



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP – SURFSIDE PIER
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
115 US HIGHWAY 17 NORTH, SURFSIDE BEACH, SC
April 3, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the workshop to order at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino, and Samples were absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner and Town Clerk Herrmann.

Ms. Fellner presented the same PowerPoint that was given at the March 9th workshop, a copy of which is on file. She explained that there has been no status update since that time with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). We are still working through negotiations. I'm hopeful that we might come to a resolution sometime in June. We have an RFP (request for proposals) that's published on our website for professional engineering design and construction supervision services. The close date for that is April 13th. FEMA will fund 75-percent of what they determine to be the existing facility. This could be a repair of the entire existing structure, or this could be a replacement of just the pier portion to the [east] of the existing structures. If our improvements are in excess of 48-percent, then elevation requirements could be triggered concerning the structures, which could have funding consequences. The extent to which the town is interested in proceeding with hazard mitigation measures could also have funding implications. The purpose of this workshop is that Town Council wishes to receive public input on a number of items, and the big question is does the public what the pier rebuilt? If yes, then what is the public's vision for the pier? There are funding considerations, if the town wants it rebuilt, how much is the town willing to spend? For every \$750,000 FEMA authorizes the town has to match \$250,000. We have been back and forth twice now with FEMA and its back in their court. FEMA is looking at the considerations that we've been talking about, which is still the defining the facility. Both OCRM (Office of Coastal Resource Management) and FEMA for the National Flood Insurance Program, have defined it as the entire facility. So we will just have to wait and see what FEMA decides.

Mayor Childs asked for an explanation of hazard mitigation. Ms. Fellner said hazard mitigation is anything that could be done to eliminate future damage, i.e. concrete piles or things of that nature. Construction that would should we have another storm help to mitigate and reduce damage. Mayor Childs asked about the elevation having to be raised. Ms. Fellner said depending on what FEMA comes back with as the structure it could trigger that requirement.

Mr. Ron Mask, 10th Avenue North: I just noticed your comment about extending the pier west and I was wondering is that mean the east out into the ocean [see line 18], or did you actually mean west? Ms. Fellner said it should read to the east, and thanked Mr. Mask for the correction.

Mr. Joe Luzzi, Garden City: I also represent a company called Woodbridge Contractors. I talked at the last workshop about concrete foundations. I found some more photos online. In fact, right here in Market Common, if you take a look at the bridges that go over their waterways, they have concrete foundations. I'm in the process of checking with some major concrete prefabricators to see about some prices and some engineering for using concrete to suspend the pier. Also at the last meeting, I [mentioned] what might've been possible grant money from the government. I was wondering if anything might've been done with that. Do you recall, ma'am, there was a... Ms. Fellner replied from the audience that it was too soon to apply for any grant funds. Mr. Luzzi said okay, I will check into little further myself. It had to do with using recycled materials that might, that the town might be able to be eligible for grant money. [At] one of the last input meetings, bronze plaques [were mentioned.] I was wondering if Town Council would consider an independent person to collect money for those plaques; have the plaques made, and the money, it's about \$200 per plaque, donated to the town for funding the pier. I have a son that's an artist, and he's going to make up a new logo that includes the pier for Surfside Beach. I'll have that for the next input meeting. I was wondering if the council would consider an independent person to go and sell those plaques; present those plaques to the people to purchase them, and then be responsible for putting those plaques

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56 back on the pier once the pier is finished. In other words, the person will pay for the plaque. It will be made,
57 given to them, and then after the pier is completed, they could come back to whatever company that we use
58 or in this case, my son. Is there any interest in doing it? Then he would be responsible for putting them on
59 the pier. Mayor Childs said that would be something to discuss with the administrator. I'm sure that's got a
60 lot of ins and outs that we have to be careful of, being that it's a town property. Mr. Luzzi: I just want to
61 give you these pictures.
62

