

Sunset Beach Awards Planning Contracts

BY DOUG RUTTER

Sunset Beach town council Monday awarded separate contracts for annexation and beach access studies.

Following an explanation of state annexation requirements by Ken Weeden of Talbert, Cox & Associates of Wilmington, council voted unanimously to award the annexation study contract to Weeden.

Before the vote, Weeden explained that the contract outlined by the state is too broad in scope and should be renegotiated by the engineer awarded the contract. That, he added, should not affect the amount of the state grant.

The scope of work in the contract should reflect what the town wants to have done," he said. In the case of Sunset Beach, the study would not have to include things such as project reports and extensive map work, which were included in the state's contract.

"Many of the things in here are superfluous for a town the size of Sunset Beach," said Weeden. "This is probably a canned state contract which is more appropriate for a larger town."

Town Administrator Linda Fluegel said, "Right now we are just doing a feasibility study to see if it would be worth it for the town to annex. We would not need the project reports or sealed maps until we are ready to annex."

The annexation study was made possible through a 50 percent state matching grant. Under the terms of that grant, the town was required to match state funds amounting to \$3,475.

Town attorney Mike Isenberg explained that there are two tests which

an area must pass in order to be annexed.

A use test, he said, requires that "at least 60 percent of the total number of lots in the area considered for annexation are used for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional or governmental purposes."

Under a subdivision test, the area under consideration "must be subdivided into lots and tracts so that at least 60 percent of the total acreage not counting that acreage used for commercial, industrial, institutional or governmental purposes consists of lots five acres or less in size."

Isenberg added that areas considered for annexation by Sunset Beach should have no problem meeting the subdivision test, but may have trouble with the use test.

Awards Contract

In other business, council followed a lengthy discussion by voting 3-1 in favor of awarding a contract for the study of beach access to Julie Shambaugh of Designworks. Shambaugh was previously employed as beach access coordinator for the state's Office of Coastal Management.

Councilman Ed Gore voted against awarding the contract. He said a study of beach access was "a waste of money" because it was something the town could do itself.

"The person who gets the beach access study is really getting a plum," said Gore. "There's not much work involved at all."

Other board members argued that since the study was made possible through a partial state grant, the town should take advantage of it.

Council member Kathy Hill said, "We've been granted the money. If we don't use it, we're going to lose

it." She added, "Another outside opinion is not going to hurt."

The amount of the state grant for the beach access study is \$5,024, which requires matching town funds totaling \$2,474.

Amends Plat

Following a public hearing during which no one from the audience voiced an opinion, council amended requirements for preliminary subdivision plats.

These plats must now show the location of proposed streets, alleys or other public ways. They must also allow for a minimum right-of-way width of at least 30 feet along streets. The town's planning board may require a right-of-way width greater than 30 feet if the street is to be used as a major thoroughfare or where greater widths are required by a major street plan.

Finally, preliminary subdivision plats require the developer to install regulation stop signs where subdivision streets connect directly with town or state roads.

Following the same public hearing, council amended the town's subdivision regulations by deleting a redundant phrase in the area of exceptions for planned developments.

Accepts Proposal

Council also approved a proposal of resident Tommy Tucker concerning the posting of three "No Wake" signs in the bay adjoining Tubb's Inlet.

Tucker's proposal asked the town to finance three signs and three posts at a total cost of \$219. Tucker said he would do the installation free of charge.

Other Business

In other business Monday, council: •Authorized Mrs. Fluegel to turn over reports of unpaid taxes for the 1985 fiscal year to Isenberg.

•Scheduled a joint public hearing with the planning board for Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. concerning the rezoning of property belonging to Joe Peed.

Federal Beach Access Funds Awarded To Community

BY DOUG RUTTER

A federal grant providing funds for two neighborhood beach accessways has been awarded to the town of Sunset Beach.

Town Administrator Linda Fluegel said the accessways will be located along 12th Street and at the intersection of 40th and Main streets.

She said the federal grant of \$43,502 requires matching funds from Sunset Beach in the amount of \$4,923.

Plans for the 12th Street beach accessway include public parking, a dune crossover, two litter receptacles, a marked walkway and two street lights.

The beach access facility at 40th and Main will include public parking, two dune crossovers, two litter receptacles, and a split-rail fence to keep people off private property.

According to a state news release, Sunset Beach is one of seven coastal communities in the North Carolina awarded a beach access grants.

The release added that under this program supported by the federal office of Coastal Resources Management, the grants will be used for land purchases and construction of beach access areas.

Mrs. Fluegel said there was no land acquisition involved at Sunset Beach because the town already owned the land under consideration. The grant will be used for construction only, she said.

Wilmington Man Arrested

A Wilmington man was arrested Sunday by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department in connection with a weekend break-in at a Belville business.

According to Capt. Phil Perry, Rex Allen Brown, 30, of Walnut Street, Wilmington, was taken into custody Sunday at 3:52 a.m., after Deputy Gene Browning discovered the break-in at Tire City on Old U.S. 17 in Belville.

Perry said Browning was on routine patrol when he noticed a vehicle parked at the business; he found loose tires stacked inside and near the vehicle.

The suspect was found hiding between buildings nearby, Perry said.

Brown was charged with breaking, entering and larceny, and was placed in the Brunswick County Jail under a \$10,000 secured bond. He was scheduled to make his first court appearance Monday in Brunswick County District Criminal Court.

September Was Warm, Wet

With an average temperature of 76.6 and 6.42 inches of rainfall, September was warmer and wetter than normal, according to records kept by the National Weather Service office at the New Hanover County Airport.

The highest temperature recorded during the month was 91 degrees on the 9th, 14th and 18th, while the coolest temperature was 55 degrees, recorded on the 24th. Temperatures reached 90 or above on five days.

The 6.42 inches of rainfall was 0.71 inch above normal, with measurable rainfall on 13 days and more than one inch of rain on two days.

There were six days of clear skies, nine days with partly cloudy skies and 15 days with cloudy skies. At the airport, thunderstorms were observed on six days and fog occurred on 23 days, but it wasn't heavy enough to reduce visibility to one-quarter mile or less.

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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