



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 22, 2016 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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6 **1. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Samples called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor
7 Samples, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, and Stevens were
8 in attendance. One seat is vacant. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town
9 Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning Building & Zoning Director Morris;
10 and Events Supervisor Ellis.

11
12 Mayor Samples announced the Easter Sunrise Service being held this coming Sunday morning at
13 Surfside Pier at 6:30 a.m. Everyone was invited to attend. A Candidate Forum is being held on Thursday,
14 March 31st, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Ocean Front, and Candidate Debate will be
15 held in Council Chambers on Sunday, April 3rd from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mayor Samples said the
16 terrorist attack in Brussels was a terrible event. He offered prayers and thankfulness that we live here in
17 this great country.

18
19 **2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

20
21 A. Invocation: Pastor Brent Thompson of LC3 Community Church gave the invocation.

22
23 B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Samples lead the Pledge.

24
25 C. Candidate Introductions.

26
27 Special Election Town Council: Timothy Courtney, Steve Shore, Stanley Wrobel

28
29 General Election Town Council: Mark Johnson, Mary Beth Mabry, Ron Ott, Wanda Spannuth,
30 Randle Stevens, Holly Watson, Stanley Wrobel

31
32 General Election Mayor: Bob Childs, Doug Samples

33
34 **3. AGENDA APPROVAL.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Childs
35 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

36
37 **4. MINUTES APPROVAL. A. Workshop Meeting February 15, 2016, and Regular**
38 **Meeting March 8, 2016.** Mr. Childs moved to adopt the February 15, 2016 workshop minutes and the
39 March 8, 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Mabry second. All voted in favor. **MOTION**
40 **CARRIED**

41
42 **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only.** (3-minutes per speaker). There were no
43 comments on agenda items.

44
45 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

46
47 **A. Employee awards.**

48
49 **i. Ben Johnson, 35 years.** Mayor Samples explained that Mr. Johnson works for the town's
50 public works department and lives in Hemingway. His award would be presented during his regular work
51 hours.

52
53 **ii. Donal Wright, 5 years.** Mayor Samples presented Mr. Wright with a certificate, pin, and
54 check. He performs general maintenance and special projects for public works. Mr. Wright said thank
55 you for the monetary recognition. He appreciated his supervisory officers; it was a pleasure and honor to
56 serve the town. He received a standing ovation.

58 **B. Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Ms. Farrah Dickerson, Volunteer Coordinator and Ralph**
59 **Magliette Senior Citizens Committee Chairman Wanda Spannuth.** Ms. Spannuth said the
60 senior citizens committee heard from Ms. Dickerson at a recent meeting, and recommended that the town
61 partner with Neighbor-to-Neighbor. The program recruits volunteer drivers to assist senior citizens at no
62 charge. According to the 2010 Census, there are 1,226 seniors living in Surfside Beach; 865 of them are
63 over 65 years old. Coast Rapid Transit Authority (Coast) offers a door to door service, but the pickup and
64 destination have to be within a quarter mile of the regular route. Coast charges \$3 per ride each way.
65

66 Ms. Dickerson explained that the program had provided rides since 2008. To date over 30,000
67 rides were furnished in Horry County. There are currently over 200 active volunteers in Horry and
68 Georgetown Counties. There are over 450 neighbors. Neighbor-to-Neighbor recruits, trains, and controls
69 the logistic and management to furnish rides. She was here today to introduce the Partnership Packet for
70 consideration. Copies were distributed to councilmembers. The packets held various information. The
71 program carries supplemental insurance for all volunteers, some have high levels, because there are over
72 24 cars a day on the road. Some of the details included that the program is non-emergency, so rides are
73 scheduled well in advance. Typically, rides are given to medical appointments. The program is senior
74 focused, so they view it as holistic where volunteers do not just provide a ride, but help combat the
75 isolation of those who are homebound and without family or others that can meet their driving needs.
76 There is no charge for the rides; volunteers assume the cost of the ride. Neighbor-to-Neighbor assumes
77 all cost of management, logistics, software, and its three employees. Everyone else volunteers to support
78 the program. The partnership is non-monetary ask; it is only asking for Neighbor-to-Neighbor to have the
79 ability to (1) promote an orientation on site at a location that the town decides; (2) allow Neighbor-to-
80 Neighbor to provide the materials and information to the community, and (3) to report to Town Council
81 the number of volunteers and neighbors who join the program along with the number of rides, miles,
82 hours, and lives impacted.
83

84 Mr. Stevens spoke with Ms. Molly Owens, a long-time resident, who said she thought this would
85 be a wonderful partnership for the town. Since she is aging, she often gets lost. There are many people in
86 that same situation that would benefit from the program. Sooner or later, we will all be there. Mr. Gene
87 Sullivan brought this program to his attention. The senior committee met with Ms. Dickerson, and
88 endorses the program. He thought this was a wonderful program. Helping seniors is a noble cause.
89

90 Ms. Dickerson appreciated the comments very much and said as one final note earlier this month
91 the South Carolina Association for Non-Profits awarded Neighbor-to-Neighbor the Excellence Award for
92 2016. There are over 25,000 non-profits throughout the state, only and "handful" applied, but we are
93 excited about that recognition.
94

