



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE SESSION MARCH 28, 2017 ♦ 5:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 28, 2017 ♦ 6:30 P.M.  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Executive Session – 5:00 p.m.**

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, 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. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Ms. Samples moved to enter executive session at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Ott moved to reconvene regular session at 6:15 p.m. Mrs. Samples 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 6:15 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; Planning Building & Zoning Director Morris; Interim Police Chief Hofmann; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** A. Invocation: Reverend Jeff Wood from the Oasis of Hope Church gave the invocation. B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

**3. AGENDA APPROVAL.** Ms. Samples moved to adopt the agenda with amendments to allow presentation of Proclamation #17-113 after agenda approval, and to delete Business Items 7. B. and 7. D. Mr. Courtney, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Proclamation #17-113 Lions Club Week, April 9-15, 2017.** Mayor Childs presented Proclamation #17-113 to the Lions Club president, Mr. Monty Crossley. There were approximately 20 Lions Club members present. Mr. Crossley thanked Mayor Childs and said the club enjoyed working with the town to provide services to those in need. A copy of the resolution is on file.

**4. MINUTES APPROVAL. (A) Pier Workshop March 9, 2017 and (B) Executive Session and Regular Meeting March 14, 2017.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the March 9, 2017 pier workshop minutes and the March 14, 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)**

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard (*passed out pictures and displayed pictures during his comments*): I'd like to speak about obstructions on the beach. Also like to hand the council some pictures. I originally was going to bring dozens of pictures of people with tents on the beach with nobody underneath them. But, I thought that would be like redundant, so I decided to just to show you two pictures that I had taken on June 12, 2016. One picture is Melody Lane looking south towards Garden City Beach. Looks very inviting, doesn't it? It looks like someplace I'd want to vacation. Someplace that I would want to spend anywhere from \$2,000 to \$6,000 a week to come to. It's beautiful. Same time, except it's in the opposite direction. Melody Lane looking northbound into Surfside Beach. Does that look

54 inviting? Would you want to spend \$6,000 a week for this mess? It looks like a refugee camp. The  
55 problem with tents on the beach is the rest of the Grand Strand has decided not to allow them. What's  
56 bad about them is people set up the tents around seven a.m. to reserve a spot. Many times they don't  
57 come to the beach until hours later. This isn't hearsay. This is I see this every single day. People set up  
58 chairs on the perimeter of the tent doubling the area they use. So now that 10 x 10 is now 20 x 20. Try  
59 to come down around 11 o'clock and sit with your family. (\*\*) doesn't happen. Many people set up  
60 multiple tents together taking vast stretches of beach area. Many people from surrounding communities,  
61 Oceanside Village, come to Surfside Beach and park their golf carts in Surfside Beach accesses and along  
62 Melody Lane to avail themselves of the allowance of tents on the beach, which the rest of the Grand  
63 Strand prohibits. Residents of Surfside Beach [who] would not normally set up a tent now do so to  
64 reserve a spot in front of their house or down their block. They actually told me this. I asked them about  
65 it. They don't want tents, but their putting up tents because they can't get a spot. Rarely is anyone seen  
66 under the tents, but when they are, an umbrella would accommodate them. Children who need to be out  
67 of the sun can use an umbrella or small shelter, instead. (*Time ended.*) If you look at this one picture,  
68 there's nobody under a tent. But, oh, here's somebody, they're underneath the umbrella. After only a few  
69 uses, they are destroyed by the winds and are discarded and hauled away by the town. Tents block  
70 views of the life guards, and I'll finish after. Thank you.

71  
72 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

73  
74 **A. Proclamation #17-113 Lions Club Week, April 9-15, 2017.** The proclamation was  
75 presented after adoption of the agenda. See #3 above.

76  
77 **B. Employee Awards. Mr. Murrey L. Black, 10 years.** Mayor Childs asked Sergeant Black  
78 and his family to join him at the podium. Sergeant Black was presented with an awards check, service  
79 pin, and plaque recognizing his ten years of service in the police department. (*Standing Ovation.*)

80  
81 **C. Department Reports.**

82  
83 **i. Events.** Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

84  
85 Mr. Courtney said thank you, Ms. Ellis. The barbecue festival was great. You did a good job. I  
86 wonder how we did financially on the event. Ms. Ellis said I don't have the bill for the temporary poles  
87 from the electrician, or the Santee Cooper bill. Right now it stands that it cost \$6,000 and we brought in  
88 about \$4,200. Mr. Courtney asked if there was a report on the beer truck. Ms. Ellis said those numbers  
89 were in the report. Sales were \$2,207; expenses were \$1,575.20 with a net revenue of \$451.80. Mr.  
90 Courtney said he talked with Ms. Ellis last year about the hula show being held on a night other than  
91 Tuesday so that residents that also want to attend council meetings could attend the show. The schedule  
92 shows that three of the hula shows are on council meeting days. Ms. Ellis said the lady who does the  
93 show already has other commitments and can only do the shows on Tuesday nights. Mr. Courtney asked  
94 if the council meetings could be moved. Mayor Childs said a short agenda would allow everyone to  
95 attend. (*Laughter.*) Ms. Fellner said that council could make any adjustment to its meeting dates that it  
96 wishes. Mr. Courtney said okay, and said he would get with her to figure that out. Thank you so much;  
97 thank you for a great job.

98  
99 Mayor Childs said thank you, Ms. Ellis, before you leave there, I remember when this BBQ festival  
100 first started there was a lot of resistance on the time of year, because it would be so cold out that the  
101 musicians' lips would stick to the instruments. (*Laughter.*) But as you know, and I do, we've had 80  
102 degree weather. I don't think we've ever had a bad barbecue festival day. It's been warm. So, it did work  
103 out good. Thank you. It was a great, great event.

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105 **ii. Finance.** Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.  
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107 Ms. King said budget amendments will be presented in April for the general fund, the pier  
108 enterprise fund, and the sanitation enterprise fund for FEMA reimbursements and expenses, and in the  
109 capital projects fund for the swash and beach renourishment.  
110

111 Ms. Samples said the general fund is in good shape, and the accommodations tax revenue is up  
112 about \$200. My question what is \$148,000 in the month of February for in fire department expenditures  
113 out of hospitality funds. Ms. King said that was for the radios. The department applied for a grant that  
114 was denied, so the town had to pay for the radios.  
115

116 Mr. Courtney asked if we would have matching funds for the beach renourishment. The City of  
117 North Myrtle Beach received \$10 million. I believe it was because they had matching funds. Ms. King said  
118 my understanding is they had a different deal than the town. The town will advance the state's portion  
119 and the state will reimburse their portion to us. Ms. Fellner said 65-percent comes from the Federal  
120 Government; then the remaining 35-percent is split between the town and the match from the state. So  
121 the town's portion is 17.5-percent. Mr. Courtney asked for an explanation why North Myrtle Beach  
122 received \$10 million. Ms. Fellner said those are emergency funds. If you look at all of Reach 3 and you  
123 look at the federal input and the state input, it adds up to that amount. We're getting the same  
124 percentage, but the reason they're getting that is because their funds come out of a different source.  
125 This is my understanding. We are going to a meeting on this on the fourth, and I intend to ask all of the  
126 pertinent questions to determine exactly where it came; was it the Omnibus package; how was this  
127 pushed through? We'll know after that meeting, and I will certainly report back to council at the next  
128 meeting with regard to that.  
129

130 **iii. Fire.** Ms. Fellner presented the written fire report on behalf of Chief Otte, who was at  
131 training. A copy of the report is attached hereto.  
132

133 Mr. Courtney said there was an organizational meeting recently. We discussed resolving this  
134 problem with hiring more career firefighters. We had an understanding that we seek out part-time  
135 firefighters, is that correct. Ms. Fellner said the town currently has part-time and volunteer firefighters.  
136 Ms. Courtney asked how many career firefighters are we running with now on the tour, meaning a shift.  
137 Ms. Fellner said we have seven career staff; each shift has two on duty, except during the day shift.  
138 There are three on day shifts and it depends if you want to count the Horry County bus, which that  
139 brings two more people in. So, that is four or five, depending on whether it's day or night. Mr. Courtney  
140 said you understand my concern is if that bus is on an accident call that leaves us with two career  
141 firefighters. Is that correct? Ms. Fellner said yes. Mr. Courtney said we had the organization meeting. I  
142 did ask you to seek out, and look into the safer grant in hiring off that grant. Ms. Fellner said this is  
143 something council would need to direct at the budget workshop, if they want this done. That's why there  
144 is an explanation of the percentages so that it gives you the information to understand the financial  
145 consequences. Mr. Courtney said I just want to let you know the National Fire Protection Agency, while  
146 it's not law, the agency recommends that for career companies under Section 5231 states fire companies  
147 whose primary functions are to pump and deliver water to provide basic firefighting, include search and  
148 rescue, shall be known as engine companies. These company shall be staffed with four firefighters. Are  
149 you familiar with that? Ms. Fellner said I am, and ISO counts two of the Horry County crew as is ours,  
150 because they are they are housed in our facility. Mr. Courtney said by not following these  
151 recommendations, minimum staffing levels does leave Surfside Beach open for liability. So, I just wish  
152 you'd take that into consideration. Ms. Fellner said I hear what you're saying. I know what ISO has said  
153 to us regarding this. If council elects that they want to go increase the number of staff in the fire  
154 department, then they can so direct me at the budget workshop, and I'll be happy to follow the directives  
155 of council. Mr. Courtney asked that Chief Otte respond to the discussions at the organizational meeting at  
156 the next council meeting. Ms. Fellner said I will have him do that. Mr. Courtney said I would also like to  
157 find out what the processes is for patient care reports for the ambulance runs out of our firehouse  
158 whether they are in our firehouse or at the County. Ms. Fellner said those reports would be in the county,  
159 but I'd be happy to have him report on them.

