



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION JANUARY 24, 2017 ♦ 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 24, 2017 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 24, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements for the proposed sale or purchase of real property, and to consider legal advice from the town attorney. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Administrator Fellner and Town Clerk Herrmann. Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session at 6:27 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Childs said for the record 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 p.m. as noted on the agenda under Business Item 7.C. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:27 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: Reverend Kirk Lawton, Ocean Lakes Campground Ministries, gave the invocation.

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

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to allow the presentation of Proclamation #17-112 to Honor Hunter Renfrow before Communication Item 6A. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL

Executive Session and Regular Meeting January 10, 2017. Mr. Ott moved to adopt the January 10, 2017 executive session and 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. Allen Waller, 9th Avenue South: I'm here to support the youth baseball program. My family has been involved with it for many years. I'm hopeful that the younger ones will also involve themselves

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

54 in it. My grandson participated in the Dixie World Series. His claim to fame is that he got to strike out
55 Hunter Renfrow. *(Laughter)* Thank you, and I certainly do appreciate your dedicated service to our
56 town. I wish I could help you more, but I'm the president of a corporation, so I don't have a whole lot of
57 time myself. Thank you.
58

59 Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North: I want to talk about the resolution that's on the agenda
60 from the stormwater fee that's going to be added to our water bill. I wanted to kind of ask a question.
61 We have \$8.8 million on hand right now according to the financial statements that I reviewed this
62 evening as of December 31st. On top of that our \$1.4 million in property taxes is not in yet. The
63 \$487,000 for franchise fees is not in yet, and the CTC reimbursement for \$400,000 plus is not in yet. So,
64 I would suggest to you that instead of having a tax increase on our water bill that we try to get a bond at
65 cheap money. But, also, I don't understand a tax increase with this much money in the bank. We're
66 under bud [sic]; you know, the budget is not going to eat that up. So, I don't understand it. I would like
67 for you to look for alternative measures. Thank you.
68

69 Mr. John Bacot, Cedar Drive North: I wore this shirt tonight. It's been hanging in my closet
70 there from one of the years we won the State Championship. I coached over at Martin Field starting in
71 '79, and coached on and off over at Huckabee. Martin Field was insufficient to support the program and
72 Mayor Blue Huckabee got the effort underway and the town built that field out there, which was way out
73 of town at the time. I feel like it would be incumbent upon the town to make all efforts to keep the
74 activity whether we can combine with the county; whatever. I realize a lot of the players don't reside in
75 the town. We used to call it sandlot ball. There are no sandlots, there're just houses everywhere. We
76 don't need another housing subdivision. We need a ballfield. We've got to find a way to do it. Get with
77 the county or wherever [sic] we can do to make it work. I coached boys. I talked to one the other day.
78 He's a dentist. He's got a couple of kids. Eric Simpson works here for the town. I've seen boys grow up.
79 Go down to the bank and see boys I've coached. Find them in restaurants. It's just good to see boys
80 grow up. I didn't coach softball, so I'm not cutting out the girls. I know they come up here. You see
81 'em working at Lowe's or wherever, and they holler 'hey, coach.' It's just something we need to keep
82 going as the Family Beach. I realize my eligibility is out. I'm too old to play. But, there's a lot of kids
83 that need a place to play. I like to see the Renfrows here. Hunter was a special kid.
84

85 Mr. Dan Flood, 7th Avenue South: I'm also one of the former presidents of the association. I'm
86 sorry to see it have to come to this, but any kind of talk about getting rid of the program [sic.] It worked
87 great from the start. I can't see why it's still not working great. I can't be a negotiator, though. We
88 have dog parks. Why can't we have baseball park for the kids? There's no reason for it. Hopefully, this
89 will all work out and the kids will stay in this program. My son grew up in it. He's now at Alabama. Mr.
90 Johnson said sorry. *(Laughter.)* Mr. Flood: We did have a hard night [referring to National
91 Championship Game]. But it was part of this baseball program that kept him the way he was and as
92 smart as he is to get into Alabama. Thank you.
93

94 Mr. Jeff George, Myrtle Beach: I'm vice president of the Surfside Beach Youth Association, a
95 coach for 15 years, an umpire, and also a parent of two children. I've been involved with a bunch of
96 youth organizations. Just here today to say that Surfside Youth Baseball and Softball is good for the
97 area. It could be good to the town in the sports tourism market. It's a hundred million dollar market out
98 there. This keeps the kids out of trouble; teaches them life lessons, and prepares them for the future.
99 As a coach, a coach will impact more young people in a year than the average person does in a lifetime.
100 How many of you live in Surfside? Ever been involved in youth sports? Do you know what family
101 community memories are? Because, that is what is going to be destroyed if this program goes away.
102 Thank you.
103

104 Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: [I'm] one of the few residents that's here tonight. Most of
105 those are outside. Council has two responsibilities. Take care of the town, and take care of its residents.

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

106 With only 8.25-percent of the kids who play on those teams actual Surfside residents, I feel that the town
107 would be better served if the teams utilized the fields out on Scipio Lane. Thank you.
108

109 Jenna Lander, Shady Grove Road: Before [the post office] gave Burgess and Socastee their own
110 ZIP Codes, my address was Surfside Beach, and I was a Surfside Beach resident. My son and other
111 kids...this is about more than just baseball. My son and all the kids don't just learn baseball and softball.
112 Every single game we participate in has started with prayer, same with the practices. I'm sorry, it's not
113 about winning and losing. We teach about being a good sport. A lot of the kids don't live in Surfside, but
114 there's no closer league for my son and a lot of the kids in Garden City and Murrells Inlet. Where else
115 are they supposed to go? My son and I will both be devastated if this league stops. I have more, but I
116 can't [continue.]
117

118 Ms. Barbara Lions, South Bay Lakes: I'm here to address the lights of the fields. The high power
119 lights on the five poles. I don't know who's responsible for turning the lights off, but it's been constant
120 since I've moved down here. They don't turn the lights off. They're on all night long. They're beaming
121 into my bedroom. I didn't know who to notify, because I didn't realize that Surfside Beach owned the
122 property. Not only are they on during the night, they're on all day long. So whoever is paying the
123 electric bill; it's got to be enormous. Are the coaches responsible after the game? Who is responsible?
124 Somebody really needs to turn those lights. I really don't want to go through another season with lights
125 blaring into my condo. They keep me up all night long. I appreciate any help that you can give me, and
126 if there's a telephone number that I can obtain so that I could call when the lights aren't turned off, I
127 would do it. Is there any help that I can get?
128

129 Mayor Childs said that Town Council could not respond, but if she would please contact the town
130 administrator about her question, as she could help her.
131

132 Mr. Brian Pedrick, Summer Circle: I was going to come here tonight and I had what I thought
133 was a great speech. But, first thing I want to give you guys; here's a petition that I started four and a
134 half days ago, 922 signatures. I know all those signatures aren't out of Surfside Beach, the incorporate
135 town, but I know a lot of those people know people that live here. So, you guys, I'll leave it here [on the
136 podium], if you get a chance there's a whole bunch of comments. We'd appreciate you taking a look at
137 it. I had a little speech written, but before I came, I printed out the proclamation that Mayor Childs did
138 for Hunter Renfrow. First of all, Mr. and Mrs. Renfrow, congratulations. You guys have raised a fine
139 young man. I guess just reading that; Mayor, did you wrote that; you write that? Those things in that
140 proclamation, Hunter would've grown up to be a fine young man without sports. But, a lot of these
141 qualities were advanced because of sports. We really want you guys to think about that when you're
142 talking about that when we're talking about commitment to youth sports. I know there's been a lot of
143 talk about what the Surfside Beach sports organization is asking for. I was at that meeting with the town
144 and we only had a few town councilmembers show up for that meeting. At that council meeting, we
145 never asked for anything other than for you guys to drag the field and line it according to the binding
146 contract we had. We didn't ask for any additional monies. At that point, the councilmembers that were
147 here addressed the Surfside Beach sports association and asked us if we could come up with a plan to
148 take some of that off of the town. That's where financial numbers are coming from. That is to relieve
149 the town of cutting the grass, lining the fields, dragging the fields, and all that. So, you look at those
150 numbers. I heard some mention that there's \$40,000 a year in cost and everything. If that's truly the
151 case, then the proposal that our organization put together at \$14,000 or something to cut the grass
152 should be a great savings to the town. We would love to address it with you guys. Obviously, we don't
153 think this is the place to do it, but we'd appreciate it if y'all would take a look at what we truly proposed.
154 That contract was sent out to everybody. I want to thank Councilwoman Samples for responding. She
155 was the only person that responded to any of our requests. So, Ms. Samples, thank you.
156

157 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I want to talk about the ballfield. My boys played
158 on the field there for baseball. They played football also. But, the town's decided to get rid of that. I

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

159 hate to see the baseball disappear. What happened a few years ago was that the idea was to free up
160 personnel from the town to run the organization and give it to the parents and the coaches to do it. I
161 don't know what happened. What I've seen is some crazy numbers that the town is saying that it cost.
162 I'll just throw a couple of them at you. They're saying it cost around \$13,116 to mow the lawns, to take
163 care of the field. That's 475 hours. You break that down it's \$27.61 per hour to cut grass. That's
164 \$57,428 salary if they did it all year long. The number doesn't seem right, because that's almost double
165 what a police officer makes in this town. \$1,200 or \$1,300 in bathroom supplies? That's a lot of toilette
166 paper and paper towels. Trash pickup is \$1,200? Could be. But, that's a lot of money. What I think you
167 guys should do is have a workshop. Everybody comes with their books; open them up, and you talk
168 about this. It's a great thing to have. But, the town shouldn't be bearing the brunt of the whole thing. I
169 think you should try to work this out. Thank you.
170

171 Mr. Jason Carroll, Dogwood Drive North: My wife and I moved here in 2012. We started
172 coaching when we moved here and have been coaching the league since. I'd ask you to keep in mind
173 that the town should feel really blessed that of the coaches you have in this league you've got a
174 wonderful group of gentlemen like Teague Thompson, K. J. Jordan, Dan Harrell, and many others who
175 are here tonight. We don't coach baseball. It's an outlet to teach these kids about sportsmanship, team
176 work, responsibility; being part of something greater than the game. It gets them off the street; gets
177 them into an environment where they can learn life lessons that carry them well beyond the ballfield. Of
178 that, a lot of these kids come from broken homes. They don't have a father figure. So, to a lot of those
179 kids we become somebody they can talk to. The team moms are somebody that they can cry on their
180 shoulders when needed. Baseball is a sport. But what we do in this league goes well beyond the game.
181 Just ask you to keep these things in mind as we move forward. Thank you.
182

183 Miss Tipton Boyle: Please keep Huckabee Park, because I have so many friends and my sister
184 goes there, and it will mean a lot to me. Thank you.
185

