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, and Town Clerk Herrmann.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Reverend Laura Whitt gave the invocation. B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Pellegrino moved to adopt the agenda as presented with an amendment to delete 6.A. and 7.E., presentations by the business committee. M. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Executive Session and Regular Meeting December 12, 2017. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the December 12, 2017 executive session and regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED

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

Ms. Elizabeth Bradley, Surfside Beach: I came in favor of the amendment, [agenda item] 7. Section C, the ordinance being read on the ban of single use plastic bags. I'm here to support that.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South: This has to do with item 7, B. What, what really is the purpose in doing this? The only thing that is not a business in that area right now is one house and parking lots. I don't understand why we're doing this. Is it going to cost the town anything? Are we going to lose parking spaces in that area? We don't have near [sic] enough parking spaces as it is to designate this as an area that is not required to have parking. Seems to me a little off the side of the hill. We don't have near enough parking in that area as it is. I just would like to know what it's going to cost the town; what the purpose of it is, and just a real why. What, what, what you doing here?

Ms. Jennifer Cribb, 14th Avenue South: I'm speaking to the first reading of the single use plastic bag ban ordinance. As you know, I'm a local licensed real estate broker and realtor, as well as the founder of Surfsidians that has over 16,000 members and growing; people who care about Surfside Beach and the environment. Most importantly, I'm a concerned resident who is completely in favor of the single use plastic bag ban ordinance. First, I would like to thank our Town Councilmembers for bringing this important and serious ordinance to its first reading with no delay. I also would like to thank all of the other concerned citizens who traveled here tonight from all over Horry County, Georgetown County, and beyond to show their support for such an important issue. The Town of Surfside Beach is a small, but very strong, coastal town. We have this huge and important opportunity to make a real difference. Our town has a gorgeous beach; beautiful lakes, the wildlife is awesome. We have such wonderful and caring residents. We must show our neighboring towns, counties and states that we do actually care, and want to protect our most precious asset, the ocean. It is up to us to pave the way for others to follow. We already know and are very aware of the grave harm single-use plastic bags bring to our ocean, our inlets, wetlands, and estuaries, marine life, and wildlife. So the time is now, not later. We must take this much-needed bold stand against plastic bags. Please, I implore you, our elected town officials, our councilmembers to make this happen without delay, and to vote in favor of a single use plastic bag ban. Thank you so much in advance for doing the right thing.

Ms. Gottlieb McClaran, Pawleys Island: I also am here in support of your plastic bag ordinance. I have been studying plastic for the past 10 years and I have a lot to say on it myself. But, I would like to read to you a letter which was sent by Rick Bowman who has been in the fishing business since 1967. Good evening ladies and gentlemen, my name is Rick Bowman. I am the founder of Murrells Inlet Seafood and I have been in the seafood business locally since 1967. I would like to commend the Surfside Beach city council for having the courage and
vision to address the plastic pollution issue, as I would and I would like to give some perspective to the issue from a fishing position. The plastic industry complains that any regulation or ordinance could negatively affect the jobs that the industry provides. This is a very selfish and bogus position. If every industry used jobs as their excuse for wanton pollution, there would be no regulation of pollution at all. Every polluting industry provides jobs. The plastics industry want you to believe that the jobs they provide are due justification for polluting our air and waters, and thus jeopardizing the fishing industry. This is something with which I totally agree. This is not a professional or ethical position. The fishing industry upon which we depend a great deal also provides numerous jobs directly in the fishery itself, and secondarily, in related businesses like ice, bait, maintenance, and infrastructure. All the way down to the seafood shops that offer our products to the public and in restaurants who serve our products, all the way down to witnesses and dishwashers. Scientific studies have revealed that fish are ingesting plastic particles. I have brought a sample (handed to the mayor.) They fish are mistaking [plastics] for food. We are ingesting toxic plastic when we eat fish. Scientists are predicting that there would be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050. At the moment, there are 500 times more plastic particles in the ocean than stars in the galaxy. This is unacceptable. The plastics and packaging industries should change their practices and procedures to produce packaging products which are not toxic to the environment and human beings. Rather than producing more product the industry should retrain and retool and invest in the future of packaging. In fact, they should have done so already. (Time ended.) Even the United Nations environmental program states that the plastic issue is one that has been neglected for far too long. An issue (gavel) with which I totally agree. Again, I thank you for taking up this issue and urge you to pass one use plastic bag ban.

