



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING JULY 12, 2016 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, and Stevens were in attendance. One seat is vacant. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; and Police Chief Keziah.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Reverend Kirk Lawton from Ocean Lakes Campground Ministries gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

Mayor Childs welcomed the candidates for the August 9th Special Election to fill an unexpired term ending May 8, 2018. He thanked them for their willingness to serve the Town of Surfside Beach and asked them to introduce themselves. Candidates: Ms. Mary Beth Mabry, 15th Avenue North, Ms. Julie Samples, Hollywood Drive North, and Ms. Wanda Spannuth, Harbor Lights Drive.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL.

Mr. Ott moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to omit Communications Item 6.B. Historical Society Presentation. Mr. Stevens second. Mayor Childs explained that the Historical Society cancelled the presentation at the last minute. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL.

Regular Meeting June 27, 2016. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the June 27, 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Mr. Bert Krassin, 13th Avenue South. I want to thank the council for giving consideration to the reading of ordinance 16-0829. I represent 84 owners as the [homeowners association] president, and I cannot tell you what it means to us to be able to control that traffic on Poplar Drive South. Thank you for giving that consideration.

Mr. Steve Shore, 1st Avenue North. On agenda item first reading of 16-0829, has the town received approval from SCDOT that quickly that we can have first reading? SCDOT doesn't move very fast. If not, why are we considering without DOT's approval? Why are we even discussing it? You're setting a precedent for the future. How many roads does the town want to buy? We're gonna find ourselves in trouble before long buying up roads, maintaining them. That's what's gonna happen. I'm all for safety, but you've [got to consider] the safety of all of us. That's all I've got to say about that. Thank you.

Ms. Nicole Burke, 14th Avenue South. I represent 104 homeowners in Ocean Pines I. I'd like to thank the Mayor and Council for adopting Poplar Drive. I know that Hollywood Drive was also brought up as an issue last week, but it has a sidewalk. Therefore, it is much safer for the residents than Poplar

54 [Drive] is. Poplar is very dangerous for anyone walking. So, thank you for the work you've done towards
55 that.

56
57 Ms. Kathy Goddard, 13th Avenue South. I've witnessed a lot of accidents on Poplar, and the
58 speeding. I agree with the residents in that I'm glad that the Town is doing what they're doing with
59 Poplar. I'm for taking control of it and making sure the residents and the children are safe, and the
60 drivers in the area. So, I appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

61
62 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

63
64 **A. Employee Awards. Ms. Tanika Parson, 15 years.**

65
66 Mayor Childs said it was his pleasure to introduce Ms. Tanika Parson who serves in the police
67 department as the communication supervisor. He presented her with a 15-year anniversary pin, a
68 certificate, and a check. Ms. Parson received a standing ovation. Mr. Courtney thanked Ms. Parson for
69 her service and said she was an asset to the town.

70
71 **B. Historical Society, Mayor Childs.**

72
73 This item omitted, see Agenda Item 3, above.

74
75 **C. Administrator's Report.**

76
77 Ms. Fellner presented her report, a copy of which is attached, and said there will be a special
78 Town Council meeting on Wednesday, July 20th at 5:00 p.m.

79
80 Mr. Ott thanked Ms. Fellner for the report.

81
82 Mr. Pellegrino said many citizens would like to hear verbal reports at the meetings.

83
84 Mr. Ott asked if Town Council and the administrator if they would concur to reinstate verbal
85 reports. Many residents enjoy hearing the reports, especially from the police department. *(Laughter)*
86 Ms. Fellner said that would not be a problem. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.** Mr. Ott said thank you to Ms.
87 Fellner.

88
89 **7. BUSINESS**

90
91 **First Reading of Ordinance #16-0829 to accept South Poplar Drive from Surfside
92 Drive to Melody Lane from the Highway Department.**

93
94 Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file.

95
96 Mr. Ott moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #16-0829 as presented. Mr. Courtney second.