63 Mr. Leonard Pressley, 7th Avenue South: My wife and I, we've been here for 33 years. We've been
64 going to the pier every year it's been up there. What I will work for is putting in at least concrete pilings.
65 Please, get a concrete base to keep the pier. The pier, from what I've seen, is very low maintenance. [K]eep
66 it here. People enjoy it. Tourists enjoy it. I don't see no [sic] reason why we couldn't get a concrete base on
67 it. Thank you.
68

69 Ms. Carolyn Powell: I've lived in Surfside 40 years. I love the pier; want it back. What I want to
70 know, when we're looking at materials, do we know why the other piers survived and ours didn't?
71 Springmaid and ours? Are the others wooden, or do they have concrete bases? What? Mayor Childs said no,
72 they're wooden, also. We just got hit by the brunt of the storm, I believe. It just came in our direction along
73 with Springmaid pier. Ms. Powell: Okay.
74

75 Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: I'd like to know what the annual revenue from the pier is and the
76 admission fees, and is that enough to offset the \$250,000 per \$1 million that we would have to pay. And, I'd
77 also like to know how much the insurance, the FEMA would be, to cover the pier, and what the annual
78 maintenance is. Mayor Childs said I was told insurance on the pier we have now would be \$100,000 a year if
79 it was insured. Unknown speaker: Over that. Mayor Childs said so, it's a pretty good chunk of money. Ms.
80 Fellner said the answer to the businesses on the pier is yes, that would be enough to self-insure going
81 forward. Our rents are approximately \$130,000, but then we have a revenue stream from fishing, and also
82 about one mil that we get from the admissions/spectator fees of about \$68,000 to \$70,000, which varies
83 every year. If we go a little bit bigger and better, and include the additional amenities from the amended
84 OCRM permit, then were talking about another business or two businesses, because that building would be
85 sizable. With those rents the bond can be paid off rather than using general fund monies, or having to figure
86 out a new source. It could be paid off out of pier funds, just like the pier has been paying back the general
87 fund. We still have enough money to pay even with just the current rents. We have enough money in those
88 funds right now to pay for the rest of the debt to the general fund. I don't know if council is aware of that.
89 We'll be talking more about that at the budget workshop. Even with this happening, there is to going to be
90 just enough money to pay for that, and to retire that debt to the general fund.
91

92 Mr. Curtis Kramer: My wife and I operate the Pier Outfitters down on the pier. (***) as to your
93 question, I can testify that I paid over \$90,000 last year in rent alone, and collected in excess of \$212,000 in
94 admission fees. That's just what I was able to collect and give to the pier. A couple things that I wanted to
95 make the council aware of is the original footprints of those buildings were designed for 1950s usage. I
96 pulled up some numbers from July 2011, and how many walkers and fishermen we had, and then in July
97 2016 last year. In 2011 we had 14,000 walkers just in the month of July, as well as 2,705 fishermen. In
98 2016 that number jumped to 20,263 walkers and 3,193 fishermen. So as you can see the trend is certainly
99 to an increase in usage, not a decrease. The building that we're in and the facilities we're using, they're
100 painfully small at times of year. Not the entire year, through the summer months when we generate 80-
101 percent of our revenues we are jam-packed in there. It is tight. All of you, I know, have been down to the
102 pier in the summer. You've seen just how crowded that store can really be. So I know the restaurant has, as
103 you well know, tried to expand and make their footprint bigger. So when going forward, I really would
104 encourage you to take a look at. It's been over 60 years since that was originally designed and built. Look
105 for the next 60 years and what the town needs, and what the pier is going to require. How many people do
106 you anticipate servicing in that time? I'm certainly not going to be there and neither will you guys, but
107 somebody's going to be stuck with that problem later on. I would hope you take that into consideration. I
108 can also attest to the fact that we just in the last month, we've seen well over a thousand people come into
109 that store. I wish they were all here today to see, so you could see them. Everybody has voiced unanimous
110 opinions that they want the pier back. They want it back, not next year, but they want it this year. We go to

