# Surfside Beach City Council Meeting Tuesday June 10, 2025

Village of Surfside Beach 1304 Monument Drive Surfside Beach, TX 77541

An agenda information packet is available for public inspection on the website at www.surfsidetx.org

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council of the Village of Surfside Beach will conduct a Council meeting scheduled for **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 10, 2025**. To view the meeting electronically please use the following website:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84253545017?pwd=VHFGMXRoZmJHNG5lcDBISIJ3MldjUT09

Meeting ID: 842 5354 5017 Passcode: 1304

The City Council reserves the right to meet in closed session on any agenda item, should the need arise and if applicable, pursuant to authorization by Title 5, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code.

#### **COUNCIL MEETING:**

- 1) CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM IN ATTENDANCE
- 2) INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3) SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER, Jennie Green-Prats
- 4) Mayor/council/department head reports
- 5) Business of visitors not on the agenda and presentation by the Brazosport Convention and Visitors Council
- 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 Special Council meetings on March 6, April 16 and May 5, and Regular Council Meeting on May 13, 2025.
  - B. Consider approval of accounts payable from May 2025.
- 7) Discuss and take possible action to approve Ordinance 2025.06.10A prohibiting digging and leaving large holes in the sand on the beach. *Parsch*
- 8) Discuss and take possible action to approve Ordinance 2025.05.13B Beach recreation area rules ordinance Section 28-62 of the Surfside Code of Ordinances, specifically removing, 'No mobile vendors are allowed' and setting rules and guidelines. *Parsch*
- 9) Discuss and take possible action regarding concerns raised by neighboring residents about the use of a private road by developers, additional potential for flooding, and to require a replat of the property being developed at Gulfway Court and Blue Water pursuant to Section 42-5 J5 to bring up to current standard "Minimum lot size. Minimum lot size in a subdivision shall be 6,000 square feet. Minimum width of a lot shall be 50 feet". Gerber

- 10) Discuss, consider, and select administration/project delivery service provider(s) to complete application and project implementation for the CDBG MIT-MOD funding administered by the Texas General Land Office. *Parsch*
- 11) Discuss, consider, and select engineering/architectural service provider(s) to complete application and project related engineering/architectural services for the CDBG MIT-MOD funding administered by the Texas General Land Office. *Parsch*
- **12)** Discuss and take possible action on EMS Beach vehicles purchase for 2025 season. *Parsch / DeMarco*
- 13) Discuss and take possible action on EMS Director vehicle purchase Parsch / DeMarco
- **14)** Discuss and take possible action on Ordinance 2025.06.10C regarding property left on the beach. *Hester*
- **15)** Discuss and take possible action on approval of Ord. 2025.06.10B prohibiting RV parking on the beach. *Parsch*
- **16)** Discuss and take possible action to add the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the Republic of Texas to the Council agenda. *Kedlarchuk*
- 17) Discuss and take possible action to ban/disallow POLICE OFFICERS and CITY EMPLOYEES from using (talking and texting) on cell phones while driving, on duty, within city limits. Inclusive of all streets/roads, including the sand road (the beach). *Kedlarchuk*
- 18) Discuss and take possible action to create an ordinance to enforce non removal of flags flying at the Fort Velasco Memorial site. ONLY authorized individuals are to raise or lower flags. *Kedlarchuk*

#### Adjourn

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing "Notice of Meeting" by the City Council was posted on the front bulletin board of the City Hall of the Village of Surfside Beach, Texas. Said notice was posted Thursday, June 5, 2025 at or before 6:00 PM and remained posted continuously for at least 72 hours before the scheduled time and date of the meeting.

Amanda Davenport, city Secretary

# Minutes of Regular Meeting of the City Council

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – 7:00 PM Village of Surfside Beach 1304 Monument Drive Surfside Beach, TX 77541

#### 1) CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Parsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that a quorum of council was in attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Green-Prats was absent due to illness.

#### 2) INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Jalifi gave the invocation and Mayor Parsch led the Pledge.

