



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
December 8, 2009 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING/  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Councilman Samples gave the invocation. Mayor Deaton led the pledge of allegiance.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING**

Public Hearing was held to hear public comments on the town transportation study. The study includes the timeline for road paving and sidewalks. Highway 17 is also included in the plan with some of the crossovers needing to be closed. The State will allow the town to close the crossovers and they would provide the vegetation. The intersections are more difficult because of the frontage road; it will take some major engineering. The frontage road has to be in its entirety part of the project. Mr. Martin stated that he had recommended that the next sidewalk go in at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South and asked if this was incorporated into the plan. Mr. Booth stated that it will be.

*Ms. Anna Dodge, 1415 N Poplar Drive:* “We live on 15<sup>th</sup> and as you know those crossovers there at 15<sup>th</sup> and 17 Business; that’s really a dangerous, I call it malfunction junction. It’s a very dangerous thing and I’m assuming that is in this transportation study, am I right? I hope we give special attention to that but the others are bad too. Thank you very much.”

Mr. Booth agreed that they all need to be addressed. There were no other public comments.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing and move to regular meeting. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mr. Childs made a motion to amend the agenda; to move item E from the business section of the agenda and place it on the discussion section. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Samples made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in favor to approve the amended agenda. MOTION CARRIED.**

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5. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Samples made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held November 24, 2009 as written. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only – 3 minutes per speaker**

***Tom Dodge, 1415 N. Poplar Drive:*** “I saw on the agenda raise for the mayor. I first thought it had to be a mistake but apparently that’s not so. To give the mayor a raise would be liking it to giving Mr. Obama the Nobel Prize; neither are deserved. The mayor should have known the salary when he applied for the job. I certainly hope council does not vote for it.”

***Ron Saunders, 313 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South:*** “Two things I want to talk about. I’ll try to keep it within the three minutes so, hold on Mr. police officers, don’t come and get me, ok? First thing I want to talk about is recent ads posted in a publication called the Horry Independent and I see here that it is on the agenda, that we’re going to talk about our publications, right? I couldn’t believe that we’re actually using that paper as a publication for our public meetings. I never heard of it and many people I’ve talked to never heard of it. So I called the Horry Independent and asked them, ‘hey I live in Surfside Beach where can I buy a copy of your newspaper’. ‘Well you can pick it up at the Walmart’. I said, ‘no you misunderstand I live at Surfside Beach where can I get a copy of your paper’ and she said ‘hold on let me go get the manager’, she came back in a few minutes and she had this manager and he said ‘there’s two places you can buy that in Surfside Beach and one’s at the CVS store at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and one at the dollar general store at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South’. I think the State law reads something to this nature, that it should be published in a newspaper or a publication where you have a significant amount of coverage in the area affected. If that’s significant coverage, we got a major problem. The other thing I want to talk to is, of course, the mayors raise, you know we just spent a couple million dollars on a fire department, a couple million dollars on a pier, 214,000 dollars on a parking lot and another million and so on some fire trucks and we’re just a little town and I think we spent enough. I think it’s time to hold it back and I’m a voter too.”

7. **COMMUNICATIONS**

a. ***Building Report***

Mr. Booth reported that the major efforts of this department have been to go over the 72 amendments to the zoning ordinances. The technical change requests would be presented to council and the policy changes will be discussed later one at a time. The comprehensive plan is also being reviewed and updated. There have been some complaints regarding abandoned buildings and staff will look into doing some enforcement and bring it back to council. Mr. Childs stated that he would like to add the International Property Maintenance code to the next agenda as a discussion item. This was adopted by the town council and he has some questions regarding this code and abandoned buildings. Mr. Booth stated that he believes it was recently reported in the newspapers that the area was down 87 percent from sales of buildings and homes from the previous year. Mr. Samples stated that council authorized the Planning Commission to make technical changes but the policy changes would be brought before council; the meeting would be held with the consultant from

100 Waccamaw Regional to go over the proposed policy changes before council directs  
101 the Planning Commission to consider them on an individual basis. Mr. Booth  
102 confirmed that there would be a workshop on this.  
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104 **b. *Public Safety Report***

