



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
April 28, 2009 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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8 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

9 Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tem
10 Truett and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Martin, Samples and Childs were present.
11 A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell, Public Works
12 Director Taylor, Finance Treasurer Hursey and Police Chief Christenson. Attorney Mr.
13 Smith was also present.

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15 **2. INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

16 Pastor Robert Shaw from Garden City Chapel and Retreat said the invocation and Mayor
17 Deaton led the pledge of allegiance.

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19 **3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

20 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mr. Samples seconded
21 the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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23 **4. MINUTES APPROVAL**

24 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2009 meeting as
25 submitted. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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27 **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only**

28 There were no public comments.

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30 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

31 **A. *Finance Report***

32 Mr. Booth reported that council has received the end of year report which has not
33 been finalized; revenues are still coming in. Mr. Booth reported that the town is
34 overall under budget. This coming year the debt collection has brought in \$5,600
35 and the town should be collecting considerably more. Parking is already over \$1,700
36 from last year at this time and one of the parking lots is not open yet. Mr. Booth
37 stated that the pay stations should pay for themselves and increase the revenue flow
38 adding that it will take a little time for people to get used to using something
39 different than what they are used to. Mr. Booth reported that there will be a budget
40 amendment presented in the next month or so to balance the budget. The audit
41 agreement letter has been signed.

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43 **B. *Public Works Report***

44 Mr. Booth reported that the town is getting ready to end their projects because the
45 tourists are coming. Mr. Booth reported that the town will be finishing the Palmetto
46 Lake project and the reason that it had not been finished was due to wires obstructing
47 the contractor from completing the job. The town made a deal for the contractor to
48 clean out the spillway of Dogwood and this now allows the town to put the
49 enhancement project there. The town is now in the process of cleaning up the
50 western side of that small area and then the eastern side has been declared wetlands
51 which total about 300 square feet.

52 Mr. Martin stated that it was a great idea for Mr. Booth to offer the topsoil to the
53 people in town. Mr. Martin asked if trash containers with wooden enclosures would
54 be added near the beginning of the pier adding that it looks like there is no place for
55 people to leave trash in that area. Mr. Booth stated that he has a committee that is
56 looking at the whole area and this would be addressed. Mr. Booth reported that the
57 fire station construction should start in approximately two weeks; it would begin
58 with the demolition of one bay and as a side project they will also be removing the
59 concrete in the lot on the corner of Surfside Drive and Poplar. Mr. Booth reported
60 that the Beautification Committee selected an artist to do the mural on that corner; a
61 stipend would be given for the mural project. Mr. Booth reported that the Yaupon
62 parking lot is about 75 percent complete and that the town received a discount on the
63 pervious paving project there; the contractor used a mix of extra pavers to do the lot.
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65 Mr. Martin asked where the fire equipment will be stored during the demolition of
66 the fire station. Mr. Booth reported that only one bay would be taken down and the
67 town would be moving the police department out of that bay and they will store their
68 equipment under the pier. It was confirmed that the police equipment he was
69 referring to would be jet skis, etc. Mr. Booth stated that there would be enough
70 remaining bays to hold the fire equipment and if the town finds they need more room
71 they could borrow the tents the company had in Isle of Palms during the construction
72 of their fire station.
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74 **C. Recreation Report**

75 Mr. Booth reported that the town is focusing in on the next two major events which
76 are the car show and the fireworks during the 4th of July. Mr. Booth reported that Mr.
77 Blair has found a band for the event and the town will also be having an act that
78 performs at Legends adding that it should be a great event. Mr. Booth stated that the
79 town is anticipating on having many people at the Memorial Day Car Show being
80 that it is the only event going on that weekend.
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82 **D. Administrator's Report**