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111 great lengths to explain that the city really is moving quickly to solve this problem, but it's overwhelmingly
112 unanimous that everybody wants that pier back. They would like to see it forever this time, and not
113 temporary, so take that into consideration. Thank you.
114

115 Mayor Childs said I would like tell everybody the town is going as fast as we can. This is a
116 something that the administrator deals with on almost a daily basis. I had a conversation with fellow this
117 weekend [about this.] [I want] to make sure that everybody knows that we are doing as much as we can. If
118 you've ever dealt with the Federal Government, it is not going to be the fastest thing you can deal with. So
119 we are not the hold up in any way, shape or form. Mr. Kramer's right. I've been in his store when the line is
120 wiggling around all way to the door with people trying to get to the cash register. You have some good
121 points, and thanks for those figures, Mr. Kramer.
122

123 Mr. Brady Simpson: I've been living here for 24 years. I've been going to the pier for over 50 years.
124 I'm originally Charlotte, North Carolina. I was up there this past week. In every restaurant I went to, every
125 person I talked, the first thing they asked was about was Surfside. I told him what I know, and when they
126 asked about Surfside, they're talking about Surfside pier. They said well, we've heard a lot of stuff about
127 Surfside pier. This is what 90-percent of the people told me, we've got reservations for Surfside this year,
128 but next year we will not have reservations for Surfside. We'll be in North Carolina or somewhere else in
129 South Carolina where I can take my kids to go fishing, and they say all I ever hear about Surfside is one
130 time it's going to be built next year, and then they'll say it's going to be in the fall, and now it's up to 19; it'll
131 be up to 20 the next time. People, this is the drawing card of Surfside Beach. I'm telling you the facts.
132 Anywhere you go, it's on Internet. It's on the TV. It's everywhere advertising Surfside Beach can't get
133 together with their prices. They can't to get together with this and that. I've seen three piers destroyed in
134 the past, and I worked there at the pier for 13 years for Mr. Kramer after I retired from Charlotte and
135 enjoyed it very much. We had a good time, but there was three little kids come in the tackle shop this
136 morning, while I was standing in there. They had their little fishing rods with 'em. The man behind the
137 counter said we're not open. We can't go fishing. There was three little kids standing there crying, because
138 they couldn't go out on the pier. People, I'm telling you we need to do something. We need to get money
139 somewhere. But, I know what's going to happen, because you're gonna to miss that money you draw, you
140 get from the pier. People are gonna have to start paying taxes. Somebody's gonna have to pay for this pier.
141 You're going to need it really bad. I appreciate it. I'm not here to make anybody mad, but I'm just telling
142 you the facts of what I know, and that's what I have. I appreciate you giving me the privilege to talk.
143

144 Mayor Childs said once again, I would like to say that in order to expedite this process, we have
145 actually contracted a consulting firm that knows how to handle these deals. So it will expedite it as opposed
146 to us trying to reinvent the wheel. These consultants work with FEMA. They know what they're doing. As
147 soon as the engineers come and give us what has to be done, then we can move on to decide what we're
148 going to do; where we're going to get the money. I can assure you that we cannot go any faster than we're
149 going now, unless one of you lucky people have \$2 to \$3 million you'd like to lend us for a short term, and
150 then we can get started right away.
151

152 Mr. Brad Dean: I'm the chairman of the Myrtle Beach area Chamber of Commerce. Thank you Mayor
153 Childs, Town Council, and staff. I appreciate the open, inclusive process that the council has undertaken to
154 evaluate this very important project. We knew when you engaged in this that you would get plenty of
155 feedback from residents and local businesses. But, we wanted to make sure that your visitors were not left
156 out of that process. So, we worked with some local Surfside businesses to survey past visitors to Surfside
157 just to make sure that their perspective is included, as well. I don't think you're gonna hear much different
158 than what you've already heard. There are a couple points I did want to share with you. Mayor, I've got
159 copies of a letter and the survey results that I'll leave with Ms. Herrmann for each member of council. I think
160 a couple things are really important to note: 90-percent of the visitors who come to Surfside say they visited
161 a pier. Of course, then we asked which pier, and almost all of them said the Surfside pier. So there is no
162 doubt that this is a huge attractor to Surfside. That is no surprise to anyone, but what is interesting is the
163 size of the groups. This was alarming to me. The average party size for a vacationer to the Grand Strand is
164 about four people, or just a little bit over four. The average party size to the Surfside pier exceeds six, in
165 fact, it is closer to eight people. So what that tells you is a lot of large multi-generational families and other