105 Mr. Booth reported that the police department had 900 individual complaints. There  
106 are still break-ins in cars. This is the season for break-ins and the town is pushing  
107 individuals to lock their vehicles; most of break-ins happen to unlocked vehicles.  
108 There are also break-ins to homes and the town is taking these very seriously. Mr.  
109 Booth gave kudos to the police department; one was on a fire at the Chrystalite Café.  
110 The café had previously experienced false alarms. A police officer had checked out  
111 an alarm call and initially did not see anything out of the ordinary but in checking  
112 further was able to save the building from a fire. Mr. Booth reported that the  
113 Surfside Police Department uncovered and assisted with a recent Horry County  
114 incident reported in the news as well. Mr. Childs stated that the council recently  
115 received a public safety report in their packets and complimented the Public Safety  
116 Director on a thorough job but asked if future packet reports could be summarized  
117 adding that this information is available on-line and would like to cut down the paper  
118 use. Mr. Childs made a motion to eliminate council receiving the monthly report n  
119 detail and narrow it down to a summary. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr.  
120 Samples wanted to clarify the motion. Mr. Childs added to the motion that if a  
121 council person wants more detail they can receive it. It was clarified that the  
122 information provided to town council from the Public Safety report is all available  
123 on-line. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**  
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125 Mr. Booth reported that there have been a number of fires recently. The fire  
126 department has been busy with the fires and accidents. Mr. Booth stated that he  
127 hoped the accidents would decrease once some work and improvements are made on  
128 Business 17.  
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130 **c. *Administrators Report***

131 **i. *Project Updates***

132 Project updates were e-mailed to council. Mr. Booth reported that the town is  
133 in the preliminary stages of discussing the design of a new town hall adding  
134 that the plan is to work on this for the next 6 months. Mr. Johnson stated that  
135 there is a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of the town complex. Mr.  
136 Booth stated that there is but they are just blocks; the architect sketched a  
137 concept of the entire complex and the next step would be, as was done with the  
138 fire station, to internally decide what is needed for the courts, finance and all of  
139 the departments. Mr. Samples stated that he is familiar with the drawing which  
140 was a long term vision and he is glad to hear that no money will be spent on  
141 additional government buildings adding that he would like to finish the fire  
142 station first and then it needs to come back to council for future discussion.  
143 Mr. Samples stated that this evening the council will discuss some  
144 improvements to energy efficiencies to the current building. Mr. Samples  
145 stated that he, for one, is not ready to entertain any further large construction  
146 projects; he does not see the need and added that first it would need to be  
147 demonstrated to him that there is a need to replace what the town currently has  
148 and this has not yet been done. Mr. Booth stated that the town is currently in

149 the long range planning stage and this all needs to be done to go along with  
150 what the architect designed.

151  
152 Ms. Blair stated that for the last couple of town meetings the OCRM approval  
153 has been on for the pier deck and asked when the last time was that he checked  
154 with them. Mr. Booth reported that the approval has been received. It was  
155 confirmed that the project is anticipated to take place in February. The pier is  
156 in the process of being mobilized and given the weather it is anticipated that the  
157 piling project will begin. Pier Outfitters will remain open until the project  
158 begins; the town still has some fishermen out there.

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160 *ii. Parking Study*  
161 Mr. Booth reported that he had to delay the parking study presentation; it did  
162 not contain all of the elements the town needed so it was returned for additional  
163 information. Mr. Booth stated that it should be back by the next council  
164 meeting and there will be a workshop set up. Mr. Samples asked if Mr. Booth  
165 recalled the original time line. Mr. Booth stated that it was to be presented in  
166 30 to 45 days. It was confirmed that it was originally discussed in July.

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168 **8. BUSINESS**

169 **A. *Second Reading Ordinance #09-0678: Procurement***  
170 Mr. Samples made a motion to adopt second reading. Mr. Childs seconded the  
171 motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

172 **B. *Decision Paper: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant***  
173 Mr. Booth explained that this is for a conservation grant that the town received in the  
174 amount of \$45,000. The town needs to add it into the budget in order to spend it.  
175 This was a request to amend the budget. Mr. Childs stated that there was talk about a  
176 new town hall and paying \$45,000 for a new unit when the town plans to tear the  
177 building down did not make sense and asked if the town would be able to reuse the  
178 units. Mr. Booth stated that they could be re-used and added that the town hall  
179 construction would not be done anytime soon. Mr. Booth reiterated that the town is  
180 performing a long range project with town hall plans, a community center and  
181 possibly to look at the police department for growth; it would be similar to a  
182 comprehensive plan for the town but it would include the town complex. Mr.  
183 Samples stated that he understands the need to do long term planning but, provided  
184 in the council packages was a list of very detailed ongoing projects already  
185 approved, and he feels that the town would be better served if the focus is on those  
186 ongoing projects. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the amendment to the  
187 budget. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. It was clarified that this is federal  
188 taxpayer stimulus grant money. **All present voted in favor. MOTION**  
189 **CARRIED.**

190 **C. *Decision Paper: Scoreboards***  
191 This is for funds presented by the county. It also needs to be placed into the budget  
192 in order to spend it. Mr. Samples made a motion to approve recommendation. Mr.  
193 Childs seconded the motion. Mr. Johnson asked about the concession stand at

194 Martin Field. Mr. Booth stated that there was still some work on a design and that  
195 this would probably be presented to council at the next meeting. **All present voted**  
196 **in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**  
197

