

The Town Council held a workshop on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 4:00 pm in the Town office located at 121 North Gate Road, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572.

Present	Mayor	Gary Pell
	Members of Council	Rebecca Hinds Huston Huffman Paul Rotondo Abigail Stewart
	Chief of Police	Kyle Lamparter
	Town Clerk	Sheila Hamilton

With a quorum present, Mayor Pell called the meeting to order. The first item on the agenda was the floodplain sewer. We received an email from the City Manager of North Myrtle Beach concerning the sewer system in the floodplain and the fact that it has not been completed. Mayor Pell drafted a letter of response indicating that the Town is committed to completing the floodplain sewer system. The Town Attorney will review the letter. Upon his review, the letter will be put on Town letterhead and hand delivered to Mr. Mahaney, City Manager and copies will be mailed to Mayor Hatley (North Myrtle Beach); Mayor John Rhodes (Myrtle Beach); and, City Manager John Pedersen (Myrtle Beach). At one time, we met with Grand Strand Water & Sewer and they agreed to assist the Town in completing the system. However, the City of Myrtle Beach refused to relinquish ownership of the system and the Town is not authorized to be in the sewer business. Without Myrtle Beach, the Town's other option would be a referendum which would take time and it would be difficult to predict the outcome. Neil Wright will continue to work with Myrtle Beach to get the sewer system completed. Mayor Pell will provide an update at the town meeting. Mayor Pell instructed the clerk to add first reading of an ordinance in title only amending the stormwater ordinance.

The next item is lot clearing. The clerk advised she obtained bids for each lot from four contractors including C&H Lawn Care (Thomas Samaha); M&M Tree Service; Vereen Tree Service; and, Wayne's Tree Service. Letters were mailed Saturday, January 31st to the property owners of the lots to be cleared. The letter included options they have to get the lot cleared; the bids from the four contractors; and, a copy of the Town Code on property stewardship. The owners can contact their own contractor. They can select a contractor who provided a bid

directly or they can send the Town a check payable to the contractor for the amount of the bid. Once the lot is cleared by the contractor and we approve the appearance, we will release the check to the contractor and send the owner a receipt. We requested that the lots be cleared by March 1st. If lot #159 fails to respond to the letter as he has done in past years, we will probably refer this to the Hearing Board as a nuisance.

The next item is budget review. Councilwoman Stewart advised that when Neil Wright was here, we discussed the legal expenses for the lawsuit and its affect on the budget. We could amend the FY2015 budget relating to legal expenses. Neil has assured us that we will receive a full billing by March 1st. One option would be to take the \$25,000 deposited annually into the road fund and apply it toward the legal expenses for the suit. We are presently unable to estimate the cost, so we can only hope for the best and prepare for the worst. We will discuss the road plans later in the meeting and if needed, we can amend the budget 2014/2015 with first reading in March town meeting.

The next item is the audit. Councilwoman Stewart advised that the audit is finished and she expects a draft report within the week. The report will also include a write-up on the lawsuit.

The next item is transition issues. We will continue to keep this on our agenda with the upcoming changes in administration at the end of the year. Mayor Pell advised that both he and Councilwoman Stewart will not seek another term. Sheila has also advised that she plans to retire the end of December and we will need to search for a town clerk. Council will need to determine the criteria for this position. Another issue that needs to be addressed is the Town's website since Councilwoman Stewart will no longer be updating. Councilwoman Hinds suggested that we post on the website the need for someone to take over this responsibility when Councilwoman Stewart leaves. Councilwoman Stewart is also looking into a company that could handle the website. Additionally, someone will need to assume the responsibility for email alerts and the newsletter. At the next workshop, we can discuss who can work on each of these transition issues.

The next item is legal matters. There is no update to report on the FOIA request by Mr. Graham, nor the lawsuit. There was an inspection of the town office by both State and County Building Inspectors last week as a result of a complaint filed by Mr. Graham against the County Building Department Code Inspector's license stating that he did not do his job properly. The complaint was filed with the State Licensing Board. The inspectors affirmed that our certificate of occupancy was properly issued.

The next item is a report on the Cable meeting with HTC. Mayor Pell advised that we had an exploratory meeting on Thursday, February 5th with Gail Enslin, HTC Development Sales Executive to determine what we could do to provide another phone, cable, and internet service to our residents due to a request by one of our residents. Ms. Enslin requested maps of the town in order to start sizing the project with the engineering department. They also will be in town visually reviewing the layout of the Town. The clerk advised that she had not picked up the maps yet. HTC would then work on a bid to install fiber optics in the Town. They will also check with Santee Cooper to see if they would be interested in a joint venture with them. They

would determine a cost estimate and then would hold public meetings with residents at their facilities to determine the extent of interest. At these meetings, they would explain what they will do and the cost of the packages that they offer.

The next item is a discussion of future road plans. Councilman Huffman distributed a summary of the road work from 2010-2014 and his recommendations for 2015 and 2016 and long term. To date, we have sealed 40% of our roads at a cost of \$32,945. During the past 4 years we have repaved 17% of our roads at a cost of \$117,075 and we have repaired areas of pavement due to low areas and broken or raised pavement mainly due to root intrusions at a cost of \$20,000. For budget year 2015/2016, he recommends we complete the resealing of all roads which were not sealed or repaved in the past four years which represents 45% of the total roads and would cost \$46,352. The following year, he recommends we seal all roads repaved since 2010 (15% of total roads at a cost of \$14,148. Councilman Huffman stated that all new pavement should be sealed within 2-3 years of paving to maximize its life. He also made long term recommendations. The clerk questioned whether for 2015/2016, couldn't we do half of the roads and do the other half in 2016/2017 when he is projecting the cost to be \$14,148 due to budget constraints. Councilman Huffman stated we could do that, but council will discuss this further at our budget meetings. Chief Lamparter advised that we are getting a number of areas where the road edges are eroding. He suggested that we install fill dirt in the medians where needed in order to build up the shoulder to prevent this, especially on Hickory and Dogwood.

Mayor Pell then called for committee reports. Councilwoman Stewart advised she is checking with two companies about the website and she will also contact Beth Helsel to see if she would be interested in maintaining the website. Councilman Huffman advised he checked out the piles of debris on Pine Tree and they were, in fact, from the ice storm. He has had them removed. They were just overlooked. The clerk advised that she forwarded the ordinances to Municode for our next supplement to the Town Code on February 5th. We should receive a cost estimate soon.

Council then reviewed the agenda for the town meeting. We have Resolution #2015-01 Solid Waste Management Plan update for new business and a sewer update with first reading of an ordinance to amend the stormwater ordinance. This will be in title only. We also have lot clearing update and a report on the meeting with HTC. Committee reports will also be included for old business.

Chief Lamparter stated that we are renting the shoebox lights at the entrances from Santee Cooper. He is recommending that we keep the same fixture, but change the orange lighting to a white light. It would improve visibility of crossing pedestrians and bicycles. He also stated that it would be compatible with any future camera system. The cost would be the same. He would also like to change the height from the 14 ft. that we currently have to 20 ft. You can see an example of the white lights at the church, but note that they installed flood lights that direct the light outward while the shoebox lights direct the light downward. Council will look at the lighting at the church before making any decision.

With no further discussion, Hinds made a motion and Stewart seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed original on file at the Town Office

Sheila Hamilton
Town Clerk

Approved _____