

Minutes of Meeting of the City Council

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Village of Surfside Beach

1304 Monument Drive

Surfside Beach, TX 77541

COUNCIL MEETING:

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM IN ATTENDANCE**
Mayor Bisso called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and recognized a quorum of the Council was present.
- 2) **INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Sean Robertson gave the invocation.
- 3) **Mayor/council/committee/department head/organization reports**
Police Chief Moncier- gave the monthly PD activity report;
Robert King – gave the EMS monthly activity report;
Toni Capretta – questioned the Splash Pad Hours; Bluewater Road striping; litter tickets on the beach.
Oscar Jalifi – City Hall repairs; wetland delineation;
Gregg Bisso – Freeport waterline update; SPOT Project not communicating with attempts of VOSB to reach out to them; grant for sewer repairs is still moving along slowly; starting budget planning meetings;
Erick Ingram – Trying to start the new water plant up at Swordfish.
- 4) **Business of visitors not on the agenda.**
Randy Smith re: municipal judgeships; Mark Wilson re: Freeport water purchase expectations; Glenda McGonigle re: City Ordinances v. State Law
- 5) ***ALL ITEMS UNDER THE CONSENT AGENDA ARE CONSIDERED TO BE SELF-EXPLANATORY, AND THE COUNCIL WILL ENACT THEM WITH ONE MOTION. UNLESS A COUNCIL MEMBER SO REQUESTS, NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS WILL OCCUR.***

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. **Consider approval of minutes from the Council meeting on March 14, 2023.**
- B. **Consider approval of the March 2023 financials.**
- C. **Grant a variance to the Historical Committee for canon fire on June 27, 2023**

Motion was made by Petty to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Motion was seconded by Capretta and passed unanimously.

- 6) **Discuss and take possible action ending the current assignment of liaison to the police department from Council.**

Motion was made by Gerber to postpone this item until after item #10
Motion was seconded by Petty and voted against 3 – 2 for.

Motion was made by Gerber to end the current Liaison assignment with the Police Department. Motion was seconded by Petty. Discussion ensued with

Mr. Gerber and Mr. Robertson making their respective arguments. Mr. Petty rescinded his second to the motion and the motion failed.

Mr. Robertson requested that his written comments be included in these minutes as follows:

REMARKS

To have a Council Meeting Agenda item to remove me as the liaison to the police department is to show the want of control of it. As a liaison, our duty is not to control rather to be available for support, and in this case objectively guide the development of the Police and EMS Department (getting into modern age with staffing, equipment, policies, training, and quality culture) so it is enabled to care for lives and carry out State driven policies for law enforcement. Our city does not need dictating rulers. We need elected leaders who understand each other's strengths and let them do what they do best. This saves time and money. This agenda item is a waste of time. We have so many other important duties as leaders to work on like saving our beautiful beach and other pressing matters.

Replacing me really isn't the issue here. It is the want to stop progress of our professional advancement of our Police and EMS Department and to undermine their abilities. For elected officials to take that abusive course is to not fulfill their fiduciary duties. This cannot be tolerated nor supported. I have and will continue to fight to protect our Police, so they may uphold the law and protect and serve our Village.

I have a long and good record of supporting and guiding the growth of the Police and EMS Department. Growing organizations is a strength of mine, with decades of experience enabling me to be efficient, understanding pitfalls to avoid, fix errors quickly, build positive momentum, and to enable organizational growth in a quality way. After years of a collaborated effort with Mayor Gregg, prior council members, and a few key officers in department leadership, our Police is now modernized. Our culture is top notch and we have a great reputation for recruiting Reservists – a low cost option for city's like ours to meet the demand. Our reputation with DA, Judges, and local area law enforcement is now positive and reciprocating. Our EMS has improved staffing from year's past. Our legal system administrative procedures are on-time and accurate. Our Chief and his team have developed on-boarding training to ensure new joins are acclimated to our City priorities, our culture, and empowered to uphold City, State, and Federal Laws. Lastly, we have a strategy to continue improvements year-over-year.

A municipality has no authority by itself, all authority is borrowed from the State. Our Great State of Texas can choose to take back or dictate terms if a municipality is abusing its local governance. Upholding and enforcing State and Federal Law is the duty of Police and it is not for a Council to begin to attempt to control the police or tell the Police what to selectively uphold. The State level and joint oversight of the law enforcement community has advanced in the past two decades which has changed the level of involvement by municipality ordinance and City Councils. This can be seen with entities such as the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), training institutions, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, and Texas-wide examples of municipal code that has changed to reflect the advancement of Police (municipal code is to now be less detailed due to State governance of Police). With that, there is a responsibility of City Councils to stay in step with the State-level changes and oversight, and ensure it is upheld at a local level. This is why I have taken steps to reduce our outdated ordinance, so as to ensure it is aligned with modern precedence set and thereby ensures our Police are not micromanaged. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community and to be an advocate, organizational builder, and a protector of our Police and EMS Department.

7) Discuss and take possible action regarding the Village's water and sewer rates.

Motion was made by Jalifi to adopt with the added tier, proposal #5. Motion was seconded by Capretta and passed unanimously.

5 Water 38.00 min, 9.00, 11.00, 15.00, 27.00 : Sewer 26.00 min, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 14.00				
	Water	Sewer	2000/5000/10000/15000 usage	
Rate 09	\$ 36,737.50		Gallons	Water
		\$ 36,737.50		Sewer
Rate 10	\$ 36,183.50	\$ 24,493.90	2000	\$ 38.00 \$ 26.00
		\$ 60,677.40	5000	\$ 65.00 \$ 47.00
		\$ 97,414.90	10000	\$ 120.00 \$ 87.00
			15000	\$ 195.00 \$ 132.00
				All charges
				\$ 86.59
				\$ 134.59
				\$ 229.59
				\$ 349.59

8) Discuss and take possible action to appoint a new member to the Beach Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Capretta to move Maseda from alternate to full member. Motion was seconded by Jalifi and passed unanimously.

9) Discuss and take possible action to finalize adoption by Council of the Manual of Rules and Procedures pursuant to Sec. 22-25.

Motion was made by Gerber to finalize the adoption of the section 22-25 of the Manual of Rules and procedures. Motion was seconded by Petty and passed unanimously.

Adjourn at 8:55 p.m.



Gregg Bisso, Mayor

Attest:



Amanda Davenport
City Secretary