198 **D. *Decision Paper: Furnishings for Fire Station***

199 Mr. Booth stated that it looks like the fire department will be moving into the new  
200 fire station within the first couple of weeks of January. The town had gone out for  
201 bids for furniture. The town looked at a medium range rather than low range. The  
202 architects estimated the cost of furnishings to be approximately \$125,000 and the  
203 bids came in at \$50,000; part of it could be due to the economy. Mr. Booth stated  
204 that they received commercial grade household residential cabinetry for the station.  
205 It came through Home Depot. Mr. Martin made a motion to handle each section of  
206 this issue paper at a time. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All present voted in**  
207 **favor. MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the request for  
208 \$41,000 for furniture for the new fire station. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. Mr.  
209 Martin stated that he is surprised at how few bids were received. Chief Packard  
210 stated that from what he understands is that it was advertised in the newspaper and it  
211 went out on SCBO and there were 3 local bids that came in along with one from  
212 California. Chief Packard stated that he was surprised that there were not additional  
213 bids received as well. Mr. Martin stated that he was pleased to see that the selected  
214 bidder was from Surfside Beach. There was one received from Surfside Beach,  
215 Myrtle Beach and Garden City and one from the west coast. Chief Packard stated  
216 that they tried not to take the low or high bid but to take something that they felt  
217 would last them a significant amount of time. The low bid included items which  
218 may have had to be replaced in 3 to 5 years. Mr. Johnson stated for the record the  
219 amounts of the bids and rounded them off. Owl-O-Rest \$41,000 which was the  
220 recommended bid; Garden City Furniture \$57,600; Dimensional Marketing \$27,700.  
221 Mr. Samples asked what would be done with the assets that the town will be  
222 replacing. Mr. Booth stated that some of the kitchen equipment will go over to the  
223 Community Center and whatever is left will be sold at a town garage sale. Mr.  
224 Samples stated that for years the town held auctions and they were always well  
225 attended. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the washer extractor  
226 recommendation. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Martin asked why a  
227 commercial grade washer extractor is required as opposed to a residential washer.  
228 Chief Packard stated that the department is required to maintain the turnout gear that  
229 is used. By using a commercial grade extractor multiple sets of gear can be washed.  
230 Heat degradation seems to be the problem with gear; the longer it has to run in a  
231 dryer the more it begins to break the equipment down; the industrial spins at a higher  
232 level of RPM and once the gear comes out it is already 95 dry and then only takes 10  
233 to 15 minutes in a dryer. It ends up being less expensive; the gear does not get worn  
234 as quickly. The bid amounts for the washer extractor were, Central Equipment  
235 Company \$7,413.93 and Home Depot \$7,801.50. **All present voted in favor.**  
236 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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238 Mr. Martin made a motion to suspend the rules for discussion. Mr. Samples  
239 seconded the motion. Mr. Martin stated that specs were not received along with the  
240 decision paper. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Martin  
241 stated that there was a previous discussion regarding having energy star appliances

242 for the kitchen. Mr. Martin stated that he looked at the refrigerator presented and it  
243 is not an energy star appliance. Chief Packard stated that they had received bids  
244 from Lowes, Home Depot and Sears. Mr. Martin asked if they had gone to  
245 Appliance Plus and PCW. Chief Packard stated that he did not. Mr. Martin stated  
246 that they are two of the largest appliance dealers in the area and added that they are  
247 very competitive. Chief Packard stated that the reason the town went with Home  
248 Depot was that it was part of the US Communities Act; they will guarantee the  
249 lowest price and once an excess of \$2,500 is spent there is a 2 percent return to the  
250 Town of Surfside Beach on their money. Chief Packard stated that when they had  
251 spoken to the representative from Home Depot the refrigerator was stated that it was  
252 an energy star appliance. Mr. Martin stated that according to the information council  
253 received it was not rated as an energy star appliance. There was consensus of  
254 council to make sure the appliance was an energy star appliance. Mr. Martin asked if  
255 Home Depot received a lower price from PCW or Appliance Plus would they match  
256 it. Chief Packard stated that the town was guaranteed the lowest price. Mr. Martin  
257 stated that he felt it was worth it for the town to get other prices. Mr. Martin made a  
258 motion to request quotes from PCW and Appliance Plus. Mr. Samples seconded the  
259 motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Deaton asked  
260 if staff understood the request. Mr. Martin clarified that he wanted staff to get prices  
261 on the whole appliance package. It was clarified that if items are under \$5,000 the  
262 town just needs to get 3 quotes. Chief Packard stated that he would go to PCW and  
263 Appliance Plus.