186 Mr. Jeff McKinney, Murrells Inlet: This is my son, Sam McKinney. Surfside Beach is in the history
187 books in Dixie Youth Baseball 2009 World Series Champions; 2010 World Series Champions; 2011 made
188 it back. This is a representation of what Surfside Beach did for baseball. This boy right here, John
189 Bacot's son, who is at West Point right now, put Surfside Beach in the books, in the history books of Dixie
190 Youth Baseball, which will be there forever. If you take that away, what have you accomplished?
191 Money? No, not at all. I'd like for my son to speak if he's willing.
192

193 Mr. Sam McKinney, Murrells Inlet: I brought my ring I won in 2009. I wanted you guys to take a
194 good look at it. The 2009 World Series Champions. If one of you guys would ask me right now the
195 greatest time I've ever had in my life, it was in 2009; the entire journey. Nobody ever believed in us,
196 so to be able at 12 years old to accomplish something that, that goal was just (**) and it set the stone
197 and set my path toward until now. I'm 20 years old now, so it was eight years ago. I look at my athletic
198 career in high school, going up into college, and all that was shaped around Dixie Youth Baseball. These
199 coaches in here, I've been a part; I've been coaching in a league now. I've got a 12 year old brother
200 back there. I'm hoping he can win one of these [championship rings] one day. Hoping he can make it
201 back to a State Championship. So to take something like that away; it's a lot more than just a league to
202 these kids. It's something that shapes them into the men; the man that I've become, that you guys have
203 become, and that is what this world lacks nowadays, people being coached, people being teachable. You
204 don't have that in the world today. Especially in the younger generation. So if you take something away,
205 not only are you hurting this younger generation, you're going to hurt everybody out here, because
206 there're not going to be any leaders whenever they come up, and they get his with the real world. So,
207 that's it.
208

209 Coach Mike Hammond, Pawleys Island: I've coached fall ball and had two homerun contests at
210 Huckabee Park. I've lived in South Carolina for 45 years including four or five different towns. I've pretty
211 much seen every ball park in this state. What you have is not a ball park. It's a field of dreams. It is on

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

212 the water, which is bar none, one of the prettiest ball parks I've ever seen. Myrtle Beach may have one
213 pond. Georgetown may have one pond. But, all of your fields have the ability to face that pond. It is
214 absolutely gorgeous. What I would ask is go to North Myrtle Beach. Look at their ball park. Go to Eight
215 Oaks in Georgetown. Look at their ball park, and ask yourself why are they spending millions and
216 millions of dollars when Surfside is going backwards? They're putting the money in those ball parks
217 because hundreds of teams can play there during the summer for travel ball. I would suggest getting
218 USSSA to the field; getting Top Gun to the field, ask them what can we do to upgrade these fields where
219 people want to come here. People from Pawley's don't come up here and play ball and go home. We
220 come; we play ball; we buy gas; we buy food. We would stay here if it was a weekend tournament, if
221 we were from out of town. So, I would suggest looking at the other towns. Be like them and go forward
222 instead of backwards. Thank you.

223
224 Ms. Erin Freeman, Myrtle Beach: I am the mother of four kids that play on this field. One is four
225 years old today. Instead of being at home, this is how important this is, I'm here with you all having this
226 lovely meeting. So, instead of celebrating a fourth birthday. My oldest son has autism. He stopped
227 playing football, because of seizures. Surfside has done so much for him and for you all to take that from
228 him is wrong. I believe if I've done a little bit of research, have any of you all ever played sports in high
229 school? Youth? If so, then you would understand how important this is. My kids go to school in
230 Burgess, so there [are] no other activities that involve baseball anywhere around here, except for going
231 to Pepper Geddings, North Myrtle Beach, Pawleys Island, but nothing that's close to home for a mother of
232 four, and a husband as well. My husband is there to help. But nothing that can be feasible for us to get
233 four kids to a game. All the kids that come from Surfside go to school where? They go to St. James
234 High School. It's the same high school that the same kids from the Myrtle Beach 29588, some from the
235 29576, go to. The same high school. So the effect this is going to cause on the students as they grow
236 older for nothing have any league to even learn to play the game is [remarkable.] I can't believe this.
237 Then, not to mention, my first home was here in Surfside. I actually work in Surfside. My youngest son
238 goes to daycare in Surfside. I buy lunch every day in Surfside. If this park gets taken away, I will refuse
239 to do any of that. I will move my son's daycare. I'll be more than happy to bring my own lunch to work,
240 because that is wrong to take something from a child. Thank you.

241
242 Ms. Mandy Moniken, Coventry Road: I found out that this program might be taken away and the
243 field might be shut down from us. I immediately emailed you, Mayor Childs. I also emailed you, Mr.
244 Pellegrino. I am very active in trying to get this to stay. My children, Johnathan and Matthew, we were
245 on the Padres. Go Padres! These wonderful, wonderful men that volunteer to coach this program, oh, it
246 breaks my heart. They taught my boys how to play. My boys can hit a ball. They can catch a ball.
247 They know what's happening on the field. They didn't know that before. They have something where
248 they can be in a program and stay in a program. They can keep up with this for I don't know how long.
249 I didn't know where else to take them. I was very proud of myself to find this online and get them
250 involved and sign them up. We take them, I take them to every game, every practice. We didn't miss
251 one. We're part of a team. I'm begging you, please don't take our program for our boys. Something
252 else that I have to say, it may be silly, but I just can't help it. I mean you want to take this program.
253 Has anybody heard about the heroine epidemic we have going on? Let's keep our program.

254
255 Mr. Zeb Davis, Murrells Inlet: I would like to go back about 45 years. When I was nine years old
256 I played baseball at Martin Park. I grew up in Long Bay Estates, which some of y'all may know where
257 that is. We had an option of Myrtle Beach or Surfside. My father put me in Surfside. I played ball for
258 about six years in Surfside prior to going to high school. My youngest son, who's now in college, played
259 baseball in Surfside for about 12 years from T-ball right on through until he went to high school. I've
260 come back and coached in Surfside for about 15 years. John Bacot, who I saw in attendance here, he
261 drafted me one day. I was at every practice. So, he said, you know, if you're going to be here, you
262 might as well help coach. So, my youngest now is 11 years old. He's been in the town of Surfside
263 playing baseball for about six years now. I've coached all the way through with him, also. One of the
264 points I'm trying to make here is I was outside, so I don't know if I'm going over old ground here, but

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

265 the program of baseball in the town of Surfside is so far reaching. I don't know if I can put into words
266 how instrumental it is in young people's lives. I talked to the mayor on the phone last week. I've also
267 read in print a couple of times that, and I think this was pulled from the fall ball that only 10-percent of
268 the registrants for the league were from Surfside. I don't know if that would hold true if the same
269 registration were for the spring ball. Mainly your hard core players play in the fall ball, so you're pulling
270 them from a lot of different areas. But even if that is the accurate number, even in spring ball, the point
271 is this program is so important to so many kids. I don't know if anyone else has touched on this also, but
272 we practice prior to the season for five days a week. Pretty much all the way through. We'll have two
273 games and then three practices during the season. So that's five days a week that families, even if
274 they're not from Surfside, are coming into Surfside. They fill up their gas tanks at the gas stations. They
275 eat at the restaurants. On top of that, you're building good will so that maybe some of the same people
276 who don't live in the town of Surfside now may move into the town of Surfside. The main thing I wanted
277 to get to here is I'm 54 years old. I've had an affiliation with Surfside baseball since I was nine years old.
278 My wife is a local attorney in Surfside. So although we don't live here, we're here and we are eating in
279 your restaurants. We're participating in a lot of activities (*time ended*). I just wanted to say how much I
280 support the program and a lot of people who come from outside of Surfside, what a big difference it
281 makes in these children's lives, and the things that they learn on these ballfields carry throughout their
282 lives. I'm perfect example. I started when I was nine years old, and I've come back (*gavel*) and helped
283 coach. My children come over here and play. I just really hope that council seriously, seriously considers
284 the intangible assets to a society as a whole that you can't just measure with dollars. (*Gavel. Mayor*
285 *Childs said thank you.*)
286

287 Mr. Will Rabon, Myrtle Beach: I also grew up playing in Surfside and coached. I just want to
288 address some of the specific things that I think maybe there may be some miscommunication between
289 our board and council. I'm the current president of the Surfside Beach Youth Sports Association. The
290 growth in our program; Huckabee Field was purchased in 1980. Sometime in the early '80s it was
291 opened to make four fields in this area. Scipio has built three more, and make sure that this council
292 knows we do utilize Scipio's fields for practices and our T-ball and coach pitch. When we took over we
293 had added a four year old league, and I think we added five year olds to play with six year olds. So we
294 added four and five year olds, since we took over. We also added eight youth softball; we added a 15
295 youth softball league. So we have a lot more kids playing, and Scipio fields are already utilized. They
296 don't have lights. We wish they would build lights, but the point is that since 1980 to now, they've added
297 three more fields. So, it's not like we have too many. If Huckabee closed, even if they put lights in,
298 there would not be enough to accommodate what we need, because we're already using those fields.
299 Making sure that you also know that we don't need more money than we did last year. I think there has
300 been; some of that information gets back to us that this council thinks we need more money. That we've
301 asked for more money than we had last year, and that's not the case. If we went back to the exact
302 same; if staff did the same thing they did last year with dragging, line fields, cutting the grass we are
303 sufficient and performing and performing fine. We're not asking for more money. That came from the
304 notion of if Surfside quit providing the services that they were providing and we just were using the
305 fields, what would we need if we presented it that way. So, that all may have come out of a
306 miscommunication. But that's what we thought we were asked to do, so that's what we did and that's
307 the amount of money we think it would take, if Surfside did hand that task to us. We don't necessarily
308 think that that's a bad idea and it's something that we could move forward. Similar to when Mayor
309 Samples offered that to us several years ago to take some of the responsibility that the town staff was
310 doing to better the program. We're always looking for ways to do that. Definitely, you see from the
311 evidence of the folks here, we're willing to help. It's just a, we want to know from a commitment from
312 the town that Huckabee is going to be there. We want to know, what definitely concerns us is what
313 appears to be the research going in the alternate uses for Huckabee, and possible sale of Huckabee. We
314 would love to know that (*time ended*) that's off the table that we can work on planning something else.
315 Thank you.
316

317 Mr. Richard Parisau, Plantation Drive: I grew up in this town. I was born and raised in this
318 town. There's a lot of people moved to this town. But, I am born and raised right down Pine Avenue
319 right here by the police station. I played for this rec. Now I get to watch my son play the same ball on
320 the same teams I did, and I get to do that and that is just, there's no words for it. I'm hoping that I can
321 actually grow old in this town and watch my son and his son play ball for this rec. You don't need to get
322 rid of it. There's ways of doing it. You need to come up with a batter plan than just get rid of it. So,
323 thank you.
324