# 3) Discuss and take possible action on Ordinance 2025.05.13GE canvass of the 2025 General Municipal Election

Motion was made by Gerber to accept the canvass results of the 2025 General Municipal Election, electing Zach Parsch to the unexpired Mayoral term for one year and declaring unopposed candidates Oscar Jalifi, Marsha Hines and Jennie Green-Prats elected for another full-term and approve Ord. 2025.05.13GE. Motion was seconded by Hines and approved unanimously.

#### 4) SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS and MAYOR

City Attorney and State of Texas Notary Patton Ritter swore in Mayor Parsch and Alderman Jalifi and Alderman Hines. Green-Prats was absent due to illness.

#### 5) Mayor/council/department head reports

Mayor Parsch — a new EMS Director has been hired, public works is working hard to make road repairs, most HR policy changes have been completed. The Beach Advisory Committee has membership positions available and they are working on a budget for next year. Marsha Hines has been volunteering in finance to get that department up to date. John Gerber — Historical re-enactment went well and was heavily attended. Registration of contractors was tabled by the Planning Committee, they still have work to do. Steve Kedlarchuk — Thanks to Toby and the street crew for the repairs; Erick Ingram-monthly public works activity report; CCR has been posted to website; Chief Hester — gave the monthly activity report for the Police Department; Oscar Jalifi — updated on Tourism activities and the Lampstand marketing campaign; Frank DeMarco— EMS — monthly EMS report., making plans for holidays and big event weekends.

Josh Hart – reported the monthly activity for the Building/Code Enforcement department, Toby Bolinger – Trash barrels and signage still being placed on the beach; beach permit sales are steady; working on street signs; getting the Mobi Chairs out and let people know they are available:

**Janet Solis** – gave an update on the open positions in the Village employ; **Amanda Davenport** – gave an update on the pending grants and grant applications. 6) Business of visitors not on the agenda

Donna Robinson – light up the flags at night at the monument; Richard Sublett – thank you for putting information on the website; Randy Tooms – private roads – Gulfway Court

7) 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 April 08, 2025.
- B. Consider approval of accounts payable from April 2025.

Motion was made by Gerber to approve the consent agenda. Motion was seconded by Kedlarchuk and passed unanimously.

8) Discuss and take possible action to appoint a Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion was made by Gerber to nominate Jennie Green-Prats for Mayor Pro Tem. Motion was seconded by Kedlarchuk and passed unanimously.

9) Discuss and take possible action to create an ordinance prohibiting digging and leaving large holes in the sand on the beach.

Motion was made by Hines to instruct Patton to create an ordinance regarding digging and leaving large holes in the sand on the beach. Motion was seconded by Jalifi and passed unanimously.

10) Discuss and take possible action to approve Ordinance 2025.05.13A amending section 12-5 of the Code of Ordinances regarding wetland and upland delineation, in response to the recent decision of the USACE.

Motion was made by Gerber to approve Ord 2025.05.13A changing the wording in section 12-5 of the Code of Ordinances. Motion was seconded by Kedlarchuk and passed unanimously.

11) Discuss and take possible action to purchase new equipment and procure maintenance services for existing water treatment equipment used by our First Responders at the Emergency Center.

**Motion** was made by Gerber to purchase a new system spending no more than \$2500. Motion was seconded by Kedlarchuk and failed with Mayor Parsch breaking a tie vote.

12) Discuss and take possible action to approve Ordinance 2025.05.13B Beach recreation area rules ordinance Section 28-62 of the Surfside Code of Ordinances, specifically, 'No mobile vendors are allowed'.

Motion was made by Gerber to table and send to Patton and Hester to create possible

language for this ordinance. Motion was seconded by Kedlarchuk and passed unanimously.

13) Discuss and take possible action to donate \$250,000.00 to the Cradle of Texas Conservancy for the purpose of building a replica of the old Fort Velasco site.

Motion was made by Jalifi to table this item. Motion was seconded by Gerber and passed unanimously.

14) Discuss and take action to appoint Frank DeMarco as our Emergency Manager, replacing Tony Scharp.

