



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION MARCH 14, 2017 ♦ 5:15 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 14, 2017 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Executive Session – 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, and , and the appointment of a person or persons to a public body. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Mr. Ott moved to enter executive session at 5:15 p.m. for the purpose as stated by Mayor Childs and also pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to have a discussion regarding a real property contractual matter. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Ott moved to reconvene regular session at 6:29 p.m. Mr. Courtney 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. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Town Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; and Interim Police Chief Hofmann.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Father Ron Greiser, Church of the Resurrection, gave the invocation. B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. A. Workshop February 23, 2017, and B. Executive Session and Regular Meeting February 28, 2017. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the February 23, 2017 workshop minutes and the February 28, 2017 executive session and regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Ms. Holly Watson, North Oak Drive: I would like to talk about the budget and I would like to find out why you're not voting on the a-tax recommendations. Is it just going to get folded into the budget like it was last year? Do you as elected officials get to vote on that? Mayor Childs: I don't think any of that is on the agenda for tonight. Ms. Watson: The budget is; the administrator's report updates and the daily meetings on the budget. Mayor Childs: Okay, go ahead. Ms. Watson: The second thing would be the minutes of, I'm sorry there was a vision meeting that you all had, and the minutes are different printed than the verbal audio, and I would like for you to vote on the sidewalk that was approved on Cedar Drive again, since the minutes do not correspond with the audio. So I'd like to bring that to your attention. Ask for vote in public, please. Thank you.

6. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator's Report. Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 14, 2017

54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106

Ms. Samples said I was disappointed that the sign ordinance was not put on the agenda for tonight. I think it would've been a great opportunity for us to move that forward. I know that the planning commission at their last meeting moved it to council, so tonight would've been a good night to review it, since we did not have a lot on our agenda. I feel like we owe it to our businesses to really get the new ordinance in place. So, I'm certainly hopeful that ordinance can come forward sooner than later. Thank you so much for being so preparing and presenting a PowerPoint at the pier workshop. I think that people who were in the audience really appreciated it. I thought it was a successful first pier workshop meeting. I really appreciate all of your efforts in putting that together, and just a *point of information*, and council knows this because I sent them an email, but publicly I wanted to state that I've recently taken a municipal financing course given through the Municipal Association. I was pleased and surprised, how about surprised and pleased, that they gave a shout out to the Town of Surfside Beach for financial best practices and transparency out of anybody in the state. (*Applause*) Thank you. I would appreciate if you would pass that on to our finance director, Ms. King. It was really great to hear that. I was proud to be associated with the Town of Surfside Beach. The last thing I have is that I understand that there is a GSATS meeting this Friday and it is open to the public. Will we have anybody in attendance just to ensure that the town is getting what they should be getting for our roads? Ms. Fellner said I believe the mayor attends those meetings. Ms. Samples said okay, perfect. Ms. Fellner said there's the policy side and the study group. On the study group our member is John Adair. He attends those meetings. Ms. Samples said this meeting is a policy meeting. Ms. Fellner said yes.

Mr. Ott said I looked at the beach services agreement that we have. It's very well written, but what I would you like to look at this to see that our beach services people actually abide by that agreement. There are quite a few issues that we could bring up at a later date, if you like to talk about that. I'd like to see that corrected before we sign anymore agreements. When is his contract up for the beach services? Is it coming up soon, April? Ms. Fellner said no, there are maybe two or three more years, and he's got an option to extend, as well. Mr. Ott, so he did get the extension, then. I didn't know if he had that extension or he requested an extension. Ms. Fellner said his option has not come up, his extension option. Mr. Ott said I think we should all talk about the actual body of that agreement. Ms. Fellner said absolutely, happy to do that at any time. I realize that there are some issues. Mr. Ott said it's very well written, and I just would like to see it done exactly as is written. The other thing is regarding the tree ordinance, we would need a workshop before we add anything to that or work on it?

Ms. Samples asked Mr. Ott if he was talking about the tree ordinance or the sign ordinance. Mr. Ott said the tree ordinance. Ms. Samples said the tree ordinance, you are correct has been sent to council, not yet, but was supposed to be sent to us for a workshop. Mr. Ott said so we should schedule workshop. Ms. Samples said absolutely, and thank you for bringing that up. We do need a workshop. Mr. Ott asked Ms. Fellner to do that. Ms. Fellner said absolutely.

Mr. Courtney said I see that we have the two positions open in public works. Ms. Fellner said that's correct. Mr. Courtney asked why we don't hire seasonal employees in those capacities. It's been mentioned before by some of our citizens. Ms. Fellner said it's not as easy to find seasonal workers as one would think in that capacity. We also don't want some of the people who would apply on a seasonal basis, because it's not the most desirable position, because you don't get benefits, etc. A lot of times there's a license issue. I know that sounds ridiculous, but it actually is an issue. We don't want anyone driving our vehicles that has significant points against their license. There is an array of those things; sometimes that it makes sense, but in the case of public works for the type of position were talking about, it doesn't really make sense. It doesn't save us that much money. I know there were jokes made about their salaries at the last meeting, but some these guys work really hard. When you take everything out of their salary, and look at what they're really taking home, they could be making more at Walmart. So you know, I don't know. Mr. Courtney said okay, I understand. I'd like to follow up on Mr. Ott's question to you. I too agree that beach services needs to be out there. We need to see the lifeguards out there this year. I've also got many complaints from the past summer in regards to staffing. So if you can

107 bring that back under discussion. Ms. Fellner said we can do that. I will say that our provider is very
108 responsive, and willing to sit down at the table and talk and listen to anything that Council wants to be
109 brought forward. He's been very responsive in past summers. We always have a few instances in the
110 summer where we have an issue, and I usually call him. He calls me back immediately, and he responds
111 to whatever the situation needs to make a resolution that makes sense, even if it requires retraining, he's
112 done it. Mr. Courtney said thank you.