95 Mayor Samples said she should be excited. That is a tremendous recognition, and something of
96 which to be very proud. There is a senior center located at 10th Avenue North. He believed some of those
97 seniors might need help getting to doctor's appointments. Transportation is a definite need for folks that
98 do not have their own vehicles. Mayor Samples encouraged Ms. Dickerson to meet with Administrator
99 Feller in terms of agreements that need to be presented to Town Council for action. If the program is as
100 presented, the town would like to support it.
101

102 **Department Reports.**

103 **i. Events and Recreation.** Supervisor Ellis presented the departmental report, a copy of which
104 is attached and made a part hereof by reference.
105
106

107 Mayor Samples asked if the pet fair was also a rabies clinic. Ms. Ellis said yes. Dogs would be
108 given rabies inoculations at the dog park; cats will be given inoculations at the Ark Animal Hospital,
109 which will be open during the event.
110

111 Mr. Stevens said the Barbeque Festival was the best one he had ever been to in town. He gave Ms.
112 Ellis credit. He hoped the event would be staged the same way next year.
113

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114 Mayor Samples said there were concerns about the festival, because of the construction on
115 Surfside Drive. He agreed with Mr. Stevens about the event staging in Yaupon parking lot. He thought
116 everyone enjoyed the event. We were lucky that it was a beautiful day. There was a large crowd. Ms.
117 Ellis, staff, and volunteers make us proud. Many people came into town and we showed them what
118 "Family Beach" means.
119

120 Mr. Childs also thanked Ms. Ellis. He heard more than one person say they liked the staging at
121 Yaupon instead of going up and down Surfside Drive.
122

123 Ms. Mabry said she had already thanked Ms. Ellis, but thank you again. The vendors expressed
124 they liked the staging in Yaupon parking lot. She thought the way it was set up it allowed everyone to see
125 the products easier and everybody enjoyed visiting each vendor. It was great.
126

127 Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Ellis, again, saying it was a great event. He asked how this year's Taste
128 of Surfside event compared to last year. Ms. Ellis said last year 500 passports were sold; this year 203
129 were sold. Last year 100 businesses participated; this year 56 participated.
130

131 ii. **Finance.** Director King presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and
132 made a part hereof by reference.
133

134 Ms. Mabry asked if the town would get reimbursement for the frontage road paving, Surfside
135 Drive improvements, and piping. Ms. King said County Transportation Funds (CTC) would pay for the
136 frontage road. The underground utilities would be reimbursed, but the rest of the money for Surfside
137 Drive would come out of the capital projects road fund.
138

139 Mr. Pellegrino said the underground utilities and street improvement projects were over budget
140 and asked that details be sent to councilmembers. Ms. King said both overages were approved by Town
141 Council. She explained the overages had to be approved formally by a budget amendment.
142

143 Mayor Samples said when the two projects were over-running, Ms. King was referring to the
144 initial budgets that were adopted back in May and June. Ms. King said right. Mayor Samples asked if
145 there was an estimate of the overage. Ms. King believed the road was \$250,000. The contractor for the
146 underground wiring completed much more than they expected to be done. They have worked much faster
147 than the previous contractor. The budget was set with the expectation of finishing next year, but it would
148 be almost completed this year, which is good news. Next year there will be just a small section to
149 complete. She believed it would be another \$500,000 for that project. A budget amendment will be
150 presented.
151

152 Mayor Samples said the town received notification from Horry County regarding beach
153 renourishment. He asked when the money was due to Horry County which is acting as administrative
154 agent for the entire beach renourishment project with the Corps of Engineers. Ms. King said July 15th.
155 Mayor Samples said this was discussed during the vision workshop. The monies are due about a month
156 and a half earlier than anticipated. He asked Ms. King if she anticipated any cash flow problems. Ms.
157 King said it was a possibility, but she believed money could be borrowed from other funds in the short
158 term until business license revenues are received, which are paid in June and July. Mayor Samples asked
159 if business license collections began May 1st. Ms. King said they do. Mayor Samples said if the business
160 license is not paid by the end of June, you are late. Ms. King said the tourism money is received a month
161 behind, so July collections would not be received until August. Mayor Samples asked if she believed there
162 were sufficient funds. Ms. King said she did as long as everything goes well; no rainy days. Mayor
163 Samples said no hurricanes (*laughter*). All councilmembers need to be aware of this, and of course, staff,
164 I'm sure are taking steps to minimize expenses that can be deferred until a later date.
165

166 iii. **Fire.** Chief Otte presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and made a
167 part hereof by reference.
168

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169 Mr. Childs asked if the junior firefighters were allowed to ride on the trucks and go to fire calls.
170 Chief Otte said they are on the rig, but they are not allowed inside the hot zone. They can pick up a piece
171 of equipment to carry it near the area where the firefighter needs it, but they know their limits.
172

173 Mayor Samples asked Chief Otte to share the town's condolences with the Conway Fire
174 Department in the loss of Firefighter Chris Ray.
175

