



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE SESSION DECEMBER 8, 2015 ♦ 5:30 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2015 ♦ 6:30 P.M.  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Executive Session – 5:30 p.m.**

Mayor Samples called Town Council to order at 5:22 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, and pursuant to FOIA Section 30-40-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements regarding real estate. Mayor Samples, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, and Stevens were in attendance. One seat is vacant. A quorum was present. Ms. Mabry moved to enter executive session at 5:22 p.m. Mr. Childs seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Johnson asked for the reason to be stated. Mayor Samples said for a personnel matter and Ms. Mabry said for a contractual matter. MOTION CARRIED. Mayor Samples ended executive session at 6:30 when the regular meeting was called to order and said that no action was taken during executive session. Any motions or directives to the town administrator will be presented during the business portion of the meeting.

**Town Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER.**

Mayor Samples called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Samples, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, and Stevens were in attendance. One seat is vacant. Others present: Administrator Fellner and Town Clerk Herrmann.

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

A. Invocation: Reverend Kay Stanaland, South Strand Assembly of God, gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Samples lead the Pledge.

**3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mr. Childs moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to add two proclamations to be read during communications. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. MINUTES APPROVAL**

**A. Vision Meeting November 12, 2015, and B. Regular Meeting November 27, 2015.** Mr. Childs moved to adopt the November 12, 2015 vision meeting minutes and the November 27, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Samples said that the vision meeting minutes represented ideas that council discussed. The minutes should not be understood to reflect actions which have been approved, but ideas that were discussed and will be addressed at a later date.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only. (3-minutes per speaker)**

Mr. Ken Laukoff, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North spoke on Item 8, requiring elevation certificate permits. He hoped council would do something about that. His mother-in-law, a recent widow, needed a roof repair in her upstairs bathroom, bedroom, and attic. After contacting over a dozen contractors, he finally contacted

57 Floyd Construction, who came that day and said they could do the repair by the end of the week. But the  
58 contractor was held up because a survey was required, because the flood line had been extended. The  
59 house is 20-years old. He didn't know what to do, so he called the Mayor. The Mayor called the Town  
60 Administrator, and she was able to have an emergency permit issued. Mr. Laukoff thanked them very  
61 much, because within 15 minutes the permit was issued. He hoped the council would consider the  
62 ordinance and repeal it, and thank you for your time.

63  
64 Mr. Ron Ott, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, said I want to talk about the height elevation, because if that had  
65 been in place maybe 10-years ago, maybe the planned development by my house he would not have all  
66 that water running through his property. When they built it, nobody looked to see where the where the  
67 water would go. It has to go somewhere, and it goes down my driveway. Thank you.

68  
69 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

70  
71 **A. Employee recognition, Steve Brode, Police Department 10-years.** Mayor Samples  
72 presented Corporal Brode with a certificate, pin, and awards check recognizing his ten years of service to  
73 the town. Corporal Brode said he loved his job and the town's friendly citizens who made his job much  
74 easier. (*Applause.*)

75  
76 **Proclamations** (added by approved motion, see Item 3 above.)

77  
78 **i. #15-103 Arbor Day December 7, 2015.** Mayor Samples presented Proclamation #15-103  
79 declaring December 7, 2015 as Arbor Day in the Town of Surfside Beach, and asked that it be delivered  
80 to Director Adair.

81  
82 **ii. #15-104 Georgie B. Martin, A Citizen of Outstanding Town Spirit.** Mayor Samples  
83 presented Proclamation #15-104 to Mrs. Martin, which declared her "A Citizen of Outstanding Town  
84 Spirit" for her long standing tradition of providing a spectacular Christmas light display at her home on the  
85 corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Cedar Drive to which she welcomes the entire community. Mayor  
86 Samples thanked Mrs. Martin in the proclamation for her efforts to create this positive focal point in the  
87 town, which is very much appreciated. Mrs. Martin thanked Mayor Samples and said it was her pleasure  
88 to do this for the town's and community's enjoyment. Everyone was welcomed to visit and enjoy the light  
89 display. (*Applause*)

90  
91 **B. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner reported:

92  
93 Summer Sanitation Rollout Service. The public hearing on the sanitation issue regarding the  
94 additional pickup in the R3 for 9 weeks during the summer was scheduled for the first meeting in January  
95 to enable sufficient time for advertising.

