



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION OCTOBER 25, 2016 ♦ 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 25, 2016 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Executive Session – 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 25, 2016 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, specifically the town clerk position, and the appointment of a person or persons to a public body, a volunteer to Keep Surferside Beach Beautiful, and pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements with the Horry County Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Consultant. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Mr. Johnson moved to enter executive session at 5:30 p.m. for the purposes stated by Mayor Childs. Mr. Stevens second.

Mr. Ott explained that executive session could also be entered for the purposes of investigative procedures into criminal misconduct, and the location, expansion, and provisions of services for industries and business, and all of the purposes Mayor Childs said. He wanted to add the other two reasons. Mayor Childs asked if those discussion could be added. Ms. Herrmann said the agenda must include the items being discussed. If an executive session is desired on Mr. Ott's topics, they could be included on the next agenda. The items for this executive session were properly advertised, and the agenda cannot be amended without 24-hours public notice. Mr. Ott said he was saying that these were other possibilities that could be discussed in executive session. Ms. Herrmann thanked Mr. Ott for the clarification. She explained that Mayor Childs cites the specific reasons for which the executive session is being held. There may be a time in the future when the other topics might be discussed.

Mayor Childs said the purposes for this session were stated and called for a vote. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 6:29 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Childs said that no action was taken during executive session. Any motions and/or directions to the town administrator will be made during the regular meeting that begins at 6:30 as noted on the agenda under Business Items 7.A., 7.B., and 7.C. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Town Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

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, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris; Police Chief Keziah; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Pastor Brent Thompson, LC3 Community Church, gave the invocation.

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

54
55 **3. AGENDA APPROVAL.** Mr. Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Stevens
56 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

57
58 **4. MINUTES APPROVAL - Regular Meeting October 11, 2016.** Mr. Stevens moved to
59 adopt the October 11, 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in
60 favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

61
62 **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only.** (3-minutes per speaker)

63
64 Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North. I would just like to say that the town workers out on the
65 streets that cleaned up the town have done a spectacular job. *(Applause)*

66
67 Ms. Kathy Goddard, 15th Avenue South. I would like to encourage Council and Mayor on the
68 agenda item of the town clerk to really consider putting Ms. Herrmann under Town Council. I would
69 really like you to consider that. I appreciate that and I also would like to say that Ms. Herrmann has
70 done, she knows nothing of this, but I think Ms. Herrmann has done this town a wonderful job. She's
71 served our town with honor and dignity. Also, as to the town workers, I'm with Mr. Dodge. They've
72 done a beautiful job, and I just can't say enough about them. I'm very proud of our workers. Thank
73 you.

74
75 Ms. Holly Watson, North Oak Drive. Since we have a finance department report, I thought I
76 would talk about the \$155,000 swash cost that now has escalated \$11,900 more, because the engineer
77 made a mistake; I couldn't really figure out why they decided that they needed more money. The
78 project grew before it ever even started, evidently, or they left something out. At any rate, I looked at
79 the proposal from MONTCO, the contractor that electronically signed the bid that DDC Engineers gave the
80 town. I didn't recognize the name, so I went on a search to find out who these people are, because
81 previously we'd been told that Timbes would be doing the project like 3rd Avenue South. So, MONTCO is
82 not registered with anybody that I could find. They don't hold a contractor's license. They don't have
83 any business licenses. They've never pulled any building permits. We don't know who they are. They
84 have a post office box in Murrells Inlet. So, I checked with the Secretary of State. There is a MONTCO,
85 Inc. out of New Jersey that is registered in South Carolina. They are a staffing agency; an employment
86 agency. They are not a contractor at all. So, we have an engineer who is asking for more money before
87 a job even starts. He gave us an estimate that wasn't a really good estimate, and with a contractor that
88 we don't know anything about. I think we really need to look into what's going on here. Thank you.

89
90 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

91
92 **A. Proclamation #16-110 Piggly Wiggly of Surfside Beach Recognition, Events**
93 **Supervisor Ellis.** Ms. Ellis explained that General Manager David Mauney was unable to attend,
94 because of a death in his family. She said it made her very happy to read the proclamation that
95 proclaims Piggly Wiggly of Surfside Beach a Business of Good Character and Community Spirit, a copy of
96 which is on file. Mayor Childs and she presented the proclamation to Assistant Manager Clarence Davis,
97 and Deli Manager Eva Ayala. *(Applause)*

98
99 **B. Department Reports.**

100
101 **i. Events.** Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.
102 The Famers Market opened today, and it was the last day of the market for this season.

103
104 Mayor Childs thanked Ms. Ellis for all she did during the hurricane event. She was a big help to
105 all the troops and we certainly appreciate all that you do.
106

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107 **ii. Finance.** Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.
108

109 Ms. Samples said her report did not include the expenditures for the general fund. Ms. King
110 apologized for the omission and said it would be sent to everyone tomorrow.
111

112 Mr. Ott asked if a workshop be scheduled to discuss how funds can be allocated to cover
113 unexpected expenditures, because of the extraordinary conditions that recently happened. Ms. King said
114 she understood that Town Council wanted to have a budget review, and she expects things to change
115 based on what happened. It was totally up to Town Council. Mr. Ott said a workshop would make him
116 feel better about current finances.
117

118 Mayor Childs asked that the workshop be scheduled.
119

120 Mr. Ott said the work place safety comments were appreciated. Ms. King said her department is
121 responsible for reporting all incidents, so they watch everything.
122

123 Mr. Courtney asked if the final dollar amount was determined for hurricane damage. Ms. King
124 said not yet. The payroll to pay for overtime is being prepared as we speak. She believed the numbers
125 would be available by the end of this week, and would report at the next meeting. There may be some
126 additional debris removal cost, but that is yet to be determined. Mr. Adair said hurricane expenses would
127 accrue over several pay periods. Based on the ice storm a few years ago, he anticipated submitting
128 around low \$200,000's to FEMA for reimbursement. Mr. Courtney asked if councilmembers could receive
129 a spreadsheet on the expenses. Ms. Fellner said Town Council would receive absolutely every number.
130

131 **iii. Fire.** Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.
132

133 Mr. Pellegrino said the trend continues with mutual aid and auto aid given, which is
134 overwhelmingly more than 80-percent as far as received. This was discussed several times. He asked
135 the status of negotiations on reimbursement for the county cost. Chief Otte said at this point this is at
136 the county level with County Council. He has not received any notice from Chief Tanner that anything is
137 going on. He explained that over the next few months, the reports will be changed to correctly show the
138 mutual aid received, auto aid received and given. He expects the numbers to be much closer.
139

140 Mr. Courtney had the same question as Mr. Pellegrino. He asked if auto aid was for automatic
141 alarms, and where those incidents occurred. Chief Otte said that the town responds to county calls,
142 which is considered auto aid. The calls are generally in the north end of town; into Deerfield, and in the
143 summer months especially, many calls are in the campgrounds. The county provides aid to the town
144 when needed.
145