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166 groups to come to the pier. If you been there in the middle of the summer, that's no surprise to you. You
167 see that all the time. A few other things I think were noteworthy; 83-percent, so better than four out of five,
168 have visited that pier more than four times. So it's not one of these attractions the people come to just once.
169 They come back year after year after year. To the previous gentleman's point, I think this is not just an
170 attraction. It's an iconic part of the Grand Strand. I would argue that it extends beyond Surfside. It is one
171 of the iconic attractions all throughout the 60 miles of beautiful beaches we have. A couple of other points
172 that I thought were interesting; the 86-percent of those surveyed, not just those who visit the pier, but 86-
173 percent of those surveyed believe the Surfside pier should be rebuilt. I'm not quite sure what the other 14-
174 percent think. Although some of them, I think, were maybe just questioning what would be the alternative.
175 So I think you can safely assume visitors that have come here the past whether or not they visited the pier
176 want to see this pier rebuilt. This was perhaps the most alarming finding for me, it did report that nearly one
177 in four said that if it were not rebuilt that could prompt them to consider staying elsewhere. Now, I don't
178 have the perspective that the gentleman [who] just spoke mentioned in terms of them going elsewhere.
179 That is certainly a possibility. It could also be that they just choose another community along the Grand
180 Strand to stay. But then, Surfside loses those tax dollars the visitors bring in, and that ultimately means you
181 have to raise taxes to maintain services. I think, first, visitors have spoken loudly and clearly. They want to
182 see the pier rebuilt. Included in the letter that we're going to distribute, there's also some open-ended
183 comments where we asked people what you would like to see different or better about the pier so that as
184 you're looking for the future vision of this pier you have some feedback from your visitors, as well. I'll just
185 say, Mayor, having dealt with FEMA and the Federal Government on many projects, including an interstate
186 highway that started when President Reagan was president, and we're were still trying to build it, I
187 appreciate what you're up against. We appreciate your service. Thank you all very much. Mayor Childs said
188 thank you. We appreciate the Chamber's input, Mr. Dean, very much.

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190 Mayor Childs said I just want to add this, in case it does come up in conversation, we are going to
191 rebuild the pier. That's never been a question. It's just a matter of how big it will be and the type of pier.