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Mr. Stevens said in the event that we have a fire at one of the beach homes or high-rise condominiums, or some of the three-story homes in town, my understanding is that it takes two people to go up the stairs with a firehose. Then you have to have somebody run the fire truck. Is that right? Ms. Fellner said I would rather have the fire chief answer these particular questions. Ms. Stevens said please bring him back, because I need some clarification. It sounds as if we might be understaffed and I certainly don't want that to happen. Public safety is the number one priority. Ms. Fellner said yes, sir, and asked if council wanted Chief Otte at the next Council meeting or his regular meeting. Mr. Courtney said the next regular meeting. I do not want to wait another month for this information.

Mr. Ott said if I understand this correctly, what they're saying is if there is a fire, we don't have enough fire fighters working at all times that will be able to enter your home. That's basically what I'm hearing. Ms. Fellner said I would rather let the chief discussed that. He knows how many people come for each type of call. Because we are a volunteer/career unit, we may have six guys sitting out around the table downstairs. He would know what the proportions are 90-percent of the time. I wouldn't know that as well as he. I don't want to give you misinformation. Mr. Ott said if it is a possibility, we need to hire those firefighters as soon as possible.

**iv. Planning, Building & Zoning.** Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Stevens said I stopped by a business and I have to save they were pleasantly pleased with the planning department. They said the building department found defects in the contractor's work, so they were able to get the building built exactly the way it should be to meet International Building Codes and South Carolina Building Codes. I want to give the building department a pat on the back for that.

Mr. Courtney asked Ms. Morris if CBO stands for certified building official. Ms. Morris said that's correct. Mr. Courtney asked if she was a CBO. Ms. Morris said that Mike Farria is the CBO. Mr. Courtney asked where she stood with the CBO certification. Ms. Morris said there are three different tests and exams involved. I took the legal and passed; the management and passed, and I took the technology portion once, and failed. So that's all I'm lacking, but I was told at that time that we had a building official, so it was not necessary. Mr. Courtney asked are you able to take this test at any given time. Ms. Morris said yes, we can. It would take a lot of studying, but yes, absolutely.

Ms. Samples said the beachwear store building that is at the corner of Ocean Boulevard and Surfside Drive was pretty much taken down to the first floor and asked what's happening. Ms. Morris said they are just doing a major renovation. It will still be a beachwear store. The top floor will be storage.

Mr. Johnson said I would just like to thank Ms. Morris again for the comprehensive report that you always give us with pictures. It is very well done.

**v. Police.** Chief Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Ott said I do some walking at night, and at different times. I don't know what changes you made with rotation, but the Surfside Beach Police Department is always visible. I commend you and your police force for that. No matter which way I go, I see our police force. Thank you very much for that.

Mr. Courtney said I want to thank you so much. I do watch your numbers, as you know. I see we're down with traffic accidents. This is a big concern with me. We're down to 20 a month, but that's pretty good compared to the past months that we've had and last year. I see that traffic stops are up. It's apparent; it's out there. I see it. I'm seeing more blue lights on than I can imagine coming back in town. Tonight's report shows we had 558 traffic stops, and the lights are out there to show it. The summons activity shows 45 in residential and 22 on Highway 17. I urge the community to slow down in our



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213 residential areas. Please slow down. This is where we live. I don't know if it's residents or the out-of-  
214 towners that are flying through our community. But as you can see, the police department is doing their  
215 job. Summonses will be issued. I thank you for your report. It's fantastic.

216  
217 Mayor Childs said thank you for the great job you're doing. Really, nothing but the highest praise.  
218 Thank you.

219  
220 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached  
221 hereto.

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223 Ms. Samples said great job, by the way, and I love your report always, but I think it's because it's  
224 always on one page. It's so much easier to review. I wanted to thank you for the stormwater education  
225 seminar that you did along with our stormwater committee on March 16th. It was great. I thought it was  
226 a decent turnout. It was so informative, and I think you got some volunteers for water testing from it. So  
227 I appreciate the fact that you and the stormwater committee provided that information, and it was very  
228 informative. So thank you for that. Mr. Adair said thank you. That was a good dovetail from the barbecue  
229 festival where we had a tent. So we passed out a lot of information at that event, as well. Ms. Samples  
230 said your knowledge is unmatched, and we're grateful.

231  
232 Mr. Johnson said in the past I know that you have had a schedule to reconstruct and add beach  
233 showers on the crossovers. Since Hurricane Matthew, and I understand you've been stretched, but is the  
234 program still ongoing? Mr. Adair said yes. We try to add one shower every year, either at a new location  
235 or as a replacement for an old-style shower. This spring we will be installing one at 4th Avenue North. I  
236 believe that is the location, where we built a larger dune walk over last year. It is closer to the central  
237 district. We've ordered the water meter, and the shower tower has already arrived. That will make eight  
238 showers on both the north and south sides of town.

239  
240 Mr. Ott asked if the beach crews continue to fabricate the (\*\*); it's been on your report for three  
241 months. It should be done by now. Mr. Adair said we had to break away from that for a while to rebuild  
242 the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue cross over. Mr. Ott said they've got to get out of their trucks to do that. I look. I see. You  
243 take a look at those picnic tables in our parks. I would like you to do that Mr. Adair. That's all I have to  
244 say to you. Please take a look at them. I'm not proud of them. You can make faces, but special projects,  
245 these guys have gotta get out of their trucks, don't they. They've got to come over here and do things.  
246 Thank you, Mr. Adair.

247  
248 Mr. Courtney said if you don't mind, I'd like to know when we start mulching the right-of-way on  
249 Highway 17, and Surfside Drive. Mr. Adair said over the next few weeks were going to break away from  
250 drainage work, and work our way to that. Mr. Courtney said Ocean Boulevard, please, just dress it up a  
251 little bit. The white lines, the cross over lines, I think it's due to have them repainted. That is where our  
252 tourists come, it's what they see, and is the first impression they get of our town. So you need to look at  
253 that. The white lines are pretty much faded away on many of those crossovers. Mr. Adair said that would  
254 be a town project. Thermoplastic was put down several years ago. He will see if they need to be redone.  
255 Mr. Courtney said I recently asked you about the cross over State Law signage that was damaged during  
256 Hurricane Matthew. Make sure that you replace the ones that are missing and the ones that are broken  
257 when you inspect Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Adair said we have about a dozen signs coming in to replace the  
258 ones that are missing, and a couple of extra signs to keep on hand.

259  
260 Mr. Stevens said I have to agree with the Mr. Ott. I've been down to the Veterans Park. The  
261 picnic tables look terrible, and need a good pressure wash. They are really filthy. Clean them and also the  
262 gazebo. Sunday Serenades are going to start soon, and the Memorial Day Service. It would be nice if  
263 they were cleaned. I don't want to make Mr. Ott sound like an ogre, but he is telling the truth, and they  
264 do look bad. Mr. Adair said no question about it. We added several tables last year.

265

266 Mayor Childs said Mr. Adair, I want to thank you for everything you do. You do a great job. I get  
267 a lot of compliments on your men, so what you need is a hundred more people in your department, and  
268 we can get all these projects done.  
269

270 **C. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is  
271 attached hereto.  
272

273 Ms. Fellner said there is one consensus item this evening. Two years ago a welcome center sign  
274 was erected on Highway 17 in front of town hall, and it is becoming increasingly problematic. This past  
275 week alone, we had over 10 tourists stop in to receive a monster book, golf coupons, popcorn, and a cup  
276 of coffee. When they are directed to Piggly Wiggly, they often become angry and ask why we are  
277 advertising ourselves as a welcome center. Since we're not really a welcome center, and it's sending an  
278 unwelcoming message to some of our visitors, I wanted to know if council was okay with the removal of  
279 the welcome center sign.  
280

281 Mr. Stevens asked if we have anything about Surfside Beach that citizens can come in and get.  
282 Ms. Fellner said we have our town brochure and a rip off map. We have brochures about stormwater and  
283 stuff like that, but tourists are not usually interested in those topics. They want their monster book and  
284 coupons, then they have a bad [opinion] when tourist type items aren't available.  
285

286 Mayor Childs said most welcome centers have all the hotel accommodations, and they do offer  
287 coffee, and things that we do not have in town hall. I don't think that was the intent of the welcome  
288 center. We were trying to welcome people to the town. I guess everybody has taken it to the extreme. Is  
289 it okay to remove that sign?  
290

291 Mr. Courtney asked how long the sign was up. Ms. Fellner said about two years. Mr. Courtney  
292 said just in this one week you had three incidents of popcorn, coffee. Ms. Fellner said we had complaints  
293 prior to this. We also had them last season. This year, it's not even the season yet, and we had ten  
294 people complaining last week. When people are unhappy, they are very unhappy. Mr. Courtney said the  
295 thing I see is that the business committee came up with a great idea to putting the map out, and  
296 coupons for businesses in town. I still think it is a great thing that they're able to walk in there and pick  
297 up that map. When I started visiting Surfside Beach, we had those foldout maps that gave us the all of  
298 the town streets, and businesses. I thought it was fantastic, and I don't see how the sign has any bearing  
299 on it. I just believe if it's the reasoning of just monster books, you can have a couple of monster book  
300 laying around. I've never gone to welcome center and looked for coffee, because I know that's not  
301 happening, or popcorn. It would be the first one that I know of that would be giving out popcorn in  
302 South Carolina. I just don't think it's really necessary to take the sign down.  
303