325 Ms. Tiffany Carroll, Dogwood Drive North: My husband did speak earlier. As he said, he is a
326 coach in this league; has been for five years. My son has played in this league for five years. He's even
327 been on the All Star team representing Surfside Beach, proudly wearing Surfside Beach on his jersey
328 whenever we travel for tournaments. One thing that I want to do, any child that plays in our league,
329 please stand. *(About 12-15 children stood.)* I want you to look at these faces. These kids love playing
330 this game. There's a lot of kids that aren't here, like mine. He's got homework, so I wouldn't let him
331 come. Please take a look at these faces and consider this and do not shut our program down.
332

333 6. COMMUNICATIONS

334 **Proclamation #17-112 proclaiming Hunter Renfrow Day in the Town of Surfside**
335 **Beach, Mayor Childs and Councilmember Stevens.** *(This added by approved motion, see Agenda*
336 *Approval, Item 3 above.)*
337

338
339 Mayor Childs and Mr. Stevens presented Mr. and Mrs. Renfrow with Proclamation #17-112. The
340 proclamation was read by the clerk, a copy of which is on file. Multiple originals of the proclamation were
341 prepared for distribution to Mr. Hunter Renfrow, his parents who accepted the proclamation on his
342 behalf, and Socastee High School.
343

344 Mayor Childs called recess at 7:12 p.m. to allow time for the guests to leave and those standing
345 outside to come in and be seated. Mayor Childs reconvened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.
346

347 A. Resolution from Stormwater Committee Supporting a Stormwater Utility Fee, 348 Director Adair.

349
350 Mr. Adair presented the resolution on behalf of the stormwater committee, a copy of which is on
351 file. He explained that Town Council authorized a study last year regarding stormwater utility fees. The
352 committee has discussed the proposed utility fee multiple times. The committee was proactive in
353 presenting its support for the proposed utility fee. The resolution was presented for Town Council's
354 information.
355

356 Mr. Stevens thought this should be discussed at the vision meeting. Mr. Adair explained that the
357 committee supports the fee, and wanted council to know that in advance. Mr. Stevens was skeptical of
358 the project costs and wanted a minimum five company bid.
359

360 Mr. Ott said much of the town's infrastructure had been neglected for years, and needed to be
361 repaired, particularly swashes and bridges over Ocean Boulevard.
362

363 Mr. Johnson said this is not a Town Council resolution; it is from the stormwater committee and
364 is for information. The Melody Basis issue is important to him, because it has been ongoing for years,
365 and involves the county and the town.
366

367 Mayor Childs said Mr. Johnson was right; the resolution from the stormwater committee just
368 states the members' opinion.
369

370 **B. Department Reports.**

371
372 **i. Events.** Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

373
374 Mayor Childs said several individuals commented that this was the best Christmas parade we had
375 in a long time.

376
377 Mr. Courtney asked how much the parade float cost. Ms. Ellis said the town rents them; it is
378 \$500 for the day. The town pays for the council's float; other participants either pay or have sponsors
379 that pay for their floats.

380
381 Mr. Stevens asked how many spots were available for the barbeque festival. Ms. Ellis said 19
382 vendors were registered now. There was room for as many as 75 could participate, if the event is on
383 Surfside Drive.

384
385 **ii. Finance.** Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

386
387 Ms. King noted that a transfer was made from the hospitality fund and also the pier enterprise
388 fund into capital projects for the next beach renourishment project, which we expect to do later in the
389 spring. There is \$282,000 set aside for beach renourishment. After the accommodations tax meeting,
390 additional funds are expected to be transferred to beach renourishment.

391
392 Ms. Samples referred to beach renourishment expenditures and asked if a \$1.3 million check was
393 sent. What is the additional expense? Ms. King said we did. At this point we are anticipating receiving
394 some money back from the state that was advanced on its behalf by the town. In May, we expect to
395 have to pay some more towards beach renourishment. Then after the additional amount is paid, a
396 portion of that is expected to be returned by the state. Ms. Samples asked if the suggestion was that
397 beach renourishment would cost more than \$1.3 million. Ms. King replied not in the end; the town might
398 have to advance more money, but it would be reimbursed. Ms. Samples asked any funds were received
399 from FEMA for Hurricane Matthew cleanup. Ms. King said there are two requests pending. Ms. Samples
400 asked what the balance is in the tree mitigation fund. Ms. King said those monies are in the general
401 fund. She believed the balance was \$9,000 as of June, but would provide an updated balance.

402
403 Mr. Courtney asked where beach renourishment money is kept. Ms. King said in the capital
404 projects fund. Mr. Courtney asked if the spreadsheet for Hurricane Matthew was forthcoming. Ms. King
405 believed that Mr. Adair was preparing that.

406
407 **iii. Fire.** Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

408
409 Mr. Ott asked if the fire department ever inspected the electrical components at the pier, as he
410 knew of one place where extension cords wrapped with electrical tape were being used and another
411 where there was an outlet plate, but there was no outlet. Chief Otte said the areas would be inspected
412 tomorrow.

413
414 Ms. Samples said in the essence of time, she would pose her questions at the vision meeting on
415 Thursday.

416
417 **iv. Planning, Building & Zoning.** Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of
418 which is attached hereto. She noted that the department's Hurricane Matthew assessment was
419 completed. There is on home on the south end of town will possibly be condemned and removed; staff
420 is still trying to determine the legal owner. The business committee is met on January 19th, and will meet
421 again to discuss the sign ordinance, which she hopes will be a final review so it can be presented to the
422 planning commission; the town attorney for final approval. The planning commission also reviewed the

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

423 tree ordinance at two meetings and will continue reviewing it at the next regular meeting on February 7th,
424 which she hopes will be the last discussion before the public hearing and sends its recommendations to
425 Town Council.

426
427 Mr. Stevens said for the record, the business committee meeting will be held at 8:15 in the
428 morning at Benjamin's Bagels on 3rd Avenue South, if anyone wants to attend.

429
430 Mr. Ott asked if there were only four phone calls in November and December. Ms. Morris
431 explained that those four calls were for the code enforcement officer. Each staff members keeps a
432 record of their own calls. Mr. Ott asked if all the calls could be included next month. Ms. Morris said
433 absolutely.

434
435 Mr. Courtney asked if the house they had discussed on 3rd Avenue South and Seaside was the
436 one being condemned. Ms. Morris said no, there are problems with that house, as well. A letter was
437 sent to their attorney asking if the town could empty the pool, because the gentleman is incapacitated.
438 Mr. Courtney asked if the premise was secured, because there is danger because of the unsecured, half-
439 filled swimming pool. Ms. Morris said staff put up the caution tape, but nothing else can be done that
440 involves costs until the town administrator gives her direction, or until the attorney responds. The
441 management company said the owner did not want them to handle the situation. Ms. Morris believed
442 there was a case like this in the past in which the town secured the pool. Mayor Childs said it was on
443 Seaside Drive North. Ms. Fellner said she and Ms. Morris would discuss this, but Mr. Courtney's point was
444 well taken, and she agreed.

445
446 Ms. Samples said Ms. Morris was well prepared for the business committee meeting on the sign
447 ordinance. Job well done. The meeting moved along beautifully, and I appreciate that. A lot was
448 accomplished in a short amount of time. She asked how the surveys that her department receives from
449 town residents are handled. Ms. Morris said they are delivered to the administrator and then to her
450 department. She has a spreadsheet that she can email to the councilmembers. Ms. Samples said she
451 would appreciate that.

452
453 **v. Police.** Chief Keziah presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. A
454 heroine and opiates symposium is being held at the First Baptist Church, 16th Avenue North and Cherry
455 Drive, on Monday, February 27th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the town's police
456 department, the Citizens and Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee that both Mayor Childs and he
457 are members. Similar events were held in Conway and Myrtle Beach. The DEA (Drug Enforcement
458 Agency), SCDHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control), Horry County Drug
459 Unit, and recovery facilities from Florence and Myrtle Beach. Personal testimonies will also be given by
460 recovering addicts. Horry County Solicitor Jimmy Richardson will attend to discuss the drug court and
461 adjudication processes. He would appreciate participating and attendance by everyone as the
462 symposium is open to the public. Horry County is number one in the state for Narcan (the drug that
463 fights opiates) deployment, according to a presentation by SCDHEC.

464
465 Mr. Ott said Sergeant Sliker and Corporal Williams should have their own television show. They
466 are doing a great job here. Excellent work.

467
468 Ms. Samples said questions would be asked at the vision meeting, but specifically asked that
469 Chief Keziah be prepared to address the status of the 501(3)(c) for the K9's.

470
471 Mr. Courtney asked for an explanation of the "move over" law. Chief Keziah said that law
472 requires a driver to move into the opposite lane anytime they are approaching an emergency vehicle to
473 pass the police car, or other emergency vehicle. There is another 'move over' law that stipulates the left
474 lane is to be used for two reasons: passing a vehicle and making a left turn. Left lanes are not for
475 everyday driving. Mr. Courtney said he sees many cars that do not move over when passing stopped

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

476 officers. It's horrifying to watch these people cruise by at 45 miles per hour. There were 326 traffic
477 stops this month. There were 48 speeding, three to seven stop signs for the month. We have more
478 speeding in residential than we do on Highway 17. Chief Keziah believed that was correct, mainly
479 because of the complaints the department answers by checking specific areas for speeding traffic. When
480 complaints are made a quality of life case is opened and resources are used to devote special attention to
481 the area to alleviate the problem. Mr. Courtney would appreciate more effort in controlling residential
482 areas speeding. It was his discretion as far as summons or warnings. He encouraged residents to slow
483 down. There are families here; population has doubled, you have to slow it down going through the side
484 streets. A lot of the traffic passing through is from nonresident drivers using the town as a bypass. Keep
485 in mind if you see a police vehicle, move to the far lane to protect our officers.

486
487 Mayor Childs said that is a violation in some states. Chief Keziah said it is in South Carolina, also.
488

489 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached
490 hereto.

491
492 Ms. Samples thanked Mr. Adair for the quick response to repair the lattice work on Dogwood.
493 Questions will be asked at the vision meeting, but she was curious about the high number of tilted
494 electrical poles around town. Mr. Adair said when complaints are made or staff sees them, Santee
495 Cooper is contacted to make repairs.

496
497 Mr. Ott said there are no 'leash laws' published on the beach access signs. Mr. Adair said there is
498 a leash law in place throughout town. It is not on those signs, which have not been updated in at least
499 seven years. Many people think the signs are too wordy. Mr. Ott said that was right. Mr. Adair said
500 suggestions are sometimes received from the public and his usual response is we cannot keep adding
501 more. Mr. Ott asked if that could be added.