176 **iv. Planning, Building and Zoning.** Director Morris presented the departmental report, a
177 copy of which is attached and made a part hereof by reference. Ms. Morris said the preliminary Federal
178 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps are expected to be approved by July 21st, 2017 but
179 that date is subject to change. The department has implemented weekly customer service training for
180 staff. Mr. McCloud, the GIS (Geographic Information System) technician, attended a map publisher
181 training class this past week. He quickly began using the training to enhance the town's mapping. All
182 water and sewer lines are now on the GIS system depicting size of lines, gravity and force mains, etc. Also
183 added were the town's drainage system and structures, isolated areas of concern, wetlands, and special
184 flood hazard areas, and tracking the maintenance of those areas. Mr. McCloud developed the new trash
185 routes recently approved by Town Council in order to have them distributed to all the property owners in
186 the town. There were questions about cross training within the department. Because the department is
187 so small, all staff members must perform duties beyond their primary job. Each has been or will be
188 crossed trained to perform additional duties. The permit technician issues permits, assists with zoning
189 classifications and setback requirement, and after she passes the permit technician exam, she will be
190 trained to review sign applications as well as minor additions and small projects. The GIS technician does
191 mapping, answers flood plain questions, and assists with zoning classifications and setback requirements.
192 He will begin training to inspect trees for removal after completion of the revised address map for the
193 town. The building official performs inspections, reviews permits, assists in zoning reviews, and inspects
194 trees for removal when time allows. The code enforcement officer will also be trained to inspect trees for
195 removal.
196

197 Mr. Stevens said he attended the FEMA map presentation. He noticed all the beach areas actually
198 gained property out of the flood area. Surfside Beach gained 923 parcels that are no longer in a flood
199 zone. He asked how that would affect Surfside Beach. Ms. Morris it would certainly be better for flood
200 insurance requirements. The flood ordinance will be presented to the FEMA CRS committee in June.
201 Recommendations from that committee will be presented to Town Council for changes to the ordinance,
202 including consideration of the 3-foot freeboard in Zone X.
203

204 Mayor Samples said that was terrific news. Technically, we are all in a flood zone. We're in at
205 least the X zone that does not require flood insurance. Many people in the special flood hazard zones, AE
206 and VE, will see significant savings on flood premiums once the Federal Government publishes its maps.
207 He commended Ms. Morris for her diligence, professionalism, tenacity, and extra hours to drive the CRS
208 Flood Zone Ordinance.
209

210 Ms. Mabry did not understand why the lakes had a change. Ms. Morris explained that Lake
211 Elizabeth currently is not in a special flood hazard area. The new maps indicate that Lake Elizabeth is an
212 AE flood zone, which is an elevated special flood hazard area. It actually touches the surrounding
213 properties, but it is only on the rear of those properties. If the home is not located in the flood zone, it is
214 not in a flood zone. The other is the LMWA (Limited Moderate Wave Action Line), which goes all the way
215 up and down the lake. In the middle of Dogwood Lake there is a V Zone, which is a velocity zone.
216 Generally, it's found only on the beach front. FEMA explained that because of the wind and rush of the
217 ocean into Dogwood Lake, waves as high as three feet could be produced. Ms. Mabry asked if that would
218 affect the homes on the lake. Ms. Morris said not unless the homes touched the LMWA area, which most
219 of them did not.
220

221 Mayor Samples said for clarification, if the building itself was not located within the AE, VE or
222 LMWA zones, then you would not be required to have flood insurance. As Mr. Stevens said earlier, there
223 are a significant number of properties within the town that are no longer in flood zones after June 2017.
224 At that time flood insurance costs should decrease dramatically, but equally important, in his opinion, is
225 that in the event of property sale the property, it would be more marketable, because the lender would not

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226 require flood insurance. That is good news for the town. Mayor Samples asked if that was a fair
227 assessment. Ms. Morris said yes, it is.
228

229 Mr. Stevens asked if Ms. Morris had the FEMA PowerPoint presentation and if it could be made
230 available to the public. Ms. Morris said yes, and it would be made available.
231

232 Mr. Childs said a year ago there was a mass exodus from the beach, because of the doom and
233 gloom over the potential of flood insurance premiums equaling wind and hazard insurance premiums.
234 The new FEMA maps really worked out for the town's benefit.
235

236 **v. Police.** Chief Keziah was absent, because he was out of town to recover stolen property so it
237 could be returned to its rightful owner. Ms. Fellner presented the departmental report, a copy of which is
238 attached and made a part hereof by reference.
239

240 Mr. Stevens encouraged everyone to attend the Citizens Police Academy. He said it was amazing
241 to ride with the officers to see what they face daily.
242

243 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair was absent, because he was out of town for training. Ms.
244 Fellner presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and made a part hereof by
245 reference.
246

247 Mr. Childs commented that the underground wiring project had gone smoothly this time. Ms.
248 Fellner said it had, and that was why the project was over budget. This contractor was absolutely
249 wonderful. Night and day compared to the last time, which took forever. Staff chased detail after detail.
250 This group has real professionals and their work is commendable.
251