Ms. Carrie Johnson, Harbor Lights Drive: I am here to speak on 7.D. The Ordinance 18-0864 amendments to Chapter 14 Flood Damage Prevention. This states that there are serious problems with the floodplain management regulations. This is completely false. Each year the community assistant visit reviews all the flood ordinances throughout the region. Changes are required based on changes made to the model ordinance. An example would be the definition of critical facilities. When the town's flood ordinance was approved by Town Council, this definition came directly from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). FEMA has now changed the term to critical development. None of the changes required by FEMA are a result of the town violating anything or promoting erroneous requirements. The requirement being requested regarding the fill is absurd, to say the least. This is an evident attempt to try and cover up an error that has been made. This error has already been reported to FEMA, and by changing the ordinance, some are hoping this goes away. I know some have asked to see the report from FEMA and were denied. I asked that before you do anything on this ordinance, you see the report from FEMA. In the past the letter requiring the changes was always included in the council packets for transparency reasons. When you see the report then you can make the necessary changes required by FEMA, and only those changes. The city of Myrtle Beach, Horry County, City of North Myrtle Beach, City of Georgetown, Georgetown County, and the City of Conway all have the same language as our town currently has regarding fill in Coastal A and V Zones. The town established a Coastal A Zone approved by FEMA to require V Zone requirements in this zone. The requirements recommended by FEMA are more stringent than the building codes and the National Flood Insurance Program to protect the homes from storm surge and to help prevent devastation during an emergency. Changing this ordinance will have an immense impact on the town's Class 5 CRS rating, and this could potentially affect every homeowner with flood insurance, if this is allowed to be changed. I served on the CRS committee, and many hours went into getting our rating to a Class 5, which benefits the whole town. The CRS committee was made up of a couple of insurance agents, which I am, real estate agents, business people, all required by FEMA for the CRS committee. Please get your head out of the sand and see what is going on here. There are many, many ordinances that are not being enforced. Mistakes are being made, and then in order to rectify the mistakes, they're trying to change ordinances that should not be changed. We desperately need a planning and zoning director that knows what they are doing such as the one we had and was fired for not doing these favors that are being done now. She enforced the ordinances as written, and of course was sometimes not liked for that, but don't fire the messenger when all she was doing was doing her job and doing it right, unlike what is happening now. Thank you.

Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: I will make it short. I'm addressing Section D to amend Chapter 14 Flood Damage Prevention. Well, okay they worked on it a while back and they did a very good job. It was good in the eyes of FEMA. It kept our flood insurance reasonable and it was protection for everybody's living place, whether you rent places or whether you own a yard, or a house, or townhouse. Okay, so I'm afraid that any changes to our successful flood damage prevention may in fact result in increased flooding to families' homes. This means all of our loyal taxpayers who been here paying taxes in the town for years, they, they don't want to have a chance of increased damage, particularly if they're old senior citizens, and people who can't leave Surfside Beach to
live somewhere else. So yeah, we don't want a chance of increased flooding to families. Two, we don't want to result in a terrible increase with much higher insurance premiums. Not everybody here can afford to pay higher insurance premiums. And three, we don't want to downgrade the good job we're doing. As I said, FEMA was in favor of what we did. We have no violation of any FEMA law. We have something good, and I pray that if it's not broken, let's not try to fix something that's not broken. We are dependent on you guys up in council. We are depending on the town administrator. We are depending on all of you to use the discernment that Pastor Laura Whitt said make a good decision for safety property protection and for us to feel good about living in Surfside Beach. Please. Don't destroy a mess around with our flood damage prevention and, in fact, FEMA does approve of what we been doing. Other places do, too. It it's not broke, don't fix it. Thank you and praying to God that we keep this town stay from stormwater surges.

Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: First, I want to say I support the single-use plastic bag ordinance, but I'm here tonight speak about 7.D. the flood, the flood ordinance. First, I want to just tell you that y'all know me very well up there and this is my research on this (held up folder of papers) and I've been doing quite a bit of it. In touch with DNR; in touch with FEMA; in touch with everyone, because and I'm not afraid to say it, I was the one that reported the fill dirt in the flood zone. I was told not to do that because I would have problems, and then to see this come out the way came out it's very disturbing, very disturbing. I just want to show you all here this is what you were handed. A decision paper with eight pages, eight pages. This is the real flood prevention ordinance. It's 66 pages. How are you supposed to vote on something that is incomplete, number one, and it has half-truths, as my mom would call it, which is a lie. It says in here the community assistance report said there was serious problems and that was given in September. If they were that serious, why did it take a resident to report this violation of an ordinance for it to be looked at? I don't understand that. There is no confliction [sic], which I been talked around and around the block by many people in town. You're reading into it so deeply. The only thing is like one word in an ordinance that changes it and you're saying that fill dirt can't be used for structure, and that fill dirt can be used for landscaping. Well, you don't landscape until you build a house. So you shouldn't be allowing fill dirt to be dumped on a lot and then spread, which is what is happening at 16th Avenue South and South Ocean Boulevard. Now it's already leveled. So how do you get the natural grade when they do a survey? There is a process. It's in the flood ordinance. It's not being followed. There are; you need stormwater plans. You have to do it in order, and the way they're saying this it's wrong. And now when you read this ordinance, go to page 5 if you would up there, you all have this? That incomplete ordinance, go to page 5, page 5 of 8, you're allowing recreation vehicles back down there. There is a reason it was taken out; for the CRS. Zoning ordinance in this town doesn't allow it. So you’re gonna take it out of this ordinance, and guess what folks, it's in another ordinance. So you're making this compounding. You’re just compounding this. Go to page 6. Page 6 of your ordinance. You just lined out G, and if you all noticed like go back one page, he puts in Section 14-8, doesn't put an 8, he puts a number 4. Where's A? It goes from four to B. What is that? And takes out enclosures of any kind. (Time ended.) There is so much more I have to say. I hope you all take me up on my offer of I’ll give you all my stuff. Thank you.