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193 Mr. Phil Vassar: I'm with the Surfside Beach Resort Hotel on the oceanfront. (**) follow Mr. Dean as
194 a speaker, because he has so much information. I'll go through as best I can. I'll reiterate something both
195 that Mr. Kramer and Mr. Dean said, in 2016, a shortened season, we hosted over 6,000 guests on the pier
196 ourselves, and similar numbers for the two years prior to that. Our guests don't come here just because of
197 the pier. I'll be honest about that. They come here for, the first thing, is for the beach, our beautiful beach.
198 But one of the things that brings them back here year after year, paraphrasing Mr. Dean, is the iconic pier
199 that is a major part of Surfside. [According to Mr. Dean,] 25-percent of the people might not come back if
200 it's not rebuilt. That's a big number, as Mr. Dean said, in tax dollars for our community. Although I don't
201 have the pleasure of living here now, I lived in this town for 35-plus years. I saw my son catch one of his
202 first fish off that pier. It is one of the biggest joys for him to think about going fishing on that pier. Many
203 times we come and have dinner on the pier and then walked out on it afterwards. Everybody that comes on
204 that pier doesn't just come to fish. I have one little question, where are we on the engineering? Ms. Fellner
205 said the RFQ will open April 13th. Mr. Vassar asked if we're going to be able to extend the pier out further.
206 Ms. Fellner explained that we can't extend the pier with the existing OCRM permit; but we could use some
207 footage to increase the business spaces, and have terminals at the end of the pier. Mr. Vassar said with the
208 pier as it exists now, and you have engineering coming through for OCRM and for FEMA, when will that
209 engineering study be done? Ms. Fellner said the first thing is a structural engineer has to look at it. Mr.
210 Vassar said right, and when do we think that's going to happen. Ms. Fellner said the RFQ will open April 13th.
211 Mr. Vassar said the reason I asked that question, Mr. Mayor, and Councilmembers, I think that if we can
212 allow 50, 60, or 70 feet of access to that pier, I believe it would become a tourist attraction. I really do
213 believe people would want come see, and be able to walk out on that pier as it is today before it is replaced.
214 I think that's a big attraction for this whole town. So, I hope we'll get that done, and get moving. Finally, it is
215 fantastic to hear the positive feedback from our councilmembers, and from our staff. They do a great job.
216 We really appreciate what you're doing, and just only hope if you need a little push, Mr. Stevens, you know I
217 can kick it when it needs to be. (Laughter) So, if you need a little kicking power, just come on down and ask
218 us. I don't have \$2 million to give you. If I did... Mayor Childs said you do have it. I know. Mr. Vassar said if
219 I did I'd loan it to you. (**) Thank you very much, and just keep up the good work. We appreciate all you
220 do.

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Mayor Childs said OCRM and the US Army Corps of Engineers are two other groups that we have to deal with. There are a lot of people involved in this process. What those agencies do a lot of times is out of our control.

Mr. Luzzi, Waterbridge Contractors: Thank you for giving me another opportunity to speak. Now that we're approaching the engineering standpoint and the architectural design of this pier, my suggestion as working for a company that builds piers, is the end of the pier walkway is called a pier head. What is an attractive and aesthetically pleasing thing to build on at the end is called a pier head. It can be made round or an oval to accommodate more and more fishermen at the end of the pier. I wouldn't suggest putting any type of structure whatsoever on the end of the pier. However, the infrastructure should be built to include sewage, water, and electrical outlets that can service temporary businesses structures that can be erected or rolled out during the summer. Also the consideration of push carts, which is done on many other piers. Even in Europe, everybody pushes flowers out there, or sandwiches, or if you allowed alcohol that would be something where individual business owners can have little individual businesses. They're portable. The point being build the pier first. Make it strong enough that you can eventually build on top of it [using] conventional construction. It doesn't need to be done now. You don't need to build a retail business there. And the current gift shop, after the pier is built that's all conventional construction that can happen later. Get the pier built first. As far as expediting, there are these folks with the Army Corps of Engineers out of Charleston and they the love road trips. They love to come to the Myrtle Beach area to look at major projects. Somebody might want to call and invite them up here. Maybe have them for lunch on the pier. Let them know how much that the city does need this pier to be open again, and it needs to be expedited. So thank you for allowing me to speak again.

Mr. Bob Holman, Lake Court: I can speak for my family, and the friends that we [have.] We've been here three and half years. I couldn't imagine Surfside without the pier. I'm pleased to hear that we're definitely rebuilding the pier. But, I also appreciate Mr. Dean's and Mr. Kramer's point of looking at the future. It seems like based on trends and based on how everybody's continuing to come here that it makes sense to make the footprint at least a little bit bigger. Even if we've gotta swallow a little higher price tag right now to make sure that 50 years down the road as my kids grow up and have kids of own, their kids and grandkids can play in Surfside. So I would implore you to look towards the future, and make sure we can we can fit. Secondly, though, are we looking at raising the funds through a bond for the \$250,000? Is that how were looking, because I heard one point were talking about selling off the baseball field over on Holmestown Road. Is that off? I heard rumors about that. Mayor Childs said once we find out what we're going to do, then the funding will come into place depending on what's needed. The ballfield has nothing to do with this at all. Mr. Holman said that the ballfield was never a consideration. Mayor Childs said no, sir.