96  
97 Street Paving. Paving started yesterday on town roads and various pieces of 14 roads are  
98 scheduled for milling and paving. All affected residents were sent letters asking them not to park on the  
99 streets and to exercise caution while driving on the milled roads.

100  
101 Consensus Item – 2016 Budget Workshop Dates. The budget workshop is tentatively scheduled  
102 for April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of 2016. The public hearing for the budget is proposed for May 10<sup>th</sup> with first  
103 reading on May 24<sup>th</sup> and second reading on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Fellner asked for consensus with the  
104 proposed schedule. **Town Council CONCURRED.**

105  
106 Responses to public comments.

107  
108 *Comment:* What the town is doing to the lots recently purchased on 3rd Avenue South?

109 *Response:* Although answered by Councilmember Mabry at the last meeting, Ms. Fellner said  
110 she would respond for the benefit of anyone who was not at the last meeting. An archaeological dig is in  
111 progress. The volunteer team that is working on the site has performed other digs in this area. They are  
112 documented experts in this field and with the associated processes. A written report via email is received

113 after each site visit, which occurs on most Thursdays. These will be made available to the public on the  
114 website in the near future, probably sometime in January.

115  
116 *Comment:* We need more mulch for the playgrounds, especially Fuller Park.

117 *Response:* After inspecting the site, the Director of Public Works prioritized the purchase of  
118 additional mulch for Fuller Park and the work as of today was 90-percent complete.

119  
120 **7. BUSINESS**

121  
122 **Motions or Directions to Town Administrator from Executive Session.**

123  
124 Mr. Johnson moved to adjust the town administrator's compensation as discussed in executive  
125 session this evening, and to adjust the ceiling for vacation accumulation to 460 hours. Ms. Mabry  
126 seconded.

127  
128 Mayor Samples said the compensation increase that was being voted on was a \$5,000 annual  
129 increase along with a \$2,000 one-time bonus.

130  
131 Mayor Samples, and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, and Stevens voted in favor.  
132 Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

133  
134 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION** – Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

135  
136 **A. §14-14, ¶(11), requiring Elevation Certificates for all Permits, Mayor Pro Tempore**  
137 **Pellegrino.** Mr. Pellegrino said this was already discussed in public comments. Basically, this code  
138 requires an elevation certificate every time you get a permit. The wording that he wants to strike from the  
139 code is:

140  
141 (11) All permits issued within the SFHA (regardless of cost) must provide a recent  
142 elevation certificate (issued and dated within five (5) years or less) if a current elevation  
143 certificate is not on file, before the permit can be issued. Elevation certificate must show  
144 existing conditions and if addition (including new mechanical equipment) or substantial  
145 improvements are made a new elevation certificate will be required before a final  
146 inspection is made on the project.

147  
148 Ms. Fellner said there are a few other issues that go along with striking number 11. Number 11  
149 has proved to be very onerous for the public, to say the least. Repealing this paragraph will not  
150 substantially affect the town's Community Service Rating (CSR); it will not affect the Level 5 rating at all.  
151 Some people might say this could disadvantage enforcement, but the National Flood Insurance Plan  
152 (NFIP), in which the town participates, states that any substantial improvement, additions, or new  
153 construction would all require a permit. Those are major things, and that should protect the town's  
154 enforcement. In her opinion, striking number 11 would be really helpful for the public. Right now, this has  
155 placed an undue burden on the public, in her personal opinion.

156  
157 Mayor Samples agreed 100-percent. He was in about two months ago over the replacement of  
158 an air conditioning unit on the ground. It was not an elevated unit, and it resulted in a very nice lady's  
159 undue expense of \$350 in order to comply with this onerous code. There is no benefit derived for the  
160 type of repairs being discussed. New construction, major additions, that sort of thing clearly should  
161 require an elevation certificate. But, for simple maintenance, he fully supports eliminating the need for an  
162 elevation certificate. He hoped that we would look for other opportunities where older and existing homes  
163 could be encouraged to improve their property; not discouraging them with unnecessary, onerous  
164 requirements.

