



Town of Southern Shores
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Town of Southern Shores
Special Council Meeting
March 23, 2009
7:00 P.M.-Pitts Center

Minutes

The Southern Shores Town Council met on March 23, 2009 at the Pitts Center.

The following Council Members were present: Mayor Don Smith, Brian McDonald, Jodi Hess, Kevin Stroud and Jim Pfizenmayer. Also present were: Charles Read, Town Manager, Carrie Gordin, Town Clerk, Merrie Smith, Executive Assistant and Bonnie Swain, Finance Officer.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. led the Pledge of Allegiance and held a moment of silence for our troops serving around the world.

Mayor Smith stated there is one business item submitted for Council's approval before the main presentation on the preliminary FY2009-2010 budget is presented.

Council Member McDonald moved to excuse Mayor Smith from the discussion and the vote on Resolution 2009-03-04 regarding retiree health insurance due to his wife being a town employee. Council Member Hess seconded. The motion passed with Mayor Smith and Council Members McDonald, Hess, and Stroud and Pfizenmayer voting aye; no council member voting no and no Council Member absent.

Council Member McDonald stated the insurance company has requested additional language in the resolution that Council previously had approved. He read the changes.

Council Member Hess moved to approve Resolution 2009-03-04 as presented. Council Member Pfizenmayer seconded. The motion passed with Council Members McDonald, Hess, and Stroud and Pfizenmayer voting aye; no council member voting no and Mayor Smith excused from voting.

Mayor Smith returned to the meeting and then turned the meeting over to the Town Manager for the budget presentation.

Mr. Read welcomed everyone and stated staff has started working on next year's budget early to secure the input of our citizens and to facilitate more deliberate consideration of their ideas and concerns. The presentation is to educate the citizens on how the budget is developed and to show that we are being conservative in our approach consistent with the nation's economic crisis. He stated a new concept was implemented teaming members of Council with Town Department Heads in development of their respective budget requests. Council Member McDonald with Tim Gregory-Public Works, Council Member Hess with Bonnie Swain-Administration, Council Member Stroud with Alvin Rountree-Code Enforcement and Council Member Pfizenmayer with Chief Kole-Police.

He stated this presentation was presented to Council at their February 20 Retreat. He stated the presentation will be posted on the Town's website and the Broadcast Email and citizen feedback forms are available. He stated he is working closely with Bill Gleason on developing a conservative budget that addresses the needs of the Town's first ever CIP as well as the anticipated initiation of the canal dredging project while being mindful to Council's mandate to avoid debt and adopt a spend-as-you go policy during these financially challenging times. He introduced Bill Gleason, chairman of the Capital Improvement Plan Committee (CIP) and a member of the Planning Advisory Group.

Mr. Gleason presented a very informative Power Point presentation followed by the department heads reporting their individual budgets.

The Town Manager stated personally and professionally he would like to thank the volunteers for their work and for Council taking their time to work with the department heads on this process

[Clerk's Note: A copy of the Power Point Presentation is available at Town Hall and can be found on the Town website].

Following the presentation the floor was opened for public comment.

Norman St. Laurent, 63 Hickory Trail, thanked Mr. Gleason and Council for their hard work. He stated the national, state and county economies are all showing major shortfalls. He stated state salaries for the higher positions are in the six figures (\$300,000+) and that is the tax payer's money. He supports Council using our money for a strong police department and fire department. He said the police cars need to be safe and if they need new cars they should have them, give them what they want. Council should ask the right questions. He asked if town staff is looking into federal stimulus money in the way of grant availability especially for the police department. The Town Manager stated we are.

Nancy Wendt, 146 Beech Tree Trail, applauded the work Bonnie Swain and Bill Gleason have done on the budget. She stated the citizens understand much better. She stated there are two parts of this issue one is the development of the CIP and two actually doing it or dealing with what issues develop if not done. She stated Council, Bonnie and the department heads work to show what CIP projects can be done. The key thing to remember is if there is a major storm event the town probably will not get federal, state or county funds to help. She stated we should look at our own money before we earmark projects such as capital improvements. She would like to see separate workshops held for capital projects and storm events.

Jim Kranda, 82 Poteskeet Trail, commented that the \$12,000 fuel surcharge for recycling seems high since fuel has come down in price by fifty percent. He stated that should be looked at again.

Frank Sciacchitano, 203 Wax Myrtle Trail, thanked town staff and the volunteers on the extensive work that has been done on the preparation of the budget. He supports Mr. Kranda's comment on the projected \$12,000 fuel charge and that it should be challenged. He asked if consideration in the development of the budget has been given on what adverse affects will there be due to the county property reassessment. He stated he is concerned about the road repair that was done on Kingfisher and Soundview stating he feels the work is deplorable and road improvement work to date should be evaluated. He stated he is concerned that over the past 3-4 years and \$200,000 later nothing has been done on the canal dredging project.

The Town Manager stated there is progress being made regarding the canal dredging project and the Town should have a permit to begin dredging in the fall. He stated the Kingfisher/Soundview Trail asphalt rejuvenation project is an experimental project with periodic testing being done over a three-year period.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Gleason and everyone for coming. He stated Council is always available.

Hearing no other business Council Member Hess moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Council Member McDonald seconded. The motion passed with Mayor Smith and Council Members McDonald, Hess, and Stroud and Pfizenmayer voting aye; no council member voting no and no Council Member absent.

ATTEST



Don Smith, Mayor

Respectfully submitted:



Carrie Gordin, Town Clerk