264 E. *Decision Paper: Increase Mayors Salary*

265 Moved to discussion item.

266 F. *Decision Paper: Underground Utilities Subcommittee Recommendations*

267 Mr. Booth stated that the Underground Utility Subcommittee met a week ago and  
268 had come up with several recommendations. The requirement from Santee Cooper is  
269 for the town to have the engineering done on Ocean Blvd. Santee Cooper is not  
270 equipped to handle the major feeder lines and this would require the town to do  
271 RFQ's (request for qualifications). The Committee would like to do the interviews  
272 with the RFQ's received to keep council from having to go through this long process  
273 and will bring back a recommendation to council. Mr. Samples stated that as a  
274 member of the subcommittee he wanted to note that there is a time line involved.  
275 Mr. Samples made a motion for the committee to be authorized through Mr. Booth to  
276 issue an RFQ, working with Santee Cooper, and that the committee considers and  
277 interviews those interested firms and then bring a recommendation to council. Mr.  
278 Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Childs thanked the committee for the great job  
279 they are doing and added that he can't wait to see something done on Ocean Blvd.  
280 **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

281  
282 Mr. Booth stated that in order to facilitate the underground projects for the next  
283 couple of years the recommendation is that the town adds Surfside Drive from Ocean  
284 Blvd to Myrtle. Mr. Martin stated that he thought they were going to do all of  
285 Surfside Drive. Mr. Booth stated that the town has to consider cost. It would be a  
286 million dollar project to do all of Surfside Drive and believes they were looking at  
287 doing \$400,000 segments to do at a time. Mr. Samples stated that he appreciates Mr.  
288 Booth's comments and understands costs are important but believes that Mr. Martin

289 is correct in that the intent of the committee was to get direction from council to  
290 make Surfside Drive the next project for underground after the town does 3<sup>rd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>  
291 on Ocean. Mr. Martin made a motion to make the next priority for the underground  
292 be the engineering for Surfside Drive. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. Mr.  
293 Martin stated that the way the budget for this works is if the town exceeds the money  
294 available in the fund there is money provided by Santee Cooper at zero interest for  
295 up to 3 years worth of the fund and that's currently at \$870,000 so there would not  
296 be a problem going a little beyond of what is expected in terms of budget. All the  
297 committee is talking about at this point is the engineering not the actual work on  
298 Surfside Drive. Mr. Samples added that there is a hope that the underground on  
299 Surfside Drive can be coordinated with any construction associated the library  
300 expansion. It was confirmed by Mr. Booth that his comes out of the underground  
301 wiring funds. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

302 G. ***Resolution 09-090 Authorize Assumption of Claim Deductible with South Carolina***  
303 ***Municipal Insurance Trust Workers' Compensation Fund***

304 Mr. Booth explained that the town is currently looking to take the \$5,000 deductible  
305 to \$10,000. This year the town saved \$14,000 by having it at \$5,000 and believes  
306 that by raising it to \$10,000 an additional savings would be seen. The accident rates  
307 for the town have been low and this would not be placing a lot of liability on the  
308 town by doing this. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the staff recommendation  
309 and go to a \$10,000 deductible. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Samples  
310 asked how much would be saved. Mr. Booth stated that it would be \$26,000. **All**  
311 **present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** The town clerk read the resolution  
312 which is on file.

313 H. ***Resolution 09-091 Authorize Assumption Claim Deductible with South Carolina***  
314 ***Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund***

315 Mr. Booth stated that the town would take on a little more risk and make a little more  
316 money. The risks are currently down; this type of insurance is not used that often.  
317 The town is looking to see a considerable reduction in the rates because of the  
318 reduced accidents in town. The town would take a \$10,000 liability for an \$11,000  
319 reward. Mr. Samples made a motion to not adopt the change. Mr. Martin seconded  
320 the motion. Mr. Johnson stated that he agreed that this would be considered a wash  
321 and agreed with the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**  
322 Mr. Booth stated that it is very difficult to find anyone to bid on the insurance; the  
323 town has looked.

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325 **9. DISCUSSION**

326 *Policy for Placing Public Notice Ads*

327 Mr. Samples stated that he understands that it is town policy to advertise in the Sun  
328 News or the Myrtle Beach Herald; this information was provided to him. Mr. Samples  
329 stated that he feels that the policy needs to go further. Advertising in the Horry  
330 Independent was obviously a cost savings measure. Mr. Samples stated that this makes  
331 some people think that the town is trying to hide something and he knows that it is not;  
332 the town is just trying to save money. Mr. Samples stated that his recommendation is  
333 that lawyers and others that are tasked with meeting the legal requirements of public  
334 advertising be instructed to advertise in the Sun News or the Myrtle Beach Herald so  
335 there are no instances where people think the town is trying to hide something when it is