97
98 Mr. Pellegrino understood there was a safety issue, but he was very hesitant about adopting
99 roads. This could start an avalanche when more and more roads are adopted as there is a cost involved.
100 Poplar Drive may not have any cost now, but eventually, it will need maintenance. The repaving
101 estimate for South Poplar Drive is \$300,000. The taxpayers will have to pay for that. He asked if Ms.
102 Fellner would explain steps taken to get help from the state and Chief Keziah to explain the safety issues.

103
104 Chief Keziah said four speed studies were done on South Poplar, the results of which were
105 previously sent to Town Council. His department has taken about every enforcement step possible to
106 make South Poplar Drive safer, including using the mobile speed warning sign and a covert survey box.

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107 The department has “pleaded, begged, made phone calls, provided data, and written letters to DOT
108 [Department of Transportation] from him and the public works director.” There has been no cooperation
109 or assistance from DOT. The police department continues to regularly enforce the area and place
110 portable signage that warns motorists of their vehicle speed. Chief Keziah believed the next step would
111 be for Town Council to decide whether to move forward to obtain ownership from the state.
112

113 Ms. Fellner said it does not take the DOT long to respond; but, she wanted to make sure that
114 Town Council wanted this brought back, and that Town Council is intent on proceeding with accepting
115 the road. Once the town notifies DOT that the town wants to take over the road, there is no recourse if
116 Town Council were to determine this was not in the town’s best interest. DOT has no problem giving the
117 road to the town.
118

119 Mr. Pellegrino asked for specific details about requests made to DOT for stop signs and safety
120 devices. Ms. Fellner said Mr. Adair had requested stop signs on at least three different occasions. Each
121 time, DOT said no.
122

123 Mr. Ott said that area is a hot spot, because everyone comes off Highway 17 by 10th Avenue
124 South. They can “fly” down South Poplar down to Melody Lane, and not have to wait for the light, so it
125 becomes a secondary highway for the area.
126

127 Mr. Johnson believed this type decision should be made by a fully seated council, not just six
128 councilmembers. There is a cost involved. We were told by a previous administrator that the best thing
129 we could do was take over Ocean Boulevard. We were told if it got messed up, or destroyed, that we
130 would be reimbursed. As we later found out, that was not true at all. So we are fully responsible for
131 every road we take into our system. I think at this point, DOT is not going to help with the traffic
132 problems on South Poplar. I think we are setting an ongoing precedent by taking all of these roads into
133 our system. We are blessed that we don’t have a budget crisis right now, but we do have beach
134 renourishment coming up. We are cutting back costs at all levels in every department to pay for beach
135 renourishment. Again, if we do this, I think it should be done with a full council, not just six individual
136 members.
137

138 Mr. Stevens said safety is the main issue. Do we value the lives of the people of Surfside? I’ve
139 seen in the paper during the past many reports of wrecks on South Poplar Drive. There was a car that
140 crashed into Ocean Pines Subdivision; one car flipped over; obviously, we have a problem there and the
141 state does not want to help us. I certainly don’t want to see somebody sitting in this audience or any
142 citizen end up dead because of speeders on South Poplar Drive, and because we never got around to
143 putting a stop sign or doing anything to protect the town citizens. Whether a vote is taken now or when
144 the full council is seated, I don’t think it makes any difference one bit whatsoever. We are a Town
145 Council; we have the authority to vote whether there are six or seven members. We have to protect the
146 citizens of this town, and if it requires taking over the road, I think that would be the right thing to do.
147

148 Mr. Courtney said public works director Adair said at the last meeting that the town has taken
149 care of state roads in the past and the state has not cooperated with repairing them. Ocean Boulevard
150 has not been affected by any storms; Poplar Drive certainly will not. Poplar Drive is in good condition
151 according to Mr. Adair.
152

153 Mr. Pellegrino asked if the problem was resolved after stop signs were posted in other areas
154 where they experienced speeding problems and multiple accidents. Chief Keziah said in his recollection,
155 a stop sign has never been posted to resolve a speeding problem. Stop signs were posted to resolve a
156 volume problem on a thoroughfare way before his administration began. Any time that
157 recommendations are made to DOT, its staff responds negatively. There were some stop signs placed on
158 Poplar Drive, but they were actually placed on the cross streets that belong to the town. There were

159 already stop signs on Poplar Drive, and the town added signs on its cross streets creating a 4-way stop;
160 Pine Drive, and 2nd Avenue North.