252 Ms. Mabry said when you hear these reports, it sound likes there are crews of 20 going out doing
253 all the landscaping and the trimming and the mulching. There are four or five in that department that do
254 all the maintenance for the entire town. There are two employees that work on motor vehicles. I want to
255 say that they put out a lot of work. It sound like we have so many more employees doing these jobs when
256 you hear the report, but in fact, we have very few that do a great deal of work, and they do an outstanding
257 job. Ms. Fellner said they do.
258

259 Mr. Stevens said if you haven't driven the newly paved south frontage road, you no longer have to
260 dodge and weave through holes in the road. It's benefitting 51 businesses along that road. He gave credit
261 to Town Council for voting to pave that road. It was a "no brainer." We're getting all our money back.
262

263 Mayor Samples said it really was nice. It would be nice if all of Highway 17 could ever achieve
264 such a look. Town Council is working in conjunction with the Horry County elected officials, South
265 Carolina Department of Transportation, and GSATS (Grand Strand Area Transportation Study) group
266 who work for the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments to attempt to get as much Federal money
267 as possible to improve Highway 17. Mayor Samples said he was told by Mr. Adair that the south frontage
268 road had never been repaved. Mayor Samples said some had already commented that an excellent job
269 was done. The contractor uses a different grade material and different equipment for what are called
270 primary roads, which that is. If you wonder why your roads don't look quite the same in town, they are
271 secondary roads that has different paving standards.
272

273 Mayor Samples said staff is doing a great job. They are working hard, and on the beach side of the
274 dunes, they are working hard to keep it looking good and the trash picked up. He heard some comments
275 about the condition of the dunes on the land side. He asked Ms. Fellner to ask staff to check the
276 walkovers, paying particular attention to the smoking bins, etc. to ensure they were dumped regularly.
277

278 **C. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner reported:

279 Budget Preparation. I have started work on the narrative for the budget presentation and that is
280 ongoing.
281
282

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283 Bike Fest. The Bike Fest meetings continue to be held and we are on schedule with all of our
284 preparations for those events.
285

286 Defensive Driving Class. The Surfside Beach Police Department and Ralph Magliette Senior
287 Citizens Committee are holding a defensive driving class for mature operators on April 27th from 10:00
288 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Class is limited to the first 20 town residents that sign up by calling Ms. Tanika
289 Parson at 843.913.6347. Lunch will be provided during the training. If there is a high demand for this
290 class, additional classes will be offered.
291

292 Citizens Police Academy. The fifth session of the Surfside Beach Police Department Citizens
293 Police Academy has started. They have 15 participants, 12 of which are town residents. Graduation will
294 be on April 27th.
295

296 Consensus Items. There were no consensus items.
297

298 Responses to Public Comments:
299

300 *Comment:* A business owner felt he was being singled out unfairly for signage issues and iterated
301 many details regarding the situation, asking if his business was not wanted in town.

302 *Response:* We welcome all businesses that are permissible by ordinance and strive to ensure that
303 no one is being singled out regarding code enforcement. This particular business owner had come to an
304 understanding with the planning, building and zoning department director regarding his signage. They
305 had agreed upon a remedy and timeframe for coming into compliance. In good faith, the summons was
306 *nolle* processed by the court. Then, the owner refused to honor the terms of the agreement. After three
307 weeks was told a summons would be reissued, if the situation was not remedied by 5:00 p.m. With regard
308 to the ordinance changes being sent by the business committee for consideration by the planning
309 commission, none of these would have affected this business owner's signage issues.
310

311 *Comment:* A business owner stated he was fined for hanging signs outside of his business with
312 which he was trying to draw customers into his business. He asked why and said it was \$100 a month for
313 his sign, and \$100 a month for his tables.

314 *Response:* The business owner came into compliance and there was no fine. The ordinance
315 dictates the enforcement. Banners are classified as temporary special signs. Section 17-654 of the zoning
316 ordinance states special event signs shall require the issuance of a temporary certificate of zoning
317 compliance. Each certificate of zoning compliance shall permit a special event sign for no more than ten
318 (10) consecutive days and no more than six (6) certificates authorizing such signs shall be issued per lot
319 within a calendar year. The fee for a special event sign is \$30. In addition, fees for outdoor dining
320 encroachment is \$25 per year, not \$100.
321

322 *Comment:* Now that FEMA maps are finalized, would the town reconsider parts of Chapter 14
323 that was enacted last November. Specifically for people that are not in a flood zone having to build three
324 feet high.

325 *Response:* The preliminary flood maps are in the review phase. If all goes according to plan, the
326 new maps will have an effect date of June 2017. The maps do show a lesser area of town being located in
327 the special flood hazard areas, which is great news for the town. The FEMA CRS committee will meet in
328 May to review possible changes to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. These recommendations will
329 then be presented to Town Council for consideration. The FEMA CRS committee meeting will be
330 advertised on the town website and is open to the public. Anyone with input should come to offer it to the
331 committee at that time.
332

333 A resident had a number of parking related questions. Director Adair and I personally visited the
334 residence with a wheel to explain where parking was permitted and explained what the other rules were.
335 Ms. Fellner said there were a number of other statements, but none required follow up.
336

337 Mayor Samples said he understood that the business owner removed the plywood and vinyl
338 window covering since the second citation was issued. He asked in order to avoid negative press, if it was
339 worth taking another look at the code. He wanted to ask the question in public as part of transparency.