This item was taken into executive session. Motion was made by Jalifi to appoint Frank DeMarco as Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion was seconded by Hines and passed 3 for; 1 against (Gerber)

15) Discuss and take possible action regarding RV parking on the beach.

Motion was made by Gerber to regulate RV's on the beach. Motion was seconded by Jalifi and passed 3 for; 1 abstain(Kedlarchuk)

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION: Sec. 551.071. CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY; CLOSED MEETING. A governmental body may not conduct a private consultation with its attorney except: (1) when the governmental body seeks the advice of its attorney about: (A) pending or contemplated litigation; or (B) a settlement offer; or (2) on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter.

Motion was made by Gerber to adjuourn into executive session with Ritter and Davenport included. Motion was seconded by Kedlarchuk and passed unanimously.

17) Action, if any, out of executive session.

Motion was made by Jalifi to appoint Frank DeMarco as Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion was seconded by Hines and passed 3 for; 1 against (Gerber)

Adjourn 9:36 p.m.

Passed and approved this 10th day of June 2025.

Zach Parsch	
Mayor	
•	
Amanda Davenport,	

#### Ordinance 2025.06.10A

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 28, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS; PROHIBITING HOLES IN THE SAND; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; CREATING A PENALTY; AND FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the Village of Surfside Beach, Texas, has determined that adoption of this Ordinance is necessary to the health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of said City and the members of the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this Ordinance was adopted at a meeting which was open to the public and preceded by proper notice, as required by Chapter 551 of the Texas Local Government Code (the Open Meetings Act).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS:

**FIRST**, the findings and recitations set out in the Preamble to this Ordinance are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the City Council and made part hereof for all purposes.

**SECOND**, That Section 62 (3)(f), Chapter 28, Article III, of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Surfside Beach, Texas, is hereby created to read as follows:

#### (3) Miscellaneous.

- f. It shall be unlawful for any person to:
  - dig, scoop, excavate, or otherwise remove sand for the purpose of creating a hole in the ground that exceeds 12 inches in depth; and
  - 2) leave that hole unattended at any time.

A violation of this section shall be a Class C misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000.00

**THIRD**, This Ordinance shall be and is hereby declared to be cumulative of all other Ordinances of the Village of Surfside Beach and this Ordinance shall not operate to repeal or affect any of such other Ordinances except insofar as the provisions thereof might be inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, in which event such conflicting provisions, if any, in such other Ordinance or Ordinances are hereby repealed.

**FOURTH**, If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase, of this Ordinances is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

FIFTH, All of the regulations provided in this Ordinance are hereby declared to be governmental and for the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. Any member of the City Council or any City official or employee charged with the enforcement of this Ordinance, acting for the Village of Surfside Beach in the discharge of his/her duties, shall not thereby render himself/herself personally liable; and he/she is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage that might accrue to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of his/her said duties.

**SIXTH**, Any violation of this Ordinance can be enjoined by a suit filed in the name of the Village of Surfside Beach in a court of competent jurisdiction, and this remedy shall be in addition to any penal provision in this Ordinance or in the Code of the Village of Surfside Beach.

**SEVENTH**, This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and publication of its descriptive caption twice in the Brazosport Facts.

READ, PASSED, AND ADOPTED THIS 10th DAY OF June, 2025.

ZACH PARSCH, MAYOR
VILLAGE OF SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_AMANDA DAVENPORT CITY SECRETARY

#### **ORDINANCE 2025.05.13B**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 28, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS; ALSO AMENDING CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE II, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS; REMOVING THE PROHIBITION OF MOBILE VENDORS ON THE BEACH; CREATING A DEFINITION FOR MOBILE VENDOR; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; CREATING A PENALTY; AND FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the Village of Surfside Beach, Texas, has determined that adoption of this Ordinance is necessary to the health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of said City and the members of the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this Ordinance was adopted at a meeting which was open to the public and preceded by proper notice, as required by Chapter 551 of the Texas Local Government Code (the Open Meetings Act).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS:

FIRST, the findings and recitations set out in the Preamble to this Ordinance are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the City Council and made part hereof for all purposes.