502
503 Mr. Courtney said the finance report showed there were fewer sanitation commercial pickups.
504 Mr. Adair explained that the number of pickups vary monthly, depending on the season, storm events,
505 and the business owner's need; sometimes owners change the schedule every month. The finance
506 report shows a net year-end number for comparison purposes. Mr. Courtney asked if the town's rate was
507 competitive with Waste Management. Mr. Adair said yes, the town keep its rate just below the
508 competitors. Mr. Courtney asked if the beach walkovers would be finished by Memorial Day weekend.
509 Mr. Adair said yes; five walkovers would be restored by then. Two walkovers will be enlarged this
510 season. Thirty of the 35 missing trash cans were replaced on the beach. Mr. Adair said the town should
511 get reimbursed about \$400,000 by FEMA for storm related damage. Mr. Courtney reiterated his request
512 to see the overall cost and impact to the town caused by Hurricane Matthew. Ms. Fellner indicated that
513 she would address that.

514
515 Mr. Ott asked if the 4th Avenue pedestrian bridge could be built wider over the new swash. Add
516 your creativity to it.

517
518 **C. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is
519 attached hereto. She met today with Horry County regarding the SWA (Solid Waste Authority) increase.
520 County Council Chairman Lazarus said the original cost proposal of \$92,000 for the town from the SWA is
521 not likely to be as high as first anticipated. He felt the increase would be significantly more modest, but
522 could not give specific details.

523
524 Mayor Childs thanked Ms. Fellner for scheduling the pier workshops. A weekday morning and
525 evening, and a weekend meeting, which would allow everyone to attend at least one meeting. Excellent
526 job.
527

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

528 Mr. Ott asked wanted to see the SLED (South Carolina Law Enforcement) investigation completed
529 and everyone be informed of the outcome as soon as possible. Ms. Fellner said we are not trying to keep
530 anything from the public or Town Council, but SLED has said this is an ongoing investigation and they do
531 not want anyone speaking about it. When SLED advises that the details can be discussed, she will be
532 happy to do so. She believes the public has a right to know; but we cannot act against a directive from
533 SLED. Mr. Ott asked if actions were taken to prevent future occurrences. Ms. Fellner said
534 countermeasures were taken, which is part of the SLED investigation. Staff has gone overboard in the
535 other direction to put triple measures into effect. Electronics were added allowing more control through
536 the computer, which helps in many ways. Mr. Ott said this is an open wound for the town and he would
537 like to see it fixed. Ms. Fellner agreed, but said again, she cannot speak on it at this time.
538

539 Ms. Samples said for the record, "Out of the three pier workshops, I will only be allowed to
540 attend the first one, which is March 9th. April 3rd I will be out of town and May 13th I will be out of town."
541 She asked if Ms. Fellner new Edisto Beach began renourishment that was first estimated at \$13 million
542 and now it is a \$17.5 million project. Ms. Fellner said yes; the Corp (US Army Corp of Engineers) wants
543 additional \$692,000, so the town's share would be \$346,000. If Reach 1 gets funded with Reach 3, and
544 the Corp bids the projects together, we may have a chance of getting a much better price. They also
545 want to leave the window open, which would mean that some places may get sand pumped in the
546 summer. Ms. Samples asked why the lots at 3rd Avenue South and Willow Drive are posted no
547 trespassing, and why there are stakes in one area. Ms. Fellner explained that the ground is hazardous
548 because it is not level, and has roots above ground. The archaeological dig is still on-going, which
549 accounts for the stakes. Several people tripped during the Living History Day, and thankfully no one was
550 hurt. Ms. Samples asked when that would be corrected so the public can enjoy that property. Ms.
551 Fellner said understands the question, but these lots could be part of the possible conversion. We would
552 do nothing with the property until such time as it was determined that could happened. Ms. Samples
553 said for the record, "I am uncomfot [sic;] I get why, I get why we're trying to protect our residents.
554 But, those lots belong to the public, and I sure would like for them to be able to enjoy them." Ms.
555 Samples continued saying some of the received a question from a town resident asking what the final
556 cost was for the 4th Avenue swash. Ms. Fellner said the project was budgeted at \$173,950. The final
557 cost will not go over that amount, but there are still two bills outstanding. To date, \$152,194.99 has
558 been paid.
559

560 Mr. Ott said he asked the public works director why the beach is smaller on the south end, and
561 according to Mr. Adair when beach renourishment is done, it's gaged by topographical height. He asked
562 if the beach could be made wider with more sand and still meet the height. Ms. Fellner said the Corp
563 controls all of that, but she could ask. Mr. Ott wanted the beaches on the south end as wide as the north
564 end, if possible. He also suggested that a "trip at your own cost" sign be placed on the lots at 3rd Avenue
565 South, and the ropes be taken down.
566

567 Mr. Johnson asked regarding beach renourishment, he appreciated Ms. Samples' comments.
568 When he read other areas were being renourished, because he assumed that we were going to be one of
569 the first to get renourished. That being said, the Corp wants more money, potentially will the town be
570 renourished during the summer. Ms. Fellner said the other renourishment is being done is because the
571 bid, which were 25-percent over the estimated cost, for Reach 3 failed. Had it not failed, renourishment
572 would be underway now. The Corp is trying to combine the projects for Reach 1 and Reach 3, which
573 would save on deployment costs. Every deployment cost \$6 million. If the three Reaches are done
574 together, that is a \$12 million savings. There is not as much sand loss in Reach 2, because those
575 beaches are in the middle of the bowl and it benefits from our sand and Murrells Inlet sand that washes
576 on to the beach at Myrtle Beach. Mr. Johnson said in the 1980's North Myrtle Beach was the only beach
577 you could drive on. Those beaches were extremely wide like Daytona Beach in Florida. He heard
578 comments that there are pier timbers are embedded in the sand out in the water at low tide around 15th
579 and 16th Avenues North. Mr. Adair said he had not heard that, but he would check. Ms. Fellner said the

580 US Coast Guard was sent a letter regarding the pier pilings in the water at the end of the pier, after being
581 called several times by Mr. Adair. The Coast Guard is supposed to determine whether a buoy is required.
582

583 Mr. Courtney asked again about the spreadsheet for Hurricane Matthew costs. Ms. Fellner was
584 under the impression that what Mr. Adair had prepared was what he wanted. I think you and I need to
585 meet to discuss exactly what you want, and I will execute for you. Mr. Courtney wants to let the
586 taxpayers know exactly what it cost us for Hurricane Matthew so we would know what we are up against
587 if we had a more serious storm. A cost analysis to determine overtime, equipment, etc., would enable us
588 to make better plans for the future. Ms. Fellner said those numbers are available, but she wants to know
589 exactly what you want. Mr. Courtney said he would schedule an appointment. I agree with Ms. Samples
590 about the lots. What will be done with them? Ms. Fellner reiterated since they may be involved in the
591 conversion, she would rather not speak to that at this time. Mr. Courtney agreed with Mr. Ott about the
592 SLED investigation. The people have waited for a long time, and we need to move forward with that
593 right away. He asked if any plans were made for 3rd Avenue South business district improvements. Ms.
594 Fellner said that would be discussed at the vision meeting. The town has a \$100,000 grant from the
595 state and \$225,000 from CTC (the County Transportation Committee), council will need to decide
596 whether to move forward, because an additional sum is needed to complete the project. Mr. Courtney
597 asked if anything had been done at this point. Ms. Fellner asked Mr. Adair, who indicated nothing was
598 prepared at this point.
599

600 Mayor Childs said he and Ms. Fellner spoke about this project and he believed Mr. Adair was
601 going to come up with the amount needed to complete it. Ms. Fellner said that will be presented at the
602 vision meeting.
603

604 Mr. Ott asked how do we know we need more money when we don't know what we're going to
605 do. Do we have a plan? Ms. Fellner said there was a plan presented to CTC and to the state for the
606 grant from PARD. Mr. Ott said so we do know what our plans are. Ms. Fellner said we don't have a
607 rendering or engineering plans. The answer is yes, we know we want sidewalks. Mr. Adair said when
608 the town applied for money from the state, we asked DDC Engineers to give us a probable cost for the
609 job and to provide an aerial overlay of how it might look when completed. There are no engineered
610 plans. Mr. Ott said that was what he was asking about, and thank you for getting that money.
611

612 Mayor Childs asked if Ms. Fellner could get some type rendering that council could see. Mr. Adair
613 said the aerial view overlay would be provided. A drawing was given to Senator Cleary about a year ago,
614 which would give the councilmembers some idea. Ms. Fellner said it would be emailed to
615 councilmembers.
616

617 Mr. Courtney said he was sure the parking committee would have a role in this project. Ms.
618 Fellner said she asked the committee at its last meeting if they would look at the area sooner rather than
619 later to avoid removing any new infrastructure. The parking at 3rd Avenue South is very limited. We
620 might be trying to help them, but end up do a disservice. Mr. Courtney asked if the same sketch could
621 be sent to the parking committee. Ms. Fellner said of course. It would be sent council and the parking
622 committee members.
623

624 Mr. Stevens said once again DDC Engineering was mentioned. He asked if there is any reason
625 we have to use DDC on every project. Can projects be bid through other reliable engineers? Ms. Fellner
626 explained at the last meeting that engineering is a professional service, and is not required to be bid. If
627 Town Council wishes a RFQ (request for qualifications) be let for engineering services, she would be
628 happy to do so. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Ott believed that an RFQ should be let; no other members
629 commented. Ms. Fellner said DDC had done a very good job so far throughout the town.
630

631 7. BUSINESS

632

633 **A. Resolution #17-178 to Accept Memorandum of Understanding with City of Myrtle**
634 **Beach Police Department, Chief Keziah.**
635

636 Mr. Johnson said *point of order*, and asked if the resolution could be read. Mayor Childs said a
637 motion was needed to bring the resolution forward. Mr. Johnson moved to bring the resolution to the
638 floor. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
639

640 Chief Keziah presented the Resolution #17-178, the decision paper and Memorandum of
641 Understanding, copies of which are on file.
642

643 Mr. Ott moved to send the agreement to the organizational committee. Mr. Stevens second.
644

645 Mr. Pellegrino asked Chief Keziah to explain how this would work. Chief Keziah said basically this
646 is a housekeeping matter. The town has always had a standing memorandum, which used to be called a
647 mutual aid agreement, with the City of Myrtle Beach to provide services in case we had an emergency.
648 For instance, if there was a murder in town, Myrtle Beach would provide major crime assistance. The
649 town has assisted the city with its marathon. State law recently changed that now requires a
650 Memorandum of Understanding come before the governing body. The City of Myrtle Beach, and Horry
651 County have approved the memorandum. The town is not bound to do anything for the city, but mostly
652 benefits the town so we can call upon Myrtle Beach if we need assistance. Mr. Pellegrino said this was
653 business as usual; this was just formalizing the memorandum. Chief Keziah said correct.
654

655 Mr. Ott said understood the agreement to say that police from the two departments were moving
656 between the two cities. Chief Keziah said the memorandum gives the police officers authority to come
657 into town, if they are called. For instance, the town has no equipment to process a murder scene. With
658 this memorandum, the City of Myrtle Beach Police Department would send its crime scene unit to the
659 town to assist us. The town will not be answering calls in Myrtle Beach or vice versa. The memorandum
660 was prepared by the Solicitor's office to comply with State Code.
661