165  
166 Ms. Mabry said she sits on the Program for Public Information (PPI) committee. She said there  
167 are always two sides to every issue. She wanted everyone to have the full picture. It is burdensome.  
168 She was going to support the recommendation, but there was another side to consider. If they do not get

Town Council Regular Meeting  
December 8, 2015

169 a permit, they do not get an inspection. This only affects the high flood zone. They will put in windows  
170 that do not comply with the wind shear; close underneath the house creating rooms. This is one way staff  
171 can keep an eye on what has actually been done to that house. When someone makes additions without  
172 a permit, and staff is unaware, that affects everyone in town by increases to flood insurance premiums  
173 immediately. We do miss things. We do not know whether a contractor added a room. Also on several  
174 instances, people brought in their certificates, and staff was able to tell them if they added some vents at  
175 \$65 each, they could significantly lower their flood insurance premium. So, the new elevation certificates  
176 have been a help to some people, but burdensome to others. There was a real purpose for this code. If  
177 council decides this is not important, then she will go along with council's decision. She spoke with Ms.  
178 Morris; sometimes it is not about points, not about CRS; sometimes it is about protecting citizens and  
179 their property. She asked whether one position outweighed the other, and said she believed it was an  
180 even draw. She felt very sorry for people that needed to replace air conditioning units and agreed with  
181 that; but, on the other hand there has been some good out of the code, too.

182  
183 Mr. Johnson said there were many issues that could be discussed concerning this code.  
184 Everybody in the Town of Surfside Beach is in a flood zone. Whether you think you are or not, you are. It  
185 is just a matter of which zone you are in: the X up to a VE or an AE flood zone. The NFIP does require  
186 flood vents in many of the high risk flood zones. They also require an elevation certificate. If you have a  
187 mortgage, you are required to have flood insurance in those particular zones. In some aspects, he  
188 supports the change, but he would not want to take any action until it could be discussed with the  
189 planning director. He believed council would be remiss in not hearing her input.

190  
191 Ms. Fellner said she had discussed the code with Ms. Morris, the planning, building and zoning  
192 (PBZ) director, who said that she supports the change. Ms. Fellner said she did not mean to infer that  
193 there was no thought that went into this code, because it was done with great intentions. The code has  
194 created difficulty for staff and the public has not responded well to it.

195  
196 Mr. Johnson asked if this would require an ordinance. Ms. Fellner said yes.

197  
198 Mr. Childs said Ms. Morris's comment that she did not have a problem changing the code went a  
199 long way.

200  
201 Mr. Stevens said this was a good step in the right direction, because we are nickeling and diming  
202 a lot of people that are doing minor repairs.

203  
204 Mr. Pellegrino said he also spoke with Ms. Morris about the code. The reason he brought this up  
205 is a citizen spoke with him that needed to replace roof 20-feet above the ground, and he was going to  
206 have extra \$300 to \$400 expense for an updated elevation certificate. That did not make sense to him, so  
207 he talked with Ms. Morris, and brought this up for discussion. In his opinion, it was another example of  
208 over-regulation. It is an inconvenience to the citizens. There are things that have to be regulated, but this  
209 is not one of them, in his opinion.

210  
211 Mr. Johnson did not have a problem changing the code, if the property was not in a high risk flood  
212 area.

213  
214 Ms. Mabry asked if the requirement for an updated elevation certificate only applied to high risk  
215 flood areas.

216  
217 Mayor Samples said the answer was yes. He repeated that it did not make sense to him that  
218 somebody that is replacing a heat pump/air conditioner unit on the ground in the exact same place would  
219 be required to have a new elevation certificate. In his opinion, it was onerous. He was sure the PBZ  
220 director could use the correct terminology in terms of defining when an elevation certificate is necessary,  
221 such as new construction, major remodel, and other conditions that he was not technically able to  
222 describe. In his opinion, roof repairs, air conditioning units, water heaters; common sense should be  
223 applied, and he believed that was all that Mr. Pellegrino was trying to do. He was glad that the majority  
224 felt that way. Ms. Fellner said a public hearing would be required before adoption of the ordinance. It

225 would be scheduled on January 12<sup>th</sup>. **Town Council CONCURRED to have an ordinance presented**  
226 **for consideration.**

227  
228 **B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed by Town Council.**

229  
230 Mr. Stevens said the business committee met today. Businesses are signing up for the 2016  
231 Taste of Surfside Beach. The committee was working with Ms. Morris to develop a light industrial zone  
232 on Sandy Lane and Azalea Drive. Ms. Morris will present a proposal to the planning and zoning  
233 commission. Light industrial businesses pay 10.5-percent taxes, which would increase the tax base. Ms.  
234 Mabry also attended the meeting and discussed an event next year with the historical property at 3<sup>rd</sup>  
235 Avenue South & Willow Drive. The business committee is working towards making the town better.  
236