146 Mr. Ott thanked him for the preparation and everything he did in preparing people for the
147 hurricane. He said Chief Otte was very influential in the meetings advising other directors what we
148 should expect. It was a "real hair raiser, wasn't it?" Chief Otte said it was interesting; I am not hoping
149 that we do this every October, but there were two in a row now. We learned a lot and are working on an
150 after action report. Every event is a learning process.
151

152 Ms. Samples said automatic aid and mutual aid was discussed at the last meeting he attended.
153 Ms. Fellner indicated at that meeting that she would contact Horry County Councilmember Servant about
154 the town's agreement. She was sure that she had been busy, and had not been able to do that, but she
155 thought this was a very important discussion that we need to have with the county. When we have 690
156 calls year to date, and the majority of those calls are outside of the town, in her opinion, we deserve
157 some sort of compensation from the county. She said if Ms. Fellner needed the council's help or the
158 mayor's help, in getting the county representatives to the table to discuss this, please let them know. It
159 is prudent that we do that. Ms. Fellner said she spoke with Mr. Servant. The county's public safety

160 committee is going to take up these agreements. He was waiting for that committee's report. She
161 clearly indicated that the town does not want anything that other municipalities do not receive; but, we
162 are looking for equal compensation to what other municipalities receive. She was told that that is
163 coming, but it might be time to call Mr. Servant and remind him of their discussion and what he said.
164 Ms. Samples liked that, and as she said, if the mayor needs to contact the Horry County chairman, we
165 need to do that if we can expedite the process, as she believes it is imperative to do so.

166
167 Mayor Childs asked Ms. Fellner to let him know when she called Mr. Servant. Maybe we can
168 meet with the county chairman to find out where the agreement stands. Ms. Fellner was happy to do
169 that.

170
171 Mr. Courtney thanked Chief Otte and his staff for the support given during the hurricane. He
172 heard many comments from the public about the wrist bands; some positive and some negative. We
173 found it interesting that the wrist bands were given out, but identification was not being checked. This is
174 something we need to do in the future to ensure people are residents. The approach should be to
175 identify the residents that live in town and make it easier for them to return to town. Chief Otte said the
176 bands were not to allow reentry. Mr. Courtney said he understood. Chief Otte said the bands were to
177 give the department a count of the number of people in town should there be a major disaster. Mr.
178 Courtney said he heard that some Sundown patrons were getting different color bands, because they
179 were getting free drinks. *(Laughter)* He was not at the Sundown; he was at home. The wristbands were
180 not waterproof, and should have a little more detail. Chief Otte said this was a spur of the moment
181 attempt to identify the people staying in town. He is already looking into more suitable materials for the
182 next storm event.

183
184 Mr. Stevens asked what the difference is between mutual aid and automatic aid. Chief Otte
185 explained that auto aid is when the department responds to an alarm automatically, whether it is an
186 ambulance, fire truck, or aerial truck. Mutual aid is when the town calls to request additional help. Mr.
187 Stevens said the town only has 55 auto aids. Chief Otte said that is the year to date figure, but that
188 number is likely to change considerably once the corrections are made to the reporting system. Within
189 the next two months, all departments should be reporting the same way, and the numbers should
190 equalize. The town has received 26 requests for help this year, and has asked for help on eight
191 occasions. Mr. Stevens asked if responders are from Horry County when we get automatic aid. Chief
192 Otte said it could be the county, Murrells Inlet-Garden City, or Myrtle Beach.

193
194 Mayor Childs thanked Chief Otte and all the firefighters for the great job during the hurricane.
195 Everybody was kept up to date on the weather report. He did a fantastic job on that. He knew everyone
196 put in a lot of hours and it was appreciated very much.

197
198 **iv. Planning, Building & Zoning.** Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of
199 which is attached hereto. Ms. Morris also presented the Program for Public Information – Evaluation
200 Report 2016, a copy of which is on file. The work place safety information was not in her report. She
201 said that the department has regular safety training including:

- 202
203
- 204 • Daily by wearing appropriate attire, including steel toe boots on job sites, and shirts that identify
 - 205 staff as town employees
 - 206 • Constantly remind each other to be alert around machinery at job sites
 - 207 • Wearing seat belts every day
 - 208 • Keep office travel ways clear; the fire department regularly inspects the office
 - 209 • Ensure fire exits are clear
 - 210 • Recently purchased an anti-slip entry rug
 - 211 • Staff is trained to speak up if they see any suspected training issue; policing each other is the
 - 212 best way to stay safe

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213 Mr. Stevens said during Hurricane Matthew 218 large trees were damaged or fell, 38 trees were
214 on structures, and one tree damaged a vehicle. This goes back to Ms. Samples' comment about
215 reevaluating the tree ordinance. He hoped the planning and zoning commission would do that, because
216 there were a lot of trees that fell. This was a Category 1 storm; if it was a Category 4 we would have
217 been a mess. He described several trees that fell at or near his property, and said he hoped something
218 would be done soon. Ms. Morris said it was under discussion on the next planning commission agenda.
219

220 Mr. Ott said the spread sheet was very good and easy to follow. He could see what happened
221 over several months. One thing that bothers him is that the department lost a valuable staff member.
222 The position requires a certain skill level and a certain type personality. Ms. Morris said yes, Mr. Henrick
223 the code enforcement officer resigned due to personal reasons. She was very sorry to lose him; he was
224 a huge asset to the town. Mr. Ott said he would be sorely missed. He asked if the administrator if the
225 directors shared reports. He suggested that other departments use a similar reporting style, because it
226 was so easy to read.
227

228 Ms. Samples thanked Ms. Morris and her staff for the extra effort put into ensuring that the new
229 construction sites were cleaned before the hurricane. Many of them were left with a lot of debris hanging
230 out, and those items would have been flying everywhere. She knew that staff made many calls to get
231 that done, and she really appreciated it. She asked whether the tree ordinance should go to the planning
232 commission before Town Council has had an opportunity to hold a workshop and share with staff what it
233 would like to see changed, and what public input would be. She hated to see the planning commission
234 work on this without Town Council articulating its concerns and what it wants to be changed. Ms. Morris
235 agreed and said at the next planning commission meeting, the item is discussion only. She will present a
236 slide show of every tree that fell during the storm. The commission will not get into possible changes; it
237 will wait on council's direction. The planning commission chairman felt it would be appropriate and
238 necessary for the commission to see why this is coming forward for consideration. Ms. Samples
239 understood and asked how quickly a workshop could be scheduled. She did not want the workshop
240 delayed. Ms. Fellner said in discussion tonight, Mr. Pellegrino would talk about the sign ordinance and
241 the tree ordinance. At that time, Town Council can state that a workshop is desired as soon as possible.
242