161
162 Mayor Pro Tem Ott and Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor
163 Childs and Councilmember Johnson voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

164
165 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION** – Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

166
167 Mr. Stevens said councilmember spouses serving on committees was brought up at the last
168 meeting, and has also been mentioned several times. He asked if Town Council would establish a policy
169 that councilmember spouses be prohibited from serving on committees that make recommendations to
170 Town Council. Also, maybe address some council polices as far as meeting attendance, and things like
171 that. My recommendation is to grandfather any spouse that is currently serving to allow completion of
172 their term, but from their term expiration, no spouses can serve on any committee.

173
174 Mr. Childs said this is a good idea. When I was campaigning this came up. The citizen could not
175 believe that spouses were allowed on committees and boards. I believe the overwhelming majority of
176 people do not believe that is a good idea. Although, as some people on council pointed out, sometimes it
177 is difficult to get volunteers. I think Mr. Stevens is right. We do not want to hurt anyone that is serving
178 now, it will be a policy for the future that a spouse cannot serve. It is an excellent idea.

179
180 Mr. Stevens said in reference to the town clerk, I feel that the town clerk is not able to serve
181 council best as the current ordinance reads. I would like to bring the town clerk back fully under town
182 council and only town council so we can get full information from the town clerk at all times. Mayor
183 Childs said we went through this about a year and half ago. Mr. Pellegrino and Mr. Johnson were here.
184 The new members were not. We went around and around and we had good reasons for doing that, so I
185 think before we do that we maybe get a consensus of council if they want to bring it back under
186 discussion.

187
188 Mr. Pellegrino said we had a specific reason we were trying to address back then, which that
189 same reason doesn't exist right now. I'm fine with it.

190
191 Mr. Johnson asked if that would that be something to be discussed in executive session. Mayor
192 Childs said no; Mr. Stevens wants to put it on the agenda as a discussion item next time.

193
194 Mr. Stevens said I want to bring back an ordinance to change the town clerk back to fully under
195 Town Council.

196
197 Mr. Courtney said my understanding is that most municipalities and cities have the court and
198 clerk under council.

199
200 Mr. Ott said I have been appointed a liaison to the town clerk along with Mr. Courtney. We will
201 meet with the clerk to review her job duties. Once that is done, a report and a recommendation will be
202 made.

203
204 Mayor Childs said add the topic as a discussion item at the next meeting.

205
206 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)

207
208 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights. Thank you. I would just like to thank our town's people
209 and also our Town Council and the men and women who volunteer to serve on Town Council and also I
210 would like to give a hearty thank you to the people who work for the town of Surfside. Most of all, I
211 appreciate living here because we are always trying to keep our citizens involved and aware of what's

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212 going on. We are people here who like to proffer [sic] transparency so that our taxpayers, especially
213 the older on fixed income taxpayers, can know what's going on, and I appreciate that. Whereas we are
214 entitled to agree to disagree, it's good that we bring up things in our council meetings instead of leaving
215 things unsaid, because everybody has a mind, a perspective, and a voice. That's what we appreciate
216 here. So, I thank you all very much, and once again, I thank everyone in the town who strives to make
217 this the little gem that we live in. Thank you.
218