Mr. Brady Simpson: As the contractor said, we need a pier. We're talking about a cement pier. I think that's a joke for Surfside Beach right now. I really think in my heart a cement pier is a joke, because you're looking at \$5 million, probably, at the least to build a concrete pier, or probably more than that. I want at pier. If it's just like the one we have now, I think that's what we ought to build. If it needs to be added on to, I think that's what we ought to do to the one that's out there now. Because we are in Surfside Beach, I can stand here now and say we're in trouble. That pier out there draws more money than you'll ever dream it does. That's what I've got to say, and I appreciate the time to talk. Thank you very much.

Mr. Howard Barnard, Ocean Boulevard North: I've been here for over 30 years. I agree with [Mr. Simpson.] I want to replace the pier, but I think we need to keep it simple, too, Mayor. I think we need to put the wooden pilings back in. I've told the administrator the storm doesn't tear the pilings down. What tears the pier down is a storm hitting the cross pieces. If we could figure out how to put the cross pieces down simply, and have a contracts with somebody to pull them up when we knew a big storm was coming, we wouldn't lose the pier. Long ago when I was your Horry County Councilman, the head of Ocean Lakes [Campground] called me, and said you need number those pieces like a puzzle, and pull them up, and then put them back down. If we could figure out how to do that and attach them easily and pull them up and put them back down, we'd never lose the pier, because the storm doesn't destroy the pilings. But, I agree with [Mr. Simpson], I think we ought to replace the wooden pilings. That's the iconic pier; it's made out of wood,

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276 put it back that same way. Do it as expensively as we can. That would be my advice to you. Thank you very
277 much for allowing me to speak.

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279 Mr. Leonard Pressley: What you're saying about the wooden pilings, this is the third pier since I've
280 been here. This is the third pier we've put out there. If we're going to invest money, I think we need to
281 invest money to bring it up to date, and more and more people would come, I feel. I appreciate all you do.
282