662 Mr. Courtney said this was nothing new; just changing wording. We have mutual aid and the
663 town would respond to Myrtle Beach if there is call for assistance. Chief Keziah said correct, but
664 honestly, the town has never responded to the city to assist, except a few years ago the town's
665 department helped by providing one officer for traffic control during the annual marathon. However, the
666 town has called on Myrtle Beach to assist us on crime scenes many times. Mr. Courtney said this is not
667 to exchange police officers when there is car short. Chief Keziah said nothing like that; basically, this is
668 housekeeping because it is required by state law now. Unless this memorandum is in place, the town
669 cannot request assistance. Mr. Courtney believed the memorandum of understanding terminology
670 caused the problem, instead of using mutual aid. Chief Keziah said that was a change in terminology in
671 the South Carolina State Statute.
672

673 Mr. Stevens moved to adopt Resolution #17-178. Ms. Herrmann said a motion is on the floor
674 that has to be addressed first.
675

676 Ms. Samples appreciated Chief Keziah's comment that this is a housekeeping item. She read
677 much more than that into the memorandum and thought it had a number of issues that need to be
678 addressed. In her opinion, the organizational committee should consider this. When the rationale for
679 recommendation says this will allow Surfside Beach police to utilize specific resources from the City of
680 Myrtle Beach Police Department during emergency situations, crime scene processing, and special event
681 assistance, my concern is that we are going to get into the same situation we are currently with the fire
682 department where the majority of the calls that the town is responding to are outside the town. She was
683 concerned that the mutual aid agreement with the City of Myrtle Beach, knowing the problems it has on
684 the south end of the city limits that the town police will wind up taking calls in the south end of Myrtle

685 Beach. She needed assurance that that would not happen. The best way to achieve that assurance was
686 for the Chief to meet with the organizational committee. Chief Keziah said whatever you need.
687

688 There was much more discussion about the intent, purpose, and possible changes to the
689 Memorandum of Understanding, after which Mr. Pellegrino said at some point we need to trust our staff
690 to do their jobs. We second guess everything we do here. I do not agree with it going to the
691 organizational committee. Chief Keziah explained it; again, we need to trust our staff and lead their
692 departments.
693

694 After further explanations and comments, Mayor Childs called for a vote on the motion to send it
695 to the organizational committee.
696

697 Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney and Samples voted in favor. Mayor
698 Childs, and Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino and Stevens voted against. **MOTION FAILED to defer
699 to the organizational committee.**
700

701 Mr. Stevens moved to approve Resolution #17-178 as presented. Mr. Johnson second. Mayor
702 Childs, and Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott
703 and Councilmembers Courtney, and Samples voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**
704

705 **B. Surfside Beach Youth Association Contract, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and**
706 **Councilmember Courtney.**
707

708 Mr. Ott moved to approve the current contract with the Surfside Beach Youth Association (the
709 association). Mr. Courtney second.
710

711 Mr. Ott wanted to review the problems that exist with the association, and the tax dollars coming
712 from the Town of Surfside Beach. Before I sat on council, almost every time I was on Glens Bay Road I
713 saw the lights on at the ballfield. That tells me we have a lack of respect for the use of the dollars. I
714 would like to see respect for the use of the town's dollars and that way we could take that money and
715 improve that ground. I'm not proud of what I see over there. For years we should have set money aside
716 for improvements. We haven't. We've been handing money over and nobody knows where it's going.
717 We never see the books; nobody ever sees anything. By just looking at the parcel where we have all
718 these lights burning all the time, I don't think the money is used for the best. I want ball teams playing
719 at Huckabee, and I want the sports association to be successful, but I also want every penny to be used
720 correctly. If the money is managed correctly, maybe we could save it and eventually have a youth center
721 and a place where basketball and other sports can be played.
722

723 Mr. Courtney said when this was presented to us, three councilmembers were assigned to meet
724 with Mr. Rabon and work this out. With the season coming up on us now, I am not going to stop the
725 kids from playing ball. But, I read the contract and I'm not happy with it. I feel the association did not
726 hold up its contract terms. I think there was more they could have done. The contract requires the
727 association to provide its books; I'd like to see them as soon as possible. I would like to meet with the
728 association. I agree with Mr. Ott, we're not going to shut down the ball teams without having all the
729 facts. I hear it cost \$44,000 in taxpayers' money. I'm very concerned about that. The taxpayers should
730 not be footing the bill or paying more than their fair share. My problem is not with the kids playing, but
731 with an association that makes money with sponsorships, but there is no reporting to the town. One
732 more season will not hurt; but, the association needs to meet the terms of the contract. The town does
733 not have the money for the association's wish list. The contract needs to be negotiated for the future,
734 but it should not be done at the end of the season.
735

736 Mr. Pellegrino said the budget meeting is on Thursday. This is one of the topics that needs to be
737 discussed. We talked about stormwater projects, the pier rebuild, multiple swashes to be repaired, beach

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

738 renourishment, and huge expenses. We talked about a stormwater utility fee, which is really an extra
739 tax. There are many retired people on fixed incomes. We have all these costs and then we're spending
740 \$40,000 plus on baseball leagues. That's fine. I want the kids to be able to play. The contract
741 presented to us was not the solution. But, we have a responsibility to all taxpayers. Ninety percent of
742 the players live in the county. Someone mentioned we need to see if the county can help fund the
743 program. I agree with that 100-percent. We need to have a fair compromise and contract. I agree with
744 Mr. Courtney that we continue with the old contract for the spring season. By fall, a new contract should
745 be in place that is fair to everyone.

746
747 Mr. Courtney asked Mr. Rabon to make an appointment with the finance director.

748
749 Mr. Johnson moved to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Rabon to address Town Council. Mr. Ott
750 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

751
752 Mr. Rabon said the books were delivered to the finance director today about lunch time. Every
753 year since the association's inception, the books have been delivered to staff according to the terms of
754 the contract. Speaking for all the coaches in the room, we are offended that we are accused of leaving
755 lights on. Nobody's perfect, but if the lights are on there are teams practicing. We turn them off when
756 the fields are empty. The associate pays its portion of the power bill based on an invoice sent by the
757 town. The association is always preparing for the next season. One season ends in October; registration
758 for the spring season begins in January. Regular season ends when school gets out. June 1st the All
759 Stars program begins. Fall ball registration begins in August or September. The association will meet at
760 the town's convenience. We would love to see where the town's \$40,000 is being spent, and maybe the
761 association can help with that, which is what the goal was during the 2012-2013 season when Mayor
762 Samples was on council: lowering cost and improving service.

763
764 Mr. Courtney said the association was supposed to be self-sufficient within a certain amount of
765 time. Mr. Rabon said the association has never taken a penny from the town, the town only provided the
766 services agreed to in the contract.

767
768 Ms. Samples said there is so much misinformation about this situation. It is just unfortunate.
769 Hopefully, at this meeting we can control some of that. I'm so sorry that we are even having this
770 conversation. There are two issues: what are we doing with Huckabee Complex, and how are we
771 handling the baseball and softball situation? I can assure you as relates to Huckabee, there has been no
772 official act to alter the use of Huckabee. There have been some saying they would like to sell Huckabee,
773 all council has done is discuss the possibility of unencumbering it from the PARD grant so, in my opinion,
774 we could do a number of things with it; but I do not support selling it. I think it is an important asset. I
775 am an advocate for the youth programs. I would like to see more youth programs in town. Our
776 demographics are changing. We're getting more families with children moving in. I think that it is
777 important that we have dialogue between staff and the association, which is what we tried to do in
778 December. The direction was very clear at that meeting that the association would tell the town what
779 you needed in your opinion to make the program a success. Then we said, "You bring us what you want
780 and we'll tell you what we're willing to give you." Mr. Rabon agreed that was correct. Ms. Samples said
781 the town has not done its part yet. We need to tell you what will and will not work for the town.

782
783 Ms. Samples said as it relates to the current contract and Mr. Ott's motion, the current contract
784 has no term ending. It says, "This agreement shall commence with the effective date hereof and shall
785 remain in full force and effect indefinitely, unless and until cancelled by either party pursuant to the
786 provisions of this agreement." So, we don't need to make a motion to continue the contract. My
787 suggestion simply is that the association meet with the town administrator, the town finance director,
788 and the public works director. We know what you need to effectively run the youth association program.
789 Frankly, I think it's been going smoothly until July. It's a disappointment that there was a breakdown in
790 communication. I think that is all it was; it was that simple. I appreciated the emails for your supporters

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

791 and those who attended tonight. We want to be good neighbors. Providing programs for the children is
792 paramount and we need to invest in them. Unlike some other councilmembers, money is not a big issue
793 when it comes to investing in our youth, because if we don't do that, they may wind up on the streets.
794 Huckabee was a gift to the town. We are fortunate to have it and I hope we are fortunate to keep it. I
795 hope we can all work together to continue the youth programs. Your association has shown it is willing
796 to do so.

797
798 Ms. Samples reiterated her request to that the administrator, finance director, and public works
799 director meet with the association and asked if Mr. Rabon agreed. Mr. Rabon agreed, and said the
800 association was willing to take on more responsibilities, if that helped with cost. He asked if the town
801 could help with fund raising; there are avenues other than taxpayer money in which the town could help.
802 He explained the various components of the association and the position duties, but there no one had
803 time to manage fund raising projects. Ms. Samples asked if the town did any promotion for the
804 association on the town's website or advertising. Ms. Fellner said not too much. Ms. Samples said this is
805 the kind of collaboration that needs to exist to make it successful. She hoped we head in that direction.
806

807 Mr. Stevens said he coached kids for many years. It is a benefit for all kids to participate in
808 sports. Ninety-five percent of the kids I coached attended college. Hunter Renfrow is a good example.
809 He played baseball. I am a big proponent of sports for kids. When this was first brought up, Mayor
810 Samples said this would be self-funding. Now there is a list of demands, and I'm asking what happened.
811 The association had 666 players and charged registration fees at \$55 each. That's \$36,630 brought in on
812 registration fees. Perhaps registration fees should be increased. Mr. Rabon said ages seven and up are
813 charged \$55 per player. The four, five, and six year olds are only charged \$45. There is a large number
814 of players in those age groups. Yes, the fee could be raised. Georgetown County charges \$45 to our
815 \$55. Mr. Stevens said Myrtle Beach charges \$75 if you are outside the town; \$15 for town residents. Mr.
816 Rabon believed the parents would take their children to Murrells Inlet, if the fees were increased too
817 much. Mr. Stevens said the association should work harder to get sponsors. Mr. Rabon said the
818 association is self-sufficient and did not ask for money from the town except for the portable pitchers
819 mounds, which would make the ballfields playable for different leagues.
820