219 Ms. Mary Jo Doggett, 12th Avenue North. I'm here regarding the area on 12th Avenue North.
220 The beach people are parking there and they are causing our sprinkler heads to be broken. They're also
221 causing [problems for] our maintenance people who cut our grass. The cars are there and we cannot get
222 them moved and have to call our lawn people back the second day, which costs us money. There were
223 three signs of no parking on 12th Avenue North from 2003 to 2010, and they were moved by the city.
224 Why, I don't know. The other thing that we're talking about safety here, there are these beach people
225 that are pulling up, and they're opening the car doors on the roadside. The children are excited and I'm
226 afraid from a safety reason that someone is going to be hit by a car. It's a very short area there on 12th
227 Avenue North and it leads to Ocean Boulevard and North Dogwood Drive. I've been looking around the
228 community and there are a lot of people that have meters; some type of a rope thing keeping off of their
229 yards, and also some people have actually taken wood planks and put in. I'm asking that maybe you
230 could put the signs back for safety. I know on 5th Avenue North and Dogwood, between Dogwood and
231 Ocean Boulevard at Floral Villa, they not only have enclosed the area there, but they've also enclosed the
232 stop sign. So, I just would like to see either the three stop signs be put back up and not allow parking
233 there or some form of thing that we could put up to prevent parking. It's a very small area, so I'd just
234 like to put that forth to the council. I would like to mention the state of our Nation when it comes to the
235 police force, and the things that have been happening recently. I would just like to commend Surfside's
236 police department. You know, we're not just permanent residents here. We're a beach community who
237 has vacationers come in at all times. With vacationers you also have parties and things going on, and I
238 just think we should be very much aware of what our police department does for us. Myself, my
239 husband, and my friend Debbie here today have all taken the Citizens Police Academy. I recommend it
240 to council if they haven't taken it or anybody else here. They do a wonderful job. I'd just like to say a
241 big thank you, and I hope the council will continue to recognize the wonderful policemen that we have.
242 *(Applause)*
243

244 Mr. Steve Shore, 1st Avenue North. There were several comments about the Confederate flag
245 that I flew on my golf cart. I'd like to announce that I've removed the flag. But, I would also add that
246 the flag is not a display of hate, racism, or **. I certainly in no way intended to embarrass our town, or
247 disrespect anyone, councilmen or citizens of this town. If it makes people happy, I'll remove it. I hope it
248 makes 'em happy. I posted it on Facebook, too, to let people know, because when it comes to having
249 comradery with people that's what I try to do. Also, I would like to take a moment to thank staff and the
250 officers of our police, fire, and rescue departments. I'm so proud of the men and women that serve
251 Surfside, and we thank you very much. Thank you. *(Applause)*
252

253 Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North. I want to thank Mr. Ott for getting back the department
254 reports and the administrator's report put into the meeting. We come to these meetings to learn and see
255 what's going on in town. We don't just come here to get out of the heat. I wonder if anything is being
256 done about the mosquito problem. They're horrible. I don't know if we're spraying or not. But, if we're
257 not, let's do it. I was told before the last council meeting that we had three rabid raccoons on South
258 Poplar Drive. Next night we had a council meeting. Nothing at all was said about it. That's a health
259 issue, and like I say, we come to these meetings to learn what's going on, and if, in fact, that was true,
260 something should have been said at the meeting. 13th Avenue North between Spruce and North Cherry
261 Drive is absolutely disintegrating. I think that's a state street, but we live here. We have a streets
262 department. 15th Avenue North near Ocean Lakes Pharmacy has two huge holes. I drive that every day.
263 Somebody should fix them. I don't have any pull with the state. So, I'm asking our town administrator,
264 who should have some pull with the state, to fix our dad gum [sic] roads. Last, but not least, one of my

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265 gripes is campaign signs. It's early in the campaign. Two candidates have many campaign signs in the
266 rights-of-way. If we have a zoning officer, they should pick them up.
267