243 Mayor Childs said a workshop would be held; Town Council concurred to do so at the last
244 meeting.
245

246 Mr. Courtney thanked Ms. Morris and staff for staying out there during the hurricane. We
247 appreciate everything you did. It was very important that the building department was out there. He
248 hated to see Mr. Henrick leave the town. This concerned him, because it seems we lose many employees
249 here. It has to stop. Ms. Morris said this instance could not be avoided; it was a personal family matter.
250 Mr. Courtney said the town puts so much money into training it costs the town a lot of money to rehire
251 people. This is the same as in the police department; we have to work on this because of the expense.
252

253 Mayor Childs thanked Ms. Morris for her work during the storm. Mr. Henrick will be missed. He
254 hoped that when his situation changed, there would possibly be a slot for him. Everyone liked working
255 with him. Regarding Ms. Samples' comment about job site cleanup, we discussed that a while back. It
256 did a lot of good. The construction debris flying all over would be dangerous. He hoped the inspector
257 would continue to ensure the construction sites were kept clean. Ms. Morris said absolutely.
258

259 **v. Police.** Chief Keziah presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Chief
260 Keziah made comments about Piggly Wiggly's delicious fried chicken, the total darkness in town when the
261 electricity was out, and his being too old to sleep on the floor. *(Laughter)* He thanked Town Council for
262 adopting the Resolution for Work Place Safety. That confirms his department's commitment to safety. In
263 that regard, there are many mandated and voluntary actions done, including:
264

- 265 • Routine equipment and vehicle inspections

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- 266
- Routine gear inspections
- 267
- Each car has a personal protective kit that includes a 'banana' suit, sanitizers, face masks, etc.
- 268
- All officers are trained in first aid and AED protocols
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- A very strict infectious control protocol for any exposures that occur
- 270
- All of the officers are up to date on their Tuberculosis and Hepatitis immunizations as mandated by OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration)
- 271
- 272
- 273

274 Chief Keziah said he participated in a tracking exercise today with K9 Viking. In his 32 years of
275 law enforcement, K9 Viking stands out as one of the best he has ever seen.

276

277 Mr. Courtney asked where most of the car stops were made that the K9 units were deployed.
278 Chief Keziah said it was a mix of Highway 17 and in town. Mr. Courtney thanked him for the cost
279 analysis he requested. He will work on that during the next budget to bring the officers up to parity with
280 other area departments. Town Council will work on that. He brought up the loss of personnel and his
281 concern about that. He asked if there were two officers ready to graduation from the academy. Chief
282 Keziah said that was correct. Mr. Courtney said, hopefully, they could be retained longer than two years.
283 Chief Keziah said that was his plan, with Town Council's help. Mr. Courtney said the town houses
284 arrested individuals for the county and the state in its holding cells. He asked if the town is compensated
285 for housing those individuals. Chief Keziah said yes; there is a confusing matrix used to calculate
286 payment based on county and state prisoners housed versus the town's prisoners being housed at J.
287 Ruben Long Detention Center in Horry County, and the number of town prisoners that are transported by
288 the county van when they are picking up its prisoners and highway patrol prisoners. The dollar amounts
289 are not clear in the budget, because one is revenue and the other is an expenditure. Mr. Courtney asked
290 if the town bonded any of their prisoners. Chief Keziah said no. Mr. Courtney said they are just held at
291 this time. Chief Keziah said correct; we bond our own prisoners. Mr. Courtney thanked Chief Keziah, the
292 police officers, and staff for doing a good job during the hurricane. We saw the patrols driving with their
293 blue lights on and appreciate everything you all did.

294

295 Mr. Ott said thank you to Chief Keziah. He read the report each month. There are a lot of ways
296 to get arrested in this town. *(Laughter)* I wish there was an easier way for you to make a spreadsheet
297 for this, but there are so many different things. He mentioned the criminal investigations and said he
298 wanted to tell the public the cases were being closed. They do a good job. Thank you very much. He
299 asked if the detectives were involved in many of the cases; he saw the other officers listed. Chief Keziah
300 said yes. There is an officer on light duty that is assisting and both detectives work full time on these
301 cases. Mr. Ott said good job; you are closing them. Chief Keziah said he would put the department's
302 closing rate up against any department.

303

304 Mr. Stevens referred to the September 27th memorandum. It puts things in perspective when
305 you have a suspect that is a 15-year old teenager armed with two stolen semi-automatic handguns. The
306 officers caught him. Chief Keziah said you could thank Officer Prisco *(who was on guard)* for that arrest.
307 *(Applause)* Mr. Stevens also thanked Chief Keziah for closing down undesirable businesses in town.

308

309 Mayor Childs thanked Chief Keziah and his staff for all the help they gave Town Council, the
310 citizens and everyone in town during Hurricane Matthew. You did a great job that was above and
311 beyond the call of duty. Chief Keziah said he thought everybody could see that when the going gets
312 tough, this town really does pull together. He could say if he never has to get on another conference call
313 again, he would be happy. There were state, county, local, and FEMA conference calls.

314

315 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached
316 hereto. Regarding work place safety, the public works department does the following:

- 317
- Director Adair serves on the safety committee
- 318

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- 319 • Personal protective equipment is provided for staff, including eye and ear protection devices,
320 hard hats, reflective vests, gloves and steel toed shoes
- 321 • Annual training is provided for hazmat handling and spill response
- 322 • Fire extinguishers are certified annually and are located throughout town properties and in every
323 town vehicle
- 324 • The bucket truck is tested by an independent company annually to ensure it is operating safely
- 325 • Under DHEC requirement chemicals, including lake treatment chemicals, stored in the public
326 works facility are properly labeled, and are secured by a lock and key
- 327 • Random drug testing procedures are in place for all CDL (commercial driver's license) drivers, per
328 South Carolina Department of Transportation and United States guidelines
- 329 • Every single incident and accident are analyzed to determine whether it was preventable, and to
330 ensure that it does not happen again

331
332 Vegetative debris from Hurricane Matthew will probably amount to about 1,000 tons by the end
333 of the cleanup compared to about 662 tons for the last ice storm. Spreadsheets for all reimbursable
334 expenses for hurricane related work are being kept to submit to FEMA. Mr. Adair explained that debris
335 removal done during the first 30 days after the storm is reimbursable at a higher percentage rate than
336 some other items. The town will get an additional 10-percent reimbursement if all debris removal in
337 done during the first 30 days. The pier parking lot reopened on October 14th at 12 noon.
338

339 Mr. Ott thanked Mr. Adair. He walked around town a lot and saw that the cleanup areas were
340 prioritized very nicely. The crews did a great job. He asked for the safety reports, because Town Council
341 signed a safety resolution. He took that seriously. The public works staff handle a lot of equipment. He
342 had never seen any injuries in the reports, and he did not want to see any injuries. He thought maybe
343 Mr. Adair should add some "near misses," too. Near misses are important, because you have a lot of
344 equipment. If you have a near miss, you will know how to correct it before it happens again. Mr. Adair
345 said the department averages about one injury of some sort a year: pulled muscle, something in the
346 eye. Thank God nothing more serious, so far. Mr. Ott said that was good. He did not want to see any
347 serious injuries happen. The crews did a great job during the whole storm. Thank you very much for
348 that.
349