**SECOND**, That Section 62 (2)(i), Chapter 28, Article III, of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Surfside Beach, Texas, is hereby modified to read as follows:

#### (2) Health and sanitation.

i. Mobile beach vendors are allowed with proper permits as issued by the State of Texas or Brazoria County, Texas and The Village of Surfside Beach, as applicable. Mobile beach vendors are subject to all applicable vehicle regulations regarding vehicle operation on the beach (public roadway).

**THIRD**, That Section 19, Chapter 30, of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Surfside Beach, Texas, is hereby modified to read as follows:

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Food vendor means a person or entity conducting sales of food or liquids from a portable building or structure, a mobile or temporary building or structure, or a vehicle upon private real property located within the village.

*Individual vendor* means a person or entity conducting sales of goods, wares, clothing, jewelry, crafts, furniture, or other like items from a portable building or structure, a mobile or temporary building or structure, or a vehicle upon private real property located within the village.

Master vendor means any person or entity allowing sales of goods, wares, clothing, jewelry, crafts, furniture, or other like items from a portable building or structure, a mobile or temporary building or structure, or a vehicle upon private real property located within the village on property owned by the master vendor permit holder.

Mobile beach vendor means any person or entity allowing sales of goods, wares, clothing, jewelry, crafts, furniture, or other like items from a portable vehicle or structure, upon the public beach located within the village.

**FOURTH**, This Ordinance shall be and is hereby declared to be cumulative of all other Ordinances of the Village of Surfside Beach and this Ordinance shall not operate to repeal or affect any of such other Ordinances except insofar as the provisions thereof might be inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, in which event such conflicting provisions, if any, in such other Ordinance or Ordinances are hereby repealed.

**FIFTH**, If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase, of this Ordinances is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

**SIXTH**, All of the regulations provided in this Ordinance are hereby declared to be governmental and for the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. Any member of the City Council or any City official or employee charged with the enforcement of this Ordinance, acting for the Village of Surfside Beach in the discharge of his/her duties, shall not thereby render himself/herself personally liable; and he/she is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage that might accrue to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of his/her said duties.

**SEVENTH**, Any violation of this Ordinance can be enjoined by a suit filed in the name of the Village of Surfside Beach in a court of competent jurisdiction, and this remedy shall be in addition to any penal provision in this Ordinance or in the Code of the Village of Surfside Beach.

**EIGHTH**, This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and publication of its descriptive caption twice in the Brazosport Facts.

READ,	PASSED,	AND	ADOPTED	THIS		DAY	OF	:	20
								SCH, MAYOR	
ATTEST					s:	VILLA	GE O	F SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS	
<b>AMAN</b>	DA DAVEN	PORT							

CITY SECRETARY

# **Amanda Davenport**

From:

Jon Gerber

Sent:

Thursday, June 5, 2025 10:03 AM

To:

Amanda Davenport

Subject:

Agenda

Follow Up Flag:

Follow up

Flag Status:

Completed

Discuss and take possible action regarding concerns raised by neighboring residents about the use of a private road by developers, additional potential for flooding, and to require a replat of the property being developed at Gulfway Court and Blue Water pursuant to Section 42-5 J5 to bring up to current standard

"Minimum lot size. Minimum lot size in a subdivision shall be 6,000 square feet. Minimum width of a lot shall be 50 feet"

Please add this to the agenda Thanks Jonathan Gerber Alderman At Large Get <u>Outlook for iOS</u>

#### **RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION OF The Village of Surfside Beach, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER(S) SELECTION FOR TEXAS CDBG-MIT REGIONAL MITIGATION PROGRAM'S METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION DEVELOPMENT (CDBG MIT-MOD) PROGRAM(S) FUNDED AND ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO).

WHEREAS, participation in CDBG MIT-MOD program(s) requires implementation by professionals experienced in the administration of federally-funded projects;

WHEREAS, in order to identify qualified and responsive providers for these services a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for administration services has been completed in accordance with the GLO requirements;

WHEREAS, the proposals received by the due date have been reviewed to determine the most qualified and responsive providers for each professional service giving consideration to ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement, integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 1.	That is selected to provide application and project-related
	administration services for CDBG MIT-MOD program(s).
Section 2.	That any and all project-related services contracts or commitments made with the above-named service provider(s) are dependent on the successful negotiation of a contract with the service provider(s).