304 Mr. Ott asked if it would be easier to make it into a welcome center. I know that Ralph Magliette  
305 used to go to the library and get their papers and bring them back. He went other places. You have a  
306 map. He used to go down to Surfside Realty's office, and bring those maps up here. Maybe we could  
307 assign somebody to do this to actually make it into a welcome center. They'll get some information from  
308 things; menus from restaurants, and stuff. How much money did we waste on it that we want to just  
309 throw away now? What was it \$10, \$15, \$20,000; it was a lot of money. Ms. Fellner did not recall the  
310 exact amount, but it was less than thousand dollars. Mr. Ott said you need to manage it; that's all. You  
311 can put things in there. You go over to Myrtle Beach and you look at the welcome center, they go out  
312 and get things and put them in there, or they asked people to bring them in. Ms. Fellner said Myrtle  
313 Beach doesn't have a welcome center. Only their Chamber of Commerce has welcome center. Mr. Ott  
314 said put stuff in there. Why did we even do it then? We don't have a welcome. Ms. Fellner said staff  
315 brought up space at the time this was discussed. If we had additional space, for instance that first office  
316 that is now used for the parking function, we could put stacks around the walls. But that office is used.  
317 Mr. Ott said my friend Ralph Magliette died and nobody else (\*\*). It's like the marquee sign; whose job is  
318 it to change that. I know you have to pick somebody; the marquee changer of the day. You need to

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319 manage this place. Get somebody and assign them to do these things. Ms. Fellner said the marquee is  
320 assigned. Mr. Ott said oh, it is. I know that it's hard to get it done. People like to point fingers. I don't do  
321 that; somebody else does it. We can actually use that. We have it in there. It costs us a lot of money for  
322 the sign to tear it down and throw it away.  
323

324 Mr. Johnson said if I may, I hate to say I told you so, but I told you so. Several years ago when  
325 this was discussed by a former councilmember, my first thought was where the rest rooms are, because  
326 every time that you see a welcome center, at least my thought is let's go into the welcome center and go  
327 to the rest room. We are constrained by space in that area to put up adequate brochures, so on and so  
328 forth. We just remodeled a remodel to make the counter larger to facilitate the town residents getting  
329 their business done. I just think it's a bad idea. I am all for getting rid of the sign, and do what we need  
330 to do to make it more town resident friendly.  
331

332 Mr. Pellegrino said I agree with Mr. Johnson. He stated it well.  
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334 Ms. Samples said I agree with Mr. Johnson, as well. We are a government. That building is used  
335 for taking care of town business. I think that sign is a misdirection. I can appreciate that people would  
336 show up and be disappointed at the very least that it's not what they assume it is. Just to say that on  
337 Highway 501 coming into Aynor, the welcome center does offer popcorn and coffee, because I have  
338 stopped there many times. So, it does exist in the state of South Carolina. I support removing the sign.  
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340 Mayor Childs said Ms. Fellner, you have your four members' consensus to get rid of the welcome  
341 center sign.  
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343 Mr. Stevens said we have a lot of bids let. Almost every bid says that the bid will be taken in  
344 public. When you look for a place in public where it will be held, there's none listed. If it's being held at  
345 town hall then that's very intimidating to the public to come in there and know they have to be buzzed  
346 behind the door. I think that what we need to do to give the town complete transparency to the citizens  
347 so they can understand the bid processing is to hold the bidding where they can walk in just like those  
348 two [council chamber entry doors.] Then they could walk in and actually sit down and see the bids. It  
349 should not be held in a conference room inside town hall where they have to be buzzed in, which is very  
350 intimidating to the average citizen. You can imagine how many people would show up to a Town Council  
351 meeting if we had to buzz them in. They wouldn't show up. So my way of looking at this is to be  
352 transparent to the citizens who have asked these questions have the bids held in Town Council  
353 Chambers. Have the door open so that they can walk in, and you can sit there and do the bids. It makes  
354 good sense. Then you're being totally transparent. Right now, I couldn't tell you where the bids are held,  
355 and I'm on council. I don't have any idea where you hold them. I think that you should, as the town  
356 administrator, make these publicly in a public place where the town citizens can walk in at any time.  
357 You're having a bid 10 o'clock. I see for example, you're having an IT bid. It's gonna be April 7 at 3:00  
358 p.m., but I don't know where. Mr. Stevens continued citing each bid and noting that he did not know  
359 where the bid opening would be held. I wonder if you have a problem with holding them in Town Council  
360 Chambers as it would seem to appease a lot of people who asks these questions. Ms. Fellner said if four  
361 councilmembers want the bid openings held in the chambers, it will be done. We have never had a  
362 complaint about the location in the past. We go out front; we announced prior to the bid; we ask anyone  
363 who is there for 'X' bid opening; we read the bid number; we state what the title is, and asked them to  
364 come to come back into the conference room. We've only actually had one person, I think that was for  
365 the last bid that failed, one member of the public who came to any of the last ones that I know. Mr.  
366 Stevens said they are standing here at this podium week after week asking about these bids and our bid  
367 process. But were not having them publicly held. If you're going to do it publicly, let the citizens be able  
368 to walk in and out.  
369

370 Mr. Courtney said I thought this was brought up in the past. I was under the impression that the  
371 infrastructure committee was going to be present during any bids and all bids. I thought we had

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372 discussed this, and again, I didn't get a notification of the bid. I'm on the infrastructure committee. I did  
373 not get notified that we did have a bid. I thought we discussed that the infrastructure committee would  
374 be present at bid openings and that they would be in Town Council Chambers. Ms. Fellner said all of the  
375 bid opening dates are on the website, and the bids. We were surprised that no one showed up, very  
376 frankly. Mr. Courtney said again I was not notified on the infrastructure committee that the bid was  
377 scheduled. I don't necessarily watch everything that's put on the marquee and the calendar, but I guess I  
378 will have to watch it from now on. I thought we had a discussion about this about this and we were  
379 going to have this all open to the public. This is been a major complaint from the citizens here. Ms.  
380 Fellner said well, let me make this suggestion. I was under the impression that people, if they were  
381 interested in a bid, would go on the bid page and see when the opening date was. If that is not the case,  
382 I can instruct the clerk to inform that committee of every opening and what time it is. Mr. Courtney said  
383 that would be good. I would like that. Thank you so much. Ms. Fellner said that's not a problem.  
384

385 Mr. Johnson said from what I recall from the last conversation we had about this was the  
386 administrator mentioned the fact that the bids are open to the public. If they wanted to attend, they  
387 could. But I don't think it was set in stone where the opening of the bids would be. Ms. Fellner said it just  
388 says they will be opened after received, and they're received at town hall. Therefore, if they're opened at  
389 that time, it logically follows, and most bids are written that way, that you open them where they are  
390 received. Since before I became involved in this process, bid openings have always been done in the  
391 town hall conference room. Mr. Johnson said my logic is the bids are not closed to the public. Public can  
392 attend the opening of the bids, and the letting of the bids. Ms. Fellner said yes, absolutely. They have  
393 always been open to the public.  
394

395 Mr. Courtney said again, the issue here is that people want transparency. They want to see the  
396 bids, and they want to see them open in Council Chambers. The last bid that was posted does not give  
397 the location where the bid was going to be opened. Bids should be opened in Council Chambers, and the  
398 infrastructure committee should be notified of this. This is the reason why the infrastructure committee  
399 was there to oversee this to make sure that all of the bids are legit. All they're asking for is transparency.  
400

401 Mr. Pellegrino said can you just ask to see if everyone is in agreement to hold bids in council  
402 chambers.  
403

404 Mayor Childs said I think it would be good idea to just go ahead and from this point on to have  
405 bid openings in council chambers, unless she had some objection. Ms. Fellner said no objection; we will  
406 put an addendum for every bid that the opening will be held in council chambers. Mayor Childs said I  
407 think that Mr. Stevens' point is well taken; people can come in and out. In future, we'll just do that, and  
408 the clerk will notify the infrastructure committee for bid openings regarding that committee. Ms.  
409 Herrmann said Mr. Mayor, you said the clerk would notify the infrastructure committee of bids relating to  
410 it earlier. I believe Mr. Courtney said he wanted the infrastructure committee to be notified of all bid  
411 openings, so I need clarification, please. After a brief discussion, Town Council will be advised of any bid  
412 openings.  
413

414 Mr. Ott said thank you, Ms. Fellner, for the report. This is transparency. I do appreciate you  
415 answering these questions. It was a big change in the structure of our council meetings. One question I  
416 have is about the 3rd Avenue South swash. Will they be requesting that building there have a gutter put  
417 on it, so it doesn't beat away the ground behind this swash? Ms. Fellner said yes, absolutely. Mr. Ott  
418 asked if they were ever requested to have a gutter put in before like they did on the west side. Ms.  
419 Fellner said not that I know. Mr. Adair was not aware of any such request either. Mr. Ott said okay,  
420 again, thank you for your report and answering the town residents' questions.  
421

422 Mr. Courtney said regarding the 50:50 program that was discontinued a couple years ago, can  
423 you give us a reason why again, because I have been getting a lot of calls about that? Ms. Fellner said  
424 staffing. We didn't have enough time to complete other things, and so... Mr. Courtney said that was two



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425 years ago, correct, so how do we stand today. Ms. Fellner said we would have to, as I said in my report,  
426 have an increase in staff, if we reinstate the program.  
427

428 Mr. Courtney said I would like to bring up the minutes. Again, this falls under transparency. The  
429 people want to know what's going on with the meetings. We had no problem for the last three, four, or  
430 five years with the minutes being posted online. My phone is ringing every day with this complaint. I  
431 don't see why. I believe that we did get new equipment for the minutes. Ms. Fellner said we did, but it is  
432 not that. It's putting the minutes up; it's FTP-ing (file transfer protocol) them up to the server. I mean,  
433 we've had a band width problem in town hall for a long time. We made some corrections, and they been  
434 working really well for the last three weeks. I'm hoping that from this point forward, we won't have that  
435 issue. But, you can't put up what you can't put up. If it times out on you, you've got have a way to get it  
436 to the remote server. If you don't have the bandwidth, that's a problem, especially when you're talking  
437 about some meetings that were two and three hours long. But like I said, I believe we've corrected the  
438 problem. We haven't had any issues in the last three weeks. So, if we start noticing that we have  
439 problems, then we will address it at that time. We've done everything we can, but bring in another strand  
440 of fiber and that's going to be a fight with the county. We had to fight over that one strand that they  
441 gave us to start with. Mr. Courtney said I just don't see why we're having so much trouble lately. So, if  
442 you can correct the problem, it would be greatly appreciated. I think that is what the public wants.  
443

444 Mr. Stevens said just to clarify what I've asked for, now that we've asked for the bids to be  
445 publicly read in Town Council Chambers... Ms. Fellner said the bids are not read; they are simply opened.  
446 Mr. Stevens said opened in Town Council Chambers and the current bids that are on the website will be  
447 upgraded to show that. Ms. Fellner said yes, I said I would post an addenda to each bid. Mr. Stevens  
448 said thank you very much. I just asked for clarification. Thank you very much.  
449

450 Mr. Courtney said I asked the clerk to give me a copy of the minutes of the Town Council Vision  
451 Meeting Workshop. It is a vision; it's not a vote. I saw several errors on here. I don't believe we  
452 concurred on putting sidewalks in on Cedar Drive North and 10th Avenue. On here it shows that we  
453 concurred. Can you give me an explanation on that? Ms. Herrmann said several of us listen to the  
454 meeting minutes after that question was raised. Several councilmembers said that the sidewalk from 10th  
455 Avenue on Cedar Drive by that lake was a safety issue. If you would like to come to my office, I will play  
456 that portion of the meeting for you. There was an agreement that it was a safety issue, and that Mr.  
457 Adair should include a price for that sidewalk at the budget meeting. It is not approved; it's just that the  
458 Council agreed that the budget workshop should include a price for that sidewalk to consider. Nothing  
459 that was done at the [vision] meeting is an actual vote. It's all in preparation to make the budget  
460 workshop have some meaning. Mr. Courtney said okay, I just want to make that clear that we did agree  
461 to have that looked at, but we didn't concur on the price that was given at about \$125,000 for a  
462 sidewalk. So we had asked Mr. Adair to come back with prices, I believe. Mayor Childs said correct. Ms.  
463 Fellner said I think the price is more like \$20 or \$30 thousand dollars. Ms. Samples said the \$125,000  
464 presented at the vision meeting was for decking, benches and all kinds of things that have nothing to do  
465 with just a sidewalk. When we asked him about just doing the sidewalk that's when he responded that he  
466 would get back to us at the budget meeting with how much a sidewalk would cost. Mr. Courtney said  
467 okay, as long as we're clear on that.  
468

469 Mayor Childs said I would like to remind everybody that when we have our vision meeting, it is  
470 just that. It's a vision; a wish list, and probably eight out of ten things we never get, because it's either  
471 too expensive, or for what other reason. So the visioning is just strictly when council gets together and  
472 each one of us gives our ideas of what we think would be good to put in the budget. Hopefully, it would  
473 be approved. But whenever you read the vision minutes, it's what we'd like to see done. It's like a  
474 Christmas list. You ask Santa Clause for all these things. Well, you might not get them. *(Laughter.)*  
475

476 Mr. Courtney said we posted a GSATS meeting on the marquee for the 17<sup>th</sup>, and the agenda  
477 posted outside Council Chambers that the meeting was canceled. I spoke to Mr. Hoeweler, and he said

478 they had the meeting. Ms. Fellner said yes, they had the policy meeting. Mr. Courtney asked what  
479 happened with that erroneous cancellation. Ms. Herrmann said Mr. Hoeweler sent out an incorrect email  
480 saying that the date had been changed, and he corrected that but it was on the next day, which  
481 happened to be on Wednesday after the last council meeting. A new agenda was posted showing that  
482 that meeting would be held. It was on the town calendar. It was sent out in the email to the subscription  
483 list, and was also on the town marquee. So, if someone saw the erroneous cancellation, I apologize, but  
484 at that time my understanding was the meeting was cancelled. Mr. Courtney said thank you.  
485

486 Mr. Ott said maybe that should be also in our notifications for the infrastructure committee. It's  
487 infrastructure. Ms. Herrmann asked if he was talking about GSATS reports. Mr. Ott said yes. Ms.  
488 Herrmann said I always send GSATS notices to Town Council that I receive from Mr. Hoeweler, which  
489 usually includes an agenda and any supporting documents.  
490

## 491 7. BUSINESS

### 492 A. First Reading Ordinance #17-0838 to amend Section 17-600 through 17-657, 493 Chapter 17, Sign Ordinance, Director Morris. 494

495 Mr. Ott moved to approve the Ordinance #17-0838 to amend Sections 17-600 through 17-657,  
496 the sign ordinance. Mr. Courtney second. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies  
497 of which are on file. The business committee and the planning commission recommend that the  
498 ordinance be approved as presented.  
499

500 Mr. Ott said can I request a summary of how this new ordinance is being perceived by our  
501 business community in six months and 12 months. Ms. Morris said absolutely. Mr. Ott said then we can  
502 consider whether there are any complaints.  
503

504 Ms. Samples said a big thank you to you, Ms. Morris, and the business committee, and the  
505 planning commission for bringing this sign ordinance to completion. I've talked to a number of businesses  
506 in the area, and they're very happy about it. Thank you for your efforts. I appreciate it.  
507

508 Mr. Pellegrino said thank you for going through this process. I was very happy to see it go from  
509 33 to 10 or 11 pages. It is much simplified; much better for the business community, and hopefully it will  
510 lead to improvements in the town. So thank you.  
511

512 Mr. Stevens said I want to thank Ms. Morris for job she's done on this. She's worked with the  
513 business committee, and with planning and zoning. She took what was a monstrosity of an ordinance and  
514 slimmed it down. It's so easy to read now. Great job.  
515

516 Mr. Courtney said I'd like to thank Ms. Morris, and the business committee for all their hard work  
517 they did on this. They put a lot into it, and did a great job. Well done. Thank you.  
518

519 Mayor Childs, said I also want to echo Mr. Courtney's comments. It seems like all we've heard is  
520 signs, signs, and more signs. You've done a good job. You certainly narrowed it down. From what I  
521 understand, everybody's agreed it's easy to read, easy to understand, and we appreciate what you and  
522 the business committee have done. They work so hard on this.  
523

524 Mr. Johnson said I am not one to nitpick. I'm sure that there were some cross reference issues  
525 here, but on page 14 of 33 and on page 15 of 33, there were some words or some lines of words that  
526 are missing. Could you get those specific two pages back to us before the second reading? Ms. Morris  
527 said absolutely, I'm sorry. Thank you. I will definitely get that to you.  
528

529 All voted in favor of first reading of Ordinance #17-0838 regarding Chapter 17, Signs. **MOTION**  
530

531 **CARRIED.**

532

533 **B. First Reading Ordinance #17-0840 to amend §17-222 Powers of the Board (BZA)**  
534 **to Grant a Variance Regarding Protected, Specimen, and Landmark Trees, Director Morris.**

535 This ordinance deferred until after the April 18<sup>th</sup> workshop to discuss the tree ordinance. See Agenda  
536 Approval, item 3 above.

537

538 **C. First Reading Ordinance #17-0841 to amend Chapter 13, Fees, Director Morris.**

539 This ordinance deferred until after the April 18<sup>th</sup> workshop to discuss the tree ordinance. See Agenda  
540 Approval, item 3 above.

541

542 **D. Bid Award for Street Paving, Director Adair.** Mr. Adair presented the decision paper and  
543 bids, copies of which are on file.

544

545 Ms. Samples said \$600,000 was approved and appropriated in the budget, correct? Mr. Adair  
546 said yes. Ms. Samples asked if the \$90,000 from Horry County was from vehicle registration fees. Mr.  
547 Adair said yes. Ms. Samples asked if a budget amendment would be presented. Mr. Adair indicated yes.

548

549 Mr. Ott asked why the \$440,000 CTC Funds were shown as 'anticipated.' Mr. Adair said those  
550 funds are guaranteed as long as the town spends the money up front and provide receipts for  
551 reimbursement.

552

553 Ms. Samples moved to approve the bid award for street paving [in the amount of \$614,495.45 to  
554 Coastal Asphalt, LLC the lowest bidder]. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

555

556 **E. Motions and/or directions to the Town Administrator from Executive Session.** Mayor

557 Childs said there were no motions or directions to the administrator from execution session.

558

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

560

561 Mr. Courtney said I'd like to bring for council's discussion the obstructions on the beach as Mr.  
562 Kohlmann stated. We do allow tents on our beach, but they have become a problem. It's a safety issue.  
563 We've had numerous incidents where our fire department has not been able to access injured people on  
564 the beach. We had our fire department request a gator this past vision meeting, and unfortunately we  
565 had to deny him, because we don't have the access to get to the beach to go from one end to the other  
566 end. A lot of municipalities have banned tents. I'm not talking about umbrellas, baby tents; I'm talking  
567 about these huge tents. I think I'm one of the few councilmembers that uses the beach, and if you go  
568 out there, especially during the peak season at mean high tide, you can't even walk on the beach. It's  
569 just out of control at this point. We've got people from Ocean Lakes and Oceanside Village who are  
570 taking advantage of our beach. They're coming down and setting up these tents, and it's becoming  
571 hazardous for police and fire to our patrol our beach. The only way you can see patrol with the Gators is  
572 on the low tide. Come a mean high tide, you can't access it. It's become a real nuisance. Again, it's  
573 become a real safety problem. I just don't want to see us have an incident where we have someone  
574 where they can't get help or they can't get assistance from a fire or police.