268 Ms. Lynn Manchester, North Ocean Boulevard. First, I want to say, Mr. Johnson, thank you very
269 much about taking on the new roads, because of Ocean Boulevard where I live at that bridge. I wish
270 each of you would come and look at it. Just over the weekend, this little kid was going down the side of
271 it from the road, and a big, this big (*indicated size with arms*), piece of asphalt, I guess it's the black, not
272 the concrete, just slipped right out from under the foot. That road really; the bridge, especially, needs to
273 be looked at. But, I wanted to let you know that I appreciated your thought. And, Mayor, I appreciate
274 your thought, too. I live in the Seabridge area that Ms. Doggett was talking about. I want to read you a
275 letter, if I can. A little note from a homeowner that could not get here in time tonight. Their names are
276 Tony and Terrie Hobson, and they live on North Ocean Boulevard. [Ms. Manchester read:]
277

278 Good afternoon. We purchased our home at #### North Ocean
279 Boulevard three years ago. We do not rent our house. Since we are in
280 the weekly rental zone, we knew we would have an increase in cars and
281 foot traffic around our property in the summer months. What we did not
282 expect was the continuous parking of cars next to our property. We
283 have experienced multiple issues with vehicles parking adjacent to our
284 property. Below is just a partial list. The construction trucks that have
285 churned up the soil and damaged sprinkler heads. The tenants from the
286 other property, especially Cape Coddage, which is right across the street
287 from us, parking their cars overnight. Landscapers not being able to cut
288 the grass and leave a section as big a car uncut for two weeks at a time.
289 It is not practical for our landscapers to come back to finish the job.
290 Loud and rude behaviors. Should there be an emergency, the vehicles
291 would be an obstruction for that emergency vehicle and the workers to
292 access those houses on 12th Avenue. Landscaping could, of course, be
293 replaced. But, finding the owners of those vehicles that's down on the
294 beach for you to get to where you need to be to maybe put out a fire
295 would be about impossible. We have noticed that many other
296 properties, some which are new, on the other streets that face Ocean
297 Boulevard have placed no parking signs and/or landscaping to prevent
298 cars from parking next to the property. We are not asking for
299 preferential treatment, but do expect the same rules to be applied to all.
300 We appreciate some help in this matter and believe that the entire
301 neighborhood would benefit from this space being restricted from
302 parking, Tony and Terrie Hobson.
303

304 Ms. Manchester: I spoke with the Mayor today. I do appreciate your time, again. I'm hoping
305 that you will come and look at that 12th Avenue. We will be happy to plant whatever you tell us;
306 whatever you will allow us to do to keep that down. If you go from where it connects to Ocean
307 Boulevard and back towards Dogwood, there's that 30-foot that they can't park anyway, so it's a matter
308 of probably, they can put about, if they squeeze, they can put about seven cars in there. But, the way it
309 works with the drive for Seabridge coming in there, it would be a real problem if emergency vehicles
310 need to be in there. I want to say thank you so much to the police department. Two times this weekend
311 I saw them out their doing their job in the middle of the night. I feel so safe. I stay here a lot by myself,
312 so I feel so safe, because two or three o'clock in the morning you see those cruisers going by. That
313 makes you feel really good when you're by yourself. So, they do an awesome job. I've always thought
314 that they did great. Thank you.
315

316 Ms. Holly Watson, North Oak Drive. I was the one who spoke last council meeting about the
317 \$45,000 engineering fee that was talked about in the budget meeting. Of course, people came and