PASSED AND APPROVED ON June 10, 2025

APPROVED:

Zach Parsch
Mayor

ATTEST:

Amanda Davenport
City Secretary

#### RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF The Village of Surfside Beach TEXAS, AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER(S) SELECTION FOR TEXAS CDBG-MIT REGIONAL MITIGATION PROGRAM'S METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION DEVELOPMENT (CDBG MIT-MOD) PROGRAM(S). IF AWARDED FUNDING, CDBG MIT-MOD FUNDS WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY HUD AND IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO) FUND. THESE PLANNING ACTIVITIES, AND THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSIGHT IS ADMINISTERED BY FEMA AND IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY (TDEM).

WHEREAS, participation in CDBG MIT-MOD program(s) requires implementation by professionals experienced with federally-funded projects;

WHEREAS, in order to identify qualified and responsive providers for these services a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process for engineering/architectural services has been completed in accordance with GLO requirements;

WHEREAS, the Statement of Qualifications received by the due date have been reviewed to determine the most qualified and responsive providers for each professional service giving consideration to ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement, integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 1.	That be selected to provide application and project-related professional engineering/architectural services for the CDBG MIT-MOD program(s).				
Section 2.	That any and all project-related services contracts or commitments made with the above-named service provider are dependent on the award of CDBG MIT-MOD funds and successful negotiation of a contract with the service provider.				

PASSED AND APPROVED ON JUNE 10, 2025.

APPROVED:	
Zach Parsch	
Mayor	
ATTEST:	
Amanda Davenport	

# Proposal for Purchase of Side-by-Side All-Terrain EMS Response Units

City of Surfside Beach, Texas Emergency Medical Services Department

Proposal for Purchase of EMS All-Terrain SxS response vehicles.

Submitted by: Frank DeMarco

Title: EMS Director / Emergency Manager

Date: 05/28/2025

# **Executive Summary**

The EMS department for the City of Surfside Beach respectfully submits this proposal for the purchase of at least one, and preferably two, all-terrain side-by-side response vehicles equipped with extended beds for safe and secure patient transport. These units are a mission-critical need for efficient and safe medical response on the city's expansive beach areas, where rapid access to patients is currently limited by terrain and equipment availability.

# **Operational Need and Justification**

Our EMS department currently has no dedicated beach response vehicles, and in high-traffic events such as Jeep Weekend and Memorial Day, we are forced to possibly deploy our only ambulance onto the sand—placing our primary emergency unit at risk of mechanical damage and to possibly be unavailable for town-side emergencies.

As the sole EMS provider for the City of Surfside we have an additional responsibility of service area that we are responsible for outside of the city limits. As you all know we have to cover an additional roughly 10 miles of beach outside of the city limits all the way to the pass. With the purchase of two EMS dedicated side by sides we will be better prepared to cover the area and not completely rely on our EMS unit. With the purchase of a response vehicle with ALS capabilities and the response of a side by side unit most emergencies will be able to be handled without the use of the ambulance, and if by chance an ambulance is needed, the quick care and treatment that the units will be able to provide will be worth the cost.

properly equipped side-by-side vehicles with an extended bed would allow us to:

- Rapidly respond to patients across long stretches of beach
- Securely and safely transport patients to higher care level EMS units out on the road access area
- Maintain EMS coverage even when the ambulance is unavailable
- Avoid unnecessary wear and potential damage to our sole EMS unit
- Support mutual aid services during multi-patient incident

#### **Patient Safety and Beach Access**

These vehicles must be equipped to secure a stretcher or provide an integrated stretcher solution. The past two weekends demonstrated the critical need for proper EMS access: EMS teams responded to multiple calls in rapid succession with no alternative equipment available to manage simultaneous emergencies. While police presence is essential on the beach, EMS must also have dedicated and equally capable access to serve the injured and critically ill.