336 not. Mr. Johnson stated that he agreed and does not think that there was anything on  
337 anyone's part to try to hide anything but also feels that there should be a policy in place  
338 or a consensus in place to advertise in the top two major publications in the county.  
339 Mayor Deaton stated that the town has a policy and when it contracts out to a legal  
340 services he is not sure that the town has the legal authority to instruct the legal service;  
341 the town can request or make the recommendation but as far as directing another entity  
342 to operate under the town's guidelines may overstep the town's bounds. Mr. Smith  
343 stated that there was no intent to deceive anyone when the advertising was done. When  
344 legal advertisements are required the only statutory requirement is a county wide  
345 circulation. It is not based on how many places one can purchase the newspaper but that  
346 it is circulated throughout the county. Mr. Smith stated that council can have a policy  
347 to have all of the town legal advertising to be in the Sun News and then his firm will  
348 accommodate this request. It was confirmed that the law firm would be willing to be  
349 directed where to advertise. There was consensus of council to direct staff and  
350 contracted services to advertise in Sun News or Myrtle Beach Herald going forward.  
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#### 352 *Mayor Raise*

353 Mr. Booth explained that this item was addressed at the previous budget retreat. At the  
354 time, due to the downturn in the economy, this item was tabled. Mr. Booth was directed  
355 to bring this back for council consideration. Mr. Martin made a motion to suggest  
356 changing council monthly salaries from \$500 to \$450 and increase mayors salary from  
357 \$600 to \$900; this would be revenue neutral to the town. There was no second. Mr.  
358 Childs made a motion that any further discussion or action on this matter be deferred to  
359 the budget retreat in Pinopolis. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All present voted in**  
360 **favor. MOTION CARRIED.**  
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#### 362 **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS - 5 minutes per speaker**

363 *Anna Dodge, 1415 N. Poplar Drive:* "You've heard the saying 'there's something  
364 rotten in Denmark', well, evidently there is something rotten in Surfside Beach, too, I  
365 hope not, but it certainly seems that way. At the last council meeting a citizen was  
366 speaking about the closing of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and went over the 5 minute time limit,  
367 however, he tried valiantly to quickly finish what he wanted to say. Suddenly the  
368 policeman, who is now present at council meetings, was motioned forward by the  
369 administrator and I am assuming that was to remove the speaker. To my way of thinking  
370 that was trouncing on that persons' right of free speech which I believe is mentioned in  
371 our constitution. This is a small town, a police presence is not necessary at council  
372 meetings. First of all, I would think that the officer has more pressing duties in  
373 protecting the town, which is what he was hired to do. Council does not need protection  
374 from the citizens who pay their salary. We've lived here for 18 years and never, to my  
375 knowledge, has a towns person ever threatened harm to the council in a meeting. People  
376 may get upset but they are not going to do bodily harm to anyone. Their primary motive  
377 for standing up and speaking out is to have their concerns heard and addressed by the  
378 council that we elected to serve and I have three points: the time limit should be  
379 flexible, usually 5 minutes is more than ample time but if it's not then allow the speaker  
380 to finish even if it takes another 5 minutes. I doubt any of us is here to filibuster,  
381 however, we're here to learn and that is why we ask questions. Second, I find it  
382 offensive when the Public Safety Director tells a citizen in an e-mail that those who feel  
383 intimidated by police presence probably need to be intimidated. I was appalled to learn  
384 this. This statement from the person whose duty it is to protect all citizens of the town.



385 Sensitivity training might be in order here. Number three, I agree you want to expedite  
386 the meetings and you're doing a good job of that but to stop a citizen from speaking his  
387 or her mind is wrong. Citizens usually treat you with respect when they speak. You  
388 should respect their right to state their concerns. After all you are paid by the citizens of  
389 the town to listen and act upon their concerns. Thank you."

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391 **Tom Dodge, 1415 N. Poplar Drive:** "Our meetings seem to be conducted faster, and  
392 faster and faster and faster and faster. I don't know what the hurry is but it's two nights  
393 a month that you meet. I don't see why there's such a big hurry to get the things done. I  
394 sat back there tonight and I saw rudeness on the part of the mayor towards council  
395 people trying to talk. Maybe if the mayor went to some of the Municipal Association  
396 meetings he should go to, he would learn how to conduct the meetings and not be so  
397 defensive. I want to thank Debbie Ellis and her crew for another super tree lighting  
398 ceremony but I don't think the mayor should have used it as a political speech  
399 opportunity. I've seen the towns' advertisement on television and was very impressed.  
400 It's a real plus and very professionally done so whoever did it my thanks. I think it's a  
401 great job that they did. Thank you."

402  
403 **Joe Zoltak, 414 Pine Drive:** "Tonight I learned that town policy is to advertise in both  
404 the Myrtle Beach Herald and the Sun News and that policy has been in effect and that  
405 indeed it does apply to contractors or entities hired by the town. Will that ad now be run  
406 in accordance with the policy of the town and will that entity agree not to bill the town  
407 for not complying with the policy?"