318 asked me what I was talking about. I said, well, go look at the budget meeting minutes, and lo and
319 behold, there's nothing in the budget meeting minutes about this engineering deal for the pier. So that's
320 my top complaint this evening that we're sanitizing meeting minutes now. We're doing something where
321 not everything is getting into our minutes. I don't think that's correct or should be that way. There were
322 some other things at the budget meeting that were talked about that were not in the minutes.
323 Specifically, there was one line item under fire for \$4,700 that had no description. Nothing there, just
324 \$4,700 plugged in. I don't mean to nitpick the budget, but when I read our newsletter, it stated that the
325 average home in Surfside Beach pays about \$300 a year in real estate property taxes. So, with that in
326 mind, I want you to put things into perspective. What I mean by that is I had asked that some of our
327 operating expense items be put out for bid. For instance, we have a wage and salary study that you
328 wanted that's not out for bid. We have a forensic audit that you want that's not out for bid. Engineering
329 for this pier addition is not put out for bid. The capital real estate improvements in our stormwater
330 construction things seem to be put out for bid. But as I stated last council meeting, I have not found one
331 general operating item out for bid since 2013. We are losing money. I would not pay \$500 for a dress at
332 Dillard's when I could go to Belk and get it for \$200. We need competitive bidding in our town, and we
333 need to bring new business into our town. We need the business license fees from these competitive
334 bidders. For instance, our IT repairs and maintenance are \$65,425 a year on the budget. That's 218
335 houses worth of real estate money. It needs to go out to bid. Our copier leases and maintenance
336 agreements conglomerated, \$21,925. That's 73 houses worth of real estate money. Tax money. Our
337 insurance cost that does not include health and workers comp is \$209,000 a year. I understand that
338 we're a member of MASC. But when is the last time that we put it out for bid to the general public? We
339 need to do that. We could probably get it cheaper. We don't know until we find out [sic.] Uniforms,
340 \$15,000; police plus another \$18,000, plus fire another \$33,000. Uniforms, put 'em out for bid. Gas and
341 diesel is \$192,000 a year. Are we on the state contract? Does anybody know? Our Santee Cooper light
342 bill is \$110,000 just for street lamps. What would it mean to go to Santee Cooper and say can you start
343 the lights ten minutes later? How much would it save? Does anybody know? I don't mean to complain,
344 but I want you to think about each person's house contributes \$300. These hundreds of thousands of
345 dollars for goods and services, if we can just knock 10-percent off of that off of our budget, that's
346 \$600,000 that we could save to put towards beach renourishment or pave a road or do whatever we
347 need to do. I would appreciate all of the comments and all of the items when you have a council
348 meeting going on the record. Thank you very much.

349
350 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North. I want to speak to one of the things that Mr. Dodge
351 mentioned. I also heard about the rabid raccoons. I also know that I can hear anything if I listen long
352 enough. When I heard that, I was concerned, because of the number of children and the number of
353 animals that are out there. It's a scary thing. So, the first thing I did was to ask Chief Keziah what was
354 actually happening. It was not rabies. It was distemper. I asked him what the situation was. He told
355 me at the time that there were a large number of raccoons that had been captured with distemper. I
356 had actually seen one on Cedar, and it was pitiful. It was just pitiful. But, they weren't dangerous. They
357 weren't violent. They didn't propose a threat to anyone except other animals that have not been
358 vaccinated. So, with Chief Keziah's permission, I did put it on my personal Facebook page, and I've also
359 put it on the dog park Facebook page to make sure that all animals that required vaccinations for
360 distemper were vaccinated. I haven't heard any more about it, but it was distemper. It was not rabies.
361 It was just misinformation.

362
363 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

364
365 Mr. Stevens asked if Chief Keziah could address the raccoon situation. That sounds like that
366 could be a problem.

367
368 Mr. Johnson called *point of order*, saying this was the council comments portion of the agenda,
369 and that Mayor Childs had already recognized him to speak. Mayor Childs said that Mr. Johnson was
370 correct.

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371
372 Mr. Johnson: That means this, since you did call on me, I have no comments, other than thank
373 you for coming out. Please continue to come out. God bless you. See you next time.
374

375 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you very much for coming, and thank you very much for being involved
376 and speaking and giving us your input. That only helps us with the solution when we have more input to
377 make a decision. So, I appreciate that. I did vote yes, tonight for first reading on South Poplar Drive,
378 because; I planned on voting no, but as we were talking, I had a few questions come up, which I want to
379 address before it gets killed. So, I can't guarantee that I'll vote yes in two weeks. But, that's depending
380 on the answer to my questions. I just wanted to put that out there. Thank you very much. You guys
381 are; I see the same faces every meeting, which is nice. I'd like to see more. But, thank you very much
382 for taking the time to be involved in our community. It only makes it better. Have a great night.
383