113
114 **7. BUSINESS. Motion and/or directions to Town Administrator from Executive**
115 **Session.** Mr. Ott moved to direct the town administrator to move forward with negotiations with Pier
116 Outfitters to extend its contract until December 31, 2018, since the pier was damaged. Mr. Stevens
117 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

118
119 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.** There were no other matters of concern or information to
120 be discussed.

121
122 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)

123
124 Ms. Carol Lucas, Cypress Drive: I hope you all got the email I sent out last weekend about the
125 trenching that's going on in Surfside. In thinking about what I was going to say tonight, I thought it was
126 easiest to first get this what I said on the record, and also let the people were sitting here tonight know
127 what my, what I'm concerned about. So I'll just read it. This last past week public work has been digging
128 trenches on my street. I'm told to clean pipes that are all under driveways and then continue on to create
129 drain paths downhill from Hollywood towards the beach. At this point there are holes up to 24 inches
130 deep and 36 inches wide on either side of my drive and orange traffic cones that's in the whole. I
131 understand they intend to be back Monday, this past Monday, to continue trenching from my drive to
132 Hollywood. I've also been told by city personnel there is no plan to put drainpipe (***) gravel in the
133 trenches so they will be left open. I have some comments concerns about this project. One. We have far
134 more sand and soil in these yards so the trenches may not hold their shape. Do not walk too close to the
135 edge of my drive or you could slide into the new trench. All that sand means the trenches won't stay
136 clear for long. Also, I'll need some new barriers along the sides of my drive, since the existing guards fell
137 off with the digging, and I now have sort of a bridge. I know it's on city property, but cutting roots in the
138 trench in front of my house will probably destabilize two large pines, each about 15 inches in diameter
139 and probably 40 feet tall. I've been assured if this digging kills them, or they fall, maybe get blown over,
140 the city will take care of removal since they are city trees. Guess it's good they aren't protected trees. I
141 bought my house in 2008. The previous owner had put in timbers along the edge of the yard to control
142 erosion. They kept the yard in place, but didn't prevent time and weather from washing soil along the
143 edge of the road into the pipe running onto the drive. That pipe and most others on the street were
144 already about three quarters covered eight or nine years ago when I bought the house. I'm uncertain
145 what will happen to my sandy yard when the timbers are dug out. Some of my neighbors and I just have
146 to ask what is being done; why is this being done now? The street drained quickly after the big rains we
147 had the past two years. We didn't need deep open trenches that can be unsafe for pedestrians, especially
148 after dark to walk around while these are to drain the water. These trenches will not connect to
149 stormwater pipes. Isn't there something needing more attention to serve not side to spend their limited
150 funds on [sic.] I understand this has been or is planned to be done on other streets. That's the end of my
151 email. I would ask everybody to go by Willow, drive down Willow and as you're going south on Willow
152 just past Maple before 7th Avenue South, on your right, the trench there is about a foot from the edge of
153 the road. I'm assuming that after the garbage trucks roll over this a few times, it's going to undermine
154 that road. A few years ago we had the 50-50 program. I actually looked into that, and at the time I got a
155 proposal and I just thought, what's the purpose of it? These aren't tied into lines. These are basically
156 making my yard look better. Well now, I'm at the point of if I'm going to stabilize my yard that is the best
157 way to stabilize my yard. Selfish as it is, because those downhill, downstream from me will just get the
158 brunt of the water coming out of it. It is important for me to tell you all that all the city employees who
159 I've talked to this week, the men digging the trenches, Ms. Fellner, Mr. Adair, who came out today, I

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 14, 2017

160 appreciated that, and looked at it and talk to me about it. I understand their viewpoint. I just disagree
161 with it, but so with this 50-50 program now being off the table, I did call a concrete company today up
162 on Holmestown Road and priced piping and the basin required for my yard. The materials are about
163 \$1,300. I'd like the city council to think about letting city employees do the installation. If those of us in
164 town who were getting these trenches dug that we really don't want, provide the materials. This is
165 actually almost the same dollar amount for me that the estimate was four years ago. Strangely enough,
166 but I hope you will consider that. Again, Mr. Adair said the one thing that I could do to help him and even
167 as I said, everybody's been very kind to me in this discussion, was to ask for more workers. I didn't
168 realize you had they had two vacancies, also. Thank you for your time.

169
170 Ms. Pat Weingartner, Cypress Drive: So I'm here to talk about the same issues as Ms. Lucas has
171 been discussing, okay. They have dug a trench in front of my home, front of my house that will connect
172 to nothing. When the trench was dug out, and it's already started with the rain last night, on the side
173 closest to the road you can already see where the rain has washed the sand away. So it's not going to
174 hold. My understanding is that there's not any plan to put any gravel or seed it or do something to try to
175 stabilize that bank. The thing that I am really concerned about is that on, if you going heading towards
176 the beach on the right side of where that was dug, I have two very large pine trees. The one, the way it
177 was dug down, okay, is approximately 10 inches from the base of that tree, and the trees is about, okay,
178 I went out last night and it's about that big around (*showing size with arms*). I couldn't get my figures
179 together, so it's only 10 inches. I'm afraid with a large rain or even if we get a lot of wind, I'm in a lot of
180 those roots were cut. They tell me they don't believe is the main root, but there were a lot of roots that
181 were cut off when the digging was done. My concern is the fact that that's going to erode. If we get a lot
182 of rain, we get heavy winds, especially that tree is going to fall. I don't want to fall onto my house,
183 because I really don't want to die from a tree falling on my house. Okay, I don't want to see it go across
184 the street and hurt anybody; it could go to anybody else's home. So, that's my concern is that I'm very
185 uneasy about that tree and there's a second pine tree. It's a little bit further back, but the one I'm really
186 nervous about the fact that it leans towards the road, and that it's been dug so close to the base of that
187 tree that it has destabilize that tree. Mr. Adair and Ms. Fellner, they were both out today and they looked
188 at it. Mr. Adair said that, you know, if the tree was stabilized, that it belongs to the city, to the town. If
189 there was any problem, I could contact him. But I'm just very nervous about this, and plus the fact that I
190 don't where the waters going to go, because there's no drainage at the other end. It's just they're going
191 to fan it out. Right now, it's going uphill. That's not a good thing, but tell me they're going to fix that;
192 water does not run uphill. Even I know that. But, they said they're going to fan it out, but what I'm afraid
193 of is that water does come down through there, if it doesn't fan out right, I'm going to have a cesspool;
194 basically a retaining pond in front of my house, which means the mosquitoes are going to be worse than
195 they normally are. Okay, when I walk outside it's ringing a dinner bell, anyway. I don't need extra; them
196 to have little housemates there. So, but I just wanted to put my what I'm thinking on the record that you
197 really want somebody to take real close care; Mr. Adair told me that if I see that that that tree starts to
198 die; he said he'll check it, come by and if I keep checking and I see any problem with it, that he will get
199 out there immediately and have the tree removed.

200
201 Mr. Bill Kinking (?), Dogwood Drive North: Since we're talking about the stormwater, I have a
202 situation not at my house, on 14th Avenue North, one side of the highway there's a house. When it was
203 built 30 years ago, it was built to low. He has a water problem. That's not the city's problem, in my
204 opinion. On the other side of the street they took out hold maybe 18, 20 years ago they took out two
205 houses, and put three in. Not a problem. In 2015 we had 14 inches of rain; water went down the street,
206 ended up on the main drag. This past year, they took out two more houses and put in four, and now
207 they've created a dam. I'm sorry, I don't remember the number on the North 14th. I watched a car park
208 in the street last September, after we had ten inches of rain. Well, the car comes out, people get out of
209 that car and get in the SUV (sports utility vehicle) and goes back under the house. It literally had to ferry
210 the people out of the house because there was about 8 to 10 inches of water standing in the driveway
211 and they couldn't drive or walk out and they had to ferry them out. That, to me, is a problem that the
212 city created. I hope they will have to correct it. They did need a transit. All you had to look to see where

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 14, 2017

213 the water flow was and not build a dam. I understand wanting to retain water on people's property, but
214 you shouldn't back it up in somebody else's. I hope they've talked to the city about it, because it should
215 be corrected. We don't get rains like that, but since they built four houses, we've had it happen twice.
216 Hurricane Matthew and 10 inches of rain in the September. In the previous year when we had 15 inches
217 or 14 1/2 inch of rain, there wasn't a problem. Thank you.
218

219 Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North: Since we're talking about storm drainage, I kind of wanted
220 to talk to you about our Myrtle swash that was just completed. Back in September that was an
221 emergency swatch collapse and we needed to get something done right away. So Town Council voted to
222 expend a hundred and fifty something thousand dollars that included engineering for the swash collapse.
223 Later we came back and asked for \$11,000 in a change order, because they extended the wall 200 feet.
224 The engineer was using a contract or proposal by an unlicensed contractor. So our engineer counted on
225 an unlicensed contractor for this project to begin with. Then it appeared that that contractor went
226 underneath a licensed contractor, which is the same thing according to minutes of meetings that happen
227 down on 3rd Avenue South, which cost us more money than we anticipated. However, back to Myrtle
228 swash. Change orders, not change orders, purchase orders were written higher than what you all voted
229 to expend on this project. And over the past three months, I have emailed councilmembers and tried to
230 get information on the swash. What I found was that the contractor was paid all of his money, a
231 \$157,000 whatever it was, a \$154, a \$157. Tim's Construction got paid a hundred percent. I went back
232 and I drove over to the swash and I looked at it and I also looked at John Adair's only photographs that
233 were in the package for a Town Council meeting. Our swash is supposed to be, our wall, our retaining
234 wall there is supposed to be 200 feet long. It is supposed to be 9 feet high and it is supposed to have
235 one man riprap 4 feet up the wall. We don't have 200 feet of one man riprap 4 feet tall and the
236 contractors been paid all his money and so I'm wondering how did this happen. So we had an engineer
237 that was going with an unlicensed contractor and we paid all the money for a job that we didn't get what
238 we paid for. So that's one thing. We got maybe 30 feet of one man riprap, because I went over there and
239 walked it. It's at the very beginning and at the very end of the mouth of the swash. There's nothing in
240 between and I'm not even sure that is 9 feet tall. I did not measure that. At any rate, now we have gone
241 out to request qualifications so we can get engineers to bid on our work, but according to the South
242 Carolina Business Opportunities advertisement we have RFQ, request for qualifications. It doesn't say for
243 engineering; doesn't say for lawn mowing; doesn't say for cleaning carpets. It just says request for
244 qualifications. So what engineering firm would even know to bid on this? One of the qualifications, if you
245 do understand that you have go to our website to become an engineer for the town is that 20-percent
246 out of 100 points is do you, have you done work for the town? Do we know you? What kind of
247 qualification is that? If you're trying to get somebody to be competitive. A professional company to come
248 into town, just because we know you doesn't qualify you to do this work. Evidently, according to what
249 past history is showing us. I just would like for us to be a little bit more careful with our money. If we are
250 paying for things were not getting, we've got change orders being written three months after a job is
251 finished and retainage has been paid. None of this makes any sense in the real world to contractor or to
252 a resident here. So I'm just asking you what's going on. Thank you.
253

254 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: Just want to reply to the answer about the things
255 I brought up about the part time seasonal workers. I believe, I'm about 99-percent sure, the person who
256 is no longer with us is one of the rollout people. He's summer rollout. He rolls out the trash cans with the
257 rollout, and he's really not needed; you don't need as many people. I think that's the position that is
258 empty, because I don't see him anymore. Now saying you can't find anybody to work for \$12 an hour
259 comes down to push out rollouts for a seasonal job, well, I tell you what. I work at the airport. Starting
260 pay is \$8.35 and it can go up to \$9.10; no benefits. I'll give you a list of people who would love to have a
261 job like that. You say that the drivers license isn't any good. Have you ever watched the roll out people?
262 They park the truck on the corner; they walk up the block; they walk back and they get in the truck.
263 Then they drive another block. Then they do the same thing. If they just walked, they wouldn't need a
264 truck. So that's a crazy point. The thing with the police officers, how many smoking summonses have
265 been given? I know the ambassadors are nice people; people love them. But a lot of people are not too

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 14, 2017

266 happy with ordinances that are not being enforced. Smoking, drinking alcohol in bottles, people don't
267 care about the Solo cups and stuff like that so long as people behave themselves. But you paying \$15 an
268 hour for an ambassador. You pay about \$35,000 for a police officer. We break it down, it is like he's
269 making \$16 something an hour. I'd rather have somebody for \$16 something an hour patrolling the
270 beach that would actually do something seasonally. I'm talking seasonally, you won't have to pay
271 benefits. If anyone knows about paying things out for salaries, benefits cost a lot of money. So
272 something has to be tried. You just can't say, well, we can't get anybody. Guess what, there is a lot of
273 people in this community that need work. We should really look into it. Maybe just look a little bit wider.
274 It seems just like people who know people who know people get jobs here. There's a lot of people who
275 need work. My final thing is what benefit do we get by having tents on the beach? I don't get it. We're
276 the only place on the Grand Strand that has tents on the beach. Maybe the answer is well more people
277 come here. I don't believe it. You know what more people are coming here live on each end of the
278 beach. People from Oceanside Village in Garden City. They travel a mile in their golf cart to come down
279 to our beach. People in Ocean Lakes; look at 17th Avenue North, just sit there one day. You'll see golf
280 carts with people with their tents. Why do we have to be the only place in the Grant Strand to have
281 tents? If you ever see it, it's 7 o'clock in the morning, people run out with their tents. They pitch them
282 down and then they disappear. Sometimes they get there twelve or one o'clock. But they staked out their
283 little territory. I can show you dozens of pictures. There's a tent. There is nobody under the tent. All the
284 chairs are around it. They marked their place. I don't get it. If the whole Grand Strand had it, okay. But
285 why do we insist upon having tents? It doesn't make any sense. We will all grew up, there wasn't tents.
286 We had umbrellas. Now if you want to put up one of those little shelters for a child, absolutely. But we're
287 not talking about a 10 x 10, or 12 x 12 tent that after two or three days it's a piece of garbage that's
288 been ruined by the wind, and now we have to cart it off. Thank you.

289
290 Mr. Ron Crouch, 11th Avenue North: Good evening Mr. Mayor, Council. Now for something
291 completely different. Here in this room from 6:00 to 7:30 two nights from now will be the stormwater
292 education from both John Adair, director of public works, and two of the interns will be here from the
293 consortium that supports us, and was there [at the BBQ Festival] Saturday, as well as Dr. Susan Libes,
294 from the university. I think each of you have one of these [flyers]. We certainly gave away more than
295 300 Saturday, and I would be remiss if I didn't, on behalf of the committee, thank not only Ms. Ellis, and
296 Mr. Adair, and Ms. Morris. They were just exceptional in providing support. There are a lot of new key
297 rings. There are a lot of people that learned at least five things that every person can do at their home to
298 make, to help keep our water clean. So, I thank you, and I'll look for you on Thursday. Mayor Childs
299 asked for the time again. Mr. Crouch: 6:00 to 7:30 pm. We [have flyers] for everybody, and they are in
300 the back for those who didn't see us on Saturday.

301
302 Ms. Sherry Hortle (?), 1st Avenue North: Mr. Mayor, you said that new personnel items or
303 comments, but I did hear some people talking about our police, and basically I am here to find out what
304 are we doing to look for a permanent chief. Now, no disrespect Chief Hofmann here. I find it very
305 admirable that he stepped in when this town needed him. Especially in light of the fact that the second in
306 command, the Captain refused to do so. I don't know if he refused because he felt that he wasn't
307 capable...

308
309 Ms. Samples: I'm sorry, I have to call *point of order*, please. We're not supposed to be talking
310 personnel. Ms. Hortle: That's why I asked if that was okay for me to, if you will just give me a few more
311 minutes. Ms. Samples: I would think she would need to address that to the administrator. Mayor Childs:
312 If you would address that to the administrator, she can bring you right up to date.

313
314 Ms. Hortle: That was the thing I did, and what I wanted to ask was why aren't we doing
315 anything, because we have a situation of public safety, and that's what I wanted to be talking about
316 today. The situation of public safety, and I think that that's very important. We knew for what, how many
317 months is this; we're going on two months now since Chief Keziah resigned. And it was last year, last
318 February, February of last year that he told me he was resigning. So I don't think it should have come to

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 14, 2017

319 anyone here as a surprise that he was leaving. What is this town doing to ensure public safety, and the
320 only reason I'm asking that now is because I read a very alarming story last night in the *My Horry County*
321 news. It happened to deal with Councilman Ron Ott walking his grandchild down the street. Now, I have
322 grandchildren. I moved here specifically for them, and I thought that this was a safe, family oriented
323 place, and to hear that this would happen, but not only that it would happen, but that the arrest warrant
324 wasn't signed. Am I misinformed, because this is what I read? Have I been misinformed? We are not
325 going to issue an arrest for someone who terrorizes the citizens of this town. There was an eyewitness to
326 it. What is wrong with you people? What is wrong with everyone here that they can condone that type of
327 behavior? Is that fair? I'm actually very angry, and very upset right now. I think that we need answers.
328 Not only that the last meeting that I was here, I heard about \$9,999 check that was in question, and I
329 haven't heard an answer to that. I've worked the majority of my career in banking, and I know what
330 \$9,999 means. It means somebody wanted to get something right under the radar. So I don't know why
331 everybody thinks that were a bunch of fools standing up here or sitting in the seats here. We are not
332 foolish. We deserve answers. I pay my taxes just like everybody else here, and I need to know where my
333 tax money is going, and I need to know that there's a legitimate reason for it.

334
335 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: I would really like to have for the taxpayers, for the
336 landowners, for the landowners who live outside of town, I want my meeting minutes back. I think it's
337 deplorable and foolish that we should have to buy a brand-new thumb drive and take it to a woman who
338 is already got enough work to do. The meeting minutes were on the computer. Everybody, what
339 everybody said, it was there for anybody to hear. I don't know why they were taken off. I don't even care
340 to know why they were taken off. As a taxpayer, I'm no fool either, like the last lady said. None of us
341 here are fools, and I want my meeting minutes back on the computer as they were. As a taxpayer, I
342 don't see any reason not to have them. That's all I want, and it's simple to do and I need them back.
343 Thank you.

344
345 Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: Mr. Mayor, Council, Clerk and Citizens. I do want to ask
346 about that \$9,999 to a foundation, Clemson foundation, which is a charitable organization. Tax money
347 has no business being paid to any charity. Our tax money is for our town, and that's where it should be.
348 It should be controlled. It should not be just given away, and if I'm not mistaken, (**) investigating
349 about it. But, I understand it is illegal to do so with tax money. On a lighter note, I think that the
350 barbecue festival was a phenomenal, really great event. I enjoyed it. Everybody I saw there enjoyed it. I
351 really like to see that kind of thing in town. Thank you for your time.

352
353 Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: First, I'd like to say you cannot read everything you read in
354 the newspaper. Second, I would like to know who the town has contracts with and when they expire. For
355 example, at the end of the last meeting, Mr. Ott said that the town was on the contracts of baseball
356 program would continue this year. When exactly does the current contract expire? Has any further
357 discussion occurred regarding that program? Council likes to tell us how much they work to protect our
358 dollars and one way to do that is to be knowledgeable about existing contracts with both the terms and
359 conditions, so we're not blindsided at the 11th hour like we were that time. This information should be
360 posted on the town website. Regarding the baseball association and the January 24 meeting, again, it's
361 only slightly more than 8-percent of players that reside in the Town of Surfside Beach. It's not a good
362 return on our money, and again, every meeting you tell us how you're safeguarding our money. I don't
363 really see that as a good investment. It's always easier to spend somebody else's money, and if the
364 parents with the kids, they need to pay or they need to build team spirit by having the kids get out there
365 and push the lawnmowers, and line the fields. The third issue I would like to address is the \$200 parking
366 sticker. The day trippers in the surrounding areas apparently don't have a clear standing of the costs
367 associated with maintaining the beach, the parking lots, the walk overs, the bathrooms and showers. The
368 \$200 is a bargain compared to the dollar an hour to park at the beaches in New Jersey, plus the \$6 to \$8
369 a day per person for a beach entry fee. Lastly, I would like to thank Ms. Holly Watson will for always
370 doing her homework and for her presentation of the information is helpful to us as residents and tax
371 payers. Ms. Watson always appears to be better prepared for meetings than most of the councilmembers

372 and the town administrator.
373

374 Ms. Judy Kidd, 11th Avenue North: If I may, I think there was little bit missing information about
375 the Huckabee Park, because it's my understanding that Surfside Beach is reimbursed by Horry County.
376 Am I correct, by a certain amount? I know that it's in Horry County, but I think that Horry County
377 reimburses Surfside Beach a portion of the maintenance, or a portion of the funds to maintain the ball
378 parks, do they not? Mayor Childs: Could you get with Ms. Fellner after the meeting on that, Ms. Kidd.
379 We'd appreciate that. She could tell you (**). Ms. Kidd: Well, I think it should be put out and in the
380 public light, and when the Clemson football tickets come, I'd like to have some, okay. Thank you.
381