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409 **Harry Kohlman, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South:** "Just to follow up a little bit with what Ann Dodge  
410 had said. Last meeting I was talking about the police officer in the back and I don't  
411 agree with it but if you're going to do it, it should be a police officer, it shouldn't be a  
412 supervisor. If you look on the news tonight there are two Horry County police officers  
413 who got in trouble. They weren't out there doing what they were supposed to do and on  
414 TV, Chief Morgan, I believe his name is, from Horry County, and he said the buck stops  
415 here, I'm a supervisor, the head supervisor, but I'm going to investigate and find out  
416 what my front line supervisors were doing to let this happen. This is the third meeting in  
417 a row; we've had a sergeant sitting in the back. His time is better spent out there  
418 monitoring his troops, making sure they're doing what they're supposed to do before we  
419 have a scandal. This has happened across the country. Scandals happen because bosses  
420 don't supervise their men. They need supervision. Thank you."

421  
422 **Mike Frederick, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N and 110 Oak Drive N.:** "In the interest of full disclosure  
423 I do work for the Surfside Beach Police Department but I am not here tonight in that  
424 capacity. I'm here strictly as a citizen. I'm not speaking on behalf of the department or  
425 at anybody's request, strictly as an interested citizen. I'd like to thank you folks for the  
426 openness of your meetings and the unfettered opportunity to speak, a lot of councils  
427 aren't like that, they don't really want to hear from the public too much and also by way  
428 of full disclosure and background I'd like to explain that I'm not here to mouth any type  
429 of blow by blow defense of the police department, I know that's not the business forum  
430 nor is it constructive to do so, but since Andy saved my life in a fight over my handgun  
431 in 1991 and hired me when Obama got me fired after the election in January I am, in no  
432 way, claiming any bias in regard to Andy Christenson. I really just want to comment on  
433 the political theater that has been transpiring here and the facts or statements that are

434 presented to you as facts in recent months, on that alone. On a personal note I'm not  
435 really overly sensitive to such attacks on either the department of where I happen to  
436 work right now or myself or the profession at large. I've carried a gun for government  
437 agencies for 24 years. I'm a combat veteran; I've been a street cop, a chief, a federal  
438 agent. I've been shot at, shot, blown up, stabbed, literally in the last 24 years since 1986,  
439 so I don't get angry, I don't get upset at these things, it kind of comes with the turf. I say  
440 all that to just really demonstrate that I understand the dynamics, just as an example, I  
441 mean some of the comments here border on the inane and really the micromanagement,  
442 if you will, on things as simple as officers eating together, which I won't go into here  
443 but, it is commonly done, it's actually a safety issue, most places actually ask officers to  
444 eat in pairs, eating is a distraction and we are always at risk just by virtue of the uniform  
445 we wear for attacks in public or at the very least confrontation, eating is a big distraction,  
446 we like the guys to eat in pairs. When I was a chief I told my guys the same thing, now,  
447 occasionally you'll see three of four together and that is almost always, and I know  
448 because I am one of the guys, I'm a sergeant running the ship, it's usually because a  
449 couple of the day shift guys have hung over. There is always 1, 2 or 3 other patrol  
450 officers out and around. That's also one of the blessings of having a 2 square mile  
451 jurisdiction, I've never even had a patrol zone in two square miles much less an entire  
452 jurisdiction but we can't eat more than two minutes from anybody's house so that's a  
453 good thing. I'm not going to address in detail the entire list of minutia, they've covered  
454 everything from the uniforms we wear, smoking enforcement, latent prints, ride-alongs,  
455 part one crimes, and even council security keeps coming up. It's standard operating  
456 procedures, as I'm sure you folks know, to have security at council meetings; there are  
457 attacks with great regularity, physically and sometimes lethally attacked and as a matter  
458 of fact I'm almost sure that the town councilor would inform me that if something were  
459 to happen and we didn't have a police presence here it would be on us, liability wise.  
460 Logically speaking, I'll make one more point and I'll be out of your hair, most of the  
461 statements that are presented here are formed as logical fallacies, in other words, they  
462 put a false conclusion to the premise and then they want to debate the premise here with  
463 you in a public forum. Asking council when are you going to start making them do their  
464 jobs is them, being of course the police department, is much akin to asking somebody in  
465 court is when do you stop beating your wife or when did you start beating your wife.  
466 The assumption and the premise is incorrect so the whole question is invalid and can't be  
467 debated. Many years ago in my undergrad logic course, they called it circular logic or  
468 circular reason, you can do it all day and get nowhere, so, I'm not going to participate in  
469 it here, but, on the other hand, and this is my point tonight, any citizen can engage in a  
470 real conversation about police procedures or town procedures or any other procedures of  
471 the town by just asking for a real conversation with the chief or any other officer for that  
472 matter. In the 6 months I've been here I've had many such conversations with citizens,  
473 they've had concerns, they come up and ask me a question that's unfounded and once I  
474 explain it to that citizen, they're perfectly happy and walk away and that's my point and  
475 the key point I'll ask you to consider tonight is to please examine the chosen venue for  
476 questions in addition to the actual rhetoric when people come forward and speak to this  
477 body. I teach interview and interrogation courses and have for years and in those classes  
478 I always tell new detectives look for motivation. Ask that question, why is this person  
479 saying this at this time; why are they saying what they're saying and my thesis, if you  
480 will, my premise tonight is that persons who chose as their first attempt at alleged fact  
481 finding to ask questions, here in this body, especially if they're based on a faulty  
482 premise, they're probably not motivated by fact finding, that's my primary point there;