83 **i. Golf Cart**

84 Mr. Booth reported that there was a complaint at the last meeting regarding
85 golf carts. He had the Building Department check all of the golf cart rental
86 places in the area and they all have licenses and insurance; there was only
87 one company that did not have their town stickers yet and the town was
88 working with this. Mr. Martin stated that he saw a golf cart parked illegally
89 directly in front of a stop sign today and asked what the town was doing
90 about this. Mr. Booth stated that the town is ticketing illegally parked carts.
91 Mr. Booth stated that the town may have to tweak some wording on the
92 current ordinance to make sure all golf carts are registered with the town.
93 Mr. Booth stated that it is very important that each golf cart has the rules and
94 regulations posted on them; they find many under-aged children riding them
95 and feel that this will stop a lot of this. Mayor Deaton stated that all
96 complaints regarding golf cart violations should go through the police
97 department. Mayor Deaton stated the public should not call councilmembers
98 regarding these violations adding that council creates the laws and ordinances
99 but they do not enforce them.
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ii. Pier Repairs

Mr. Booth reported that divers have checked on all of the pilings and they found that out of approximately 100 pilings 6 are bad. Mr. Booth stated that the town is now trying to determine the cost involved. They are finding that there are many people who build piers but there are not many around that repair them. Mr. Booth reported that Garden City had the same problem with their pier and it was built about the same time as the Surfside Beach Pier; they had about a dozen pilings that were not treated properly and Mr. Booth stated that he thinks that perhaps the town picked up 6 of these similar pilings. Mr. Booth stated that the town is looking at the contractor that repaired Garden City's pilings and that the damage was caused by worms that act like termites and they get into wood and bore through it. Mr. Booth stated that the six other pilings were not in as bad of shape as the one they removed but they do need to be replaced.

Mr. Johnson asked if there was a safety issue involved; were all of the pilings that need to be replaced in one area. Mr. Booth stated that they were spread out; the pilings are all usually treated before installation and it was apparent that some of them were not treated properly.

iii. Yaupon Parking Lot

Mr. Booth stated that he just reported on this. It was confirmed that trees and plantings and street lights will be added to the lot.

7. BUSINESS

A. First Reading #09-0666: Repeal Ordinance #09-0651 Infractions Court

Mr. Booth reported that he had gone up the previous Friday and spoke with the Administrative Judge who also works for the Supreme Court. Mr. Booth stated that this will now be brought back the way it was and it will be run through the court and administratively they will be working with the town so that it does not become such a burden that it will not work. Mr. Booth stated that as the State takes away more money the town will become more dependent on these types of revenue streams and they cannot jeopardize this. This repeal will put the court back to the way it was. Mr. Samples made a motion to approve 1st reading. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

B. First Reading #09-0667: Repeal Ordinance #09-0652 Infractions Hearing Officer

Mr. Booth stated that the town never appointed a hearing officer and this ordinance just needs to be repealed. Mr. Truett made a motion to approve 1st reading. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

C. Second Reading #09-0664: Burning Ordinance

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the ordinance as written. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. Mr. Childs stated that this is the right time for this ordinance and hopefully the town can avert anything like the fires in Horry County from happening in town. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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D. *Decision Paper: Rapid Responder Fire Truck*

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Mayor Deaton stated that the vehicle was at the fire station on display adding that he hoped everyone got a chance to see it and that it is a very impressive vehicle. Mr. Booth stated that the vehicle on display was option tow and this is the recommendation from staff. Mr. Booth stated that this vehicle is perfect for many of the calls the fire department goes out on; rescue and accidents. Mr. Martin made a motion to accept recommendation of staff. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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E. *Decision Paper: Appoint one (1) committee member to Parks, Recreation and Special Events Committee*

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Mr. Johnson made a motion to appoint Wes Sparkes to the Parks, Recreation and Special Events Committee. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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Mr. Booth reported that Ms. Pinnell would be moving from her position of recording for Planning & Zoning and Director Donevant would take over the recording and Ms. Pinnell would move into taking minutes for the Parks, Recreation and Special Events Committee.