384 Mr. Courtney: I'd like to thank you for coming out. Please don't forget our beach luau tonight, if
385 you can get out there. It's going to be great time. I want to thank everybody, and again, I think it's very
386 important the transparency. Again with the raccoons, I really didn't find out about it until later. So, I
387 think the transparency and the information needs to get out to the community when there is a problem,
388 so we will be addressing it. Thank you so much. Enjoy tonight and enjoy the weekend.
389

390 Mr. Ott: As for the parking on 12th Avenue, I think it is, and I'm not supposed to answer this
391 question, but I would recommend that you go ask the town clerk when there is a parking committee
392 meeting and talk to them. Our volunteer groups that we have here and all the boards and commissions
393 are excellent people. They have more information than we do. They've been involved in a lot of these
394 things. I'd recommend that everybody ask the volunteers that we have when you see something. They
395 are great people and we're very privileged to as many people participate in this for nothing. It's a great
396 thing that they think that much of our community. I didn't hear anything about the flag. And the bugs?
397 I thought I was the only one that had mosquitoes. Now, I know there's somebody else. Our budget; I
398 have a consensus with a list of our councilmembers. We're gonna look at this quarterly. Actually, we're
399 gonna start looking over it. We're gonna be a little more cautious with the money. A lot of us are still
400 learning, and when you deal with peoples' money you're always learning. You don't know anything about
401 it. I agree, everything should be taken for bits [sic.] I think the 4th of July celebration was terrific this
402 year. The band that was there, whoever they were, they were really good. Very entertaining and we
403 should be very proud of our town and the staff that we have here that they do these marvelous things
404 for us. We're a small community and I'm proud to be here, and I'm proud to represent you. Thank you
405 for coming. Thank you for giving us these ideas.
406

407 Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and I want to thank everybody for coming out. I like the
408 person who spoke about everything should go out to bids. That was really good, and I want to give you
409 a little example. Just a small example, we have what we call an employees' luncheon. It's usually fried
410 chicken, turkey, ham, things like that. A few vegetables and different things like that. I took it upon
411 myself, as President Ronald Reagan said, trust but verify. Four thousand dollars for 80 people comes out
412 to \$50 per person for a luncheon. Now, I called the Ryan's Steakhouse, and they said they could feed 80
413 people for \$9.50 a person. Then I went to the Piggly Wiggly. They can give us 100 pieces of fried
414 chicken, 4 deep fried turkeys, 4 spiral hams, macaroni and cheese, and whole [bunch] of stuff that comes
415 out to \$896.60 or \$11.21 per person. So we're looking at about \$900. Let's say, just for the sake of it, it
416 cost \$1,000. Why do we have a budget item for \$4,000 to feed 80 people when it only cost \$1,000.
417

418 Mr. Ott: Mr. Ott, could I ask if we have a *point of order*? We are not doing the budget right
419 now. Mayor Childs: This is council comments. Mr. Ott: I appreciate it, but I ...
420

421 Mr. Stevens: This is council comments. So I just wanted to leave that thought with you, and
422 then while you're sitting in here, I want you to look over these signs over here. A few years ago there
423 was an illegal meeting called. We signed a document that said we'd spend nearly \$780,000. A few

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424 months later, we were told we didn't have enough money to pay the bills here. So, we had four
425 councilmembers ask for that money back. We got around over three-quarters of a million dollars back.
426 Now, the state is paving the road. Putting stop lights; they're putting turn lanes; they're putting all kinds
427 of (**). They're not just doing it in Surfside, they're going from BI-LO's all the way down to 544. I want
428 you to thank the people who voted to get our over three-quarters of a million dollars back. Ms. Ann
429 Dodge is sitting out in the audience, Rod Smith and Beth Kohlmann. You don't have to thank me. You
430 already elected me again. It was pure common sense that we got our money back and now the state is
431 doing what they should have. Thank you very much for coming out. Keep those things in your mind
432 over the weekend.