340 Ms. Morris said the business's windows were clear. Mayor Samples said the business owner has a court
341 date, which thank goodness, is the day after election. He feels that the owner had many visits from
342 different people, including himself. He heard a lot of different messages. It was like playing 'telephone' in
343 grade school when you whisper into someone's ear and the message passes along. The ending message is
344 seldom what the beginning message was. Mayor Samples believes we should be encouraging businesses,
345 and be business friendly. He asked if the business owner still had to show up to court. Ms. Fellner said he
346 does. Mayor Samples said he does, but the fact that the situation was corrected could play in his favor.
347 Ms. Fellner thought it absolutely would, but it needs to be adjudicated through the court. Mayor Samples
348 said very well; he had no problem with that. He hated to see shoestring businesses fined; \$1,093 was a lot
349 money.

350
351 Ms. Mabry asked how it is handled when someone came into compliance and they go to court
352 with their summons. Ms. Morris said generally if someone comes into compliance after a summons was
353 issued we go to court with them and tell the judge that it was rectified. The judge typically *nolle* processes,
354 but that is up to the judge.

355
356 Mr. Pellegrino said the Mayor brought up a point. He was not personally involved in this
357 situation, but there were a lot of different communications that this particular business received from
358 many different people. We need to make sure the primary contact is the planning, building and zoning
359 department. We also need to make sure that people outside of that process do not get involved directly
360 with businesses. If there is an issue, it should be directed to Ms. Fellner or Ms. Morris. He did not know
361 first-hand, but he was fairly sure that many people were involved in talking to this business owner. He
362 heard multiple messages, which led him in the wrong direction. Let staff do their job. If a mistake is
363 made, then we need to go to staff, not the owner.

364
365 Mayor Samples said those were words of wisdom that we should live by. He and Mr. Pellegrino
366 both met with the administrator shortly after the event occurred.

367
368 **7. BUSINESS.** There was no business to conduct at this meeting.

369
370 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION** – Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

371
372 Ms. Mabry had spoken with several people who were concerned about the tree ordinance,
373 especially pine trees. She spoke with Ms. Morris and asked her what the ordinance stated, because quite
374 frankly, she did understand every nuance of the tree ordinance. Ms. Morris mentioned that she had a
375 discussion with an arborist. Ms. Mabry said, "I know that I'm the biggest tree hugger up here." She did
376 not think that was a big surprise to anybody. If a tree is not doing what the town needs it to do, and that is
377 absorb water and provide canopy, then maybe that tree needs to be replaced. That was just her thoughts.
378 She wondered if it would be alright with council if directions were given to have an arborist talk to Ms.
379 Morris to see if that specimen list could be pared down to the trees that really do benefit the town. Let's
380 face it, they are the glue that keeps all this soil together when it is raining. If Ms. Morris would not mind
381 looking at that and bringing it to the planning commission, if that is something agreeable to the entire
382 council.

383
384 Mr. Pellegrino did not have a problem with it, but asked if it really mattered. He sees clear cutting
385 in the footprint where new houses were being built, without regard for the type tree. Palmetto trees are
386 planted when construction was finished. The tree ordinance is good for existing property, but it really
387 does not affect new construction. In any event, it might be worth talking about.

388
389 Mayor Samples said there are 24 or 26 different species cited that require an arborist's inspection.
390 As he said when the ordinance was adopted, you do not get a permit, it is \$500. If you cut a limb that is
391 more than 4-inches, that is another \$500. Mayor Samples understood Mr. Pellegrino's comment that
392 trees come down when they are in the house footprint. There are many people who are proud of the trees
393 they have. But, they are afraid to cut down bushes. Ms. Mary Ann Thompson, Ms. Molly Owen's
394 daughter-n-law, was placing yellow tape to help staff identify what she wanted to cut when they came to
395 review the property. Crepe Myrtles benefit from topping, and that was what she was doing. But, she was
396 worried about it. He supported Ms. Mabry's suggestion that we take a hard look at what is reasonable.

397 There was someone in the audience that owns a home where Leland Cypress trees are planted too close
398 together. They are a fast growing tree and they are huge trees that block entry to the steps of the raised
399 beach house without getting a rash from the boughs brushing on you. Staff was able to work out a
400 solution, and he thought we had to use common sense and science. He recognized that trees were part of
401 the stormwater process, but he believes it should be kept simple. Determine a number of trees, such as
402 oaks or some others that should be required. It is unaffordable to make improvements on property when
403 they are older properties and trees are involved. This is a great town. The diversity is wonderful. We
404 want to keep the trees. The ordinance requires a certain number of trees in each district. But, surely, we
405 do not want people afraid.

406
407 Mr. Johnson did not have a problem with an arborist speaking with Ms. Morris, but he did not
408 know of any arborist that would do so for free. He would like to limit the amount of time that would be
409 involved in going through this. He thought the arborist's time should be limited, and if Ms. Morris could
410 work that out, he would be more than willing to look at the tree list again.