821 Mr. Stevens believed the fields should be rented. Ms. Ellis said the fields aren't available to rent
822 when the association's leagues are using them. The association uses the fields in the summer for All Star
823 practices and games. About the only time the field are available for tournaments is on the weekend in
824 December and January. Mr. Rabon said it would take coordination, but it is possible. Tournaments
825 would create property rentals. He would love to see the association succeed.
826

827 Mr. Courtney asked if the association was a nonprofit, and where the money was used. Mr.
828 Rabon said the association is nonprofit. Fees are used to pay for umpires, insurance, Dixie Ball franchise
829 fees, uniforms, trophies, medals, practice and game baseballs, and other game equipment. Mr. Courtney
830 said I'm totally for the kids playing baseball. The issues today are the questions responsibilities and how
831 money is being used. The taxpayers have the right to know where their money is going. Mr. Rabon said
832 the association is not hiding anything. Mr. Courtney asked if coaches were paid. Mr. Rabon said no, they
833 are all volunteers.
834

835 Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor.
836 **MOTION CARRIED.**

837
838 Mr. Ott **withdrew his motion** to continue with the same contract in light of the fact that no
839 written notice of cancellation was served by either party upon the other.
840

841 Ms. Samples moved to have the town administrator, the finance director, and the public works
842 director meet with the association to discuss the future and the cost involved. Mr. Stevens second.
843

844 Mr. Johnson moved to amend to allow two councilmembers to be included in that meeting. Mr.
845 Ott second. All voted in favor to amend. **MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED.**

846
847 All voted in favor of the original motion as amended. **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.**

848
849 **C. Motions and/or Directions to the Town Administrator from Executive Session.**

850
851 Mayor Childs said there were no motions or directions to the administrator from executive
852 session.

853
854 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION** – Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

855
856 **A. E-Waste and Hazardous Materials Collection Policy, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott.** Mr.
857 Ott said six days a year we allow our residents to trash their televisions. Hopefully, they are broken
858 within those six days, or they've had their old broken TVs sitting in their living room waiting for the next
859 chance to put it out front. Every day I see televisions out there, and now kids are having fun. I'd really
860 like to break one of them myself. It's very tempting. What can we do to stop this? It's not actually
861 working. It's a good idea if everybody would do it, but they don't. I don't know if people from out of
862 town are bringing their TVs here to dump. I would like to see a dumpster put in the public works area
863 or at town hall, and tell people they can drop off anytime.

864
865 Mr. Stevens believed there was a reason for the hazardous waste collection. Mr. Adair said the
866 drop off events were started in 2011, when the state banned certain electronics, notably televisions,
867 monitors, computers, and things like that from the landfills. We had to devise a plan to collect those
868 items, without having an additional household collection. We don't have enough staff for an additional
869 house-to-house collection. Many municipalities have drop off events. Since the town was holding the
870 drop off event anyway, I thought it would be a great idea to also collect hazardous waste at the same
871 time. We don't want an abundance of those items around town that might be washed into the water
872 stream during a storm or hurricane. Horry County Solid Waste Authority collects hazardous waste once a
873 month at its Highway 90 facility. But, our residents won't drive there, so the waste continues to
874 accumulate or it will be thrown into their regular trash can, and it will wind up in the landfill, which we
875 don't want. Yes, there are many people who put their waste roadside, usually in front of a wood lot,
876 because they don't want to wait for the drop off event. I am not in favor of placing a drop off container
877 anywhere in town, because hearing from colleagues from other departments all tell me an unmanned
878 container leads to contamination, scavenging, and it will cost more to get rid of the damaged materials.
879 An intact television cost about 15 cents a pound to dispose of through our vendor; a broken television is
880 50 cents a pound or more. We have very little breakage using the drop off events, and pay about \$5,000
881 a year to dispose of that electronic waste through an authorized vendor that has R2 Certification, which
882 ensures the sensitive information will be destroyed and the items will be disposed of properly. This year
883 we received a grant from SCDHEC to help dispose of the items. If we weren't using an R2 Certified
884 vendor, we couldn't get a grant. Having said that, my best suggestion is to increase the number of drop
885 off events, which would cost some overtime for staff to man public works during the events, maybe
886 around \$2,000. Even so, there will always be items roadside.

887
888 Mr. Ott said there is a problem, and we need to solve it. At any given time there are two or
889 three televisions sitting around town. Mr. Adair said his staff picks them up when they see them.

890
891 Mr. Courtney asked what the current policy is for television disposal. Mr. Adair said they are
892 supposed to be brought to public works during the drop off events. If a television is in front of a house,
893 staff will ask the homeowner to take it back for storage until the drop off event. If it is on a vacant lot,
894 staff will pick it up and store it at public works until the event. Mr. Courtney agreed that there should be
895 more drop off events, but it wasn't the average citizen leaving things roadside. There are many seasonal
896 tourists that do not know the rules. Education is a problem.

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Mr. Ott asked how Horry County handled this type collection. Mr. Adair said there is a manned convenience center at Scipio Lane.

B. Parking Committee Recommendations, Councilmember Courtney, Liaison. Mr.

Courtney presented the discussion paper and proposed ordinance, copies of which are on file. There were separate issues to be addressed by Town Council:

- Pier Area Employee Parking. Recommendation to issue a colored parking decal for 30 days and designate special decal only parking on Yaupon Drive and also on Surfside Drive.

Parking Committee Chairman Kohlmann said the pier employee parking decal has nothing to do with nonresident parking. The committee did not recommend a price; if council wanted to charge that would be up to the councilmembers. The employee decal does not allow parking in any parking lot, only on Yaupon Drive and Surfside Drive. Right now, the beach goers take up all the free spaces. The business community at the pier area brought this to the parking committee's attention.

- Nonresident Parking Decal Sales. Recommendation to increase the fee from \$100 to \$200.

Mr. Pellegrino asked how many were sold last year. Ms. Fellner said all 100 decals were sold. Mayor Childs said there was more of a demand for nonresident decals. Ms. Fellner said as of Thursday a week ago, there were over 47 people on the list to purchase a nonresident decal. But none have been sold in anticipation the parking committee meeting. Mr. Pellegrino asked what the all day rate is at the pier now. Ms. Fellner said \$10 per day. Mr. Pellegrino said it would take 20 visits to make their money back.

Mr. Courtney said there was a 100-percent increase in the parking meter cost over the past six years.

- Decal parking at the pier parking lot. Recommendation to prohibit nonresident decal parking in the pier parking lot. Nonresident decal parking will be allowed in all other legal parking places and lots. Nonresident decals will have a yellow letters over a blue background. Residents and Nonresident property owners shall be issued a decal with white letters over a blue background, and shall be allowed to park in any legal parking space or lot. The person purchasing a nonresident decal will be asked to acknowledge receipt of the parking prohibition in writing.

Ms. Samples said Mr. Courtney's comments were confusing. Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Courtney was reading from a document that the councilmembers did not have, which is why it was confusing. Ms. Samples said the details were set out in the discussion paper under Facts/Recommendations were pretty clear. Mr. Kohlmann reiterated Mr. Courtney's comments about the different color stickers and who would be allowed in which lots. He explained that pier parking lot fills early in the day and there is no or very little turnover. Residential property owner that do not live in town receive two parking decals, and will be allowed to park anywhere, just as resident owners do. Ms. Samples like the way Mr. Kohlmann referred to residents as people who live here permanently and those who own homes here as opposed to nonresidents that live across Highway 17.

Mr. Ott asked if the restricted areas would be posted with signs. Mr. Kohlmann said the committee suggest that those who purchase a nonresident decal acknowledge writing that they decal does not allow them to park in the pier parking lot. He believed that was fair.

- Electric Charging Station. Mr. Courtney asked councilmembers their opinion on the electric charging station. Ms. Fellner said the charging station was rarely used and was broken on and off. The mechanic has checked the station; a new one would cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000. This unit was

950 installed when gas prices were very high, and electric cars seemed to be the answer. Santee Cooper
951 established a grant program to pay for the electricity; the manufacturer donated the charging station,
952 and then after a year the town took over the responsibility for the electric. Originally, it was expected
953 that the stations would be so successful that coin meters would be added so the machine would pay for
954 itself. The program has failed here, and in North Myrtle Beach. Maybe at some time in the future, it will
955 prove practical. When Mr. Courtney and I discussed it, we thought even though the parking committee
956 did not take this up, Town Council might want to consider having that space. There is no parking
957 available downtown at night; one additional space might help.

958
959 Mayor Childs had spoken with a man that has an electric car, I think the charging station is
960 broken more than it works.

961
962 Ms. Samples asked if it was a part issue; why is it so difficult to maintain. Ms. Fellner said the
963 model was discontinued, but I don't know why. Ms. Samples said we could've gotten a lemon. Ms.
964 Fellner said other towns that got this model under the grant have similar problems.

965
966 Mr. Ott asked if consensus was need to bring the ordinance back for first reading. Ms. Samples
967 asked if the police chief had reviewed the ordinance. Chief Keziah said he would do so. **Town Council**
968 **CONCURRED.**

969
970 Mr. Ott said the parking committee meeting was very well run, and he appreciated the town's
971 citizen committees.

972
973 **C. Municipal Tax Relief, Councilmember Stevens.** Mr. Stevens presented the information,
974 a copy of which is on file, saying that the citizens can choose to adopt an additional one-percent sales tax
975 to reduce property tax liability and raise funds for specific purposes. The program has a seven year
976 sunset.

977
978 **D. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed by Town Council.**

979
980 There were no other matters to be discussed.

981
982 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker)**

983
984 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: Since I haven't been around for the last three or
985 four months, I have a couple of issues. It took about four years to finally get the garbage cans
986 straightened out; the overflowing garbage cans in the summer time. Unfortunately, winter time we have
987 overflowing garbage cans. The problem is in the summer time there are three pickups. In the winter
988 time there is only one pickup. But, that's only half of the problem. Although most of the houses aren't
989 rented every weekend, most of them are rented maybe once or twice a month. Some of the house are
990 rented during the summer, I mean during Christmas, week before Christmas, week after Christmas, week
991 after New Year's, Thanksgiving, and the same amount of people come to those houses like it was
992 summer time. Now, we only have one pickup. So, I'll give you a for instance. The house across from
993 me has 14 bedrooms, ten baths, and three kitchens. All the same house. In the summer time they've
994 got three pickups, and they have six garbage cans. It doesn't overflow anymore. They worked out that
995 equation. But, in the winter time there's one pickup; and the town takes away four garbage cans. So,
996 you're trying to fit all this garbage into two garbage cans that are overflowing. Now, I think I've got the
997 rationale why they're saying, why they're doing this, because they're saying well, we're not getting that
998 much money in the winter time, so we're not going to give them that many garbage cans. It's not cost
999 effective, but if you look at it, it they're only getting picked up one or two weeks in the winter time, and
1000 you're getting enough money from these people to pick up their garbage. So, leave the six garbage cans
1001 there or the four garbage cans or the three garbage cans; whatever was there in the summer time. Just
1002 leave 'em there and this way when you do have a week that people come the garbage cans aren't

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

1003 overflowing and you don't have to send around all the public works people to pick up the garbage cans.
1004 You're picking up four garbage cans. You're putting them in; you're storing 'em somewhere during the
1005 winter, and then you bring them back in the summer. Seems kind of a waste of time. You're talking
1006 about a fence by a pool. There's a fence located at the Bostonian. It's on Ocean Boulevard at 15th
1007 [Avenue] South. It's at the beach access. You walk down. There's two large sections of fence ripped
1008 down from the hurricane. I don't know whose responsibility it is, it would take about 15 minutes for
1009 someone with a hammer and a couple nails to put it back. So either the town can do it or they can tell
1010 the people who manage the Bostonian to fix it. There's a pool there. It doesn't look good to begin with.
1011 If the wind blows, it's gonna knock some little kid down and someone can drown in the pool. The other
1012 thing is the stormwater tax. I'm almost sure like three or four years ago, maybe two years ago, there
1013 was a stormwater tax. I don't what the number was; five? Then the council decided to take that five
1014 and give four to the general fund and one to the stormwater, and now we're short on money for
1015 stormwater. It seemed like a bad idea. I also want to talk about the dunes. If you look at the beach
1016 accesses on all the houses, even on the ones we have, there're stairs going up, right? You walk across a
1017 platform, it could be ten feet, some of them are 30 feet, some of them are 40 feet, and there's another
1018 stair going down the other side. Now, I'm thinking this is where the dunes, you're going over the dunes.
1019 In fact, I got on top of a beach access and I looked. No matter how long or how short the beach access
1020 was, it was always a line that they all met together. Now, why am I talking about this? In south end,
1021 the town decided to fill in the dunes, build them up which is a great idea. But, they left them right at the
1022 staircase or in front of the staircase, so you actually go over, you go over nothing. You walk up the
1023 stairs, you go across the platform and you come down the stairs. Now, there's no dunes underneath it.
1024 You walk down to the bottom of the stairs, now you're walking through the dunes. You understand what
1025 I'm saying? Beach access is made to walk over the dunes (*time ended*), not walk over nothing. Get
1026 down the stairs and now you have to walk over or through the dunes. You go down Melody Lane, the
1027 first two house are done right, and then all of a sudden they went out towards the ocean. It doesn't
1028 make any sense. So, thank you.

1029
1030 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: I may have been given some alternative facts. It's my
1031 understanding that the department heads, all of them, are not directly reporting to council. I may not be
1032 phrasing that right, but it's my understanding that the department heads, for example, could be hired or
1033 fired by the town administrator, and then with executive (**) you guys have a lot those (**). Then it
1034 would go to an executive session to settle that. I don't understand why there is another level between
1035 Town Council and all the department heads. It seems like they all show up and they all give you a
1036 report, and they're directly responsible to you. That's a responsibility that I don't think the town
1037 administrator should have to do, you know, as far as hiring and firing and coordinating. If he or she,
1038 whoever is in charge, is going to be a level of authority between town council and all the department
1039 heads, maybe they could just give the administrator all their reports and they wouldn't even have to
1040 show up. So, what I would like for you to consider is, and I think this was the case some years ago, I
1041 would like to see council place all the department heads, public safety, public works, whomever, all the
1042 department heads should be under the direct auspices of Town Council. That to me only seems logical.
1043 If they're responsible to you, they're responsible to you. They shouldn't be responsible to somebody
1044 else, and somebody else shouldn't have to take on that responsibility. That to me just makes sense.
1045 Maybe it doesn't make sense to you guys. That would seem logical, so I would like for you to consider
1046 that. In reference to the ballfields, very quickly, my children are 40 and 43. They grew up on that
1047 ballfield. I don't know that any of you except perhaps Councilman Stevens were here when those
1048 ballfield even occurred. We lost windshields. I had a dent in the top of my van from a ball that went
1049 over the fence. One of the people who works for parks and rec, he was such a little fella he played in the
1050 dirt piles when it was under construction. His mother made him take his clothes off before she'd let him
1051 get back in the car, because he would make such a mess. The ballfields are really important. It's scary
1052 that we might even consider letting them go in any sense, cause once they're gone, we can't get them
1053 back. We might be able to do some different things with them while they're in your control, but once
1054 they're gone, they're gone. I understand the duplication of services between what Horry County has on
1055 Scipio Lane and what we have here. I understand the fees for people who don't live in Surfside. But

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

1056 when you consider the vision for Surfside, one of the things that we considered a number of years ago
1057 was how could we get young people, young families into Surfside. If you want to stop the graying of
1058 Surfside, then you've got to have something available for the young people. It's not just the teams; it's
1059 just not the sports, we need to look at the overall programs. If you're going to be eliminating services
1060 that apply to young people, then maybe we just need to be Florida, and just all be retirees. There's
1061 nothing wrong with retirees. But, we need to have a healthy mix in our community. So, that's
1062 something that needs to be considered. We were at that ballfield so often, we were pretty sure that chili
1063 dogs were at the top of the food pyramid. We just lived at the ballfield. As a matter of fact, one of my
1064 sons, or both of my sons, played with Will [Rabon] and his brother from T-ball on up. So, it's been a
1065 tradition. I understand that most of you aren't that familiar with it. Only two of you actually had children
1066 who would be an appropriate age to participate, but it's important and raising the fees was brought up. I
1067 understand making things fiscally responsible. But, Ms. Samples said something about kids on the street.
1068 A lot of the kids that have the potential of being on the street can't afford it. *(Time ended.)* So, we need
1069 to be real careful about that.

1070
1071 Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North: I read this letter from the, extortion letter from the Surfside
1072 Beach Youth Sports Association. It to me is an extortion letter. When less than 10-percent of the kids
1073 playing in that league are Surfside Beach kids, it's pretty bad that I have to pay. I don't mind paying for
1074 our kids. But, let the county pay for their kids. Being a good neighbor gets thin after a while. We're a
1075 good neighbor with parking. We let our neighbors come over and park for free. This is costing the
1076 taxpayers of the town a heck of a lot of money for what we get. We don't get a good bang for our buck
1077 out of this contract. This is extortion. They should sing their song to the county. They shouldn't sing
1078 their song to us, because it's the county kids for the most part that are playing in these leagues. I played
1079 softball in Georgia, Virginia, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania. I'm an athlete way back. Not anymore.
1080 But these people are asking for our lunch. To extort from us almost \$40,000 plus all this other stuff?
1081 That's ridiculous on an old man who's on fixed income. Reading the town newsletter, front page says we
1082 don't have any money to pay the \$3.5 million for stormwater. So, I know right away, I'm going to get a
1083 tax for stormwater. We used to pay five mils tax for stormwater, until our last mayor when it had a
1084 sunset after the ten year period, our last mayor kept four percent of that money, four mils of that money,
1085 and put it into the general fund. One percent stayed in stormwater. I'm not a very smart person, but I
1086 know that living here at the beach, you're gonna have stormwater problems. This man apparently didn't
1087 think that way. Bad decision on his part. Now, I'm gonna have to pay taxes for it, plus I'm gonna have
1088 to pay all this money. Nah, give me a break.

1089
1090 Mr. Brian Pedrick, Surfside: I just wanted to clear up a couple of things. Councilman Courtney,
1091 you were talking about the background checks. They are annual. That is a state requirement for us, and
1092 that's for everybody, through the town. So they are annual, and that's no matter who it is, whether it's a
1093 school teacher, or not. That's how we pay that. I stayed because I wanted to make sure it was clear
1094 and on record that the Youth Sports Association does not take a dollar from the town to run the baseball
1095 organization. The money that you guys provide is for the facility that you guys share, as well. I just
1096 wanted to make that clear. I guess the last thing I wanted to say was to borrow Councilman Stevens'
1097 phrase, I'm mystified as well, Councilman, that we submit financials to you guys for the past four years,
1098 and we've had numerous councilmen up here question where the financials are, and why you guys don't
1099 know what we spend our money on. I guess before our meeting, I would hope that everybody does their
1100 research, and looks through those financial statements. I appreciate it. Thank you.

1101
1102 Mr. Jeff George, Enterprise Road: I want to thank you gentlemen and ladies for this evening.
1103 Like I said, there is a lot of clarification. One thing I ask, like I said, I've been a coach for years. I'm a
1104 parent. I'm involved with a lot of organizations. You guys need to be organized just like we need to be
1105 organized. That's the only reason we ended up here today. The bad part is when facts aren't being
1106 passed from one person to the other. How many people attended the meeting? How many people that
1107 weren't there at the meeting actually got the actual facts of what was being said in the meeting? The
1108 Mayor was at the meeting. Did you get the facts, [Mr. Stevens?] No, you didn't. You posted something

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

1109 on the Town of Surfside Beach page. Your facts weren't even close to being said. You want to know
1110 about sports tourism? It's a \$100 million business. This town right here could do it. I know Mr.
1111 Pellegrino over here. He'd like to see that field make money. He said it doesn't do anything for the
1112 town. That's fine. But has anybody touched that area? I went to town hall. I asked do you have a
1113 sports tourism director, do you have any businesses? I got your friend's name, Sammy Truett on a sheet
1114 of paper that the clerk gave me. I talked to him and I'm going to a meeting on Tuesday, if I wanted to
1115 generate them business. We're all for bringing tournaments in. I bring tournaments in here. I can bring
1116 a lot more tournaments in here like Mr. Ott was talking about. The thing of the deal is you guys aren't
1117 on the page. You're on the page as Huckabee, but you're not on the page for hotels. You're missing out
1118 on a lot of visitors for the town. You don't have to do anything. The portable [pitching] mounds that we
1119 asked for were the only thing we were going to ask for this year, because it's less work on Mr. Adair over
1120 here having to dig them up and put them back down. You can just portably move these mounds and
1121 bring in tournaments even when our season is going on, on the weekends. The tournament that we
1122 have in November this year, 18 year olds, 300 plus people on Saturday; 200 plus on Sunday. They
1123 played four games, because it was a showcase with 171 scouts. Grandparents were there, kids are
1124 there. Everybody comes. You know they played four games in Surfside. They were there at 6:30 in the
1125 morning; leave by 9:30 p.m. Are they not tired? They have to drive back to Myrtle Beach, because
1126 that's where their hotel is. Do you know when they Google how to get back to their hotel from Huckabee
1127 Park it don't take 17 Bypass. It takes them right down Spanish Oak [sic] and right by all your
1128 restaurants. Those are information things that you need to know and you need to look at. Some of the
1129 other comments, you quote Myrtle Beach. You're wrong. It's \$15 and \$75. Talk about people having
1130 tight on money and stuff like that, you're sending people to Myrtle Beach to go play ball from your area,
1131 even though it's not the town limit, they're gonna pay \$75, cause you're out of town, not \$45. Mr.
1132 Stevens said that was what he said, \$75. Mr. George: The background checks are for everybody. SLED,
1133 teachers, everybody has to get it every year. We turn them into there and that's everybody's been told.
1134 Teachers, SLED, I understood what you were saying. Adam Jones, I brought him in this year to coach.
1135 He coached the eight year olds. There were other teachers that were involved. There were SLED
1136 officers, police officers. They also had to go through the routine. That's something I would look into.
1137 That's extra money that you're spending on those background checks that if you don't think they need to
1138 be done, because they're Horry County employees, which I also am a Horry County employee, or SLED,
1139 that makes sense. You save some money right there. There's a lot that we can do together as a group
1140 to benefit you, just like you can do to benefit your town. You know, the gentleman back here, he
1141 misinformed on facts. There are facts that are put out there. That proposal that was given was asked by
1142 Ms. Samples and another council person for us to answer to the mayor's thing about he said if (*time*
1143 *ended*) you can have the field all to yourself, we take care of it and this and that. But nothing for you.
1144 That was the proposal that we assumed we had to give you that we were going to control everything.
1145 That you weren't going to do any of the cutting of the grass or anything, that's why it said about you just
1146 taking care of the building and the scoreboards. Like I said, misinterpretation. I hope you gentlemen
1147 and ladies get your work together as a group. We appreciate everything you did for us. We will work as
1148 a group, and we look forward to talking to everybody. Thank you very much.