### **Community Expectation and Commitment**

Our residents and visitors depend on our EMS system during what is often the worst moment of their lives. We must rise to meet that expectation by equipping our responders with the tools they need. These side-by-side vehicles directly support the city's commitment to safety, readiness, and public trust.

#### **Additional Benefits**

- Rapid access during mass gatherings and special events
- Deployment during hurricanes or flooding where road access is compromised
- Augmentation of mutual aid support in regional emergencies
- Demonstrates Surfside's commitment to proactive public safety investments

# **Estimated Cost Analysis**

Based on current market pricing, the cost of acquiring side-by-side EMS-ready vehicles includes:

- All-terrain Side-by-Side Vehicle with 4WD and Extended Bed: \$17,000 \$25,000 each
- EMS Stretcher Mount, Lighting, and Communication Equipment: \$5,000 \$7,000 per unit
- Surfside EMS Branding and Equipment Outfitting: \$2,000 per unit

Total Estimated Cost (per unit): \$22,000 - \$34,000 Total Estimated for Two Units: \$44,000 - \$68,000

\*\* Chief Hester has worked out an agreement with the same company that the police department just used to purchase their two side by side units at a lower than anticipated cost as stated above. I sent the quote that was received to our mayor when we received it during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May.

#### Cost Reimbursement and Return on Investment:

The deployment of Side-by-Side (SxS) units represents a strategic investment in the Surfside Beach EMS system, directly benefiting both residents and visitors of Surfside Beach and Brazoria County. In addition to enhancing rapid response capabilities and public safety, these units also generate a measurable return through EMS billing processes.

Each time a beach medic unit makes patient contact; one of two outcomes occurs:

#### 1. Non-Transport with Treatment:

The EMS crew assesses and provides appropriate care on scene. If the patient declines hospital transport, a signed refusal of service is obtained. This encounter is billed through our third-party billing provider as a non-transport service, and applicable charges are submitted to the patient's insurance and/or directly to the patient.

## 2. Transport to Ambulance:

If the patient requires further care, the beach medic unit provides initial treatment and transports the patient to a waiting ambulance, which then proceeds to the hospital. In this case, all care rendered, including by the SxS unit—is documented in the EMS run report and submitted to our billing provider. This results in a reimbursable transport charge to the city.

By capturing and billing for services rendered, even in non-transport scenarios, the use of SxS vehicles contributes to the financial sustainability of EMS operations while improving access and outcomes in challenging beach environments.

# **Conclusion and Request**

Considering the urgent and repeated need demonstrated over recent weekends, the EMS department formally requests approval for the purchase of at least one, and preferably two, all-terrain side-by-side EMS response vehicles. This investment will enable timely, secure, and consistent medical care on the beach while preserving our primary EMS resources. This is not only an enhancement to our services, but also a necessity for the continued protection of our community.

I ask for the City Council's support in funding this critical need and making a visible and actionable commitment to the safety of Surfside Beach residents and visitors.

#### City of Surfside Beach, Texas Emergency Medical Services Department

#### Proposal for Purchase of EMS Director / Emergency Manager Vehicle

Submitted by: Frank DeMarco

Title: EMS Director / Emergency Manager

Date: 05/28/2025

#### **Executive Summary**

The City of Surfside Beach EMS currently operates with a single frontline ambulance staffed by 8 dedicated EMS providers—7 EMT-Basics and 1 Advanced EMT. As the department's only Paramedic, and in my dual role as EMS Director and Emergency Manager, I carry a critical burden of operational readiness, first response leadership, and advanced medical care support.

I am proposing the purchase of a dedicated, fully outfitted EMS Director / Emergency Manager response vehicle. This vehicle will serve as a multi-purpose asset that significantly enhances our department's medical response capabilities, disaster management operations, beach and off-road accessibility, and overall public safety service delivery. The addition of this resource will reduce wear and tear on the city's only ambulance, provide revenue recovery through billing mechanisms, improve visibility and public trust, and strengthen inter-agency coordination throughout Brazoria County and beyond.