483 they're probably agenda driven and appear to be a vocal minority who would subvert the  
484 executive process by which a professionally managed organization is operated and I will  
485 not, for one, come back and address you repeatedly about this. If I have concerns about  
486 towns where I live or my government officials I address them directly with that  
487 executive function until I'm not satisfied and at that point and I never had to do that but I  
488 would come to this body. Mr. Mayor, I don't know you, I'm new, I'm from the greater  
489 Garden City Metropolitan Area originally but I've been gone for 8 or 10 years for  
490 employment but I'm back and I don't know you personally but I, for one, applaud your  
491 efforts to keep, to enforce the rules of order for the meeting, to keep things moving along  
492 and to keep some modicum of civility and professionalism here in the meetings and I  
493 thank you for your time."

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495 **Ron Saunders**, : "Being a member of a public, Zoning Commission here and having  
496 been told in the past that I wasn't allowed to stand up in front of this council and make  
497 comments, I find it appalling that you let a police officer stand up here and do that. We  
498 have a right as citizens of this town to ask that man to do his job. We have a right to ask  
499 him to wear that uniform that we paid for that he don't wear and every police officer  
500 should be wearing their police uniforms. We pay for those things, if they're not going to  
501 wear them don't give them the money for them but you should have an ordinance on file  
502 that says they have to wear them."

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504 **Marty Hardwick, 714 Cedar Drive North**: "I don't know what the problem is with the  
505 police department but I'd just like to say in the length of time we've lived here one of  
506 the things I have seen in the last year or so, since Andy, well, Chief that's in charge, is  
507 the way it was when we first moved into town. You saw your police officers, you saw  
508 their cars patrolling in your town limits and not on Highway 17 and I know it's  
509 important to stop speeders and violators but what I've always felt great about is to be out  
510 in my yard or walk outside at night and you see a police car go by because you know  
511 they're protecting your area. Now whether they have breakfast together, I think that's  
512 great too because I eat at all the breakfast houses here in Surfside and one of the things  
513 that people like to see is our police officers because they get to know them on a personal  
514 basis and the police officers know us and if something is going amiss they know and you  
515 know and whether they got the uniform on, coming to the town council meeting, they are  
516 like us they don't have to wear uniforms all the time (SIC), so I don't know why  
517 everybody's attacking them tonight but I feel we have a great police force. I'm proud to  
518 see them back on the street where they ride through the community. My grandchildren  
519 love it, they wave at them every time they go by so I appreciate your work and your  
520 officers and I think they should be commended on what they do and I think in every  
521 position no one is going to be perfect and we're going to find faults with what everyone  
522 does but then we should give some people credit when credit's due and in our small  
523 town I think we have an excellent police force now. There have been times I probably  
524 would not have said that but tonight I really do feel that we . . . and having our break-ins  
525 and stuff like that, it's left up to the neighbors to watch out for each other when your  
526 neighbors gone and things like that and when there's strange people in your  
527 neighborhood call . . . I mean I don't mind doing that, if there's somebody walking  
528 through our neighborhood I don't know I don't mind calling the town and saying there's  
529 a group of kids that look like they're going to get in trouble so send someone out to  
530 check on them and if other people did that you wouldn't have to worry about your cars  
531 being broken into. Thank you."

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**Kim Frederick, 411 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. and 110 Oak Drive:** “My husband is Mike, he spoke earlier. Just wanted to follow up and say that I appreciate all of your hard work as well as everyone at the police department and the fire department. I think there are so many people that are out there that are serving our community in so many different capacities and we don’t take time to point out the good things and to say thank you. I know that my husband has written some smoking tickets recently and gotten yelled obscenities in bars for doing that when all he’s doing is doing his job. He rolls in late and leaves early as a lot of police officers, firefighters (SIC) spend their time here and I would just encourage those of us that have issues to follow protocol and let’s not beat each other up and come and complain. Let’s look for solutions and work together because we all live in Surfside, it’s a great place to be and we want to keep it that way and I thank you all for your time.”

**11. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mayor Deaton:** “Mr. Truett is not here tonight, he’s with his children, they’re in a Christmas play they both have important parts and so I think he’s got his priorities straight. He said to tell everyone Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and he’ll see you the first of the year. I would like to welcome everybody and I’d like to say Merry Christmas and there is a true reason for the season and I hope that everybody remembers what that is and I hope you have a happy New Year and I hope it’s a prosperous year. We’re in a lot better position than we thought we would be a year ago at this point in time and I think we have a lot to be thankful for and at this time I’ll move to Mr. Martin.”