1149
1150 Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North: Dear Councilmembers, I have stood before the council on
1151 many occasions, since at least July 2016 and brought up many instances where we have violated our
1152 own procurement codes, as well as state law regarding the open bidding opportunities for town goods
1153 and services, including engineering and IT, as well as the noncompetitive atmosphere for insurance and
1154 other overhead items. I have been ignored and admonished by the town administrator and her answers
1155 to my pleas for competitive bidding have been answered that there is, indeed, competitive bidding on
1156 construction contracts and some other items. I submit to you that no competitive opportunities are
1157 available for the vast majority of Town purchases over \$5,000 and \$10,000 as outlined in our Town Code
1158 Section 208 and 209 and our South Carolina State Procurement Code that is designed to protect us from
1159 the exact favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption that appears to be carried out
1160 currently. There are exceptions noted in our town code for engineering, IT, and legal, but these
1161 exceptions do not exempt the bidding process, especially as pertains to the \$10,000 threshold and the

1162 bidding processes outlined in Section 2-209 regarding bid advertisement, et cetera. These procedures
1163 have not been followed or adhered to costing this town an exceptional amount of monies over a long
1164 period of time because of noncompetitive bidding. The guidelines are very clear and our administrator
1165 received a January 2011 letter from the Attorney General outlining her duties and responsibilities with an
1166 admonishment that at all times the competitive free market must be paramount to any recommendations
1167 by her to you, the council. She is outside her threshold by law to arbitrarily award any amounts over
1168 \$10,000 without first obtaining competitive bids, and then submitting her decision in writing to you
1169 councilmembers for your determination to award the contract. Please consider this my formal notice to
1170 you as elected councilmembers of this town, and to the town administrator who is not elected by the
1171 taxpayers, but is appointed by you, that the Town of Surfside Beach and in particular the town
1172 administrator with her actions are in violation of Town Codes as well as SC State and Federal
1173 procurement codes and regulations. Section 1-16 of our Town Code considers these civil infractions and
1174 misdemeanor offenses and each day constitutes a separate offense with a fine not exceeding \$500 plus
1175 fees and assessments per day. I submit to you that the town has been in violation for many, many
1176 months and requests you implement immediate corrective action on the taxpayers' behalf in order to
1177 avoid further action. I give a copy of my statement to the town clerk. I also give a copy to each
1178 councilmember that is here in attendance, all seven of you. Thank you.

1179
1180 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

1181
1182 Ms. Samples: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It's been a long night. As it relates to the baseball fields, I
1183 do want to go on record reminding council people that the operational cost that were provided that
1184 everybody keeps throwing about the \$40,000 plus, we have those operational cost pretty much anyway
1185 with Huckabee. The current association is self-sufficient. They have provided their books, and they are
1186 paying their bills. Tonight, [Horry County] Councilman Tyler Servant was coming to present the town
1187 with an \$11,700 check earmarked for recreation. He didn't make it tonight, he was at his own council
1188 meeting. There is an \$11,700 check coming. As it relates to the budget, stormwater is two mils, not one
1189 mil. I've heard that twice tonight. I really appreciate everyone's comments. I know we're all tired.
1190 Have a lovely evening. Thank you.

1191
1192 Mr. Stevens: Thank y'all for coming out. I'm too tired to talk anymore. Thank you.

1193
1194 Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. As usual, Ms. Samples stole my thunder with the Huckabee
1195 Park. But, I am kidding. I agree with virtually everything she said. I've been on council for almost nine
1196 years now, and when I first ran I was all for the youth. I don't think we do enough for our youth, our
1197 youth programs. The last thing I want to do is get rid of the Huckabee Complex. I do think that we
1198 need to work closely with the association and obviously, we're not connected the way we should be with
1199 them. I hope that comes about very soon for the kids' sake. There was a lot of misinformation sent out,
1200 and that is unfortunate. That's about all I've got to say. I'm ready to go home and eat dinner. Thank
1201 you. God bless you, and thanks for coming.

1202
1203 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you very much for coming tonight. Thanks for all the comments. Please
1204 tell the rest of the players and parents that were here thank you for their comments. I appreciate it. I'm
1205 sure we'll come up with an agreement with the baseball. We just need to make sure we assess all the
1206 information and both sides of the situation. I'm sure we'll come up with an agreement. We have a
1207 budget meeting Thursday. That's going to be an important budget meeting. It's my third one and I still
1208 to this point haven't been involved in one where made the cuts we need to as far as spending, so we
1209 have an opportunity there. I heard twice here recommendations of adding services tonight. With the
1210 huge expenses we have, I honestly don't think we should be adding any services. That's the type of
1211 things we need to talk about at the budget meeting. Also, I heard twice about two different taxes today,
1212 possible taxes. One the ERU, stormwater utility fee, and the other a one-percent sales tax, which neither
1213 of them I agree with. Those are always the easy answer. But that just gives us more fuel for this

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

1214 budget meeting coming up, so I encourage you guys to participate. That will be a very important
1215 meeting. Thank you, have a great night.
1216

1217 Mr. Courtney: I'm tired. But, here I go. I want to thank everybody for coming out. The
1218 information that myself and Ron Ott, [Mayor Pro Tempore] Ott that brought this out to public, instead of
1219 in executive session. We wanted to hear from both sides regarding the baseball. What I've gathered is
1220 two different sides and two different stories, and two different amounts of what it's costing the town and
1221 the sports organization. So, I'm glad we brought it out to the public to hear it out here, and not in
1222 executive session. So that was important to me. I did learn and I did not know they gave over their
1223 financial information over to the finance director. So, I'd like to see those numbers. I'd like to find the
1224 truth and see where the money is actually going. To this day, I didn't have those numbers. Again, I
1225 want to thank you for coming out. I wish the kids the best. I have two young kids. I'm not going to
1226 stop them from playing ball. We have a park over there that's empty; there's no reason to stop the ball
1227 playing right now. As far as Huckabee Park, this had nothing to do with getting rid of Huckabee Park.
1228 This only had to do with the contract with the sports organization, the youth organization. That was it.
1229 Thank you very much for coming out. Thank you for putting up with me. It was a long night. I'm
1230 exhausted. I don't think I can say another word. I'm gonna go home to my wife and just say nothing.
1231 So, thank you. God bless you.
1232

1233 Mr. Ott: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm not as tired as the rest of them. I'm usually asleep by now.
1234 Mr. Adair, the X-Bar R chart giving us averages and ranges that's what I asked you for before and you
1235 gave me a bar chart. But, what it will do is it will keep track of trash and everybody knows that trash is
1236 what you do in this town. Not you, I mean, but it can show you the pulse of the town. You probably
1237 know that more than anybody. By doing the X-Bar R chart a year in advance when Mr. Kohlmann says
1238 you need to take away cans or put cans in there. You can mark 'em on your chart as they're coming on.
1239 The Huckabee ballpark is the only other thing we have besides the skateboard park. Well, we've got a
1240 beach that we can use in this town. What I could say about it is it's been neglected just like the
1241 infrastructure in our town. We need to put our money into fixing the infrastructure. We are a beach
1242 town, as the gentleman said. We need to take care of the swashes, bridges; you're going to be very
1243 busy, Mr. Adair. We need to really look into all those. If Hillary Clinton were to look at those, she would
1244 say they are deplorable. But, she's not here. I looked at Huckabee Park, and I wasn't thrilled with it.
1245 Have we ever really put any effort into making it nice? Making it something that people come into our
1246 town and look at? I think in the future, we're gonna do that, and we need to work together to get that
1247 done. Bidding? It's gonna be competitive, and if it isn't, we're not gonna accept anything. I believe that
1248 \$11,000 check that was coming, and I didn't know it was coming, is for all the parks, not just for
1249 Huckabee. So, it has to be handled. Myrtle Beach, you got your way. It's Myrtle Beach's way and I
1250 hope it works out. But what happened to the State of South Carolina Traffic? They have police that
1251 that's all they do. Don't they? I just ask you that. I was surprised to hear you say that you would be
1252 most interested in the traffic tools that they have. Maybe later you can show me. Yeah, you said Myrtle
1253 Beach has more traffic tools than we can have, but we do have a State of South Carolina traffic police. I
1254 want to ask the council that we need to real soon start looking for the replacement for our administrator.
1255 She wants to retire, and she's got like 15 months left. For the first time that I know of, we're not gonna
1256 fire one and just grab the next guy that comes by. We're gonna actually, we need to work up a
1257 procedure on how we're gonna find the next person that's gonna do Ms. Fellner's job. I want council to
1258 do this. That's all I have.
1259

1260 Mayor Childs said before his comments, Mr. Johnson's motion to have two councilmembers meet
1261 with the youth association needs to be addressed. Mr. Ott and Mr. Stevens expressed an interest in
1262 meeting with the association. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.**
1263

1264 Mayor Childs: I want to thank everybody for coming out tonight.
1265

1266 **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017

1267
1268 Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in
1269 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
1270

1271 Prepared and submitted by,
1272

1273 _____
1274 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

1275 Approved: February 14, 2017

1276 _____
1277 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor
1278

1279 _____
1280 _____
1281 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

1282 _____
1283 _____
1284 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

1285 _____
1286 _____
1287 Julie M. Samples, Town Council Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

1288
1289 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded,
1290 and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the
1291 town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive.
1292 In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local
1293 media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry
1294 door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at and the
1295 marquee.

Approved