

Council Meeting
May 6, 2003
7:00 p.m.-Pitts Center

1. Mayor Sutherland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He announced that Councilmen Kennedy and Denny are absent. He stated that to approve ordinances four (4) members need to be present, consideration of ordinances will be deferred until the June meeting. A simple majority is needed for all other votes.
2. Mayor Sutherland led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Moment of Silence

Mayor Sutherland asked that a moment of silence be held for Loretta Heckman, Charlie Felthousen and Arlene Turner.

4. Public Comment-No one spoke
5. Consent Agenda-Approval of Council minutes-April 1, 2003, monthly Building Inspections report, monthly Tax report. Councilman Campbell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Smith seconded. Approved unanimously.
6. Planning Board Recap-April 21, 2003

Dan Shields Planning Board Chairman reviewed the presented recap.
Site Plans reviewed: Southern Shores Crossing, Southern Shores Landing, SSCA-Conditional Use-Tennis Courts; Draft amended ordinances: dwelling, large home in commercial district, campaign signs, and municipal signs.

Mayor Sutherland moved to set public hearings at the June Council meeting for draft zoning amendments for dwelling, large homes, municipal signs and a conditional use hearing request from the SSCA to construct a gazebo and drinking fountain at the tennis courts at the Hillcrest summit. Councilman Campbell seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mayor Sutherland moved to approve the presented site plan for Southern Shores Landing (PUD) with the conditions as recommended by the Planning Board and that the Mayor sign the recordation plat for Unit 29. Councilman Campbell seconded. Approved unanimously.

Planning Board Recap cont'd

Mayor Sutherland moved to approve the amended site plan for Southern Shores Crossing for an addition as presented. Councilman Smith seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. Public Hearings

a. Draft amendment to zoning ordinance-required copies of site plans submitted to Planning Board for Review (Section 10.04 B.2.).

Mayor Sutherland opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. and read the draft amendment. No one signed up to speak. He closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

b. Draft amendment to zoning ordinance-definition clarification, Dwelling, Multiple to Dwelling, Multi-Family (Section 3.02).

Mayor Sutherland opened the public hearing at 7:17 p.m. and read the draft amendment. No one signed up to speak. Mayor Sutherland closed the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

NOTE: Vote will be held at the June meeting.

8. Resolutions

a. Army Corp of Engineers-Opposing privatization of certain offices of the civil works division

Mayor Sutherland presented the resolution and moved to adopt as presented. Councilman Campbell seconded.

Councilman Smith stated that he is opposed to the resolution (see attached).

Approved 2 to 1.

b. HB429-SB534-Removal of non-conforming structures

Mayor Sutherland presented the resolution and explained that removal of non-conforming structures and billboards removed by a municipality would be at a cost to the municipality.

Councilman Smith stated that he is opposed to the resolution (see attached).

Councilman Campbell moved to adopt the presented resolution. Mayor Sutherland seconded. Approved 2 to 1.

Resolutions cont'd

c. Surplus Property

Mayor Sutherland read the resolution to donate a lap top computer from the Police Dept. to the District Attorney's office in Elizabeth City. He moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Councilman Campbell seconded. Approved unanimously.

9. Old Business

a. Government Access Channel-Consideration of changes to Interlocal Agreement

Councilman Campbell moved to adopt the changes as presented. Mayor Sutherland seconded. Approved unanimously.

b. Appoint Board member to Non-Profit Organization-Build the Bridge, Preserve Our Roads-Robert Palombo

Mayor Sutherland explained that initially Mickey Hayes was appointed but he resigned. He moved to appoint R. Palombo to the board. Councilman Smith seconded. Approved unanimously.

c. Town Clean Up Day Update

Mayor Sutherland praised Jody and Charlie Hess for the great job they did. J. Hess gave an update and said it was a great success and thanked everyone who participated.

d. MAPPS Study Update-Personnel and Pay Classifications

T. Gjestson stated that the draft is complete. He stated that Becky Veazey would present the draft to Council on June 2 at a special meeting.

10. New Business

a. Solid Waste Plan Update (Set public hearing-June)

Mayor Sutherland stated that Councilman Kennedy has presented a working copy for review and the public hearing will be held at the June Council meeting. Councilman Campbell stated that a copy is available at Town Hall.

b. Cemetery Landscaping Contract

Mayor Sutherland moved to approve the contract as presented and asked Council to authorize his signature. Councilman Campbell seconded. Approved unanimously.