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8. **DISCUSSION**

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Banning Individuals from lighting Fireworks on 4th of July – Mr. Martin

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Mr. Martin stated that this is another public health and safety issue adding that when the original ordinance was constructed the town did not have town sponsored fireworks and now that the town is spending \$20,000 to have fireworks on the pier by professionals, which he feels will be great for the town, thinks that it is a good time to reconsider having all of the amateurs out on the beach endangering the health and safety of the people in town. Mr. Martin stated that the one line would need to be removed from the current ordinance “except on the 4th of July” and would like to propose putting a stop to the chaos on the beach and asked for opinions from other councilmembers. Mayor Deaton asked attorney Mr. Smith to come to the podium for this discussion. Mr. Childs stated that he agrees with Mr. Martin and feels that this is long overdue adding that he feels that it has been a miracle that no one has been seriously hurt on the beach during the 4th of July. Mr. Childs added that he believes that most of the people lighting the fireworks come from cities and states that do not allow fireworks and they do not realize how dangerous they are. Ms. Blair stated that she also agrees with Mr. Martin and if anyone has seen the beach the morning after it looks like a war zone adding that there probably have been a lot of injuries; maybe not serious enough to have the Public Safety involved but with her job she has heard that emergency rooms are filled throughout the night of the 4th and since the town is working so hard to have a successful 4th of July event she sees no reason to allow individuals to light their own. Mr. Truett stated that he also agrees with Mr. Martin adding that he has grown up with fireworks and now that the town has moved onto having a professional display, which he has been an advocate of for years, agrees that it is very dangerous for people to light their own adding that “alcohol and fireworks do not mix”. Mr. Truett stated that most people enjoy fireworks and the fact that the town will provide a 25 minute show he feels that this would be sufficient and that it is time to move on and ban it on the 4th of July. Mr. Samples stated

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193 that "it's too bad times have changed" adding that one of the pleasures he got to
194 experience was growing up on the beach and having fireworks and one of the other
195 pleasures was being able to take his child down and enjoy July 4th with fireworks. Mr.
196 Samples stated that there's no question that the crowd that has been coming to town the
197 last few years also enjoys this simple pleasure adding that he feels that it will be an
198 enforcement nightmare but understands that over time the message would get across.
199 Mr. Samples stated that he is not going to support banning on July 4th adding that he
200 understands the need to, but he does not support it. Mr. Johnson stated that he has mixed
201 emotions about it adding that he can see both sides of the issue. Mr. Johnson stated that
202 he also sees the day after issue and for a week after the 4th of July his recreation involves
203 picking up bags full of fireworks; he agrees that it will be an enforcement issue not only
204 on July 4th but throughout the season and he sees a need that it has come to a time to ban
205 the fireworks. Mayor Deaton asked what the procedure is from here. Mr. Smith stated
206 that he would need a consensus vote to redraft the ordinance adding that it would be very
207 easy to redraft and added that it would also need a penalty section added to it and it
208 would be up to council to decide whether they would want to proceed with a criminal
209 penalty or a civil offense. If it were criminal only law enforcement officers could issue
210 tickets and there could be jail time involved and if it were a civil offense a code
211 enforcement official could write a summons. Mayor Deaton asked for a consensus.
212 Mayor Deaton, Ms. Blair, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Truett and Mr. Childs voted for
213 a change to the ordinance. Mr. Samples voted against. It was agreed that attorney Mr.
214 Smith would bring the ordinance forward at the next council meeting with penalty
215 options.