350 Mr. Stevens commended the public works department. Trees were down at his house. He cut
351 them into four foot sections, and the crews came twice to pick them up. Ms. Stalnaker and the grounds
352 crew were out on Saturday and Sunday working at the passive park. This is why we pay taxes; to get
353 this type of service getting trash and debris off the streets after a major event like this. Thank you for
354 everything you have done.
355

356 Ms. Samples said the public works crews are just amazing. They have been kind and courteous,
357 patient, helpful, and many other words she could use to describe their interaction with the community.
358 We all heard many stories, and many positive comments. Thank you. She thought Mr. Adair's leadership
359 had a lot to do with that and she appreciated that. She asked when repairs would begin on the beach
360 walkovers, and whether reimbursement would be available from FEMA for those repairs. Mr. Adair said
361 four or five walkovers were damaged and are taped off right now. Within the next week, staff will be
362 transitioned from debris removal to start working on other projects. Staff is working to clean the beach
363 as much as possible. The repair cost is reimbursable under Category E, Recreational Public Facilities.
364 After the initial declaration, additional categories were added after preliminary damage assessments with
365 the entire county, all other categories were declared open. Ms. Samples said the pump station on
366 Dogwood Drive near 5th Avenue North is damaged and asked when those repairs could be expected. Mr.
367 Adair said Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority (GSWSA) is responsible for the pump station. He
368 had seen crews at the pump stations, but will call GSWSA this week and will share the information with
369 Town Council and the administrator. Ms. Samples asked if the town still has a representative on the
370 GSWSA board. Several members said yes. Ms. Samples suggested that representative may be of some
371 help.

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Mr. Courtney asked if the entire beach was open, and if all the wood was cleared off the beach. Mr. Adair said yes. The large wood from the pier was cleared off in the first three or four days. The last week has been spent picking up the smaller items. Many of the old sand fence poles are being taken up in preparation for the next beach renourishment. When the next renourishment is done, new sand fences will be placed seven feet in front of any existing fence. The Army Corp of Engineers advised him to remove at least the first row of sand fencing out, particularly on the south end. Mr. Courtney said our beaches are open for tourism. Mr. Adair said yes. People are on the beach every day. Mr. Courtney said the garbage and debris pick up was handled well, but he noticed that more people are dumping on vacant lots. He understood it was difficult to distinguish between residents and nonresidents, but he kept seeing commodes sitting on the side of the road that he knew were not put there by homeowners. This problem falls under the building department, but now there is no code enforcement officer. He thought this would be a problem to enforce. Mr. Adair said the wooded lots are always a problem. The vacant lot on the block is the community dumping ground, because nobody wants to put things in front of their house. Staff tells contractors they must remove their own debris; construction sites are required to have their own debris containers. But, again, you cannot always control what happens. Mr. Courtney had the same concerns as Ms. Samples with the pump station. He did not know why GSWSA was procrastinating on repairs. It really stinks when you drive by there. He was surprised it had not been mitigated or made a temporary repair to seal the tank. He asked Mr. Adair to follow up on that problem. Mr. Courtney said thank you to public works staff and crews for all the good work they did. He saw them out this morning picking up all the bulk; they are doing a great job. They are fantastic.

Mr. Johnson also thanked Mr. Adair and his staff. He asked Mr. Adair to express Town Council's thanks to everyone to let them know how much they are appreciated. He asked if it was determined where the large chunk of wood came from that was in the 5th Avenue swash. Mr. Adair said it actually was the bench that was under the shade structure at the end of the pier; the pole was the support for the roof. The bench was wedged under the Ocean Boulevard and had to be pulled out with the knuckleboom. The mystery is solved. Mr. Johnson said it was a large piece of wood. Thank you.

Mayor Childs said when Mr. Adair was ready to work on the pump station, to please let him know. He might be able to help. He thanked Mr. Adair and the staff for everything they did during the hurricane. I must have received a half dozen calls over the last couple of days telling me to make sure that I thanked you all for the job you have done. Everybody in town realizes how hard your staff works; how polite they are, and how they go out of the way to do things they really do not have to do. They did a wonderful job. They are still working hard cleaning things up. It is just remarkable how fast they have done things, and we appreciate it. Mr. Adair said thank you, and truthfully, he was very proud of them and they are very proud of the job they do for the town. They are very happy when people come out of their houses and say thank you for the job, or offer them a water. It happens every day. People bring them a biscuit, a water, and it really keeps them going through these long days. They do a good job. He was proud of them.

C. Administration Report. Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Ott thanked Ms. Fellner for the written report. He said everybody wants to know about the pier. There are many things we cannot say, but asked Ms. Fellner, because she said it best, to give the public an update. Ms. Fellner said regarding the pier, we need to make application to FEMA for the part of the damage that is allowable. Currently, because FEMA has declared a major disaster, and they have moved from Categories A and B, to C through G, which is where our pier would fall, that is about a 75-percent replacement cost. There are many details that have to be discussed regarding this. The safest and best way to approach this is through a FEMA consultant. During major events, most municipalities hire a FEMA consultant who deals directly with the project specialist from FEMA who is at the table at all meetings. That is certainly a recommendation and her suggestion. There are a number of people who

425 work specifically with water structures, which would be piers, boardwalks, things of that nature. That is
426 the kind of expertise that we will be looking for, because generally they are very successful when they
427 are talking with FEMA and involved in negotiations. Mr. Ott said thank you, and from those comments,
428 he believed the less councilmembers say gives FEMA nothing to think about. Ms. Fellner said Mr. Ott was
429 absolutely correct.

430
431 Mayor Childs asked how much time was possibly involved in this project. Ms. Fellner said it could
432 be one to two years. The best case scenario, is that if Town Council gives her the direction she has
433 asked for, is that bids would be let immediately for a FEMA consultant that would give us the best
434 possibility of recouping that money. FEMA can pay 80- to 90-percent for a consultant that you would
435 hire. But, if you do it through any type of procurement process other than a formal bidding process, you
436 are liable to not get as much. To maximize the dollar return for the town, she would like to see a formal
437 bidding procedure take place. The bids would be brought back to Town Council for award. After that if it
438 takes place, a meeting should be scheduled with FEMA and the consultant as soon as possible. That
439 would give the town all the time until next September, and at that point we would want to close the pier
440 and do whatever repair that FEMA authorizes. She did not know at this point whether hazard mitigation
441 would be involved as that is all part of the negotiation. Mayor Childs thanked Ms. Fellner for everything
442 she did during the storm. He knew she spent two or three nights in her office to keep everything running
443 smoothly and keeping track. He appreciated it very much, and knew that the town also did. The town
444 fared well, and everybody is very appreciative of what you did and your direction to the staff.