**Mr. Martin:** “I’ll just second the Merry Christmas and happy New Year.”

**Mr. Samples:** “Merry Christmas. I got to be honest with you, when it comes to police officers eating in pairs I don’t have a problem with it but we are a small town and when you got 4 officers sitting together we do not have somebody on patrol. I have a brother in law who is an elected sheriff 20 years and I talked with him about it and I’ll be honest with you, he indicated to me that he felt there was a supervision problem there and what he told me is if he found his guys, he would have sent them home. They want to have dinner, 4 of them, where town, you only got 4, so I think there’s a problem there. I think we adopted a couple, a procurement ordinance tonight which is going to help with transparency. I know when we established a policy, Joe; we didn’t have the policy before as it related to vendors or contractors. A policy in terms of advertising within the town of Surfside Beach I think we’ve improved transparency there also. I guess we’ll head down the path another year. I do think, frankly, I think it’s overkill having police in the council meeting but as it was mentioned before if somebody’s been threatened, but I think their time, frankly, again, in our community could be better spent on the street doing their job. An issue, when you see your staff, you need to know they’re doing a great job and we’re taken care of, apparently we have a policy in place where now we pay a weeks’ bonus at the end of the year and you need to know that. While AVX is closing and while we got 14% unemployment and while social security people are not going to get a raise, it’s your money, you need to know that we are paying week bonuses and it’s based on a policy, frankly, I guess this council, adopted but I thought it was a one-time deal that we adopted but it’s going on, on a recurring basis, so have a Merry Christmas, enjoy yourself, we’ll be here next year.”

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**Mr. Johnson:** “Thank you ladies and gentlemen for coming out. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will not meet again until after the New Year. I, too, was under the assumption that the raise was as one-time deal and that is something that I would like to address at the next meeting, if we could put that on the agenda, please. I would also like to put on the agenda as a discussion item, funding of the Blue Grass festival which comes up in February. I think we need to take a look at that. Council agreed to fund that when the town was going to run it now that we have given that up I don’t know that we need to spend \$13,000 to have someone else run it and I would like to have that on the agenda as well. This is your town, thank you for coming out and God Bless you and Merry Christmas.”

**Mr. Childs:** “I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas too and wasn’t going to say anything, but, I don’t have any problem with an officer sitting back there. I got to tell you that’s going to rub some people the wrong way, I had a wife who spent 25 years in the police force and that was her job was, to carry a gun and sit in rooms and some of them were smaller than this with fewer people because you just never really know who is going to disrupt. You just never know, you could go forever and nobody ever disrupts all you need is one time and everybody’s going to want to know where the police were when this happens. Another thing I want to thank Andy for the fast response that your officers have when I call. You can call and I think they’re there before you hang the phone up. I do want to thank you for that and I noticed the cars around town and I think that’s really effective, it’s really good, I mean, it catches my attention, I’m not much of speeder but I think that’s really an effective way to use cars that aren’t being used by officers. That’s all I have to say.”

**Ms. Blair:** “Thank you all for being here you know I hadn’t really thought about it, I guess, until Marty brought it to my attention but there was a time and I’ve been in town 25 years, 25 in Surfside, and there used to be time when if I saw a patrol go by I wondered what was happening, you know, there must be an event going on, there must be a break-in, they must be responding to something and I too, have noticed, a lot of times them just cruising through the neighborhood and that’s a good feeling. I’ve never, I’ve been lucky enough and blessed enough to never have had to call them for anything major but I have had to call on some minor things, suspicious activity, cars, that type of thing and they’ve always been there so it is good to know that they’re responsive and that they’re not clustered. We’ve all heard the jokes, all the cars must be at the Krispy Kreme or the Dunkin’ Donuts or whatever, and we’ve probably all made those remarks in times past but it is good to know that they’re out and I see them through our neighborhood all the time and I thank you and appreciate that. As Councilman Samples said, we’re moving ahead into a new year and I hope everyone’s enthusiastic and positive about that. We’ve got a lot of new activities on the calendar and new events that the town hopes to sponsor and be involved in and if they could be as good and as successful as this past year then it certainly will be a great year. We have a parade this Saturday, the Christmas parade, hope the weather is beautiful for that, but, hope to see all of your smiling, shining faces out there to celebrate Surfside’s official opening or I guess second official opening, it was a great tree lighting service, if you weren’t there it certainly had everyone’s spirits on the rise so plan to come Saturday and share the time with us and thank you all for being here. God bless you and have a wonderful Merry Christmas.”

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**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Samples made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Martin made a motion to appoint Peg Inman to the Election Commission. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** No other action was taken in executive session.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Samples made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Approved: January 12, 2010

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Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

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K. Allen Deaton, Mayor

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Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

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Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

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James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

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Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

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Mark L Johnson, Town Council

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Robert F. Childs, III, Town Council

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. This meeting was transcribed by Clerk Pinnell. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the 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 on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee.