



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 30, 2016 ♦ 8:30 A.M.**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Childs called the special meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, and Samples were in attendance. Council-member Stevens was absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner, and Town Clerk Herrmann.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS.** (3 minutes). Mr. Stanley Wrobel, 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, said thank you for taking action on this issue. I would like to bring to your attention that there may be some omissions in this resolution. For example, the address listed at 511 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South is clean. There is a pile that is across the street from me that isn't mentioned. I think by specifically calling out addresses in the resolution you will limit yourself to what we need to pick up. You could go out and have Mr. Adair go out and do a sweep, one time shot, and get it done. Thank you.

**3. BUSINESS. Resolution #16-176 to Authorize Hurricane Matthew Debris Pickup.** Ms. Samples moved to adopt Resolution #16-176 with an amendment to strike the two specific addresses "519 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and 511 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North," and to add "by the close of business on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, or have the debris tagged." Mr. Johnson second.

Mr. Ott debated of the fairness to residents that had paid to have their trees, trunks and rounds removed. After lengthy discussion, Mayor Childs asked what council thought of the town removing the trees, trunks and rounds with charges to the residents with no profit to be made. Mr. Ott believed that was a wonderful idea and began to offer a motion. Ms. Samples and Mr. Johnson said a motion was on the table. Mayor Childs asked for a parliamentary ruling. Ms. Herrmann said there is a motion on the floor with one amendment. A second amendment is allowed.

Mr. Ott moved to amend the resolution to allow the town to remove logs, stumps, and tree limbs cut down by landscapers and contractors during emergency events when they have no way to remove them and the town shall charge the resident actual cost for said removal. Ms. Herrmann said Mr. Ott's motion applied to any emergency. This resolution is to address only Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Ott asked whether a resolution could be specific to one storm, and not all storms. **MOTION FAILED – NO SECOND.** Mr. Johnson said that the resolution states in paragraph four, "is a one-time exception to the stated code" relative to Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Courtney said the question was to define debris. There seems to be a problem with debris and tree limbs, trunks, and the size of the tree. Mr. Ott apologized and said the resolution did state it was a one-time exception. After additional discussion, during which Mr. Pellegrino said the cost should only pertain to logs, trunks, and rounds. Mayor Childs agreed and added logs, trunks, and rounds caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Mr. Ott moved to amend Resolution #16-176 to add "the town may contract with residents to haul away logs, trunks, and rounds for actual cost to remove said items." Mr. Pellegrino second.

Mr. Courtney said it was six weeks since Hurricane Matthew hit the town. This is another learning experience; we made a lot of mistakes. *For the record*, Mr. Courtney said "When we have an incident like this, the town needs to do a better job of policing who's coming in here and who's doing what, because it gets out of hand." Mr. Pellegrino said that would never work. The day after the storm there were all these people with a pickup truck and chainsaw here from as far away as North Carolina. People will use anyone they can to get a tree off their house. It doesn't matter where the storm happens, the same problem exist. I think this is a good option for logs, rounds, and trunks, because many of our elderly citizens are duped by unlicensed contractors. The town picks up normal debris anyway.

Ms. Samples said *for the record*, "I don't believe the town made any mistakes. The town followed, as it relates to picking up the storm debris, the town followed the ordinance. The flaw comes in our ordinance, and

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57 the fact that we do not have emergency one in place. So, we're going to fix that. But, let's remember, as Mr.  
58 Pellegrino brought up, the day or two after that people were just trying to get somebody to get the trees off  
59 their houses. That's all. That was the focus. Let me get the tree off my house, so I can see what other  
60 damage occurred. That was happening all over town, and people were grateful to have people who would  
61 come in and take those trees down. So, the fact that we picked up some debris and not others, again, I still  
62 think was a shame. I wish we would have just done the right thing, what I perceive to be the right thing, and  
63 that's just pick it up and get it out of here as soon as we could, which is what led us to this resolution. Because  
64 then we got to the point to where some people would pick it up, I mean to where the town, somebody was  
65 making the decision whether to pick it up or not pick it up based on what they saw that particular day. When  
66 that contractor had just taken four trees down on that street, and the town picked it up, the town just didn't  
67 see them. So, just because they saw one or two, they opted, hey, I don't have to pick it up, because the  
68 ordinance says I don't have to pick it up. That's what I think is unfair. I'm just trying to be fair to all, and to  
69 get the stuff out of town. That was the whole point in this. The fact that we're going to go charging these  
70 residents when we effectively already charge them to pick it up, I think is absurd. But, that's all I have to say."

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72 Mr. Ott agreed with Ms. Samples on that point. A discussion ensued regarding regular debris versus cut  
73 trees; neighbors piling debris on vacant lots or at unoccupied homes and those items should be picked up. The  
74 town should sweep all properties to ensure the town is clean.

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76 Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney and Pellegrino voted in favor.  
77 Councilmembers Johnson and Samples voted against. **MOTION CARRIED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #16-  
78 176 AS AMENDED.**

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80 **4. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 a.m. Mr. Pellegrino second.  
81 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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83 Prepared and submitted by,

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85 Approved: December 13, 2016

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87 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

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90 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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93 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

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96 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

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99 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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102 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

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105 Julie M. Samples, Town Council

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108 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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110 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes action minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not  
111 intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a  
112 free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a flash drive. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-  
113 80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the  
114 town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting  
115 notice was also posted on the town website at [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org) and the marquee.