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217 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

218 ***Rebecca Hiatt, 719 North Myrtle Drive:*** "A meeting was held with the town
219 administrator, public works director and corp. of engineers and the corp. has agreed that
220 the lakes are simply stormwater retention ponds and allowed the dredging project to be
221 done without having to obtain permits; this is in the minutes of November 13, 07; town
222 council meeting; the minutes were approved November the 27th and this is on line 183 to
223 189 so the corp. of engineers has not declared Palmetto Lake as wetlands and they're the
224 only one who can declare this. I hope this council will see that this job is completed as it
225 was voted on and if Cooper had not been stopped with the power lines it would not have
226 been a problem because this work would have been done within the lake when they were
227 doing the rest of it if they would not have been told to pull out. I think, and this came
228 from him, he told me this himself. I think it's time for the town of Surfside Beach to try
229 to make amends with the county relating to the mutual aid calls. When only a few miles
230 up the road we had a fire so large and disastrous that the governor declared it a state of
231 an emergency and Surfside fire department wasn't called until over two days later. The
232 first day, departments from all across the State had been called in and as far as Asheville
233 North Carolina. I think something is very wrong with this picture and it needs to be
234 fixed; mutual aid is mutual aid. If you expect to get help you need to give help. How
235 can you determine how bad a fire is until you get there; you may call it just a pan on the
236 stove fire but from the time the fire is called in, the call's dispatched, the volunteers
237 come to the fire station and the fire department gets there it may be a fully engulfed
238 structure fire. I would hate to see Surfside Beach have a fully engulfed structure fire
239 with just one paid fireman on duty who will probably be the (SIC) commander which is
240 required by the laws. We have one inspector and one chief; don't forget all the other
241 firemen are volunteers with jobs. Somebody has to operate the pump on the truck; two

242 on the hose; two sets up the ladders and (SIC), somebody has to get the tools off the
243 truck, set up a required rehab site by law and, oh yes, the law says that you have to have
244 a safety officer on the scene. The law says that you have to have an EMS on the scene;
245 we do have the cross trained EMS but they cannot go in to fight a fire until another EMS
246 comes there to take their place. Now tell me that we don't need a good relationship with
247 the county. I hope the council will get all the facts about mutual aid and don't take
248 anything for granted. The way it stands now, we better hope we don't have a major fire
249 and we sure don't need our ISO rating to go up; that means higher fire insurance. I hope
250 you take this serious; last week may just have been a wake-up call for us.”

251
252 **Ken Walkoff, 411 7th Avenue North:** “I have two issues; one is the lot on the corner of
253 7th and Dogwood. We have some stranger sleeping in the lot; the police have been down
254 and around and caught him several times; it's real thick; if it can be cleaned out a little
255 bit. I'm not sure who the owner is of it but they did break into the house next door to me
256 at 213 7th Avenue North so we're starting to have some problems there. The second
257 issue is, I spoke to Ed Booth and Ty on the stream that we have that runs from my
258 property on 7th the whole way going east over 6th and 5th; that whole stream is terrible;
259 they put a weir in, stopped the water and there's new growth in there, I don't know what
260 it is, now we're starting to see a lot of snakes in there, water moccasins; we've killed
261 three so far and we never had that before and I've had that lot for 20 years, so, it needs to
262 be cleaned on the sides, they used to come out and clean it and no one's been out this
263 year, so, I'm asking that the city at least take pride in some of these streams and clean
264 them up. Thank you.”

265
266 **Jim Mays, 911 So. Ocean Blvd, Sea Dogs Ice Cream owner:** “Ironically tonight, Mr.
267 Booth albeit in jest said that even though you don't have to pay, you would want to in
268 our parking lots, well, I'm here tonight to tell you that our visitors to the town who are
269 paying when they don't have to because of our lack of signage at the pier are not happy
270 with it. Several months ago council addressed the rumor that the town was going to
271 enforce parking charges 24 hours a day and the answer was that there would be no
272 change in the hours of enforcement, that meaning that the parking would be free after
273 5:00 PM and before 9:00 AM, well to the dismay of my customers and visitors to the
274 town, there's no signage at the pay kiosk or at the change machine that states the hours
275 of operation. The resounding comments we hear is that the town is being sneaky, that if
276 the town needs another dollar that bad then they would rather pay two dollars an hour
277 and not be tricked. This is not an image that the town or its businesses want. The
278 extraordinarily simple solution to this is to put a small sticker on the kiosk that defines
279 the hours of being nine to five. There would be no additional signs just a small
280 informational sticker and the unearned revenue that the town is generating on after hours
281 parking is more than lost to the damage of what's being done to our reputation.”