283 Mr. Stevens: Unfortunately, if Mr. Luzzi brings a bid to the town, I will be able to vote on that. So I
284 will have to leave the decision up to the rest of my distinguished colleagues, because I work with
285 Waterbridge as well. I want to speak as a citizen first. I've been coming to Surfside Beach since 1954. I
286 remember the first pier. I went fishing on it and it was destroyed after Hurricane Hazel. Later on we had
287 another pier that was built back after it was destroyed. I had the opportunity during college to drive down
288 through Jacksonville Beach, Florida. They had a concrete pier back in 1973. Then I went by the same pier in
289 December 2016. The pier was closed down for short period of time. It was concrete foundation with wood
290 decking. Some of the decking was gone. That pier is already open. It opened in the end of January this year.
291 I also sent all of councilmembers a study done by the State of Florida. Florida has more coastline, more piers
292 than any other state in the United States. Out of all their piers 70-percent are built out of concrete. Some of
293 them will have a concrete foundation, and wood decking. They showed one pier that the decking was taken
294 out, but the pilings were still there. So they were able to go back and replace the decking and build the pier
295 back without any problem. Pilings were still there after major storms. As far as a citizen, I would gladly pay
296 extra taxes, buy a plaque, do whatever's necessary to get the pier built back. I don't look at it for me. I look
297 at for these two young men sitting right here on the front row. I look at this as something for the long term
298 for our children, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rest assured, I'll be in the ground when our
299 great-grandchildren are still using this pier. I'm going to use a phrase that Mr. Howard Barnard said when he
300 was building the library across the street from my house and I was fighting, because they wanted to put a
301 parking lot around my house. He said we should be bold. The town should be bold. We should do what's
302 necessary, and we should build a pier back that's going to last. That's going to last us, our children, and our
303 grandchildren, because this is the focal point of the [town.] Mr. Dean, and Mr. Vassar also met with the
304 Councilmember Pellegrino, me and late Councilmember Magliette. They talked about Surfside Beach, and we
305 were trying to come up with an idea of ways to market the town. They said you've got the pier; expand on
306 it. Personally, I would love to see not only the pier built back, but I'd like to see some type of a small
307 boardwalk stretching from Scottie's Restaurant to River City Café where people can also gather right up next
308 to the beach. You could have a band down there to play and entertain. It brings people to the center of this
309 town, and believe me, these figures that they have make a lot of sense. [About] 78-percent of the people
310 who go to the pier, according to the Chamber of Commerce, I just read it [on Mr. Dean's handout,] spend
311 anywhere from \$10 up to more than \$50; 31-percent spend more than \$50. Believe me, we need the
312 people. There's a lot of realty companies, Surfside Realty, Old Colony Realty, Garden City Realty, that all
313 have rental property here. Mr. Vassar has a hotel. We have the Holiday Inn. They come here for a reason,
314 and by the way, Mr. Vassar thank you for helping us get people on the pier. Your hotel actually spent money
315 to get people on the pier. That's the kind of business we need. We need this; it is a business decision. It's
316 not an emotional decision. We have to be logical. Mr. Kramer spoke about how much business has
317 increased. Well, believe me, if we build it back bigger and better, people are going to come, just like they
318 came to the library that is right across the street from my house. Mr. Barnard, you build it better, bigger and
319 better, believe me. I was on you about that, but I love the library now. You built it bigger and better, and
320 now more and more people are coming to it. It is gonna be the same thing that happens with the pier. It's
321 going to be something that our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren
322 will be using for years on end. That's all I'm going to say about it. I'm willing to pay as a citizen whatever's
323 necessary. If I had the money, believe me, I'd pull it out my pocket and start loaning it to the town, but I
324 don't have it. Maybe my wife will win the lottery and we can donate some money. Thank you very much.
325

326 Mr. Ott: As everybody else is, we want to build the pier, not for me, but for her (*pointing to his*
327 *granddaughter*), and for her children. I would ask our administrator if we build it out of wood pilings again, I
328 would like to know what technology is available today that was not available before. We just spent \$80,000
329 a few years ago to wrap those pilings, because they were being eaten by some kind of sea snails or
330 something. That's why most of them got pulled out of the ground. I have pictures of them where they were

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331 laying on the beach. If we do that, I would like to know what technology will not allow that to happen again.
332 Also, the cross members that we had in there, most of them I think, at least 80- to 90-percent of them were
333 split. We need to make sure that never happens again. As for building a bigger and better pier, I would say
334 we could shoot for the best we can build into the future, and then pulled back into what we can actually
335 afford. Thank you.
336