575

576 Mr. Ott said actually seeing the tents on the beach there's no advantage at all for anybody.

577

578 Mr. Stevens said basically, this is pretty simple. We have people coming down here from out of  
579 town that have rented a \$6,000 a week house. Then we have the people from Ocean Lakes and Garden  
580 City coming over and setting up their tents real early in the morning. I've been down there and actually  
581 watched them set up their tents almost at daylight. Then after they set them up, they leave and go  
582 somewhere. Then they come back later. Meanwhile, the guy who's rented the \$6,000 a week house on  
583 the oceanfront has no place to put his things. He's paying a-tax; he's paying our bills. So, I don't see any

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584 benefit for these tents. They are coming from Ocean Lakes, and Oceanside Village in Garden City and  
585 they're just cluttering up our beach. Even the residents can't go down there, because of the tents. These  
586 tents are the same size as the tents we use for the town festivals; 10 x 10 or 12 x 12 tents. They take up  
587 a lot of room. You can do the same thing with an umbrella. Plenty of my guests are very happy with an  
588 umbrella. Tents have been banned everywhere else from Pawleys Island all the way to Cherry Grove. I  
589 don't see any benefit for us whatsoever.

590  
591 Mr. Pellegrino said I may be the oddball, but I'll state my opinion, anyway. I think it is good that  
592 the rest of the beach did eliminate tents, because now are the only ones who allow tents. That's what we  
593 like to call a competitive advantage that brings people to our beach. A lot of these people renting beach  
594 houses do want to use tents. I do use the beach. I have four kids, so I'm at the beach very often. I run  
595 on the beach, and I just don't see the major problem with it. Obviously, our beach is smaller. We are in  
596 need of beach renourishment. But for the majority of time, mid-tide to low tide, I just don't see an issue.  
597 I still support tents on the beach.

598  
599 Ms. Samples said I think that talking about tents on the beach is a good thing, but I think we're  
600 talking about it at the wrong time. We're almost to April 1st. I think it would be unfair to our businesses,  
601 especially those along the beach, to implement a ban on tents when a lot of our rental companies have  
602 already produced their brochures. All their marketing materials are out and about. If we prohibit tents,  
603 it's really going to upset a lot of tourists who are coming into town, specifically to Surfside so they can  
604 have tents. So I think the timing of this is bad. Again, if you want to talk about it, I'd rather talk about it  
605 in September when we will give our businesses an appropriate amount of time to produce their brochures  
606 and their information to let the people know that we could possibly be changing the rules of tents on the  
607 beach. I do understand why Myrtle Beach did it, and why North Myrtle Beach, did it. They have high-  
608 rises, they're high density. We are not. We don't have that. So it did make us unique, and we did have a  
609 competitive advantage. Again, I'm open to talking about, especially when you talk to our beach services  
610 people who may have something to say about it. But at the moment, again I think it's an inopportune  
611 time, and I think if we're going to talk about it seriously, we need to talk about it come September.

612  
613 Mr. Ott said I would like to add that there is no competition. If they don't put them here, there's  
614 nowhere else to go. To have competition, you have to be able to go somewhere else. There's no other  
615 place on the Grand Strand where you can put a tent. There is no real advantage for the people of this  
616 town.

617  
618 Mr. Courtney said it's not about timing. It's not about tourism. When you watch people come into  
619 our state, coming off the plane, they don't come with tents. They come with small baby umbrellas and  
620 stuff they need to use the beaches. Again, with a mean high tide, we have no beach left due to no beach  
621 renourishment. We shouldn't have to wait till we have a casualty on the beach. At this point, we had our  
622 fire chief ask us for a Gator to use on the beach. We had to deny it, because we can't even get down the  
623 beach. If you ever come down to the south end of the beach on 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenues South on a mean  
624 high tide, you're lucky if you have enough room to put your chair up. I watch my kids surfing, and I  
625 watch these people come to set their tents up at 7:00 a.m. They put their chairs on the outside of the  
626 tent, and then come back after they go out to have breakfast, lunch, and come back at one afternoon.  
627 Then they set up for the afternoon. It's not right to the tourists that come here. I watch families come  
628 using the walkovers; you know that they're tourists. They're carrying the new toys for the kids. There's is  
629 no room to sit. These huge tents are there. This is just not the place for it. There is a reason why North  
630 Myrtle Beach and Myrtle Beach banned them. We've got to take into consideration the safety of our  
631 people and the safety of our tourists. If we have an incident on the beach, and someone can't get  
632 medical help, or they can't get police services, it can be a liability issue. It's going to be on us.

633  
634 Mr. Johnson said I agree with Councilmembers Samples and Pellegrino. The time is not in late  
635 March to discuss tents on the beach; it's not the time in July to discuss tents on the beach. It's in the off-  
636 season when we need to discuss tents on the beach, and whether you like it or not, we do have



637 regulations, whether they are enforced or not. We have regulations to enforce the restrictions of tents on  
638 the beach, whether that is connecting two tents together, or moving them out of the line of sight of the  
639 lifeguards. We can go on and on and on discussing tents on the beach, but I think it would be  
640 detrimental at this point to do away with tents on the beach for the 2017 season. Yes, we have a narrow  
641 beach right now. No fault of our own. Hopefully, we will have a wider beach in 2018. That's all up to the  
642 federal government; it is not up to us. We are at their hands, and so at this point, I'm not in favor of  
643 banning tents on the beach.

644  
645 Mayor Childs said well, I just have one thing to say. My own experience, I rode with one of our  
646 beach patrols here last year, and I can assure you it was very difficult getting from one end of the beach  
647 to the other, especially when the tide was up. It was almost impossible. We had to drive almost up on  
648 the dunes just to get around, so there is a lot to be said about those issues like that. Being those other  
649 municipalities have banned tents, I'm sure a lot more to it than probably we know. So I think it is  
650 something that should be looked into thoroughly.

651  
652 Mr. Ott and Mr. Stevens asked if this matter could be brought back. Ms. Herrmann asked how  
653 council wanted the ordinance changed. Mayor Childs said to eliminate tents as there were four members  
654 in favor of eliminating tents. Ms. Fellner asked if tents would just be prohibited during the summer  
655 season. Mayor Childs said bring an ordinance for first reading to eliminate tents.

656  
657 **B. Beach Services, Councilmember Courtney.** Mr. Courtney said I wanted to bring beach  
658 services under discussion. As you know we have lifeguards services. The contract is to end this April, am  
659 I correct. Ms. Fellner said it is up in 2020. Mayor Childs said I understood it to be 2020. I believe you told  
660 us that a while back. Mr. Courtney asked when the contract renewed. Ms. Fellner responded from the  
661 audience (\*\*). Mr. Courtney said would you bring that contract forward, please, and asked if it renewed  
662 by council vote. Ms. Fellner said council always votes on the franchisee. Mr. Courtney said according to  
663 the contract, he is supposed to have lifeguards, 10 stationary and one roving, is that correct. Ms. Fellner  
664 said I don't have the contact in front of me. Mr. Courtney said would you bring that back, so we can look  
665 at the contract, because I think the stemming from the problems that we've discussed up here on the  
666 dais, the issue is mainly does Beach Services have the number of lifeguards staffing the beach properly,  
667 and with the amount lifeguards that should be on there. Ms. Fellner suggested instead of bringing this  
668 back to council as a whole that a subcommittee of council, possibly the infrastructure committee, meet  
669 with the franchise provided to discuss all the related issues, and then council can determine whether to  
670 bring this to council as a whole. Mr. Courtney said that would be great.

671  
672 Mr. Ott said I agree with the administrator that's what we should do. I looked at the franchise  
673 agreement, and it's very well written, but it needs to be applied. That is basically all we need to do.  
674 Mayor Childs asked Ms. Fellner to set up a date. Ms. Fellner said she would.