445
446 Mr. Courtney said thank you to Ms. Fellner and to staff. He really appreciated their presence and
447 help during the hurricane. He heard from some that no permit was required to cut trees since the storm
448 and asked how long that would last. Ms. Morris explained that if the tree was damaged or downed by
449 the hurricane, the owner should contact the building department so a picture can be taken to verify the
450 storm damage, and then the tree can be cut as long as the contractor has a business license. Any other
451 tree removal still requires a permit. Ms. Fellner said the contractors not only have to have a business
452 license, but per Town Code they need to haul away any debris from the tree cutting.

453
454 Mr. Ott asked if all contractors need a business license. Ms. Fellner said yes. Mr. Ott said that
455 ensured they are insured in case something happens. Ms. Fellner said yes, and it also give the town a
456 way to go back at them if they do not cart their debris away. Then we can help the homeowner;
457 otherwise, we have no recourse. Mr. Ott said thank you, it was good to tell the public.

458
459 Mayor Childs thought everybody realizes the expense of hauling the debris away is the reason
460 contractors were required to do it. Hauling big trees to the dump is very expensive. The town has to
461 pick them up, if the contractors did not. He was sure the contractors added that expense on their price
462 and then hoped that the town would take it away.

463 464 7. BUSINESS

465
466 **A. First Reading Ordinance #16-0834 to Amend §2-131 Appointment of Town Clerk,
467 et seq. and Town Clerk Job Description, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmember
468 Courtney, Liaisons.** Mr. Ott explained that Town Council **CONCURRED** that yes there needs to be a
469 separation of administration and legislation. To do that, the administrator cannot be correcting the clerk
470 or overseeing what is given to council. We have extraordinary conditions in operations today, and I have
471 consensus from the entire council. Mayor Childs said yes. Mr. Ott continued that this ordinance will be
472 adopted in January 2017. In the meantime, the clerk will be asked to help until an assistant can be hired
473 for the administrator.

474
475 Mr. Ott moved to defer first reading of Ordinance #16-0834 to the first meeting in January 2017.
476 Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
477

478 **B. Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee, Volunteer, Ms. Linda Dietz.** Mr. Johnson
479 moved to appoint Ms. Dietz to the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee. Mr. Stevens second. All
480 voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

481
482 **C. Motions and/or Directions to Town Administrator from Executive Session.** Mr.
483 Johnson moved to authorize the town administrator to move forward with a formal RFP (Request for
484 Proposals) under §2-209 Class 1, Formal Bids to secure the services of a special FEMA consultant with
485 extensive expertise involving structures in water as discussed in executive session. Mr. Stevens second.
486 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

487
488 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION** – Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

489
490 **A. Zoning Ordinances, Councilmember Pellegrino.** Mr. Pellegrino said he met with Ms.
491 Fellner and Ms. Morris to discuss the zoning ordinances in general. Over the years sections have been
492 added to and wording was changed. The codes have become very complex, complicated and hard to
493 understand. We also have some mandates and rules that we, in fact, do not even enforce for different
494 reasons that need to be [repealed.] He was asking council for consensus to authorize the administrator
495 to move forward to rewrite the planning and zoning ordinances using more common sense language.
496 Sections should have a short checklist that is easy to understand and follow for the person using the
497 code, whether it is a resident, business owner, and easy for staff to enforce. Any unnecessary wording,
498 rules, mandates, or pretty much anything that makes it complicated should be struck. The two sections
499 that should probably be addressed first are the tree ordinance and the sign ordinance, which over the
500 past few years have been the most controversial.

501 Mayor Childs called for consensus.

502
503 Ms. Samples said absolutely. Other members also indicated agreement.

504
505 Mr. Stevens pointed out that Ms. Fellner read in her report that a resident stated that a tree that
506 the town said he could not cut was now laying on his house. That is a good example of how the
507 ordinance prohibited removing a nuisance tree. The codes need to be carefully reviewed so that there
508 are no contradictory sections or that refer to other sections. The code needs to be concise, clear, and
509 common sense language used. Mr. Stevens said, "I definitely concur."

510
511 Mr. Johnson did not have a problem with asking for the code rewrite, but he wanted to set
512 expectations. Everyone must consider the fact that this is not an overnight process. He had been
513 involved in code rewrites in the past. It may be at least a year before a new code could be adopted,
514 because the recommended changes have to go from Town Council to the planning commission, to the
515 attorney, back to the planning commission, and back to Town Council, sometimes more than once. It
516 would be a long process.

517
518 Mr. Pellegrino said Mr. Johnson was exactly right. We talked a lot about the timing, and the
519 quickest any part of this was mentioned was six months. But, we need to start somewhere. If we do not
520 start now nothing will be done next year. This is something that definitely needs to be done. We have a
521 lot of complaints and a lot of problems enforcing many issues, because of the wording in the code.

522
523 Ms. Samples agreed that it would be monumental task. We are too restrictive and we are over
524 regulated. It is not our staff's fault. It is the way the ordinances read. We need to repair those
525 ordinances. Regarding the tree ordinance, I would like to set up a workshop soon. I think it is timely. I
526 think the public will have a lot of input as to how we can simplify that ordinance. I think it is council's job
527 to make the recommendations and to sit and talk about it. The sooner, the better.

528
529

530 Mayor Childs said he thought Ms. Fellner would poll council for a date. Ms. Fellner said she
531 would ask the clerk to do that to get dates that were convenient for all councilmembers.
532

533 Mr. Courtney reminded everyone that the sign ordinance went to the business committee. It sat
534 with them for a while, then it went to the planning commission. Then it went back to the business
535 committee, and this went on for a year. He understood Mr. Johnson's comment that it would take some
536 time, but the sign ordinance has already been under review for a year. He thought it needed to be
537 addressed sooner than later. He hoped that everyone would keep in mind that we cannot sit on this for
538 another year. It is not the right way to treat the business people to keep them waiting to see what the
539 rules are for signage. The tree ordinance and the sign ordinance should be priorities.
540

541 Mr. Johnson did not disagree with any comments made by councilmembers. He just wanted to
542 let everyone know it would not be completed overnight. We all agreed to that, as well.
543

544 Mayor Childs believed one of the holdups on the sign ordinance was the legality due to the ruling
545 of the United States Supreme Court. His understanding was that nobody had figured out what that ruling
546 meant. Once that is figured out, then we could deal with it.
547

548 Mr. Ott said under the discussion on the agenda it states "zoning ordinances," so it is not just
549 trees. We are going to revamp, and it will take more than a year. We will do the tree section first, is
550 that the consensus that we have?
551

552 Town Council **CONCURRED.**
553

554 **B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed by Town Council.**
555