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283 **Randall Stevens, 412 1st Avenue North:** “What I wanted to cover is recently I read a
284 newspaper article, about you all trying to do a quit claim deed, and what was amazing
285 about this whole thing is the whole town council voted without even doing any research
286 other than from information from the administrator. I already knew that that property
287 that you were talking about couldn't be transferred because I'd researched that a long
288 time ago. It's amazing that you all take these steps without any research at all, just
289 blindly go into it and vote for it and as the minutes say all of you voted for it. I suggest
290 that the town council need to take stock of itself and start looking at yourself again

291 because according to, I wrote a little letter to the editor and somebody else wrote one
292 too, and he summed it up pretty clear, 'I guess those small town politicians never
293 learn'."

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295 **Shelby Smith, 911 Cedar Drive:** "I want to this evening thank the beautification
296 committee for improving the towns sign on the north side, on Highway 17, right
297 opposite the Pizza Hut and this became a volunteer project by a couple of us on the
298 beautification committee; I'm a member of that committee and this evening, Carolyn
299 Harbin and I finished putting some nice flowers in that bed. Yesterday I emptied the bed
300 of 14 bags of weed and trash and sand and a little bit of everything in that bed and that
301 took an hour and a half and today Carolyn and I spent another one hour each finishing
302 that bed. The town brought the great soil, that soil is terrific, it's like they call the other
303 parts of the country black gold, I mean it really is good looking stuff, so now that bed's
304 got the right soil to grow the flowers, that's another hour and that's 4 ½ man hours, that
305 plot which is a small bed, it's 3 foot by 8 foot, it was completed and it's a relatively
306 small, it is a small project but that logo is over that sign and 60,000 cars are coming
307 down that road and looking at that logo and looking at that mess and I've been talking
308 about it for over a year and it's not been held in very high regard and there are some
309 other spots around town that the beautification committee, the whole committee is
310 identifying, and attempting to help the town and get assistance because the town is doing
311 major projects and the grounds committee and Mr. Booth and all the resources are being
312 utilized well but this little project, if we looked at the results and we break it down per
313 square foot maybe we could in the future identify the scope of this and not let it be put
314 off because it's viewed as something more than it really is. It works out to 11 minutes a
315 square foot and about 3 dollars a square foot, my goodness it needs to be on somebody's
316 list to say 'hey we're going to get to that, we're not going to let all these other projects
317 and never get to the small thing that's carrying our logo and everybody in the town
318 seeing it', so that's my point here tonight and as far as planning and the money goes, I
319 find it a little surprising that while 20,000 dollars was being allocated in our economy
320 and what we're doing here for these fireworks, that's about three quarters of a full time
321 equivalent employee, that's a human resource, that's a big alternative expenditure in my
322 view so I'll just bring that particular point up and the only other comment I have this
323 evening is Mr. Booth said, we're ready to end our projects, the tourists are coming; I
324 still, and I haven't been to the meetings as I should have but is there still a plan for
325 improving Dogwood Lake, our biggest lake, our most important lake with regard to
326 stormwater; is that still in this years' plan, so I hope it is. Thank you very much."

327 328 **10. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

329 **Mr. Childs:** "Mr. Smith I was hoping that this new grounds committee that comes
330 under Ty was going to address those spots like you're talking about, on like Veteran's
331 Park and the sign; there's a lot of little areas like you pointed out in town that should be
332 on a list, a to do list, a regular list instead of maybe until it is beyond what it's supposed
333 to be, so I'm hoping that this will be taken care of and will be put on somebody's list."

