing of the information.

Councilman Kennedy stated that he supports the expenditures.

Councilman Smith asked if the materials would be in the form of a booklet? D. Wood said that a cover letter with an attached page (s) of suggested general rules of conservation for trees and vegetation for all areas, developed and undeveloped is what the committee had in mind. Councilman Smith stated that a \$20,000 grant seems a little high and asked what the money would be spent on?

D. Wood stated that a vegetation survey with a map of the area could be produced. A consultant or arborist may be needed or committee members may be able to attend appropriate training. He stated there are mailing cost, paper, copying would be done in-house etc.

Councilman Campbell stated that the committee be aware that there are times when trees need to be removed in the Town right-of-way for safety. He stated that Fire Chief Bakken has identified some 20 trees that need to be removed and he and the committee should work on this together.

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Sarah Schwartz stated that the NC Cooperative Extension Office has an arborist on staff and can be used at no charge.

Councilman Denny stated that all mechanism should be used to inform the property owners of undeveloped lots of the concerns for tree/vegetation management. He stated the information could be put in all the newsletters (Town and Civic Associations) as well as on the Town's website.

Councilman Smith stated that the vegetation canopy has increased significantly and there are approximately 760 undeveloped lots. He supports the education program but not the hiring of a consultant and the wasting of taxpayer's money. He recommended that the committee go slow and see if spending money on a consultant is needed. He stated that he does not want this to become a bureaucratic program.

D. Wood stated that the committee is volunteer and that the committee would spend the money wisely. He stated that not all costs would be monetary. They would also be in-kind and volunteer time is calculated into money usually under the grant terms. The terms of the grant are unknown at this time.

Mayor Sutherland stated that Council is not ready to draft a tree ordinance.

Councilman Kennedy stated that the draft right-of-way ordinance has provisions that certain trees need Council's approval before there are removed.

It was stated that the information provided by the committee should be made available in the building inspections office when a lot disturbance permit is requested. M. Hejduk already brings these issues to the property owner or contractor's attention.

It was suggested that a council member be on the committee. Councilman Campbell stated that at one time there was a councilman appointed to beautification but the duties have been changed. Mayor Sutherland asked Councilman Smith if he would like to be councilman for environment. Councilman Smith said he would consider it.

Mayor Sutherland suggested that seedling nurseries as a seed bank could be provided to the citizens. He asked S. Schwartz to submit a statement that could be placed on the Town's website regarding this idea.

Mayor Sutherland stated that this committee is on going and that Council would consider adopting it as a permanent board.

Councilman Kennedy stated that the median strip at E. Dogwood needs to be landscaped. Vegetation needs to be cut back.

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Councilman Smith agreed and suggested removing shrubs and other vegetation, in the fall and replacing with low-ground cover vegetation.

Mayor Sutherland adjourned the meeting at 11:30 p.m. All agreed.

ATTEST:

Respectfully submitted:

Paul Sutherland
Mayor

Carin Gordon
Town Clerk

DRAFT 8/21/02

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List of discussion and actions of Council upon review of the Town's Long Range Plan
(2001)

Chapter

1-Fire Dept.

Councilman Smith stated he supports the recommendations to keep the Fire Dept. voluntary and to continue to recruit members. He stated that the dept. continues to do a great job. All agreed.

2-Police Dept.

Tom Gjestson, Town Manager stated that he recommends to maintain the department at ten employees for the immediate future and to apply for grants where applicable. All agreed.

3-Town Personnel

All agreed with the recommendations to continue to do what is needed to ensure retention and recruitment of qualified Town employees.

4-Consolidation of Services Among Municipalities

All agreed that the consolidation of administrative services, police or fire is not needed at this time among the municipalities.

5-Services for the Elderly

Mayor Sutherland stated that Dare County does need an Assisted Living facility and that Albemarle Hospital is seriously looking into such a facility.

6-Traffic

All agreed that non-vehicular traffic has increased and that they will continue to provide safe paths by constructing multi-use paths where applicable, to discourage cut through traffic in Town, to do whatever is needed to maintain the character of the Town and provide safe traffic flow on the main roads.

Long Range Plan review list

Chapter

7-Road and Right-of-Way Maintenance

All agreed with the recommendations. Councilman Denny stated that he is working on a 5-year roads program and will be submitting something to Council in the near future. He stated that the ITRE study would continue to be used and aggressive road program for replacement would be implemented. Councilman Kennedy stated that a draft right-of-way ordinance is before Council for review.

8-Proliferation of signage in the community

Mayor Sutherland recommended that an integrated sign plan be put in place. He stated that an effort has already been made to reduce the signage in Town. Councilman Denny stated that the SSCA has removed some signs. Councilman Campbell stated that residents and tourist are confused regarding what property belongs to the Town and what belongs to the civic groups in Town. He recommended improving the grading at the T's and to allow parking at those sites with the proper signage.