411
412 Ms. Mabry said perhaps she did not explain her point very well. She was not saying just take
413 down all the trees. There are certain specific trees that actually absorb more water than other trees. They
414 have a larger canopy. They absorb more water. Those are the trees that are beneficial to Surfside Beach.
415 If it is a pine tree and it has a root ball, it is not going to absorb the water that other trees are. She did not
416 want to miss the point that we can just say okay, maybe you want to take down five pine trees, but you are
417 going to have to replace them with a tree that is going to be beneficial. She did not think we could go crazy
418 and just say I want to take down all the trees. That was why she wanted an arborist to come in. They
419 know what trees would be beneficial for Surfside Beach. If it is not beneficial, and somebody wants to
420 take it down, then perhaps that would be a different story. But, she did know that there were some trees
421 on the coast that really do [absorb more water.] Trees really do matter in this town. If you do not believe
422 it, go to some towns where they did not have a tree ordinance. Their homes were sitting under water
423 during the rain event. It is important that we do get that arborist in and we do not sit up here and just say
424 I like that and I like that. Ms. Mabry agreed with Mr. Johnson that time should be limited. It should not
425 take weeks and weeks to do this. She was sure the arborist could review what we have not and tell us
426 whether the trees are beneficial.

427
428 Mr. Stevens had no problem with the town having a tree ordinance. But, when he is called by
429 residents and they point out trees that are cut over 4-inches in diameter by the town and they ask why this
430 person was fined and the town is doing that that is where he has a problem. Citizens are seeing the town
431 cutting a 4-inch tree limb. That causes a problem with how the people look at the tree ordinance. That
432 happened on Surfside Drive. There may have been a reason for doing that, but it certainly made the
433 citizens' eyes open up and say the town is doing it, why can't I do it?

434
435 Mayor Samples asked Mr. Childs if he agreed. Mr. Childs said yes. Mayor Samples said there was
436 consensus to revisit the tree ordinance again. **Council CONCURRED.**

437
438 Mr. Stevens reminded everyone that the senior citizens committee was working hard to get things
439 for seniors. On April 7th the Clemson Garden Class will be 1:00 p.m. at the civic center. If you are
440 planting a garden this year, this is an excellent class presented by Gary Forester from Clemson University
441 Extension. April 27th is the defensive driving class, free to all senior citizens. Graduating from that class
442 may result in a reduced auto insurance premium. The business committee worked to have April
443 designated as Autism Month. There are surfing events on April 1, 15, and 22; sand castle building and
444 beach discovery on April 1, 15, and 27; fire department open house and cookout on April 16 and 23, and
445 the pier fishing experience on April 3, 17 and 24. Mr. Stevens thanked Becky Large for bringing this
446 about. The town is an autism friendly city.

447
448 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)

449
450 Mr. Rob Ballenger, 16th Avenue North. First of all, I apologize for my ignorance, but is everybody
451 up for re-election this time, April 5th? Mr. Pellegrino said he was not. Mr. Ballenger: You're not? Why is
452 that? I don't understand that, why? Why is he not up for re-election? Mayor Samples explained that Mr.
453 Childs was not up for re-election either. Mr. Ballenger: Bob Childs is not, he's running again you, but if

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454 he loses he maintains his job, right. Mayor Samples said that's correct. Mr. Ballenger: Why isn't [Mr.
455 Pellegrino] up for re-election. Mayor Samples said because he ran in the same election as Bob Childs in
456 2014, as did Mr. Magliette. Mr. Ballenger: Now his job is up for grabs, right? Mayor Samples said yes, to
457 fulfill the remaining two years. Mr. Ballenger: Oh, for two years. Mayor Samples said we serve four year
458 terms. The elections are staggered. Mr. Ballenger: Got cha. Okay, got cha. Mayor Samples said I should
459 not be responding, but I wanted you to know. Mr. Ballenger: Thank you.
460

461 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North. Just a question. We've got all this work going on at Glenns
462 Bay Road, and I didn't know until the other night that there are no plans to have any kind of a sidewalk
463 there. *(Someone said there are plans for a sidewalk.)* Well, I was told there wasn't. It was just really scary,
464 because I could see so many people with bicycles and walking. I was concerned that someone would get
465 hurt if there weren't [sic] going to be a sidewalk included in their plans. This is Glenns Bay, not Surfside. I
466 was wondered if that wasn't in their plans, whose coattail did we have to pull for them, to have them do
467 that. Mayor Samples said the plans that were presented at the public hearings definitely showed a sidewalk,
468 but we can follow up. His understanding was a sidewalk ran the entire length of Glenns Bay on one side.
469 Ms. Lowery: Just on one side, I think, would be a God-send, because that is very heavily pedestrian, very
470 heavily bicycle, and somebody is going to get hurt. Mayor Samples said absolutely, I agree. Ms. Lowery:
471 And, the only other comment, I'm on planning and zoning. I helped with the tree ordinance, and there is
472 really no reason for anybody to be afraid. *(Laughter)* Just call [Ms. Morris] like you said before. Go to the
473 person who's in authority. Get it from the horse's mouth. Don't listen to other people. I have a tree that I
474 hate. My steps on one side are about two inches taller than they used to be. There's a root under there.
475 They're moving away from my front porch by about an inch and a half. One day, I'm gonna get irritated
476 enough to come ask [Ms. Morris] for a permit to cut down that gorgeous Magnolia tree in the middle of my
477 yard, and I'll hate it. But, you know, some situations don't require a lot of money, just go ask. You get a
478 permit. You do it. Mayor Samples said you hire an arborist. Ms. Lowery: Well, you know, if it's justified,
479 that's all it's got to be. If it's causing damage, that's all there is. Nobody has to be afraid. You just ask.
480 Thank you.
481