675  
676 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)

677  
678 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I just had some answers from some of the council  
679 people. One of them said this wasn't a problem. See this folks (*held up picture*) that's a serious problem.  
680 Also note that that councilperson rents a beach house. I also rent my beach house. Fourteen years, never  
681 once did anyone ever ask me can we put up tents the beach? They ask about the size of the pool; they  
682 ask about how far of a walk it was. They asked if they had a crockpot or a pizza slicer, but they never  
683 asked about tents on beach. They came to the beach, they're gonna enjoy it. Another councilperson said  
684 oh, brochures are out. It's too late to do it. Show me a brochure that says come to Surfside. Rent here  
685 because you can put a tent on the beach. You can put them in Garden City, can't put them in North  
686 Myrtle Beach. It doesn't exist. So forget the brochure angle. It's March folks. It's the off-season, folks. It's  
687 not the end of May. People rented their houses a long time ago. They're not [going to decide] not to  
688 come here because we can't have tents. To say that will lose the money, show me. Show me if Myrtle  
689 Beach lost money by not having tents. Show me Garden City they lost money, because they couldn't

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690 have tents. Show me Pawleys Island; show me Cherry Grove; show me [Little River.] Show me that those  
691 places lost money. They didn't. The whole Grand Strand is booming. So don't come up with these silly  
692 excuses. This is dangerous, folks. This is this looks terrible. We are being used and abused by the whole  
693 community here. People come flocking here from other communities. Not the tourists. Think about it,  
694 \$6,000 and you can't get a place to sit on the beach and this is a big beach. This is where the high tide  
695 is. This is high tide (*displaying picture*). (\*\*) There are no dunes here. The high tide is behind those  
696 dunes. We have no beach. Now, the north end might have a big beach. Probably two or three times the  
697 size. If the folks on the north end want to have tents, go right ahead. You could put up like the surf  
698 area; make a tent area. You know what, you have people out the door looking to string you all up, if you  
699 want to do that. Come on folks, I mean there's so many reasons not to have them. (\*\*) continue it some  
700 more. The emergency responders, Mr. Courtney did that. (\*\*) tents take up too much room, and they  
701 make the beach more crowded than it should be, which I stated why people don't want to come here.  
702 Because it's just too crowded. If we ban tents like the rest of the Grand Strand, the beach concession can  
703 put out some more umbrellas, and maybe they'll make a couple of dollars more. Maybe they will give us  
704 some more lifeguards. Maybe, because we don't have lifeguards where they should be. You have a  
705 lifeguard at 13<sup>th</sup> South, and you don't have another lifeguard until Garden City. You think that's enough  
706 lifeguards, folks? I don't. That's what's important. Not a couple of tents. When I bring my kids to the  
707 beach, I don't want him to get burned, I'll stick him under an umbrella. But I sure don't want him to die  
708 in the surf. Thank you.

709  
710 Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North: I wanted to clarify some things about the Myrtle swash. I  
711 read the administrator's response, and I'm sorry, but I have totally different figures than what she came  
712 up with. I have the town's own purchase orders in the amount of \$154,750 for Tim's Construction. Not  
713 the \$142,000 that she states in her rebuttal, and \$19,200 to DDC Engineers, and that's a total of  
714 \$173,950. Well, that my councilmembers, is \$7000 higher than you approved on this lot. So you  
715 approved a total amount of \$166,750 after being told time and time again that engineering was included.  
716 At least three times Ms. Fellner assured council that the engineering price was in the original quote of  
717 \$155,000. So why was a purchase [sic] order ever written to DDC? We paid Tim's Construction in full, but  
718 the riprap as shown on the bid, was installed short 170 feet. The administrator now says that the bid  
719 council voted on is fallacious, so council voted for bogus project to begin with. Why? When can we  
720 expect our \$5,000 overpayment check, not a credit? It's interesting to note there was a previous town  
721 purchase order issued to MontCo for only \$91,651; \$63,000 less than we ended up paying. If the latest  
722 story is correct about Tim's contract only being \$142,000, then why did we write him a purchase order  
723 for \$154,750 in October before the job started? Lastly, why can't our engineer measure a ditch correctly,  
724 especially since he had one on 3rd Avenue South to go by? This ditch, Myrtle swash, has changed from  
725 160 feet to 200 feet and now evidently it grew another 10 feet, because now it's 210 feet. So I'm going  
726 to give you all a copy of all of the purchase orders that were written on this job. I'm going to give you  
727 the original MontCo bid. I'm gonna give you the purchase order we wrote to run to MontCo originally for  
728 \$91,000. On that MontCo bid, you will see that we were to have riprap 4 feet tall, the whole length of the  
729 project. That's what you voted on. Not what we have now. The same games are being done on your road  
730 paving project you just voted on. Oh, we got a bid. It was only \$14,000 over the \$600,000 budget.  
731 Where's the engineering? Where's DDC's cost in that? You didn't really have a budget number, because  
732 you never knew what the engineering was going to cost. Personally, I would never buy a car without the  
733 wheels. I want to know the cost of my project. Since we do not have an engineer on staff that we pay  
734 full-time, we have to contract our engineering out. That is a cost to this town. We can't just keep  
735 ignoring the engineering is stuck in the budget somewhere. I'm sure that a lot of you don't even realize  
736 that our underground wiring projects the engineering cost on that was over \$100,000 apiece. You never  
737 knew it. Past councilmembers that I talked to never knew it. Transparency is key. You cannot keep  
738 voting for things that you only have pieces of. You need to know all of your costs before you vote on a  
739 project. Your road paving project budget is wrong. It does not have your engineering cost in there. How  
740 much is it? How much over budget are we already? Why can't we ever get an answer?

741  
742 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North: Commenting on the tents on the beach, when this first

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743 came up, I believe the mayor at the time said we'd do it for a couple years, and see how it affected  
744 everybody, and then maybe we fall in line with everyone else. So maybe we've had those couple of  
745 years, and there do seem to be some issues. As far as timing is concerned, I don't know that I would  
746 wait until the fall to do that. Might be smart start doing some research, and talking some people now. If  
747 the tree ordinance is any indication, it's gonna take you guys forever to get this done. Don't wait until  
748 fall. These people, the businesses and real estate people, really do need a lot of headroom to do what  
749 they need to do as far as their people for next years. So, don't wait that long. Secondly, I'm really  
750 irritated, and I'm really frustrated with the landscaping and tree ordinance and the way it's been handled.  
751 This workshop on the 18<sup>th</sup> will be the third workshop. It will be the second workshop that Town Council  
752 holds on it. We've only had public [hearing] on this once. We've had council at all of the workshops; at all  
753 of the planning and zoning meetings; at least four of you. Sometimes all at the same time have been  
754 sitting in the back row to listen to all the discussion. We've had amazing people from the community who  
755 have come up. They been there in person. They sent letters. They sent us emails. They have been  
756 marvelous as far as their input is concerned. They have been so patient as we work through things. At  
757 the first workshop, there were a list of dates that we were given [for] commission meetings. I believe Ms.  
758 Morris was sick once. She was a workshop once, but there was no indication that the others were  
759 canceled, because we had national elections, local elections, local runoffs, we have holidays, kind of like  
760 the hula show. I mean there's things that we can control. We can't suggest they reschedule those  
761 holidays or those elections so that we can have planning and zoning meetings in our usual place at the  
762 usual time. You know, we're doing our job. We've even have extra meetings, but it is just really  
763 frustrating. Everything is in place, and we still do not have an ordinance. There was even a comment that  
764 asked can we have a limit on the amount of time that we can use before we take it away. So we rushed;  
765 we get it done. We spend extra time on it (\*\*). It's frustrating. I don't know how many people we  
766 have in Surfside. But, I can promise you, if we work, let's say I think we've already been working on this  
767 for more than a decade from the original set up; come on, if we had another 20 years, we would not  
768 please everybody in this town. We have walked as close to that line as we can, considering the economy,  
769 ecology, and the quality of life of the people in this town. It's not gonna make any difference. We're still  
770 gonna have the workshop. I'm not the chairman of the committee. I'm just a member. I told you before  
771 I'm nobody. I'm just a mouth. But it is just really frustrating to put in as much time, and as much worry,  
772 and trying to please as many people as we can, and still stay legal, and doing the job we were supposed  
773 to do, which is to do the very best we can with people of Surfside. It's just really frustrating. Oh, and one  
774 other thing, it is possible to request a job of an employee or to critique a job that's already been done  
775 without being rude. That bothers me. *(Applause.)*

776  
777 Mr. Ron Mask, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North: I will be brief, because like everybody else, it's been a long  
778 [meeting.] I just didn't want to get away without saying that the tents on the beach for those of us who  
779 are residents, and we have friends that vacation here, have been getting worse ever since we started  
780 becoming known as the place that allows them. I think that with the shortage that we got a beach space  
781 this year, not only the safety problems, but the pleasure of all the people who come, the residents and  
782 the visitors is going to be so much worse this year that were actually going to drive people away from  
783 this town rather than attract them, if we use those tents to crowd up our beach this year. I do think it's  
784 time to act. I don't think that anybody comes here because they can put up a tent. They might like it, but  
785 they won't change their mind. My opinion. Thank you.

786  
787 Ms. Mary Maruca, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South: I'm here to talk about the Myrtle swash. Actually, the south  
788 side swash of the Myrtle swash. We been hearing a lot about the north side and the cost. The south side,  
789 the town is taking the stand that the owners of the property along the south side should be responsible  
790 for their side of the Myrtle swash. It is an order of contention as to actually owns that portion of it. The  
791 owners of Ned's Cove have hired an attorney. They're gone back and forth with the town. The town  
792 attorney; it took the town attorney a couple months to get back to them. He gave them a letter, the  
793 attorney is Gene Connell, gave Gene Connell a letter stating we found different from what you state.  
794 Nothing else. Gene had to write back and say can you please provide me with what you're talking about.  
795 I mean, he finally got it. Still, it's still a gray area; a lot of gray areas, but even still that, you know,

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796 engineers can tell you that that water needs to be controlled by the town. It doesn't take Einstein to  
797 figure that out. So the town should in their due diligence step up to the plate and take care of the Myrtle  
798 swash, both sides of the Myrtle swash. It can affect all the way back to 17. We've been to meetings that  
799 the town has said, yes, it drains all the way from there. Now all of a sudden, they don't want to take  
800 responsibility for the swash on the south end, only on the north end. Recall is it Newman versus the  
801 Town of Surfside Beach, Newsome? The lawsuit that was lost for another property that the town built  
802 and water went onto his property. I don't think you want that happening and for a lot of reasons you  
803 don't want it happening. But that swash should be controlled by the town. I don't care who owns it. It is  
804 drainage from the town. Not the two homeowners there.  
805