382 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: A couple of things. One, we heard at a number of council
383 meetings how difficult it is to keep police officers, and how expensive it was keep retraining them, and I
384 think that's a moot point now, since we can't even seem to keep a police chief. Word on the street [is]
385 that it's micromanagement. For those who may not be familiar with micromanagement, it's when the
386 boss bypasses the supervisor and has hands on everything. When you hire good people to do a job, you
387 let them do the job. You don't hang over their shoulders and second-guess everything they do. You can't
388 interfere with what they're doing, and it doesn't matter whether you're a department head and you're
389 watching everything your little, your employees do, or you're council and you're bypassing Ms. Fellner, or
390 what. Micromanagement is damaging on several levels. One, you lose employees. At some point they get
391 frustrated. They get tired of that person hanging over their shoulders, and it's probably not anybody here
392 in the work force who hasn't experienced that. At some point they going to quit. They're going to leave,
393 because they're tired of that. You're going to hurt productivity. If you're always there, they can't move on
394 to the next thing, and take care of it. They're there trying to explain you what it was they did. And third,
395 you're going to have somebody who's just going to quit all together, because they're going to be afraid
396 that they're going to do something wrong, you're not going to like what they did, and so they just stop
397 doing anything at all, until you tell them what to do. Who needs that? They're a complete waste as an
398 employee. Now as I said, the word on the street is we lost the chief police due to micromanagement by
399 certain councilmembers. So, if that's the case, you need to think about what you are doing and back off.
400 Let people do their job. And secondly, certain behaviors and comments by individual councils, and my
401 sincere apologies to those that it doesn't apply to, but as a council person what you say is extremely
402 important. People trust you. They think because you're a council person that you know things that maybe
403 they don't know. When you come out and you're not behind that dais and you tell people that someone
404 got a kickback from a project or an event, they think you're telling the truth. They don't know that maybe
405 that's just your opinion. When you tell somebody that money is being stashed in the different account so
406 that it can be used for some nefarious purpose, they trust you. They think that you know what you're
407 talking about. When you tell people things like that you open up a can of worms. If you don't have the
408 facts to back up what you're saying, keep your mouth shut. If you don't have proof that can go to court,
409 you don't say anything, because what you say is considered truth, when actually it may be just feeding
410 the rumor mill. The bad thing about it is that people's reputations can be damaged when you do things
411 like that. The town's reputation can be damaged, because people won't think later, oh, that was proved
412 false. They're going to hear, well, you know, I seem to remember at some point something was said
413 about the Town of Surfside Beach hiding money, or something was said about some individual who did
414 something that they weren't supposed to do. Please, please, if you can't back it up in a court of law, keep
415 your mouth shut, and it doesn't matter what you think you're talking to a friend or a political crony or
416 anybody else. If you can back it up in court. Keep your mouth shut. We're not looking for fake news or
417 alternative facts. There was someone on TV, as I walked out of the house, who said her momma told her
418 about something, it was an investigative something or other on TV. She said her momma told her if your
419 word's no good, then you're no good. I don't want that to be said about our councilmembers. Please be
420 cautious about what you say (*time ended*).
421

422 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

423 Mr. Courtney: Yes, I'd like to thank you for coming out here. Going on the trenching issue, I did
424

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 14, 2017

425 notice the trenches are pretty deep. I do have some concerns that I did bring to the administrator. She
426 does know about it. Going on with seasonal help, as I believe that Mr. Kohlmann's right. There are
427 seasonal people that are willing to work seasonal. We used seasonals [sic] up north in the northeast as
428 police officers, peace officers, and also for laborers. So, I don't see why we couldn't use seasonal help.
429 Tents on the beach is a big issue. We're the only jurisdiction that allows them. It's a safety issue. Some
430 of these tents, I'm not talking about I have young children, I'm not talking about small tents or
431 umbrellas, I'm talking about the huge tents. Mr. Kohlmann's right. They come by, they put these large 10
432 x 15 tents, they (**) the areas, and when you're on the south end of town on a mean high tide, there is
433 very little beach, and there is very little room for tourist to come and enjoy our beaches, or day trippers.
434 On lifeguards, you how I feel about that. What I would like to see lifeguards out there. I like to see them.
435 Last summer, I was very disappointed in the lifeguard services. They need to be out there. I don't want
436 any casualties. I don't want to see what happened in Myrtle Beach. I will be watching this year, and my
437 last comment is we all have to all be civil here. When you walk out these doors, everybody should be
438 civil, okay. We are here as a community, as one. This is where I live with my children, my family and I
439 expect when we walk out of chambers, I expect everybody to get along. This is not, this is not a place for
440 people to get beat up when you walk out those doors. This is our community. We need to stand
441 together. This is our town; this is our home and our town, and we need to stand by that. When you walk
442 out these doors you are to be civil. It's ridiculous what's been going on. So I want it to end. That's all I
443 have to say. I would like to thank you for coming out. Have a great evening. Thank you again. God bless
444 you.

445
446 Mr. Johnson: Wow. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. That's kind of hard to follow, but thank you for
447 coming out. I just want to mention the pier workshops; they are Monday, the remaining two are Monday,
448 April 3 at 10:00 a.m., and Saturday, May 13 at 10: a.m. Please come out. If you haven't been to the first
449 one, or even if you have, come back and give your input. I really liked a lot of the comments tonight.
450 Especially Ms. Lowery's, and I thank you for a lot that you said. God bless you, and will see you again.

451
452 Ms. Samples: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. This past Saturday, I know we had our barbecue, but we
453 also had opening day at Huckabee Park for the Youth Association. It was great, super well attended.
454 There always seems to be the misinformation out there, and there were some comments tonight about
455 Huckabee, and I would like to go on the record and say that the cost that the town incurs at Huckabee is
456 the same cost whether that Youth Association is playing or not. Believe it or not. They take care of their
457 own. They are self-funded. We do not fund any of the association. Again, the expenses for Huckabee are
458 the same whether that association is playing there or not. We do get a stipend from the county, our
459 County Councilman, Tyler Servant, recently provided a \$11,700 check for recreation. And that, you know,
460 was something that was started many years ago from former County Councilman Howard Barnard, and it
461 continues to this day. As it relates to the ditches, and I do appreciate your emails and how specific you
462 were, and one of my concerns is that as we go to improve our stormwater, and as we clean out ditches,
463 which helps the water flow, I am concerned about the unintended consequences of us doing that. So it's;
464 and I'm not sure what the answer is, because I'm certainly not a stormwater expert, but we do need to;
465 one of the problems that we had, when we, last after the rain in October I believe it was, or the
466 hurricane, were some of the ditches had not been cleaned out and they backed up and they caused the
467 water problems in people's yards. And so our public department went out there and cleaned out the
468 ditches; dug them deeper, and lo and behold, those people are not having any problems with water on
469 their property. So, again, I understand why we need to do it. And I think we need to continue to do it,
470 but the unintended consequences that I've discussed with the administrator, I'm concerned, as well. So,
471 you have been kind enough to bring your concerns and our public works director and the administrator
472 have been out there. I think at this point in time, what's going to be best for us is to monitor and watch.
473 We're all aware, and that if you have problems that arise, I believe that it will be the responsibility of the
474 town to fix it. How do you like that? So, again, I appreciate your patience. I know that it's a problem,
475 especially when they're getting so close to your property, even though it's in the town's right-of-way.
476 Again, unintended consequences, so that's the thing we need to be concerned about; that and keep an
477 eye on things. As it relates to the comments tonight about the \$9,900, whatever, I would love for the

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 14, 2017

478 administrator to bring back an explanation of the next meeting, so we don't have to go into it tonight.
479 But, I understand why that was done and I supported it. And I continue to support it, and I think once
480 that work is done, we're going to have a lot of people happy about it. But in the meantime, they need an
481 explanation and so if you could provide that at the next meeting. I would appreciate it so much. Thank
482 you all for coming out. Your comments are appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at the next
483 meeting. Have a good night.
484

485 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming tonight. Thank you for your comments. I will make a
486 comment on \$9,999. Ms. Fellner, you can put it in better words next time. But that was a payment to
487 Clemson University for services, not to a foundation, not a donation. That was that was to their
488 architecture department, their landscaping department to develop a plan. They're doing a project to
489 develop a plan for Ocean Boulevard to make it look nicer. So you can disagree with that decision to
490 spend \$10,000 on that, I'm fine, but if you have questions like that, please call the administrator. Please
491 call and ask. I mean, you can get that information. It's not top-secret information, please call. You know,
492 there were a lot of different comments that were made; citizens are more prepared than council, staff
493 this staff that, and I'm kind of frustrated with it. I think Ms. Lowery stated everything very well, and we
494 do, I'm right on board with you about the micromanagement and the comments that come, but they go
495 both ways. It's not just council to staff for this and that, but many citizens come up here and condemn us
496 as crooks and liars and thieves and staff, and you know, staff and council. Guess what? We do get, we
497 do study; we do talk to the administrator. We do follow up on things. We are prepared, but, you know, if
498 you just throw out some point without any factual backing, and you write it, and you make it, I mean you
499 just make us look like criminals. I mean, the only person that helps are the reporters back there. So
500 please think about that. I'm kind of sick of it, personally. It's been, I don't know how many meetings in a
501 row this has been where; I mean you should vote us all out. Vote me out, if you think I'm a liar and a
502 crook. That's fine; that's your prerogative, but it's the moral for staff doesn't just come from problems
503 that we say up here, but it comes from problems that the citizens say, too. So please keep that in mind.
504 Than you very much for coming.
505

506 Mr. Stevens: Thank y'all for coming out. We've had a lot of good comments from people. Ms.
507 Watson had some good things to say, and asked questions, and the gentlemen mentioned about 14th
508 Avenue North. I would like to look into that. It's definitely something that raised my interest. We were
509 talking about RFPs. What the qualifications are for them. It's simple. We need to be competitive in
510 whatever we do. We are a town, and we also are a business. So when we were bidding out jobs, they
511 need to be competitive. I like Mr. Kohlmann's comments on part time seasonal work. That seems to be a
512 good thing. Tents on the beach, we're the only one to have them, and I've already been down at both
513 ends and of the beach, on the north and south, and watched the people get out there and they come in
514 from Ocean Lakes and Garden City and their tents up on our beaches that we pay to clean every day with
515 our public works and then they disappear. Sometimes they don't come back until two or three o'clock,
516 but they've got their tent set up. So that means that's a citizen that lives here in Surfside is not able to
517 use the beach, because the tents are already there. Mr. Crouch mentioned, I think he's gone, he
518 mentioned the stormwater seminar. You should attend that. They had a booth at the BBQ Festival, but
519 we definitely need to know what we're going to on the trees. I want to see the sign ordinance come
520 back. The barbecue festival was great. It was a real good festival. I'm glad we had it. I want to mention
521 one thing that when you put your mind down and throw your name in the hat to run for office, you're
522 now put yourself in a public position. There's an old saying, and I forget who said it, but the buck stops
523 with us. If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. The fact the matter is citizens have a right to
524 complain, and they have a right to praise. I don't take it personally if a citizen complains. And I don't
525 happen to have any problem with it if they praise us. But every citizen has a right to speak their mind
526 and if we're doing a bad job, tell us. If we're doing a good job, tell us. All of us have telephone numbers,
527 so anytime you need anything, all you've got to do is pick up the phone and call us. We can always listen
528 to see what you have to say. That's our job. We represent you. You are really the power. You put us in
529 office and you can vote us out. If you happen to talk rough to us, I don't take it personally. I think you
530 deserve; if I did something wrong, you have a right to talk bad to me. If I did something good, you have

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 14, 2017

531 a right to praise me. I think every politician or every councilman, wherever it might be, gets it from every
532 bit of government, from the local right on up to the national. You see it in the news every day. They're
533 complaining about this or about that. So thank you all for coming out. I'm glad that y'all all are coming
534 out here and talking to us and telling us what you think. Y'all have a good week.
535