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335 **Mr. Samples:** "We had a lot of good comments tonight. Shelby when you got up I
336 knew you were sore, you've been working all day and I appreciate it. Carolyn already
337 told me about it, but yeah, you know it's the little things in town that make a difference I
338 mean everybody sees the big things but the fact of the matter is, it is, and I'm going to
339 say this, if it's graffiti on a wall, that's a negative, if it's an unkempt town property,

340 that's a negative, if it looks good than it makes everybody feel good. I did want to go
341 back to the comment that Ms. Hiatt made concerning the mutual aid agreement; the town
342 certainly is still a member and a party to the mutual aid agreement, I think there was
343 some confusion over the fact that the county was, it wasn't a matter of mutual aid, we
344 were on their automatic computer to make calls if no one was in their Scipio Lane
345 station, it was just an automatic call, Surfside, and so, in fact, that's an issue which
346 remains to be negotiated. That's not mutual aid, so I don't want people, the folks, the
347 citizens to feel like somehow were there to be a catastrophe in the town of Surfside
348 Beach that Horry County would not respond, I'm sure they would, and likewise we
349 would do the same, when they call under the mutual aid agreement. I want to clarify that
350 but we're not making automatic calls to their territory."

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352 **Mr. Truett:** "To follow up on what Mr. Samples said, we were listed as first responder
353 and everybody saw the fires, we had a support group that was covered from North
354 Myrtle Beach, if I'm not mistaken as North Myrtle Beach was helping fight these fires,
355 so there's mutual aid all across the beach and we are participating with every
356 municipality. Mr. Mays, to the parking at the pier, I can speak for myself and I think I
357 can speak for a lot of people on council, there's not anybody up here trying to, who
358 would do anybody out of a dollar. We understand you guys have got businesses, I've
359 spoken to the owner of Nibil's and I've assured him as I spoke to Mr. Booth that the
360 hours are 9 to 5 and I agree we need to have some kind of signage on these kiosks, I
361 don't know if we can even, can we shut them down at 5 o'clock, I really don't know but
362 we will get some answers for you. Thank you."

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364 **Mr. Martin:** "I'll keep it really short; I just really want to thank Shelby Smith and
365 Carolyn Harbin and the beautification committee because these are the kinds of things
366 that really make this a wonderful town. Thank you so much."

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368 **Mr. Johnson:** "I would just like to say, I have lived here for 24 years and I have never
369 seen as much community involvement as I have in the past year and it's not anything
370 that this particular council is doing except for the fact that we are asking the town
371 residents to get involved and my hat goes off to all of the town residents who are
372 working to make this place a better place to live. It's your town; it's not the council's
373 town, it's not the town employees town, it's everyone's town and I just thank you from
374 the bottom of my heart that this is getting done. You know we've got a great place here
375 and it's not anything that one person is doing, it's everyone together and we can make it
376 an even better place and I thank you for your continued involvement; your continued
377 attendance and your continued support. Thank you."

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379 **Ms. Blair:** "Echo Mr. Johnson's thanks for what everyone is doing. I wanted to also
380 voice my agreement and thanks on Mr. Martin bringing up the burning ordinance.
381 Having spent about 36 hours straight working EOC and the staging area in North Myrtle
382 Beach and not ever having had that experience before is quite an eye opener to sit there
383 and see that site. I've never been privy to anything quite that dramatic and I was both
384 horrified and mesmerized all at the same time to watch those 100 foot flames leaping
385 over the trees, it actually looked like the waterway was burning right up to the water's
386 edge and in fact seeing it in daylight you can see no burn right along the waterway so
387 that's how intense it was and to see the community support that came in to help those
388 people was amazing, so there's still a long road to go and so we are certainly hoping to

389 be proactive with our ordinance rather than having to be reactive; this apparently wasn't
390 but many times, sometimes these things are acts of nature and can't be avoided but
391 apparently from what we hear this one could have, so we're trying to prevent that; keep
392 praying for those who were victims and for those who are on the front lines risking their
393 lives every day and thank you for all you do to help us abide by these ordinances and
394 keep Surfside as safe as possible. Thanks for coming out tonight and everyone have a
395 safe trip home."