#### Operational Justification & Community Benefit

#### 1. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Coverage and Clinical Oversight

As the sole Paramedic serving Surfside Beach EMS, I frequently need to respond to support crews with advanced-level care. A dedicated response vehicle ensures:

- Rapid ALS deployment to incidents involving cardiac arrest, stroke, trauma, overdoses, respiratory distress, and pediatric emergencies.
- On-scene clinical oversight and support, especially in time-critical cases where delay in ALS can negatively impact patient outcomes.
- Legal and liability protection for both myself and the City by eliminating the need to respond in a personal vehicle.
- Reduced stress on ambulance operations, as the Director can initiate treatment while the transport unit is en route.

This vehicle acts as a "force multiplier" by enabling a second responder to operate independently while bringing high-level medical resources directly to the scene.

#### 2. First Response Readiness

Surfside Beach frequently experiences overlapping medical calls, especially during weekends and peak tourist seasons. When the ambulance is occupied:

• This vehicle ensures **continuous EMS presence** in town for secondary calls or large-scale incidents.

- It minimizes delays in emergency care while mutual aid or the primary ambulance is en route or returning from transport.
- A fully equipped response vehicle enables **ALS stabilization**, refusal documentation, or basic interventions, ensuring no lapse in coverage or care.

This was especially evident during recent weekends when back-to-back EMS calls left portions of the city temporarily uncovered. Had this vehicle been available, treatment could have been initiated without delay.

#### 3. Beach and Off-Road Response Capability

Surfside Beach presents unique environmental challenges:

- The **soft sand, dunes, and narrow paths** near the jetty and "The Pass" are difficult for full-size ambulances to navigate without risk of getting stuck or sustaining damage.
- Repeated use of our primary ambulance on the beach has increased maintenance demands and accelerated wear and tear on a \$300,000+ asset.
- A 4WD-equipped EMS Director vehicle can safely reach patients, initiate care, and relay them to a staging area for ambulance transport, preserving the main unit for hospital runs.

This improves response time to remote beach locations, expands access, and reduces unnecessary strain on vital transport equipment.

#### **Emergency Management Functions & Expanded Usage**

#### 1. Disaster Incident Command and Mobilization

In my capacity as Emergency Manager, the proposed vehicle allows:

- Immediate response to weather emergencies, structure fires, mass casualty incidents, or hazmat events.
- Deployment during hurricanes, flooding, power outages, or evacuation events as a mobile command post.
- Support for **continuity of operations** during extended incidents through onboard equipment, radios, and documentation systems.

#### 2. Search and Rescue Operations

The vehicle will play a vital role in:

- Transporting triage, rescue, and command supplies to inaccessible areas.
- Participating in joint operations with Fire, Police, and regional SAR teams.
- Acting as a forward-deployed staging and triage center during large-scale beach incidents or lost person searches.

#### 3. Representation and Interagency Coordination

A professional, marked emergency vehicle allows Surfside Beach to:

- Represent the city at county, regional, and state planning and coordination meetings.
- Participate in **emergency preparedness drills** with partners such as Brazoria County OEM, mutual aid EMS, fire departments, and state agencies.
- Serve as a visible and active component of multi-jurisdictional emergency response networks.

#### 4. Additional Emergency Management Benefits

- Facilitates site inspections, pre-planning, and hazard assessments.
- Can be staged for event standby coverage (e.g., festivals, parades, races).
- Supports **public health initiatives**, such as vaccine clinics, wellness checks, and community outreach events.
- Ensures **continuity of command and communications** during remote operations through installed radios and mobile data terminals.

#### Public Image & Interagency Visibility

- A clearly marked emergency vehicle with Surfside EMS branding reflects pride, professionalism, and commitment to public safety.
- Enhances **public trust** and reassures visitors that the city is equipped to handle emergencies.
- Increases operational credibility and coordination with partner agencies during joint responses, improving integration and cooperation.