536 Mr. Ott: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'd like to add a couple things from our residents, what they
537 spoke about. I believe that if we went in and dug out these trenches, and we've done half of the work, at
538 least, that we should look at adding pipes and to fill in and contract the resident that lives there and give
539 them a ballpark figure what it would cost, if we need to delight our residents. If that is what it takes, we
540 shouldn't just dig a trench and then move on. Give them an alternative. As for the bidding process, I
541 spoke to the, Mr. Mayor here, about having infrastructure councilmembers to review and be at the
542 bidding process, and he agreed that that would be okay, and we should we can look at the how the
543 bidding process is being conducted. We can put all those rumors away, you know, what we're doing here.
544 As for the wall, I watched the seawall being built down there at 5th Avenue and there was about 3 feet of
545 wall underneath the bed. It was dug out, and there was stone put in, and then there was other blocks
546 put in. I say it was a good 3 feet that is underneath the water bed right now that I could add into the
547 height. The repeat workers, that would be a, I don't know if you need to give them any points, but that
548 would be a good thing for the residents to look at. This is what they've done before. Was it quality
549 workmanship? Was it quality materials? How has it held up? What does it look like today? But I don't
550 know if we can actually give them a point system. As for Mr. Kohlmann, I agree with everything he said. I
551 don't know if we need to have tents. There's actually no value that I see. They take up a lot of room that
552 other people can use for their enjoyment on the beach. The baseball contract, which I was allowed to sit
553 in on, is continuing. There was a negotiation with the town and the Youth Association and at the end of
554 that, I asked the Youth Association and they were very pleased with what happened there. Also our
555 senior citizens have talked about adding some help at the concession stand over there, which is one of
556 the things that they really need to do, and I really think that's really great for the senior citizens to be
557 involved in that. Our planning and zoning commission really worked hard on the signs. They put their
558 time in away from their family, and they put a good effort in. I hope that this council can look at what
559 has been done, and pass the new ordinances as soon as possible. We need to actually assist their efforts.
560 Thank everybody for their comments. Thank you for coming out.
561

562 Mayor Childs: I just want to say one thing on the ditches, and not go into as a couple have
563 already gone into it. During a major storm, and I think everybody is aware here, we are one of the few
564 beach communities that made out very well. We had very little flooding, and it's because of these
565 projects like ditches, and the number of trees that absorb water. All those things sometimes we complain
566 about are the very reason that we are high and dry here, and we don't have a major flooding problem. I
567 had during one of these rains, one of the residents had me come out to look at his yard. He must have
568 had three or four inches, but you know why is was water damaged? Because the ditch next door to his
569 where the pipe came out beyond the driveway was clogged up. What the public works is doing now is
570 trying to clear these ditches out so the water can run through, and doesn't back up in anybody's yard. I
571 guess, you know, if possibly it didn't back up in your yard, then it probably wouldn't be much you could
572 complain about. We are doing everything we can to control the stormwater. That's one of the little
573 things, and maybe you down the road, council will get back into piping these. But right now, this is the
574 best way we can go about controlling the stormwater. So, we are all dry when the next rain comes, and
575 we all know it will come. For the young lady, the police question you had, if you will get with Mrs. Fellner,
576 she is making sure that everything is done as speedily as possible; as legally as possible. Nobody is
577 sitting on anything. The chief, I understand talked about, as you pointed out, some time ago, he was
578 going to retire. We certainly, you understand, we couldn't put the job for bid, because he talked about he
579 might retire. We don't know until the day he signs that retirement paper; Mrs. Fellner at that point can
580 start legally looking for another chief. We thank Chief Hofmann here for stepping up, and be in the
581 interim chief until the regular legal papers go through, and we can do the proper interviewing. I can
582 assure you that it's going as quick as it can go. As far as a \$10,000, I think when the administrator
583 explains that, that actually came down quite a bit. She did some negotiation to get it down to ten

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 14, 2017

584 thousand dollars, and it is for the landscaping of Ocean Boulevard. I think she will go into it further.
585 Believe me, it's, it's a great deal, and I think once explained, you will understand that nobody was trying
586 to sneak anything, and it wasn't for a charitable organization, like Mr. Pellegrino said, it was given to
587 Clemson University. They have to charge certain amounts of money once they send their students out,
588 and they give them their supplies, and everything that goes along with the project. Somebody's gotta pay
589 for it. That's just one; every project is run like that. The next thing, council. This council does work hard.
590 I don't think anybody really has any idea how many hours that council puts in. You know, we don't just
591 come up here on a Tuesday night and sit around here for two or three hours. I mean many of them, I've
592 spent a couple hours today with a couple of councilmen. That was one part of the day. Hours before that,
593 it started at 8:30 this morning. Ran right on through the afternoon. Everybody has to read their packets,
594 study their packets; question the packet, and it's, believe me, it's more than a part-time job. Next thing,
595 the tents. I think that's a debate that probably we should get into soon. I was talking to a resident this
596 weekend at the barbecue festival and he had a lot of good points on that. I think that we should weigh
597 all that. I know I've heard before that and all of us know that have had children, the children cannot be
598 out in the soon for any length of time. But there are low tents that are plenty of cover for smaller
599 children that I think are certainly worthwhile for a parent to look into. But they are right, sometimes I get
600 these tents and they'll put two or three of them together. They're probably 8 x 10, so you've got three of
601 them there. Our beaches are not that wide, in particular on the south end. So I think that is a debate that
602 certainly should go on, hopefully before the season starts. I believe we are the only municipality here
603 along the coast that does allow these tents. I think it's bringing maybe a lot of people that are not
604 staying in town here, because of that, but it should be looked into. And finally, the last thing, the \$11,700
605 given to us by the County. It's not just for the baseball; it's for all of our recreation in the town. So it's
606 spread out; spread pretty thin. It doesn't just go to the baseball association. That's about it. I want to
607 thank everybody for coming out tonight. We appreciate it.

608
609 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Courtney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Mr.
610 Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

611
612 Prepared and submitted by,

613
614 _____
615 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

616 Approved: April 11, 2017

617
618 _____
619 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

620
621 _____
622 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

623
624 _____
625 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

626
627 _____
628 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

629
630 _____
631 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

632
633 _____
634 Julie M. Samples, Town Council

635
636 _____
637 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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