556 Mr. Courtney presented a request from Surf Dreams Foundation to hold a surfing competition at
557 13th Avenue South on Saturday, November 26th from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ms. Ellis said that Mr.
558 Jackson contacted her yesterday. She asked him to get in touch with the town clerk to have the request
559 added to the agenda, because consensus from Town Council is required to allow use of the public beach
560 for the event. Mr. Courtney said they are expecting about 30 people to participate in the event. He was
561 not too sure how much fun it would be surfing in November, but he could not see the event becoming a
562 problem for the town or for parking.
563

564 Mayor Childs called for consensus of Town Council to allow the event. Town Council
565 **CONCURRED.**
566

567 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker)**
568

569 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North. I'd like to speak in reference to the tree ordinance. I want
570 you to be very, very careful about what you ask for as far as the tree ordinance is concerned. Someone
571 on council one time said that they were here to represent the people, not the town. Well, I don't think
572 you can separate the two. People who come to Surfside look around and see these trees; the aesthetics
573 are important. But at the same time, if you walked into the town or even drove through the town the
574 aesthetics of those trees laying everywhere is just devastating. One, stormwater. When Deerfield was
575 first built, it was a swamp. I know. I saw the blueprints before the first stick went up. People in
576 Deerfield were very upset with Surfside, because they said we were responsible for their flooding. It was
577 a swamp. They cut the trees down to put the houses in. Where did they think the water was going to
578 go? The same thing is true here. If we start cutting trees willy-nilly, then we're going to have the
579 stormwater issue. It's all going to fall to Mr. Adair. He's not responsible for that. I understand that Mr.
580 Stevens mentioned a tree that fell on somebody's house. Well, unless all of us are blessed with the gift
581 of prophecy, I don't know how you're going to be able to tell which tree is going to fall which way. I
582 have been in Surfside since May of 1968. So that is going to trump a lot of people in this room. This

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583 hurricane was different. Hugo is no longer the benchmark. It wasn't the hurricane itself. It was the
584 backwinds. I have a Poplar [tree] that's possibly 25 feet tall. Perfectly healthy, and it tried to rip it out of
585 the ground. I was one of those people with the arm band who stayed. I walked my dog that night and
586 walked into my oak tree. It scared me to death. I thought I'd lost the entire tree. What I had lost was
587 just a huge branch. A beautiful oak tree. What I could not tell was that there was heart rot about 20
588 feet up. There's no way you can tell unless you're going to shinny up that tree every six months and
589 check. You've got to be very careful. We cannot just clear cut lots, and that's the only way we can be
590 assured that a tree is not going to fall on something. I want you to consider something else, too. At my
591 mountain house I have moss in most of the grass. The rain comes down; hits that moss, and it just
592 spreads and doesn't wash. I have another area where it's just grass, and the rain goes down in bigger
593 sections and washes out. The same is true with the wind. The wind hits those trees and it breaks up. It
594 may not be pretty when it's over. I didn't like my oak tree down in my yard. I was very fortunate that it
595 didn't hit my house. I didn't like those branches across my deck that belonged to my neighbor, and I
596 couldn't even get out of my back door. But you know what? I didn't lose any shingles. Now that may
597 be a small consolation for those few people that had trees in their houses. But for the rest of us, think
598 about how many actually lost shingles. When those trees are no longer there, what do you think that
599 wind is going to chew on? Now that may be great for somebody that's got a metal roof. But there aren't
600 that many of them. Be careful. No one wants to say you can't cut any tree. But we have to remember
601 that we're in a community. Growing up out in the country, if my dad want to build a shed, he just built a
602 shed. There were acres and acres and acres. Whatever he did didn't affect anybody else. Every time
603 we do anything it affects everybody and it doesn't matter whether you're fertilizing your lawn, building
604 something on a property line, or cutting down a tree. Be careful. I'm on the planning and zoning
605 commission. It's a mess. We're not trying to make sure that everybody in Surfside lives in a forest. But
606 we want to make sure that the air is cool, so that your air conditioner isn't running forever; that you're
607 going to have shingles on your house when you have a wind come through; *(time ended)* but, please
608 remember, this should not be a knee jerk reaction to this particular hurricane. This one was different.
609 This one was very different. What we had before the eye was nothing like what we got afterward. I've
610 been through a lot of hurricanes since 1968. Please be careful. Mr. Adair, God bless you for opening the
611 dog parks. *(Laughter)* We had dogs that were ready to eat furniture. We had people like me that were
612 ready to go down with their chainsaws and limb loppers to get that thing open. I'm very, very concerned
613 about this tree ordinance. Please be careful what you ask us to do, okay?

614
615 Ms. Susan Clark, Juniper Drive. I'm just going to stick with my prepared statement tonight even
616 though some other comments have been made. So, here goes. During the last council meeting,
617 concerns over the town's tree ordinances were raised by Ms. Samples, and several citizens including
618 myself. I personally raised my concerns with many of you now sitting on the council during the election
619 cycle. In my opinion, which is shared by others, the ordinances governing tree removal and trimming
620 are too restrictive and infringe on the rights of the property owner. The devastation caused by Hurricane
621 Matthew has created a hardship on both our town and its residents. How much damage could have been
622 prevented if property owners had received permission to remove certain trees as they requested? It
623 doesn't matter if the property owner wanted the tree removed because it was, in their opinion, dying or a
624 nuisance, or they just didn't want the tree there. We don't know at this point. Many of the fallen trees
625 are appeared to be healthy. But, after falling were found to be hollowed or diseased. In light of citizens'
626 concerns, I started a Facebook page: SSBROOTS. That stands for Surfside Beach Rights of Ownership
627 Tree Society. I encourage council, Surfside Beach departments, and residents alike to join the page and
628 voice your concerns and comments. Make no mistake, as administrator of this Facebook page, no
629 disparaging remarks or personal attacks will be tolerated and such remarks will be immediately deleted.
630 Unlike Surfside Beach Free Press, this is not and will not be an attack page. The purpose of the society is
631 to bond together and work together to come up with viable alternatives to the current ordinances. If
632 you're not on Facebook, you may email [dherrmann@surfsidebeach.org to get our contact information.]
633 After the meeting concludes, feel free to chat with me or pick up a copy of the contact information.
634 Thank you. And then once again, in conclusion, thank you to everybody for the outstanding job during

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635 Hurricane Matthew, whether we agree or disagree on the tree ordinances, a great job was done by all.
636 Thank you to our public safety, our fire and police departments for keeping us safe. Have a good night.
637