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397 **Mayor Deaton:** "It's a wonderful time to live in Surfside Beach. This is our
398 anniversary, actually, I believe, coming up, either the latter part of this week or the first
399 of next week, some new councilmembers were seated and we went in another direction,
400 everybody's worked together as a team. I can't say enough good things about the
401 councilmembers and what they do and how much studying they do and they depend
402 upon facts instead of innuendos or rumors or finger pointing and you know I would like
403 to commend our firefighters first of all, our public safety department is incredible, our
404 firefighters, I'd like to commend them on the job they did I talked with Mayor Hatley
405 and she was just very complimentary on the professionalism and the team work that they
406 did up there during the whole process and so I'm very proud of those guys, and public
407 safety is not just firefighting, it's also our policemen and they get a lot of flak about, well
408 we don't see them or what are they doing, but I've had two instances with both the
409 firefighters and the police department; the first one was our small hurricane threat that
410 we had and to see those guys come together as professionals and prepare and to be ready
411 for a threat like that was a very impressive thing to do and it was my first opportunity, it
412 was not long after I was elected, that I was in charge with the governor's office and
413 things of that nature and those guys made it very easy on me, being in charge, because
414 they were doing such a professional job. Our policemen are out there and I happened to
415 experience a swat team event with our policemen participating, those guys are as
416 professional as anything I've ever seen and we used to be in a position where we would
417 spend six to twelve thousand dollars training our professionals and then we would lose
418 them because it was not a very pleasant place to work and so other departments very
419 easily could pull them out from under us; that's all changed folks, we've got policemen
420 now and officers who are coming from other departments; that are well trained, highly
421 trained, highly experienced and it's because of the work environment that's been
422 created. The morale is not only high in our public safety but it seems to be high in every
423 department across the board; I'm very proud of that; that's a major change for the town
424 of Surfside Beach; morale is very important, so it's no longer a rotating door for
425 employees or department heads, we actually have people that live and work here and
426 they're enjoying their jobs and are trying for the betterment of the community and
427 they're doing a great job, I mean I can't say enough about everybody; Kim, Ty all the
428 department heads have worked hard together.

429
430 Our committees are doing an incredible job; this council has delegated this responsibility
431 down and that's what it's about; we're not micro-managers, we're not supposed to be in
432 there micro-managing projects and we're not supposed to be coming up with all the
433 great ideas, I would be proud for everybody to have vision and move this town forward,
434 but these committees are doing the work and they're presenting to us good ideas and
435 good options so that we can make good decisions for you and the community. I think
436 that pretty much sums it up, I've had an extraordinary year; it's just been good, I'm
437 pleased, I think it's a good fit; this council is a good fit for this town, this town is going

438 to be better off when this council moves on and I just want to thank you as a community;
 439 it's been one year and please call any authority that you need to speak with; those
 440 department heads are wide open for you, councilmembers, they're concerned, they're
 441 listening and I would just like to thank everybody for coming tonight and I'm not going
 442 to get up on the soap box any longer. Thank you."
 443

444 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

445 Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in**
 446 **favor. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.
 447

448
449 Approved: May 12, 2009

450 _____
 451 Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

452 _____
 453 K. Allen Deaton, Mayor

454 _____
 455 Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

456 _____
 457 Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

458 _____
 459 James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

460 _____
 461 Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

462 _____
 463 Mark L Johnson, Town Council

464 _____
 465 Robert F. Childs, III, Town Council

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 477 **Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the**
 478 **agenda were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on file in the clerk's office. The agenda was posted**
 479 **on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee.**