806 Mr. Phil Murdoch, South Ocean Boulevard: For the last nine years my wife and I have had the  
807 privilege of living on South Ocean Boulevard on the ocean. The last several councils honored me by  
808 appointing me to accommodations tax committee. I think there about two tours of duty. After that I've  
809 also been privileged to serve on zoning appeals, and served a little bit with Mr. Ott. The last few years as  
810 well, I've also worked my partner, Danny Oslin, Oslin Construction, and we mostly build and sell new  
811 homes in Surfside. It's in that capacity that we interact, in addition, Mr. Oslin is also on the [construction]  
812 board [of appeals]. So we have a tremendous amount of interaction with personnel in building, codes  
813 and zoning. I wanted to pass along some insight just in our interactions with that, because I think it's  
814 easy for you sometimes to only hear negative things. As a mostly retired attorney, I have a vocational  
815 disdain for hearsay. So I'm only going to speak to the things that that I have first-hand experience with.  
816 Director Morris in my experience has been extremely professional. I've never seen her operate in  
817 anything I would call near a capricious fashion. Inspector [Farrria], Mr. Oslin will tell you that inspector  
818 [Farrria] will show up with a bag lunch and he'll make a day of the inspection. I think, depending on the  
819 time of day, he might even bring a sleeping bag. But, I make it a point of pride when I sell a house,  
820 because I say it's inspector [Farrria] approved. For somebody who grew up with a father who was a  
821 developer and a builder for 40 years, I have seen inspections before on commercial buildings where the  
822 inspector rolled up and left the truck on, and the door open, and walked in and looked around for about  
823 2 1/2 seconds, and said it looks fantastic and wrote up the report and said you're passed. So somewhere  
824 in the middle maybe is the best solution, but I really would pass along on behalf of myself and my  
825 partner Mr. Oslin that we have had tremendous success working in this town and we enjoy working with  
826 the personnel, and even though we don't always agree with what they say, and we do have  
827 disagreements, at no point do we ever feel like that we're dealt with any fashion that, again, is  
828 capricious. We feel like that the people that we're dealing with are doing their very best to do their jobs  
829 as they understand them. So I commend their work; I appreciate their hard work, and at the same time,  
830 again for inspector [Farrria], if he could speed it up just a little bit, I'd say that that would be the only  
831 constructive criticism I might add. That and the fact that we are sometimes short staffed, because they  
832 there's only one Ms. Morris; there is only one inspector [Farrria], and if those guys aren't in that can be a  
833 problem. But that's not their problem, that's the fact that we're a little short staffed in a very small town.  
834 So, again, I just wanted to pass that along so that that that is of the record. Thank you. *(Applause)*  
835

836 Ms. Sherry Hortle, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North: I'm here because I wanted to refute some of the comments  
837 that the administrator made regarding what I had spoke [sic] about at the last meeting. She talked about  
838 where I met with her in regards to the vacancy for police chief. I did meet with her. However, I met with  
839 her on the Friday right after Chief Keziah resigned. Not after the 17<sup>th</sup> of February as she stated where she  
840 had announced Interim Chief Hofmann's appointment. So I did want to clarify that, and yes, I did offer to  
841 give her my boyfriend's resume. He is a 35 year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department and  
842 presently a chief of police. It's not that he needs the job, because he has quite a lucrative pension with  
843 the Philadelphia Police Department and sheriff's department, too, I should add. Comes with a wealth of  
844 experience, and I thought I was doing her a favor, and allowing her an opportunity to see firsthand  
845 where she could go, if she was serious about looking for a police chief from the outside. In that  
846 conversation, I kind of got the idea that she was not serious about looking for someone, because some of  
847 things that she said to me, and some of her actions greatly contradicted each other. She said to me one  
848 comment was every lieutenant believes he can be chief. Now I understood that. I thought it was a little



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849 bit of a slap in the face, but I kind of understand that perhaps maybe she doesn't understand the actual  
850 duties of police, of a police chief. I found this very interesting when I did a little bit of research on our  
851 website under the code of ordinances, Section 11-26 duties of chief of police. I'm gonna read this slowly,  
852 because there's two articles A and B. Frankly, A kind of makes me dizzy. The chief of police shall be the  
853 chief executive of the police force. He shall be chargeable with and responsible for the execution of the  
854 various rules and regulations of the Council and the provisions of this code and other town ordinances  
855 governing the police department and all the provisions of this code and other ordinances and rules and  
856 laws of the town together with state laws within the town. He shall make regular and stated reports to  
857 the town administrator of the affairs of his department, together with other matters pertaining to his  
858 office or other duties required of him. Now B is of particular importance. The chief of police shall at all  
859 times discharge and perform other duties as may be required of him by the town administrator. I find  
860 that a little scary, I'm really kind of afraid of the implications of that statement. If Ms. Fellner needs a  
861 professional consulting firm to hire an outside chief that is probably common practice. What is not  
862 common practice is to wait for several months with a vacancy. When you don't have, and again no  
863 disrespect, but the chiefs that I know, and I know quite a few of them, they all have extensive training.  
864 Either the FBI Academy; I know you just went through the FBI trilogy for frontline supervisors, and that's  
865 good, but there are several other ones that are six-month courses. So this is a serious business. In  
866 addition, I'd like to also mention some of the other things that she was telling me that she was looking  
867 for. She wanted someone who is familiar with the area, and that's understandable. Someone who knew  
868 how to get grants, and she praised Chief Keziah for his ability to obtain several grants, and I believe that  
869 my boyfriend does have a proven track record in that department. So, you know, possibly when the job  
870 does get posted, hopefully it will be posted speedily as Mayor Child said, and it will be posted (*time*  
871 *ended*) for the standard 30 day period. Mayor Childs said thank you to end the comment period. Ms.  
872 Hortle continued anyway saying there was one other thing I do need to talk about this, because this was  
873 totally wrong, and this was something that I talked about the last time. Mayor Childs gaveled Ms. Hortle  
874 out of order and asked her to sit down. Ms. Hortle continued saying it was the issue of the \$9,999 check.  
875 Ms. Samples called *point of order, please* as the speaker's time had ended. Ms. Hortle continued saying  
876 I'm sorry, but I pay my taxes, and I believe that I have paid for my right to stand up here make a  
877 comment. Ms. Samples said Mr. Mayor we have rules; *point of order*. Ms. Hortle continued saying that  
878 flag on the wall ensures my right to speak. Mayor Childs said please, ma'am, please have a seat. Ms.  
879 Hortle continued arguing with Mayor Childs. Sergeant Prisco approached the podium and asked Ms.  
880 Hortle if she would like to sit down or be escorted out. After continuing to speak, Ms. Hortle finally sat  
881 down. Ms. Hortle's comments after the point of order were excluded from the record.

882  
883 Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I was not going to speak tonight. I'm a little rusty  
884 being gone for a few years, but I'm back. Sorry everybody. I wasn't gonna speak, but, I'm sorry that you  
885 got up and did that. If I did that, my husband when he applied for the chief's job, I think he'd never  
886 speak to me again. That's my opinion. Like you said, that's why we have it, but I think it was humiliating,  
887 because when you read the codes of the town, the town administrator might need him to do something  
888 like an event; like a parade; like the turkey trot. You're reading into things that aren't even there. It upset  
889 me that you speak like that. I don't know how long you've lived here, but when I came there was a lot of  
890 things that shocked me, but when you live here and you understand where you live and you chose to live  
891 here, and raise your children and retire here, it's a great place to be, and the process, I can assure you,  
892 the process for the chief will be the process for the chief; 250 people applied for that job when Chief  
893 Fredericks left; 250, and I will tell you, because I sat on that committee. We read those things for weeks.  
894 We went through those applications with a fine tooth comb. I thought we needed somebody from outside  
895 the Town of Surfside Beach to run the town. That's what I thought, but I was wrong, because I made the  
896 motion to have Rodney Keziah. I'm proud of that. He did a darn good job, and yes, he was a lieutenant,  
897 and I hope that every lieutenant wants to be a chief. I hope every cop wants to be a chief. That's a  
898 wonderful thing to happen. So, before you say some things, because I think that was real personal, I  
899 would've called you out of order way beforehand. But that's just me. I appreciate what you do, Chief  
900 Hofmann, stepping in and do what you doing. I appreciate the process. I look forward to watching you all  
901 spent hours and weeks looking over applications, which I know that you will do, and very open to putting

902 it onto the International Chief of Police Association, putting it out to job listings, and all kinds of things.  
903 You don't need to hire somebody to do that. That's why we hired them to do that. On the other note, I'm  
904 going to let that one go, because I don't want to like; on the safety of the tents. It is an issue. I know  
905 when we moved here, we moved to an R3. I live in the rental area. I get it, I moved where it's busy. I  
906 enjoy those people, actually. But I just want you think of it little different way. Y'all know where my  
907 house is. Right now they're building four seven bedroom homes right next to me, which is a good thing  
908 for real estate. They're going to be building four more up the block, and possibly two more. So you guys  
909 can do the math. That's a couple hundred more people on the beach every single day all summer long.  
910 And if you go down there, it's really not what you think. It's Oceanside Village, because I ask people  
911 where you are from. Why do you come here, and they really tell you. They come to our beach, because  
912 they can put their tents. There really isn't any space down there, and it is a safety issue, because the  
913 next lifeguard is not really Garden City, it's from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to One Ocean Place [on the other  
914 side of Oceanside Village]. I know we all have cell phones, but when people are in an emergency  
915 situation, the difference between having a lifeguard there, and just yelling and having them there and  
916 getting on the phone and calling 9-1-1, which everybody doesn't get bounced up to the County and then  
917 they have to figure out you're in Surfside Beach, it takes a lot of time. So I just would like you all to really  
918 consider that before you just say that you want the tents on the beach. There's one out there today. I  
919 took a picture of it, if you want to see it. It's a tent with chairs all around it and not a person in sight. So  
920 it's already starting and it's March. Thank you all, again.