482 Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North. I'm glad to see Ben Johnson got an award. He's a fantastic
483 employee. He's one of our best. I hear rumors that council would like to get rid of the skate park. While
484 I'm not that young to play in the skate park, there are kids in this town that do, and I think it's a great park
485 for the kids. I would certainly hope that by putting the cost of a fence around that park is gonna have you
486 people get rid of that park. I think you're making a huge mistake. We need parks for our children. That is
487 one of them. We just spent over \$330,000 for a park that we're not even allowed to go in. Don't take this
488 park away from the children. Thank you.
489

490 Ray Arsdale, Surfside Beach Bar and Grill. I have two questions. First, I apologize for last month,
491 for the recreation of the roast down, down, down the end, down there. It was very well received, but
492 again, I have a question. I'm from the north and I guess we do things differently in the north. Why does a
493 town get involved in the food business when there's people in the town that do the food business that
494 require that to make some money? I don't understand it. Maybe that's a question you guys can think of
495 for next year. But I have to go get a permit for \$150, which I understand, and then I gotta cook all my
496 pork for 14 hours, and then get judged by three or four people to possibly win \$350, \$200, whatever.
497 Then the town gets all the money, while I sit there and serve out my pork, employing people to do that, so
498 my time is probably \$500 less than what I could actually be making to help support the town, pay the
499 taxes to do all that stuff. That's just my two cent opinion on that aspect of it. But, they did a very good
500 job. I mean it was well received and all that stuff, but I'm in business to make money and I also support
501 the town. But, yet, let me make a little bit of money instead of wasting my time going down there for 14
502 hours to hand out the money back to the town, to get the cost of the pork and the wings and all that stuff.
503 I don't mind paying for it, because I know what the cost is and I can make some money. That's what I'm
504 in business for and that aspect of it. Two, again the sign ordinances, and I ask, what is a temporary sign?
505 You know, I put a sign up for advertising to draw people into my business to try to make money so I can
506 pay my taxes, so I can pay this sign ordinance, but yet the sign ordinance is for ten days and I've gotta pay
507 \$30 every time only for six times a year. Now come on, I mean, common sense. It doesn't make sense. I
508 don't understand this. So I ask the council tonight, please put a moratorium on the sign ordinances until
509 we can understand it. If you read the sign ordinance section, the first section, it say I can put a sign up on
510 my building. But then you've gotta go to three sections down in order to see where it says to get a permit.
511

511 I'm not, I'm not a smart guy. But why can't it say in the first section you need to get a permit before you
512 put a sign up, because I got a ticket. A \$1,000 ticket. I have to go to court April 6, just like the Joker did,
513 because of the sign ordinance that says three sections down that I need to pay for the sign ordinance. I
514 don't understand it. Why can't I pay \$100 for the whole year for a professional sign that I get made that
515 cost me \$60, \$100 to get made, and then I've gotta pay another x-amount of dollars for the sign
516 ordinances. So please put a moratorium on the sign ordinances until we can figure this out. Why are we
517 getting fined for stuff that we're trying to draw business in to pay our taxes? It doesn't make sense to me.
518 I'm just fed up with it. I'm tired. I've been here since December 1st, a 109 days straight to try to get my
519 business going and you see on Facebook I'm getting compliments left and right. I've cleaned the place up.
520 I've painted it. I've got all the riff-raff out of there. People are coming into this and yet I'm getting
521 attacked by zoning about signs that are professionally done outside. It doesn't make sense to me. Please
522 put a sign ordinance [sic] on it till we can figure it out. You guys been doing this for three months. This is
523 now March. I don't understand it.

524
525 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**
526

527 Mr. Johnson said I'll make it short and sweet. Thank you for coming out. Do not forget to vote
528 April 5th. I just would like to say about the sign ordinance, as that gentleman graciously stated, he's been
529 here for 100 and some days. Well, the sign ordinance has been in place for quite a while from what I
530 recall, and you know, I'm at a loss for words as to how to explain that, but have a great evening and be
531 blessed.