337 Mr. Courtney: Thank you for coming out today. I also enjoy the pier with my family and children,
338 but it's important to me that we make sure that we do this right. We're talking about taking out a bond is
339 what I'm hearing, and you're talking about wood versus concrete. I was very interested to hear from Mr.
340 Kramer [about] the rents. I'd like to get to know what we're bringing in off that pier, if you wouldn't mind,
341 the actual numbers of the income that were taking in. What I haven't heard in any of this discussion is
342 whether that pier repairable. Can we fix the pier as it stands now? How many of the pilings have been
343 compromised? This is something that we need to look at it. Also, could the pier be rebuilt for a third of the
344 cost, if we go for a wood structure pier? I was told it would be from \$2 million for wood to \$4 million for a
345 concrete pier. I'm still waiting to hear from the administrator whether or not the engineers believe that we
346 can we rebuild that pier as it is. That's something that's never been brought back to us. I agree with the
347 extending the pier. I'd like to see [a boardwalk] extend from Scotties all way to the hotel, because as I know
348 from in the past staying at that hotel, the Surfside Beach Resort, it'd be such a pleasure then walking out
349 and walking down to the pier, using some of the services that we have there, and also being able to access
350 to River City Café. I think we could do little bit more, if we can bring it back closer inland. I know that we
351 can't go out. I was under the impression at one time that it was extended further than what was. Is that
352 correct? Ms. Fellner said she had been told that the pier has never been any longer than it is now. Mr.
353 Courtney: With that being said, I want to see if we can do something on the west side pulling it back in, and
354 we would be able to connect with a boardwalk. [Let's] see if something can be done about that. But again,
355 I'd like to know whether or not that pier [can be repaired]; how bad is it; how does it stand today? Can it be
356 repaired at a third of the cost of rebuilding one? We have not discussed that at all. So, we have a lot of
357 important decisions to make, and we've got a lot more information that we need before we move forward.
358 Me, personally, I want to see this move as fast as possible. I want to see that pier up there. But as you
359 know and I know, dealing with the Feds and the State whatever we might get, whatever funds, we're going
360 to have to do something about this as far as taking out a bond on it. So I think we're still waiting on these
361 decisions to be made. Hopefully, this information will come back to us sooner than later. I thank you very
362 much for your input. It means a lot. We'll see where we go from here.
363

364 Mayor Childs: I think the big thing to Mr. Courtney's question is that's what the structural engineers
365 are going to do. You never know, they are likely to say you can rebuild. How? We don't know that, because
366 we do not have any structural engineers on staff. That's what we're going to find out. They will tell us
367 whether you can, and what you can rebuild, whether it is the whole pier or half. That's the reason for the
368 structural engineer. We'll find that out. Like Ms. Fellner said, the bids are coming the 13th, and if anybody
369 would like be here, the openings will be here in this Council Chamber. It will be mid-June by the time they
370 do all their studying. I can't imagine how in depth that study must be for a pier of its size. So, once again,
371 we're going as fast as we can. We'd all like to have the pier rebuilt by July 1st, but we know that won't
372 happen.
373

374 Mr. Stevens: There's one question I'd like to ask the administrator. A few years ago when we
375 bought the pier from Mr. Scalise, did we not have to spend about \$600,000 replacing pilings that were either
376 eaten up by marine worms? Ms. Fellner said she was not aware of spending \$600,000. Mr. Stevens: I
377 remember that the town had to vote to spend extra money because pilings were not very good shape. They
378 had been eaten up by marine worms. You may have not been on; this was during Mr. Booth's time. We've
379 had to replace several pilings all on the pier since then, right, and wraps because marine worms ate the
380 pilings, is that correct? Ms. Fellner said several pilings were wrapped. (**unknown speaker from audience)
381 Mr. Stevens: Correct me if I'm wrong, but has there been any situation where marine worms ate concrete
382 pilings? Ms. Fellner said no, but marine worms do get into rebar.
383

384 Mayor Childs said keep in mind will have another meeting May 13th at 10:00 a.m. If you think of
385 anything between now and the next meeting, please be sure to show up. We've had these three meetings to

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386 try to accommodate everybody. We've had them in the daytime, the nighttime and the next one will be on
387 Saturday for those that were unable to make it to the night or the day meetings during the week. We're
388 trying to make sure everybody's opinion is heard. We value everybody's opinion. I think everybody should
389 have an input on this. This is a town wide project, and we want to hear from everybody. We really
390 appreciate your ideas, and come back if you've got more, and then will all get together and see what we can
391 do about this pier.

392
393 **ADJOURNMENT.** Mayor Childs since there are no other comments or questions, I'll adjourn the
394 workshop. It's 10:53 a.m. Thank everybody for coming very much

395 Prepared and submitted by,

396
397 Approved: April 25, 2017

398 _____
399 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

400
401 _____
402 Robert F. Childs, Mayor

403
404 _____
405 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

406 _____
407 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

408 _____
409 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

410 _____
411 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

412 _____
413 Julie M. Samples, Town Council

414 _____
415 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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