237 Mayor Samples said not to forget that the Christmas parade is this Saturday at two o'clock. It is  
238 the "best parade in the universe." The weather is supposed to be terrific.  
239

240 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)

241  
242 Mr. Ron Ott, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, said to clarify his earlier comments, if you read the ordinance it  
243 says to bring up (\*\*\*) where the water course would alter or relocate the result of the development, and the  
244 application for the development would cause water course alterations and relocations. You gotta use  
245 common sense. If you put in a mail box, it won't change anything. That ordinance should be written for  
246 major development. If you put a big house up, how will it relate to your next door neighbor? Is it going to  
247 flood their back yard? Not if you're gonna put a HVAC [sic] system in. My favorite town event is the  
248 Christmas tree lighting. There are all kinds of things for your senses. You can see everybody in one little  
249 spot and everybody is smiling. You can smell the s'mores and hot chocolate. You can hear all these  
250 children singing. It doesn't get any better than that. Basically, that's the essence of what this town is as  
251 the Family Beach, when you see all those people together, happy, singing, and having hot chocolate.  
252 Thank you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
253

254 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard, said for years I've been complaining about  
255 sanitation, and that there was a problem, but nothing really was done. I looked at the [vision meeting]  
256 minutes, and they said the sanitation schedule would be rescheduled to Tuesday, Thursday and  
257 Saturday, which is what I've been asking to be done for a long time. Mr. Mil Servant agreed with that  
258 position. You're also gonna increase pick up days. That might be needed, it might not be needed. I was  
259 not at the vision meeting, and the minutes don't really have much [detail.] Did anyone ask the question  
260 how much tonnage was picked up on Saturday? What time was the pickup on Saturday? Was the  
261 pickup before ten o'clock? If you picked up before ten o'clock, it was a waste of time. How much  
262 tonnage was picked up on Sunday, after your Saturday? Mr. Adair said there was a two-prong remedy to  
263 it, well, maybe you only need one prong. If you are gonna increase the amount of garbage cans at each  
264 location, which is an additional sum, then maybe you don't need four. If everybody doesn't need extra  
265 cans, and they don't need an extra pickup, then why is everybody getting charged? I'd rather see you  
266 give extra cans to people. From my own experience, and I've been complaining about this for four years,  
267 there is a house across from me that has 14 bedrooms, ten baths and three kitchens. It's all one house.  
268 Imagine how many people are renting that place. They had two garbage cans for years. It's crazy. I've  
269 complained and complained and complained after weeks and weeks of garbage overflowing, they got  
270 three cans. Guess what? It's still overflowed. Now, they're up to four cans, and it's working out alright.  
271 So, my point is this, maybe you don't need four pickups, maybe you need three pickups. But, everybody  
272 in the rental area shouldn't get penalized for just a few people who all they need is one more extra  
273 garbage can. It's a simple solution. Common sense, like you just used the common sense approach on  
274 the last issue about elevation certificates. Use common sense, and let's not overreact. Underreacting is  
275 what you did for years, which we had a garbage problem, no one wanted to address it. Then it became a  
276 rat problem. I know some people don't believe it was a rat problem; it's a media problem. But guess  
277 what? If you would've fixed it four years ago when I complained about it, there wouldn't have been any  
278 problem. So, please think about this. Do not penalize everyone in the rental area. I have one garbage  
279 can on my rental home. It never overflows. Never, so why do I have to pay for an extra can? Why do I  
280 have to pay for an extra pickup? I know it's not a lot of money, and honestly, some people are making a



281 fortune. They're not making a fortune, but they are making good money on the rentals. I know that  
282 \$18.75 is not going to kill them. But, why punish everyone for only a few people, maybe 5-percent of the  
283 people are overflowing the cans. Think about it, because it leaves a really bad taste in peoples' mouths  
284 when they are getting charged for something they don't even use. Think about the whole winter when  
285 these people are paying garbage pickup and never have anyone in their homes. The last thing I would  
286 like to say is because of the tragedy my family had, we really want to thank the town. This is a great little  
287 town. The love, compassion, the strength; what they did for my family, I can never thank you enough.  
288 Merry Christmas you all.