638 Ms. Holly Watson, North Oak Drive. I just have a couple of questions about our finances here. It
639 looks like our pier revenue, our rents have gone down \$4,000 in the same period according to this year
640 versus last year. I don't see any rent for September. I don't know if we got two months during August
641 or what happened there. But, there's no rent shown for September. At any rate, we are down \$4,000 in
642 rent over last year. We are down \$4,000 in admissions to the pier. We're down \$9,000 on fishing
643 income versus last year. So, that's \$13,000 we're down in three months. I know that we're going to be
644 having a meeting about what to do with the pier or at least I heard that we were going to have two or
645 three workshops or whatever. We might consider that we're losing revenue over last year, so I don't
646 know how that's going to pan out in the future. The other thing I noticed in sanitation we were down
647 \$42,000 for the month of September for revenue sanitation fees, which meant that we weren't picking up
648 a lot of boxes or Moby carts or whatever. But, our payroll went up \$25,000. So, we've got a \$60,000
649 loss in sanitation for the month of September. On top of that, you've probably got payroll taxes and
650 insurance, another six grand if the payroll taxes are not added into your salaries and operating expenses.
651 So we picked up fewer boxes and cans, but our labor went up 30 grand. So there's some skewed
652 numbers here or something. I don't really know. Those are some questions that we might want to ask.
653 The other thing that I've asked for [over] the past year or so is that we get together a plan for our long
654 term liabilities. We need to know what our long term liabilities are. If you go buy a house, you know
655 you've got a 30 year mortgage. You know you've got to make a payment every month until you get
656 through paying for the mortgage. Our town does not seem to have our long term liabilities listed
657 anywhere. For instance, this swash that caved in. We did not know that we were liable for that, or
658 maybe we knew, but we didn't have it listed as a long term liability. So, surprise, we get a \$165,000 hit
659 here. We hadn't planned for it. We didn't know anything about it. It just appeared. So my question is
660 can we, please, go to the courthouse and look and see what are we responsible for. Let's look at what
661 we're responsible for and start planning for how we're going to fix whatever is it we're responsible for.
662 Until we do that, and we identify what our long term liabilities are, then we can plan a future. But if you
663 don't know, it's just a surprise, and you have to plan for it. You've gotta to pay for it. You've got to
664 figure out how to pay for it. You've got to go try and find money for it. Taxpayers don't like that,
665 including me. I'm a taxpayer. I don't like that. I like to know what I have coming up so that I can plan
666 for it. Okay, thank you.

667
668 Mr. Ron Crouch, 11th Avenue North. I, too, am very appreciative of all the people here in town
669 who took care of us, and the timing of some of the works. It was very good. I don't want to talk about
670 numbers. I want to talk about the trees again, because I lost some and I'm going to have to give you
671 the pictures now, but you knew about it [addressing Ms. Morris.] I think there is an important lesson in
672 the people that have come before you tonight, which you've already in your mind made up to. I'm just
673 going to, hopefully, put into words what you're already planning on doing, and that is, clearly, whatever
674 you're going to do with the ordinances is going to require citizen input. If you're going to cover all the
675 basis, and if you're going to build a consensus to come up with something that on one hand is clear, and
676 on the other hand does what is necessary to do to protect the environment that we're responsible for,
677 which is this town. I can see one of two things happening. Initially, it could be in the form of inviting
678 citizens to participate in the workshops. But, there's also, of course, another trick in the bag, and that is
679 for the Mayor to establish an *ad hoc* committee so that it doesn't have to be planning and zoning sitting
680 by themselves bouncing the paperwork back and forth, or using their entire meeting. But, in fact,
681 representatives could come together as an independent group. There are enough people here whether
682 they work or they're retired that could find some time if they have the interest to come and do the work
683 that's necessary to give you something, and you can always short cut it, if you get a lawyer to sit in on it.
684 So, that's my advice and I thank you all again. And, I thank you, [Ms. Fellner,] and all the directors, and
685 all their staff, because we really did come through, and next time if it's more than Category 1, I'm getting
686 the **** out of here! (Laughter) And, to save myself an email, Chief Otte, next time make the pen
687 indelible ink. My name was off the first shower that night, and I kept thinking, if they find my body, they

688 won't know who I am! (*Laughter*) The other thing was, though, for whoever it was that was asking why
689 we were doing that; why they were putting the bands on. I actually thought that the reason was the
690 chief thought it would be a great way Sunday morning to have police around at daybreak. Anybody
691 entering a house that didn't have a wristband on was clearly somebody that wasn't supposed to be there.
692 Thank you.

693
694 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**
695

696 Mr. Ott: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Crouch, I believe in everything you said. This is our town.
697 Not just the council's; not just the staff's. Everybody in this town. It's our town. Every bit of input we
698 can hear is, oh, so important. We can piece it all together and we'll come out good. Believe me, we will.
699 I'd like to thank our administrator for putting together a show and tell for us the other day on the swash
700 that is going to be repaired. That was very nice to do that. We had Mr. Eric Sanford who is the
701 engineer, and described everything to a "T" for us. So, we understand what's going on. One thing I'm
702 skeptical of, and I hope that it's not true, but this MONTCO, whose name was brought up earlier; I did
703 look for them and I couldn't find anything. I don't even know if they have a pick and a shovel. I hope
704 they don't take this contract and sub it out, because me if somebody can get a contract and sub it out,
705 well we're paying too much, because everybody starts taking a piece of the action. Please make sure
706 that doesn't happen. We don't want to work like that. Thank everybody for their input tonight, and it's
707 greatly appreciated. Everybody's thoughts, it helps us all, because we don't have any rocket scientists up
708 here. We work for you. We will continue to work for you. Thank you very much.

709
710 Mr. Courtney: I'd like to thank everybody for coming out. I have to say for that this has been a
711 very tiring month for all of us. We went through a lot through the hurricane. I want to thank everybody
712 for sticking together. A lot of us stayed behind and stayed here and went through it. We know what
713 went wrong. We know what went right. Hopefully, we won't have this happen again, but more than
714 likely it can. As far as our finances, for years I sat in that audience. I heard that we were good with
715 money. I don't think so. We're going to find out when we have a finance budget workshop in the future
716 as Mr. Pellegrino asked for. Again, I want to thank everybody. I want to thank the staff for great work
717 during the hurricane. I appreciate everything they did. I want to thank everybody for coming out. Have
718 a good night. God bless.

719
720 Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. God bless you. Thank you for coming out. Thank you for
721 your comments.