New Business cont'd

c. Town Hall and Remote Site Landscaping Contract

Mayor Sutherland moved to approve the contract as presented and asked Council to authorize his signature. Councilman Smith seconded. Approved unanimously.

d. Waive planning and building permit fees-SSCA

Councilman Campbell moved to waive the planning and building permit fees for the SSCA to construct a gazebo and drinking fountain at the tennis courts at the Hillcrest summit. Councilman Smith seconded. Approved unanimously.

11. Council's Agenda

Councilman Smith called upon Fire Chief Bakken to give monthly fire report. No written report was presented. He did report that Andy Cagiano has pneumonia and that it is predicted to have a heavy hurricane season this year.

Councilman Campbell read a letter addressed to Mayor Sutherland announcing that he is resigning from Council effective June 1, 2003. He stated that it was a difficult decision but that the time was right. He stated that he and his wife would be moving closer to family members. He stated that he is extremely proud of his service to the town and an honor to have served. He thanked everyone for their best wishes and expressed his best wishes to council, the town manager, the staff and all the great people of Southern Shores. (Copy of letter of resignation attached)

He moved that his vacancy be filled as soon as possible. Anyone wishing to fill his vacancy until the next general election and agree to run for either a two or four-year term should submit a resume at Town Hall. Mayor Sutherland seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mayor Sutherland stated that the words in Joe's letter sells short what Joe has done for the town and that he regrets his leaving but that he understands. He stated that it is with regret that he sees him leave one of his best friends. He stated that a broadcast email would be sent tomorrow requesting anyone wishing to apply should submit a resume to the Town Clerk.

12. Mayor's Agenda

Mayor Sutherland submitted a letter (before the meeting) for Council's review and approval asking that NC Representative Bill Culpepper support the Clean Water Trust Fund (Senate version). He stated that there is a serious stormwater runoff with all the rain.

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Mayor's Agenda cont'd

Councilman Smith stated that he is not prepared to vote on something that he just received tonight. He stated that he thought Council agreed that procedure would not be handled like this but often things are brought up at the last minute. He needs to do research before he votes on issues.

Mayor Sutherland stated that it is a time sensitive issue and he moved to have authority to sign the letter as presented.

Councilman Campbell stated that he has no problem and would second the request for approval. Approved 2 to 1. Councilman Smith voted no.

Mayor Sutherland reported that upon a suggestion made by Al Smith a committee was appointed (Mayor Sutherland, Councilman Campbell, and Al Smith) to draft recommendations for a Town Veteran's Memorial.

Al Smith stated that a bid package was submitted and that the Town received two bids. He stated that Davis Monument from Elizabeth City was low bidder in the amount of \$3,243.99 it is hoped that the project would be finished by the end of June. He stated that there would be an additional cost for brickwork.

Mayor Sutherland moved to accept the bid and that he be authorized to sign the contract. Councilman Smith seconded. Approved unanimously.

Al Smith extended an invitation for all present to give Councilman Campbell a big hand for all that he has done for the Town and he stated that he would be missed.

Mayor Sutherland stated that the Build the Bridge campaign is still going strong. A group known as the Military Officers of America supported the "build the bridge" resolution.

Mayor Sutherland stated that everyone present could take a new Town pin.

Town Manager's Agenda

T. Gjestson addressed the meeting and announced that he would retire after his five years with the Town. He stated that when he came to work here the Undesignated Fund Balance (UFB) was \$600,000.00 with a .22 cents tax rate and now the UDFB is \$2.4 million dollars with a .18 cent tax rate, lowest in Dare County and the town is in debt to no one. He stated that he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease about three years ago.

Town Manager's Agenda cont'd

T. Gjestson stated that he and his wife, Judy are planning to move to Arizona to be with their daughter and his sister. He stated that he and Judy appreciate everyone's support and especially council's. He stated that he is willing to remain until Council has selected a replacement.

Mayor Sutherland stated that the Town has received a "double-whammy" tonight in losing two good people who have helped this town immeasurably.

He stated that previous municipal government experience was one of the qualifications they were looking for when hiring a Town manager but that they choose Tom who was able to expand the undesignated fund balance by four times and maintain the low tax base. He stated that the Town implemented a public works department and the town is growing with estimated 2,600 permanent residents and in large Tom has been at the apex. He stated that he would be missed.

Councilman Campbell stated he has had a wonderful stay and that there is no one more capable and more concerned with the well being of the Town then Tom. He stated that it has been an honor to work with him.

Councilman Smith stated that he appreciates the hard work and that it has been a pleasure to work with the both of them and that he wishes each of them the best.

Town Attorney Agenda-none

Mayor Sutherland moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Approved unanimously.

ATTEST:

Respectfully submitted:

Mayor

Town Clerk