532
533 Mr. Childs said I promised Mr. Johnson I wouldn't give a 45 minute speech here, but I want to
534 thank everybody for coming and don't forget to get out and vote. If you vote for me, I'm gonna tell you
535 way up front, I appreciate it. Thank you very much.
536

537 Mr. Stevens said I want to thank everybody for coming out. Anybody that comes out to a council
538 meeting and spends their time here listening to all this for several hours has really got some patience. But
539 as far as the sign ordinance, I believe that Ms. Morris is working on something on the temporary displays
540 and stuff like that, and hopefully that'll come down the pipe. I think it has to go through planning and
541 zoning. But anyway, I appreciate your time. Vote on April 5th. I'd appreciate your vote for me, and I'll
542 work my hardest to satisfy you.
543

544 Mr. Pellegrino said thanks for coming tonight. Mr. Dodge, thanks for mentioning the skate park.
545 We talked about that about probably a month or so ago. I was one of the ones that was asking is it viable,
546 is it, I mean, do people use it. But, since I do have young kids, since that meeting a lot of people called me,
547 and expressed that they do use it. They have kids that use it. There's businesses that rely on it. So
548 there's, and I do take that into consideration. But, thanks for bringing that back up, because we haven't
549 talked about that in a while, and certainly I'll have a different impression going forward. As far as the
550 election, you hear a lot of nice posturing and campaigning and all this stuff going on. The best thing about
551 this election is I'm not running. (Laughter) Please, please go out and vote. It's important, it's our civic
552 duty and if you don't vote, you can't come and complain. That's the way it should work.
553

554 Ms. Mabry said I want to tell everyone, and remind everyone if you don't know, at the park at
555 Willow and 3rd will be, Thursday will be the last day of the dig. We have gotten or they have gotten, not
556 me, a lot of artifacts from way back when. I don't know if they've gone all the way back to the 17th Century
557 with a lot of 'em, but they've gone pretty far back. So, Thursday's the last day of the dig, and they're
558 inviting the entire community to come out and help dig that last day. So, if you really want to get
559 involved, that's the day to do it. They'll be taking up the stakes and we'll be making that into a park for
560 everyone to enjoy. But, the reason it had been roped off is because we can't have people in while they're
561 doing their dig. But, Thursday will be the last day and everyone is invited, so please come out. You get to
562 see what they're doing. Get to participate if you'd like to, and learn a little bit about the history of Surfside
563 all the way back to the Colonial Days. So, we have gone that far back; to the 17th Century to know that
564 people were living here on 5,000 acres that they had a plantation here and that actually, and we can only
565 say that George Washington actually did come through Surfside Beach. So we have got quite a bit of
566 history, and if you want to learn about it Thursday is the day. I hope it's a pretty day, but please go down
567 and see what's going on and participate if you'd like. Thank you.

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568
569 Mayor Samples said I want to say thank you to all the candidates who have put themselves
570 forward; who are spending the time meeting the folks that live in town. I know they're working hard. It is
571 a great town. The skate [park] is going to stay where it is. That was the decision that was arrived at
572 during the visioning meeting, the last visioning meeting in February. I agree we have nice parks for
573 younger children. We have a wonderful beach for older youth, but the fact of the matter is, Eternal Wave,
574 quite frankly, a business in town, has been actively engaged in recruiting younger children along with
575 their parents. So in terms of using the skate park; so for those who may think the skate park isn't used,
576 it's heavily used. It's a great alternative; extreme sport. We do the best we can. We're not perfect. I don't
577 like pine trees, because they blow down; snap in two. I do believe on the signage issue, I think it was Mr.
578 Pellegrino, correct me if I'm wrong, who asked that the planning commission look at instead of six ten day
579 periods, I think you suggested a longer period of time. Our season is longer than it once was. There are
580 other common sense changes as the town evolves that we need to consider. The discussion needs to be
581 informed and ultimately, it needs to take place in these chambers, and it needs to be done publicly; no
582 surprises. Transparency, by golly, we've gotta come up with \$1.1 [sic] million by July 15th, so I know that
583 all members realize that that means that's our number one priority, and I'm gonna ask, if you'll excuse
584 me, do we have dates for the budget meetings, the budget workshops, if you can remember? Ms. Fellner
585 said April 21st and 22nd. Mayor Samples said April 21st and 22nd. I would encourage the public; I would
586 encourage any candidates, if there are any that remain at that point, to attend April 21st and 22nd.
587 Obviously, all councilmembers be prepared, be prepared to do the work that we have been doing. But, I
588 would also add, do the work that we did back in 2012. I'm getting the cut-it-off sign, but the reality is we
589 spent a lot of time and a lot of effort. We did cut spending by 2.5-percent, okay, by actual cutting. It don't
590 [sic] sound like much. You go back and you can look in the audits, okay. You're not gonna find that. But,
591 we are in good financial shape. But, we have to renourish the beach. That's our business. So I ask for a
592 motion. Vote April 5th. I ask for a motion to adjourn.
593

594 **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

595
596 Mr. Childs moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Ms. Mabry second. All voted in
597 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
598

599 Prepared and submitted by,

600 Approved: April 12, 2016

601 _____
602 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

603 _____
604 Douglas F. Samples, Mayor

605 _____
606 David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

607 _____
608 Robert F. Childs, Town Council

609 _____
610 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

611 _____
612 Mary Beth Mabry, Town Council

613 _____
614 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

615 _____
616 Vacant Seat

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