921  
922 Mr. Bill Doggett, Dogwood Drive: Sidewalks need fixing. (\*\*) it really is. Some places all they  
923 need to do is ground the concrete down a little bit, because it sticks up. I learned the hard way. But, I  
924 would like say one thing. We've got one of the best police groups that I've ever dealt with in my life, and  
925 I just don't understand all the 'to do' we're having our police chief. We've got one right there, and that's  
926 what we need. Thank you a lot.

927  
928 Ms. Kathy Andreas, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South: I'm back and forth. Soon to be  
929 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, I guess. I just want to make a comment about the welcome sign. I think it's nice to  
930 believe in Santa Claus. I think in 50 or 100 years from now, maybe that might work. We could have a  
931 really nice big welcome center. And maybe at Dogwood North off the corner of 16<sup>th</sup>. There would be two  
932 pieces of property; there would have to be bought by the town. But that's sort of not in my future. So I  
933 think it's nice that Surfside has these beautiful signs at our north side and our south side that say  
934 welcome to Surfside. I think they will find us. I think it would be a little bit overworking our wonderful  
935 town right here. I know when I go in to get maybe a permit for something, when I had rental property,  
936 there were lots of people waiting in line. Our people work so hard there. Trying to run a welcome center  
937 out of that is just a little bit too much. It's trying to make too much; I mean it just can't be. We really do  
938 need a big welcome center. So, in the meantime, in those next 50 or 100 years, let's just use the North  
939 sign and the south sign that say welcome to Surfside.

#### 940 941 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

942  
943 Ms. Samples: Thank you to staff for being here so late. We really appreciate it a lot. Thank you  
944 for your comments. Everyone have a lovely evening.

945  
946 Mr. Stevens: Thanks everybody for coming out, number one. It shows the citizens come out and  
947 they speak and it shows that you care about the town. I want to thank Mr. Kohlmann for giving us a real  
948 good illustration of tents on the beach. Really, the picture speaks a thousand words. Ms. Watson just  
949 comes up with some brilliant stuff every time she comes up here. That just amazes me. You should run  
950 for office. Ms. Lowery, we have 21 days for council to get on this tree ordinance, and work it out. I think  
951 April 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Murdoch, I appreciate what you just said about the building department. I've had my ups  
952 and downs with the building department, but I found out that if you're smart, if you're a smart citizen,  
953 and you walk in that office, and you ask them what are the rules. Tell me how to play by the rules, and  
954 tell me what I've got to do, you won't have any problems with 'em. Believe me, I appreciate the building

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955 department, because when I built my house I had two contractors that were doing everything wrong and  
956 if it hadn't been for the building department correcting them, correcting the mistakes they were making, I  
957 would have had probably a messed up house. They went to the new, I don't know if I should say it, but  
958 where's Jellie Bellies? I don't know how it got the name, but they buy bread from Benjamin's Bagels.  
959 Anyway they're going open up a new [restaurant,] they told me that the building department was  
960 fantastic. They showed them that there were problems. Mr. Farria showed him there were problems.  
961 They asked them to check and he found problems where they were trying, the contractor was trying to  
962 shortcut it. Believe me, if you hire a contractor, you don't know everything they're doing. They shortcut  
963 your building, and don't do it right then you've got problems, and that's the reason they bragged on the  
964 building department in this town. I think y'all are doing a great job. I don't agree with everything you do,  
965 number one. But I do think you're doing a good job. If you're tough, I've been on your side of the coin.  
966 I've been an inspector, and if somebody is not doing the job right, you need to make 'em do it right. It  
967 could be the difference in your house burning down or being built correctly. Ms. Kohlmann, thank you for  
968 getting up there and talking. It's good to see you, again. Thank all y'all folks for having; coming out,  
969 listening to us run our mouths up here. Hope y'all have a great week, and Ms. Lowery, we're gonna get  
970 on that tree ordinance. We've got 18 days to get to it. We want to try to do everything, do our best to do  
971 it right. Thank you. Have a good day.

972  
973 Mr. Johnson: Thank you all for coming out. I honestly and truly enjoyed all the comments, no  
974 matter what side you are on about any issue. It's greatly appreciated. You know, we work relatively hard  
975 to address these issues, and it's a non-ending story or job as far as the tree ordinance goes. I hope  
976 council doesn't take it upon themselves to gut what the planning and zoning commission has done,  
977 because they've been working their tails off on this. As far as the sign ordinance goes, I do believe it's a  
978 good ordinance. We'll just have to see, because I've been on council for many years, and as soon as you  
979 think something is good, somebody comes up and tells you, well, you look here. This is not good, so on  
980 and so forth. Thanks, again, for coming out. Thank you all of staff. You all are awesome. I appreciate  
981 everything that you all do.

982  
983 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming. I personally want to thank Ms. Ellis for the BBQ Festival. It  
984 was very well attended and very good. My family had fun there. My little guy is looking forward to the  
985 Easter Egg Hunt and Kids Fest. So that's good. Thank you; all of our events are always good. I think Ms.  
986 Kohlmann said it best, Surfside Beach is a great place to live. We've got a lot of positives here. I do  
987 understand the beach on the south side is very small. I run on the beach all the time. When it's high tide,  
988 I've got to run on soft sand on the south side, and it's a lot harder. So I do understand that, and I will  
989 consider that. The good thing about this, everyone, we live in America. We're allowed to have our  
990 opinions. And that's why there are seven people on council, even though I am [supporting] tents right  
991 now, I'm going to lose that vote, so [tents] are probably going to go away anyway. But, I have to live  
992 with that. That's fine. That's the way this works. That's positive, because hopefully in the end, the final  
993 vote is the right answer. That's why we have seven people of varying opinions. We get the best answer.  
994 I'm not always going to agree, but hopefully we get the best the solution in the end. As far as our police  
995 chief situation, I have no idea what it takes to be police chief. But what I do know is that we have a  
996 situation where our previous police chief was a good one. Chief Keziah decided to leave, and we had  
997 Interim Chief Hofmann ready to step in; willing to step in. I truly appreciate that, because we would've  
998 been a huge bind, if he didn't. I mean it would've been a big mess. I think that's great that we have  
999 people who are capable and available and willing to do that. I thank you for that Chief. I don't know if  
1000 he's going to be the permanent chief or not, but I know we certainly won't have a problem if he was.  
1001 Have a great night. Thank you very much for coming.

1002  
1003 Mr. Ott: I'd like to show the town's appreciation for the Lions Club. We do have the Lions Club  
1004 Week the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>. They do a lot of really good things for the community, and it is great to have  
1005 them here. As for the Myrtle swash, at that time I was told that it was an emergency, and there was only  
1006 one bid, and that's all. I don't think I would've bought into that as easily today as I did at that time. As  
1007 for we have a professional that comes out and inspects the work done in your home. What a terrific thing

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1008 that is. Most people hire people to do that work for them and they hope it's being done correctly. They  
1009 hope all these wires are connected right, and the plumbing is done, and they hope that is actually up to  
1010 code. But now we have, the Town of Surfside Beach supplies a professional that's been trained that  
1011 comes to your house and looks at it. Sometimes he might say your work is done wrong, and don't be  
1012 upset, because you need to have it done correctly, and you need somebody with that professionalism  
1013 that can tell you this isn't right. I appreciate those people that do that. Thank you for coming out. Thank  
1014 you staff for all the work that they do. Thank you Ms. Fellner. I don't always agree with her, but thank  
1015 you. Have a great night.

1016  
1017 Mr. Courtney: I would like to thank all of you for coming out. I'd like to thank staff for all the  
1018 good work they do. I do really appreciate the staff for the work they do around town. As far as the tent  
1019 ordinance, there is no good time to pass an ordinance. It's Christmas, it's Easter, it's the shoulder season,  
1020 it's summer, it's spring, it's winter. It's a tough job. It takes time, and we'll put it together and we'll make  
1021 sure it's done right, and we'll bring it back to council. That's all I have to say. Thank you so much for  
1022 being out here. God bless. Have a good evening.

1023  
1024 Mayor Childs: I'll make this really quick, because it is late. Ms. Lowery, I want to thank you and  
1025 the planning commission for everything. People don't realize you're not getting paid. You're putting a lot  
1026 of hours in free. There's a couple members of the planning commission here tonight, and I hope council  
1027 doesn't get in and rework in a short hour or two everything that you put so much time and effort into.  
1028 Between the signs and the trees, I don't know which one I hear the most. You've done a good job on  
1029 what you done. I want to thank the staff for everything they do. Ms. Fellner, people don't realize the  
1030 hours that you put in and the amount of work that you do. I want thank you very much.

1031  
1032 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Courtney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Mr.  
1033 Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

1034 Prepared and submitted by,

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1036  
1037 Approved: April 11, 2017

1038 \_\_\_\_\_  
1039 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

1040 \_\_\_\_\_  
1041 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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1043  
1044 \_\_\_\_\_  
1045 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

1046 \_\_\_\_\_  
1047 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

1048  
1049 \_\_\_\_\_  
1050 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

1051 \_\_\_\_\_  
1052 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

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1054 \_\_\_\_\_  
1055 Julie M. Samples, Town Council

1056 \_\_\_\_\_  
1057 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

1058 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not  
1059 intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free  
1060 copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive. In accordance with FOIA  
1061 §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the  
1062 town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice  
1063 was also posted on the town website at [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org) and the marquee.