#### Vehicle Requirements & Equipment

#### **Minimum Specifications:**

- 4WD or AWD SUV or light-duty truck
- Emergency lighting and siren package
- Surfside EMS graphics and markings
- ALS response bag, cardiac monitor, oxygen kit, trauma gear
- Mobile and portable radios
- Command board, safety vest, ICS materials
- Weather gear, barrier supplies, and basic command tools

#### **Estimated Costs**

Category	Estimated Cost
Vehicle Purchase (New or Lightly Used SUV/Truck)	\$40,000 - \$65,000
Emergency Equipment, Outfitting, Radios, Tools	15,000 - 20,000
<b>Total Estimated Investment</b>	\$55,000 - \$85,000

#### **Cost Recovery & Reimbursement**

This vehicle is not only an investment in operational capability, but also one that supports **cost** recovery through EMS billing:

- When the EMS Director responds and renders medical care prior to ambulance arrival or documents a refusal of transport, a "command vehicle response" line item is billed through our third-party billing provider.
- This generates revenue from patient insurance and/or direct patient billing for services rendered, including refusal assessments, ALS interventions, or stabilization efforts.
- The vehicle creates a **new reimbursable billing opportunity** while helping avoid costly liabilities associated with personal vehicle responses.
- Over time, this recovery stream will **offset a portion of the investment**, particularly during high-call-volume periods or special events.

#### Conclusion

The purchase of a dedicated EMS Director / Emergency Manager response vehicle is essential to the current and future success of Surfside Beach EMS and the city's emergency management infrastructure. It will:

- Enhance ALS coverage and reduce response delays
- Preserve our ambulance and improve its longevity
- Expand beach, off-road, and multi-scene response capabilities
- Strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency coordination
- Improve public image and inter-agency visibility
- Create cost reimbursement opportunities through expanded billing

This investment directly supports the health, safety, and trust of Surfside Beach residents and visitors. I respectfully request that the City Council approve the necessary funding to procure and outfit this mission-critical resource.

Respectfully submitted, Frank DeMarco EMS Director / Emergency Manager City of Surfside Beach, Texas

#### **Ordinance 2025.06.10B**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 32, ARTICLE IV, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS; CLARIFYING THE PROHIBITION ON RVS PARKING ON THE PUBLIC BEACH; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; CREATING A PENALTY; AND FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the Village of Surfside Beach, Texas, has determined that adoption of this Ordinance is necessary to the health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of said City and the members of the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this Ordinance was adopted at a meeting which was open to the public and preceded by proper notice, as required by Chapter 551 of the Texas Local Government Code (the Open Meetings Act).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS:

**FIRST**, the findings and recitations set out in the Preamble to this Ordinance are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the City Council and made part hereof for all purposes.

**SECOND**, That Section 104 (b), Chapter 32, Article IV, of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Surfside Beach, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(b) RVs prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to park a recreational vehicle on the public beach within the village city limits.

**THIRD**, This Ordinance shall be and is hereby declared to be cumulative of all other Ordinances of the Village of Surfside Beach and this Ordinance shall not operate to repeal or affect any of such other Ordinances except insofar as the provisions thereof might be inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, in which event such conflicting provisions, if any, in such other Ordinance or Ordinances are hereby repealed.

**FOURTH**, If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase, of this Ordinances is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

FIFTH, All of the regulations provided in this Ordinance are hereby declared to be governmental and for the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. Any member of the City Council or any City official or employee charged with the enforcement of this Ordinance, acting for the Village of Surfside Beach in the discharge of his/her duties, shall not thereby render himself/herself personally liable; and he/she is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any

damage that might accrue to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of his/her said duties.

**SIXTH**, Any violation of this Ordinance can be enjoined by a suit filed in the name of the Village of Surfside Beach in a court of competent jurisdiction, and this remedy shall be in addition to any penal provision in this Ordinance or in the Code of the Village of Surfside Beach.

**SEVENTH**, This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and publication of its descriptive caption twice in the Brazosport Facts.

READ, PASSED, AND ADOPTED THIS 10th day of June, 2025.

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ZACH PARSCH, MAYOR	
VILLAGE OF SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS	

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_
AMANDA DAVENPORT
CITY SECRETARY