722
723 Mr. Pellegrino: Thanks for coming tonight. I'd like to thank the administrator and the staff for all
724 their work during the storm; just do it all at once. We live in a great town. We have a great staff that go
725 above and beyond. A few days before the storm, I raided my son's sandbox to make some sandbags for
726 my rental property. I ran out of sand. Where can I get sand? And, then I heard they were delivering
727 sand to Martin Field. Truck after truck after truck. There were tons of people down there. That's an
728 extra we get for nothing, just because we have a great staff here and resources to do it. It was nice to
729 see that people really appreciate it. It saved my house from getting flooded. The water was way above
730 the door line, but the sandbags kept it out. So, thanks, Mr. Adair. It's great to see you. Our staff is
731 equipped and capable and they proved that during the storm. We certainly appreciate all their hard
732 work. There's obviously a lot more to come before we get done. The budget; we've talked a lot about
733 the budget. As I said in executive session, we're hemorrhaging money. Between beach renourishment,
734 the swash, and now we have this pending pier issue we're going to have to deal with, we have some
735 huge expenditures that are not normal expenditures. They're unplanned, and it's an issue. We will meet
736 and have a budget workshop where we will have to make some hard decisions. Because you just can't
737 go out and raise taxes or get loans. We need to make some tough decisions on where the money is
738 going to come from to pay for this. That's upcoming. I encourage you to be involved. It always helps.
739 I will not be at the next meeting. I will be out of town the week of November 7th. I did already vote in
740 Conway, so I did my civic duty. Please, please vote. Please encourage other people to vote. A lot of

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741 people I hear over and over say I'm not going to vote, because there's no good candidate, and this and
742 that. That's just a cop out. There is always something you can take away. Me, personally, I voted for
743 pro-life. I voted for a God designed marriage, a man and woman, and I voted for the Constitution. Vote
744 for who you want to, but, please vote. It's very important. We have millions and millions of people who
745 didn't vote the last time. You know we have to vote, so we have the saying what's going on [sic?]
746 Thank you very much for coming. Have a great week.
747

748 Ms. Samples: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Kudos to staff, again. I know we cannot say it enough.
749 Your efforts are just so appreciated, and hopefully, not unrecognized in the near future. It's good to see
750 everyone. I really appreciate it when you come out and you have comments to make. Ms. Watson, I
751 appreciate, as always, your critiques and your recommendations. I'm sure at the next meeting, Ms.
752 Fellner will have a response to your comments about the budget in particular. Ms. Goddard, thank you
753 for showing up and praising the best town clerk in the State of South Carolina. She is truly a Godsend to
754 our town, and she has got a historical perspective of corporate memory like none other. We're going to
755 make those changes, we're just not going to make them until January. So, thank you for that. The tree
756 ordinance; I love trees. We're a Tree City, for gosh sakes. I have a pilot friend who flies over the Grand
757 Strand that says you can always tell when you're over the top of Surfside, because of all of the trees. We
758 do not want clearcutting, and I understand that the reason why the tree ordinance became so restrictive
759 was because we were worried about tree cutting. I'm still worried about tree cutting, but that's really not
760 the issue. The issue really is a homeowner who has trees that they want to prune; that they want to
761 trim, or if they have a tree that is five feet from their home and hasn't created any foundation problem,
762 yet, but it will, those residents need some help. We need to not be so restrictive on those types of
763 things. I think we can do it simply. I think we can simplify a lot of our ordinances. But, in particular, the
764 tree ordinance. I wanted to discuss the tree ordinance, Ms. Lowery, before the storm came, because I
765 think it's too restrictive. When I was out going door-to-door [during my campaign], I heard that over
766 and over and over again. Quite frankly, the people who were complaining made sense to me. Again, it
767 is not our staff. Our staff has to put up with a lot of angry people, and it's not our staff. It's us who've
768 created those ordinances. So, I want to see them simplified; less restrictive, but make no mistake, I love
769 trees and I don't want to see them go either. So, I think it's something we need to talk about. People
770 have a lot of good ideas, and I'd love to hear what the residents have to say. I'm hopeful that we can
771 make some changes sooner than later. Thank you.
772

773 Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank everybody for coming out. Let's just go down
774 some of the things that were discussed by the citizens. I do think we have a great town clerk, and I do
775 thank the workers. Mr. Dodge and several other people talked about the workers. They did a great job
776 during the storm and I want to commend them for what they did. They cleaned up the debris and they
777 still are out there working hard. Ms. Watson brought up some good stuff. I still don't know who
778 MONTCO is, and I still think we're paying way too much for that swash repair. As far as the tree
779 ordinance, it's real simple. If you have beautiful trees around your house and in your yard, you want to
780 keep them. When I built my house, I had a beautiful oak. I did everything I could to save that oak. I'm
781 even five feet from the tree, and I scared the people at the little dog park when I told them the town told
782 me to cut it down, but I'm not going to do that. But, reality is the tree ordinance has some problems. It
783 doesn't have common sense language. It's convoluted. The sign ordinance is the same thing. It's
784 convoluted. People don't know what they have to do for their businesses, and people don't know what
785 they have to do for their trees. Taking a good look at the zoning ordinances, as Mr. Crouch said, citizen
786 input. I agree with that. This is your town. It's not any of us; we're just citizens just like you. You own
787 this town. You can tell us who is going to be up here, and you can vote us in or vote us out. That's
788 what we want you to do is get up here and state what you want. I think workshops that Ms. Samples
789 talked about, some of the other councilmembers talked about, is what we need. We need citizens input.
790 We need to hear from you, because we need your input so we can make the right decisions on your
791 behalf. Thank you for coming out. Y'all have a good week.
792

Town Council Regular Meeting
October 25, 2016

793 Mayor Childs: I don't want to beat this ordinance thing to death, but we do have a unique town
794 here. I agree with Ms. Lowery, these trees mean an awful lot to our stormwater system. You can look
795 around these other towns and cities along the coast that never fair nearly as well as we do during a
796 storm. I've had people tell me that they want to cut trees down, because they don't feel like raking
797 leaves. So, I really think that we've got to really be careful when we go in these ordinances. There are a
798 lot of ordinances that people complain about, but that's what keeps our town what it is. I don't think a
799 month goes by that I don't have at least one person say, gee whiz, I wished I had moved into Surfside. I
800 didn't know it was there. I would certainly like to move there. Everything is so neat and tidy. I love
801 your trees. Everything is so shaded. So, we've got to be very, very careful when we go into these
802 ordinances. I do agree with Mr. Pellegrino. There is some language that has to be plain, but we must be
803 very, very careful when we do this. I'd just try to eliminate a lot of things, because somebody might not
804 want rake leaves. I'd like to thank everybody for coming. I want to thank the staff, once again, the fire
805 department, the police department, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fellner, and everybody for everything they did during
806 the storm. This is one of the few times I have not heard one thing negative. So, everybody appreciates
807 everything you've done. Thank you so much. Before I ask for a motion to adjourn, I would like to
808 remind everybody that the next regular Town Council meeting will be on Monday, November 7th, because
809 Tuesday, November 8th is Election Day.

810
811 **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

812
813 Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in
814 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

815
816 Prepared and submitted by,

817
818
819 _____
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

820 Approved: November 7, 2016

821
822 _____
823 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

824
825 _____
826 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

827 _____
828 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

829 _____
830 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

831 _____
832 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

833 _____
834 Julie M. Samples, Town Council

835 _____
836 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

837 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded,
838 and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the
839 town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a flash drive. In accordance
840 with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and
interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at
Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org
and the marquee.