290 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, said I want to say I'm sorry this is late, but I just would  
291 also like to thank the town for all the kindness you shown me and my family in recent weeks, and I'd like  
292 to thank the police for being helpful, so that I'm not afraid to stay in this safe little town. I will be very  
293 scared to stay anywhere else. I just can't thank all of you enough and I have yet to put pen to paper and  
294 write thank you notes, but it's truly appreciated. This really is a little gem of a town, and I'm very glad to  
295 be here. God bless everyone. Merry Christmas.

297 Mr. Tom Dodge, North Poplar Drive, said I read the fall newsletter and several things stood out.  
298 Years ago there used to be a card game called "Crap on your Neighbor." I thought we are playing it  
299 again. First thing was that we bought a historic piece of property for \$330,000. *The Sun News* listed the  
300 selling price at \$399,000. What mystery surrounds the \$69,000 difference? I personally do not think that  
301 the town should be in the historic or museum business. That should be up to the county. Peanut  
302 Warehouse is up for sale in Conway. Conway is not jumping at it to buy that piece of property. Second,  
303 which I thought was laughable, was the town follows a pay as you go approach; that we have no debt.  
304 Wow! Sure this is easy to do; you just tax and tax and tax the residents. First tax was a 5-mil stormwater  
305 tax [that] reached a sunset, which means the tax ends. But, I guess the sun never set. That tax revenue  
306 went into the general fund. Second, about two years ago, against the wishes of the town auditor,  
307 sanitation rates were increased \$3.75 a month. Oops! That's a tax increase. Third, we had a tax  
308 increase of 6.22 mils. It would've been higher, but the town got caught. So, there you have 11.22 mils  
309 tax increase, plus \$3.75 a month sanitation fee. Any fee is basically a tax increase. Pay as you go, my  
310 foot! Here it's tax, tax, and tax as you go. The best way to pay as you go and cut spending. Thank you.  
311 Merry Christmas to everybody. *(All "!" speakers emphasis.)*

313 Mr. Mike Holt, 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, said we have only been here three months. We've already  
314 experienced the overregulation as far as the tree ordinance. I won't go into all of that, but the question I  
315 have about the elevation certificates as discussed tonight. I discovered with this rain that we had  
316 yesterday that we've got a hole that allows blowing rain to enter my attic. What am I supposed to do? Do  
317 I still need to get an elevation certificate before I can have that repaired? I want to have it repaired before  
318 January. Mayor Samples asked Mr. Holt to speak with the administrator. Mr. Holt said regarding  
319 sanitation and pickups, was there any way to require contractors to put garbage compactors in the larger  
320 homes like the one mentioned with 14 bedrooms. Wouldn't that solve a big problem as far as a lot of the  
321 trash? Packed trash would fit into smaller cans. Mayor Samples thanked Mr. Holt for the suggestion and  
322 said it could be referred to the business committee.

324 Ms. Kathy Andreas said I'm a permanent resident at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for over 30 years. I just  
325 had one little question, before the wonderful parade, could some tell us the exact route? Mayor Samples  
326 said the lineup would be at Melody Lane. The parade would travel north along Ocean Boulevard to  
327 Surfside Drive where it would turn west and travel to Poplar Drive and end up at town Hall, as it has for  
328 the past couple of years. Ms. Andreas said I saw some improvements going on and did not know if they  
329 would change anything. I'm sorry that I'm the only person that didn't understand that and I was counting  
330 on standing down there near the 8<sup>th</sup> South area. Thank you.

332 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

334 Mr. Childs said there was a lot of conversation on additional trash cans, and I've been confused,  
335 because there is in our ordinance a sentence that says it's at the discretion of the supervisor of the  
336 sanitation to add a trash can where he deems necessary. I don't know what the deal is about adding

Town Council Regular Meeting  
December 8, 2015

337 trash cans. It's his responsibility, if we need one to add one. He doesn't need anybody's permission to  
338 do so. I don't know. We go round and round with that same thing, but anyway, I want to thank everybody  
339 for coming, and wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

340  
341 Mr. Johnson said it has been a real pleasure working the council this past year. We have gotten  
342 many things accomplished, and no one's bitten off each other's head, or anything. We have been able to  
343 work together, and that's always a good thing. I would just like to thank the citizens of this great town for  
344 coming out continually and supporting council, and I just hope you have a Merry Christmas and Happy  
345 New Year.