Chief Pledger stated that rental companies are giving out the wrong parking information to their renters. Mayor Sutherland stated that the correct information would be in the next Town newsletter. It was suggested that the rental companies receive a letter from the Town to educate their clients regarding allowable parking areas with proper permits displayed.

It was suggested that the language on the signs for allowable parking be larger. It was stated that people don't read the fine print.

All agreed with the recommendations.

9- Vegetation Management

Mayor Sutherland stated that Council appointed a committee to evaluate this issue and the committee has submitted a report for Council's review. He stated that review would be held during this meeting.

Long Range Plan review list

Chapter

10-Town Waterway System

One of the recommendations from the committee is that the Town should recommend that property owner's bulkhead the canal front properties.

Ursula Zdardsi stated that she agrees property owners should be made aware of the erosion problems but that Council should not mandate the use of bulkheads. She suggests that language used should advise that an acceptable (i.e.rip-rap) way be used to maintain the canal banks.

Councilman Campbell stated that unprotected canal areas might need dredging and that a fee be charged to the property owner to have the dredging done. He stated that language should be included in the Town Code regarding this.

Mayor Sutherland stated that grants might be available for some of the cost of dredging. He stated that the SS Boat Club has provided canal inspections on a regular basis and report problem areas to the Town. The Town then sends letters to the canal front property owners telling of the problem and stating that it is their responsibility to clear their canal area.

A Town waterway task force was appointed consisting of Tom Gjestson, Councilman Denny, Ed Lawler, and Guy Hellwege. Councilman Campbell recommends that the task force get together to review the Long Range Plan committee's recommendations.

Councilman Denny stated that the Town has provided water testing for over five years at the wading beach and the beach has been closed several times for long periods of time due to high readings of E. coli and fecal coliform. He suggested that a change in the testing program should be considered and he would like to discuss this with the Town Manager.

Sarah Schwartz stated that drought has a negative effect on water testing. She stated that there are many reasons for the high readings of bacteria even the fish kills in other parts of the state due to the runoff.

Long Range Plan review list

Chapter

11-Beach Management

Mayor Sutherland stated that the recommendation by the committee is that Council should oppose the beach nourishment program. He stated that Council at this time should not take a stand either way.

Councilman Smith stated adamantly again that he opposes the beach nourishment program. It is a never-ending project and is extremely expensive, millions of dollars. He stated that if the Town doesn't take a position then it looks like the Town supports it.

Councilman Kennedy stated that he would not go on record opposing the project because other areas need it. He stated that everyone pays for it through federal, state and local taxes.

Councilman Campbell stated that he also is not in favor of opposing the program and Councilman Denny agreed.

Council does not agree with all the recommendations made by the committee.

12-Electrical Power

Mike Hejduk recommended that placing utility lines underground should be addressed in the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan and that grants should be sought and applied for to accomplish this.

13-Phone Service

It was recommended that Councilman Campbell write a letter to the utility companies regarding the placement of the remaining lines underground.

14-Residential Water Supply

Mayor Sutherland announced that Mayor Muller (Nags Head) will be attending a Council meeting to discuss their septic health initiative program.

Long Range Plan review list

Residential Water Supply cont'd

Discussion was held regarding a possible mandate set by the Town that would require property for sale would need to have a septic inspection before the closing of the sale of the property. It was also discussed that an education and/or incentive program could be initiated to encourage the residents to be aware of the need for clean water.

15-Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling

Councilman Kennedy stated that the services are not economical and there are limited choices of providers for the services but that the Town will continue to contract with the best source.

Ursula Zdzarski asked how the cost of recycling is figured? T. Gjestson stated that the Town is charged by the total number of households.

Councilman Campbell stated that T. Gjestson and Councilman Kennedy had great negotiating skills to keep the costs down.

16-Zoning

17-Open Space and Land Acquisition

Council did not agree with the recommendation made by the committee to maintain the Town's zoning with no change. They agreed that zoning changes are inevitable. In the future Council may need to purchase property and provide green space. Zoning changes have taken place in that some of the commercial zone has been used for residential which is a plus.

Councilman Kennedy stated that in accepting the Long Range Plan it doesn't mean that Council needs to agree with all their recommendations.

18-Southern Shores Budget

Councilman Smith stated as before he doesn't agree with the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance being maintained at twelve months. It is his opinion that the money should be given back to the people as a reduction in taxes.

Mayor Sutherland stated that Council voted to maintain the Undesignated Fund Balance at 75/100% and Councilman Smith voted no.

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Long Range Plan review

Budget cont'd

Mayor Sutherland stated that there are a lot of unknown issues to be considered regarding the Town's budget. He stated land transfers, Powell Bill fund, occupancy tax, utility taxes, the incorporation of Duck and the State's budget all have a bearing on it.

Mayor Sutherland stated that the committee did a great job on the plan.