433
434 Mayor Childs: You talk about that right-of-way planning, I have been after that for years and my
435 comments are in the minutes. The parking committee that we suggest you go to; the parking committee
436 is already on board with that. The planning board is the one that has turned it down. I think council
437 would probably go for it. You know, the only argument that I've ever heard was that the emergency
438 vehicles can't get close. But if you restrict it to plants not to exceed maybe three foot, soft planting, no
439 oak trees or anything like that, certainly a fire truck can run over an azalea without any problems at all.
440 Parking is gonna become an issue for anybody that lives anywhere in the Dogwood Drive area all the way
441 over. These developments that they're building now; I expect this Wicked Stick will probably bring in
442 3,000 people or thereabouts by the time they finish that development. I've always said they didn't come
443 here to go snow skiing. They're gonna be at the beach, and they're gonna be parking in everybody's
444 yard. I think sooner or later, we're gonna have to bite the bullet and do something about the permits.
445 We have leased as much property as we can. The town has really bent over backwards to lease property
446 from people along Ocean Boulevard that are willing to lease it. There's only two lots left that would be
447 good and they're on Seaside Drive. The [owner] just will not budge, and does not want to rent it.
448 There's one down the bottom of 14th and we could never get a response from them either. The town
449 [staff] has done as much as they can do as far as accommodating visitors. It's an issue and it's gonna
450 just get worse, I'm afraid. I'm in favor of planting on the rights-of-way; you mow the grass, you keep it.
451 You know it's the town's right-of-way. Legally, the town owns it, but you maintain it. I certainly hope
452 the planning commission would revisit that issue soon, and allow people, they could even instruct people
453 as to what they like planted there: flowers, little azaleas, soft flowers, and shrubberies that wouldn't
454 obstruct any emergency vehicle from coming on the property. I think most people that would park there
455 wouldn't park on flowers and azaleas, so I think it would be a real deterrent. We want to keep away
456 from as many do not park signs as we can. Hopefully, we're gonna landscape Ocean Boulevard as we
457 finish our underground wiring. I had a motion in when I re-elected to council a couple of years, and my
458 motion when I eliminated the parking on Ocean Boulevard, part of my motion was to bring Clemson
459 University in here to give an overlay of Ocean Boulevard. Through some luck, I had some friends that
460 knew some people that were in the dean's office of Clemson University. They put the professor in charge
461 of the landscape architect in touch with me and the administrator. They are gonna send some
462 students down here to give an overlay of Ocean Boulevard, and as time goes along, we can complete
463 that whole project. We've got to keep in mind that we're doing the underground wiring, so we don't
464 want to plant and then have to tear it back up. We were gonna do it, and the question has been asked
465 numerous times over and over, the answers the same over and over. They were coming down here last
466 winter, but due to some personal problems, the professor was unable to make it. But, she has
467 tentatively promised that she would try to get her group down here this fall. We still have our fingers
468 crossed that that will happen. It certainly will be the least expensive way; people talk about saving
469 money, we get Clemson to come in here, those same people once they graduate, we'd be paying
470 thousands of dollars to get them to do the same thing that they're gonna do as a school project. So,
471 everybody keep their fingers crossed. Hopefully, they'll come down and before you know it, we'll have a
472 landscape plan. The big thing behind that is we'll be able to remove do not park, all these signs along
473 Ocean Boulevard. But right now, we have to put them to control that little bit of parking. When we put
474 a palm tree in place of a sign, we can take the sign down. That's one of the ultimate goals, to
475 aesthetically make Ocean Boulevard, once we have the underground wiring in there, we'll have beautiful
476 lighting there, and it'll be landscaped and it will be just absolutely gorgeous. So, we are working on that.

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477 We have not forgotten that project. It's well on its way. That's all I've got to say. I would like to thank
478 everybody for coming out this evening. We do appreciate it very much.

479

480 **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

481

482 Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in
483 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

484

485

Prepared and submitted by,

486

487

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

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489 Approved: July 26, 2016

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Robert F. Childs, Mayor

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Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

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Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

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Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

Vacant Seat

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502

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

APPROVED