346  
347 Mr. Stevens thanked everybody for coming out. First, I want to wish you all Merry Christmas and  
348 Happy New Year. I may see you around, somewhere around the town. When we talk about regulations,  
349 and sometimes, I hate to say it, but I agree with Mr. Pellegrino, we've got too many regulations. We  
350 regulate and regulate. Then we get people out here and want to make them get another trashcan, but  
351 they don't need another trashcan. We need to be more responsive to the citizens and to businesses in  
352 town and make sure they are not overregulated, and we're not overregulating the town since it makes  
353 everybody miserable. We discussed a little bit about that in business committee meeting today. The  
354 members said the main thing we need to do is promote customer service; be more kind to people around  
355 town. The Meet N' Greet Breakfast will be at the Golden Egg Restaurant the Wednesday every month. A  
356 flyer was available, if anyone wanted a copy. Several citizens attended the Meet N' Greet on December  
357 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have two ears to listen; we can talk about the weather, or whatever you want. Everyone is  
358 welcome to attend. Thank you and Merry Christmas to you all.

359  
360 Mr. Pellegrino said thank you for coming tonight. I'll just touch base on some of the public  
361 comments. One citizen talked about the sanitation issue. We did discuss at length different options at  
362 the visioning meeting, including three versus four pickups a week. I recommended Saturday, Monday  
363 and Thursday, and hold it to three on Saturday afternoon, Monday and Thursday. There are pros and  
364 cons; the consensus was to keep the extra pickup. I also recommended that we do give extra cans  
365 where needed. However, I don't agree with increasing the charges of those rental house owners for  
366 them. In his opinion, if there are only three pickups, we're gonna spend for the fourth pick up anyway, so  
367 the town could pay for those extra cans. That is another fee, tax, whatever you want to call it that just  
368 would added to taxpayers, to the base that pays the majority of our taxes. As far as the lots, we did pay  
369 \$330,000, I don't know where the \$399,000 comes from. I didn't agree with that, because I still felt it was  
370 too high. We did pay \$330,000; I don't even know where the \$399,000 came from, and I do keep an eye  
371 on the numbers. I think one of the big positives, I said this when I was campaigning, this town has done  
372 two things really, really well. One of them is we always kept a height requirement for the houses and  
373 buildings lower so we can maintain the family beach, so we don't have a strip of huge hotels. The other  
374 thing is that we maintained a situation where we have no debt. Sometimes that does equate to expenses  
375 going high, and we need to look at cutting expenses. But, that is really powerful, because when the  
376 economy goes south, which it will again at some point, debt load is what crushes communities,  
377 businesses, and organizations. Carrying that debt load is really difficult when the economy goes, and we  
378 don't have to worry about that. We definitely do need, and we've talked about it at visioning, to cut  
379 expenses, because we do have inflation regardless for which we need to compensate. I just wanted to  
380 touch base on a few of those things. I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Remember,  
381 Jesus is the reason for the season, so please be sure to talk to people, be positive. We have a society  
382 now where our news, our media, everyone around us talks about acceptance, and acceptance is  
383 acceptance. But to whose measure? To man's measure or to God's measure? That's what we need to  
384 ask ourselves. Please have a great Christmas, and please be thankful for our Lord and Savior. In Jesus  
385 name we pray. Amen.

386  
387 Ms. Mabry said she wanted everybody to have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has  
388 been a pleasure working with council. I have to mimic those thoughts. We don't always agree, but we're  
389 never disagreeable, and that's the main thing. We have learned a great deal from each other and from  
390 the citizens. We do appreciate your input. We do listen, and we take it to our meetings, so I thank you.  
391 Have a great Christmas and have a wonderful year.

392

Town Council Regular Meeting  
December 8, 2015

393 Mayor Samples thought it all had been said and said Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy  
394 Holidays. God Bless you.

395  
396 **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

397  
398 Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in  
399 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

400  
401 Prepared and submitted by,

402  
403 \_\_\_\_\_  
404 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

405 Approved: January 12, 2016

406  
407 \_\_\_\_\_  
408 Douglas F. Samples, Mayor

409  
410 \_\_\_\_\_  
411 David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore Robert F. Childs, Town Council

412  
413 \_\_\_\_\_  
414 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council Mary Beth Mabry, Town Council

415  
416 \_\_\_\_\_  
417 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council Vacant Seat

418  
419 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded.  
420 Contact the town clerk for appointments to hear recordings. Bring a flash drive to obtain a free copy. In  
421 accordance with FOIA §30-4-80, meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and  
422 subscribers on the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the town website and the  
423 entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the Town marquee.