



KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
February 20, 2007

MINUTES

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of the Town of Kure Beach at 6:30 pm on February 20, 2007. A quorum was present. Purpose of the public hearing was to give notice of intent and receive comments relative to financing capital projects in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million to include:

- 1) New water tower in south end of Town on Assembly Avenue
- 2) New well house at location of new water tower
- 3) Renovation of Town Hall facility located at 117 Settlers Lane

Notice of the hearing was advertised in the newspaper on February 8th and 14th, 2007 and was posted at Town Hall on February 8th, 2007.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Mac Montgomery
Commissioner Bill Ufferman
Commissioner Dean Lambeth
Commissioner Jim Dugan

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Tim Fuller

STAFF PRESENT:

Finance Susan Suggs
Town Clerk Nancy Avery

Town Attorney A.A. Canoutas was in attendance.

Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery called the public hearing to order at 6:30pm.

Town Clerk Avery explained the Local Government Commission loan application process and indicated that holding a public hearing is a part of the process.

Commissioner Dugan explained that the main purpose of the Town Hall renovation is to construct an enclosed walkway to connect the Town Hall facility, the Police Department facility and the Fire Department facility, thereby allowing protected indoor access to these town buildings during hurricanes and bad weather. Renovation is to also include adding additional storage for both the Police Department and town records.

Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery stated that this renovation is part of a long range plan to eventually build a new council room.

Public Works Director Beeker explained that the reason for the new water tower and well house is to provide better fire protection in the south section of town. Commissioner Dugan stated the Fire Department is controlled by the Insurance commission which sets fire ratings based on facilities. The Town's water pressure is adequate but not great. During a recent fire at the Ocean

Dunes complex, it was apparent that there was enough water but not enough pressure to adequately fight a fire for a long period of time.

Finance Officer Suggs stated that currently the Town is earning an interest rate of 5.1% on Certificates of Deposit and financing this project would allow the Town to continue to maintain emergency reserve funds and earn interest to help offset debt service for the loan.

Commissioner Lambeth stated that the estimate of \$4,500 from Sea Side Builders also needs to be included in the amount to be financed.

Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery stated that it is important to maintain cash reserves for emergencies rather than have to borrow at a higher rate during emergencies. Borrowing now at a lower rate, is a better plan. The Town currently has in excess of \$500,000 in reserve earning interest to be used as a contingency fund. The Town Council is trying to be proactive in maintaining sewer facilities to prevent future issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery opened the floor to public comments.

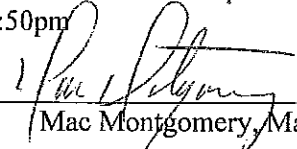
Public comments:

1) Chuck Keener of 807 Largo Way asked why the walkway is being put in before the new fire station is built? Why do that now, when the location of the building will change?


Commissioner Dugan responded that the walkway will be between the Town Hall, the Police Department and the existing Fire Department. When the new fire department is built in the future, it will be unattached.

Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery stated that the Town Hall facility becomes the emergency operations center for the south end of Pleasure Island. Emergency staff will stay in Town Hall and not leave the island, so the building serves a dual purpose.

There were no other public comments. Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm

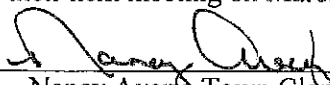


Mac Montgomery, Mayor Pro Tem

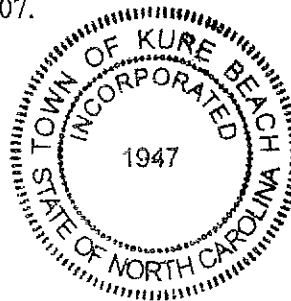
ATTEST: 

Nancy Avery, Town Clerk

This is to certify that this is a true and accurate copy of the draft minutes of the Town Council public hearing held on the 20th day of February, 2007. Minutes will not be approved by council until their next meeting on March 20th, 2007.



Nancy Avery, Town Clerk



2/28/07
Date