Ms. Marybeth Mabry, 15th Avenue North: I'm here to talk about flood ordinance. I want to remind you that we not only got an award for this ordinance, they use this ordinance to teach in Maryland, and if you don't believe it, go on to the FEMA website. If it was so bad and so egregious, do you believe that they would be teaching that? Using our ordinance in tiny little Surfside two by 2 by 2 square miles. We’re teaching it in Maryland. They’re teaching it to everybody all over the United States. How bad can it be? How bad can that language be when all the other towns used our ordinance as an example? Every year FEMA audits us. That happens. And once in a while they'll change the language that they are now using and request that we add that to our ordinance. That's not egregious. That's not horrible. Nobody made a mistake. It was something that we do on a yearly basis. So, for you have a staff member try to make his self or their selves look so good by tearing down something else. It is misleading to the public. It is unfair to the residents, and it's wrong. And for you to allow it is doubly wrong. You know it. You don't do something about. We are not being told the truth. We are being misled by these accusations that did not happen. Call FEMA. Our floodplain manager has never spoken to our district FEMA representative. Not once. Doesn’t even know who he is. Wouldn’t you think that if you were gonna change that you would’ve called that representative. Had that face-to-face to see if we were correct or not. We didn’t do that. We just came up with a bunch of garbage because you're trying to do a favor for a friend, and there's no other way to say it. Thank you.

Ms. Lynn Livesay, 10th Avenue South: Council and Mayor, that's a hard act to follow. I want to address the small portion of C3 they we’re thinking about rezoning. I’ve lived here 34 years. I’ve served on many of your committee as a volunteer, so. Some of it I’ve forgotten; some of his been changed. I want to address this particular
Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I’d like to speak about the E district. I just want to let you know I’m for it. But, I don't know why you rushing. This is something that’s really, really big. It should be more than one the workshop. Maybe event sent out to an engineer or a development company, or a planning company. Right in Mr. Harrah’s notes it says right now we don’t have enough parking, and that we’re against, and now we’re going against our ordinances once we build the pier again. He said we’re gonna only lose 28 parking spaces. Well, truth be had, it’s really going to be over 55 parking spaces eliminated. You missed a couple spaces. Even the places that he put, he missed count. Saying it’s 6 acres; it’s not 6 acres. It’s more like 2 acres. It’s one square block. Incorporating the hotel has nothing to do with it. Those parking spaces are for the hotel. And saying 93-percent on a slow year in July for last year the daily average capacity was filled, 93-percent was filled. That doesn't take; that’s a guestimate, because that doesn’t take into account all the parking decals of all the residents and out of town residents, second home owners, their parking decals. You're getting there, because you put if you have a parking lot, then you have to put parking spaces there if there’s no structure, and you make a structure, you have to have parking spaces. But, nowhere does how many. Two? Do you have to replace every single parking space? It doesn’t say that. Where, I didn’t see it, but where in the ordinance does it say about the boundaries? Because I got two different maps, and it shows two different boundaries. One ended at Dogwood and one ended at Yaupon. Which one is it? We don’t have enough parking there. That’s the truth. If you’re gonna put up buildings, you’re gonna let people build a restaurant right to the lot lines, and have no parking, guess what’s gonna happen? I mean it’s a wonderful dream to say people are gonna walk, but nobody walks here, folks. Everybody takes their car to a parking lot and then walks a block or two. If there’s no parking, restaurants are going to go under. It’s not gonna work. You have to think about it. Why is people who have a structure there now, if they tear it down, don’t they have to supply parking? They should have to have the exact same amount of spaces that they used to have and they should have them in the new building just like with the parking lots (time ended) when they’re empty and it says you have to have parking underneath. Why are they exempt? I’m just curious.

Ms. Caroline Bradner, East Bay: I’m here to speak about the plastic bag ordinance. First, I would like to thank the council for the opportunity to comment on the plastic waste reduction ordinance and also for consideration of it. I am the land, water and wildlife project manager for the Coastal Conservation League. I focus on how best to protect our natural landscapes, abundant wildlife, clean water, and quality of life. The Conservation League wholeheartedly support this ordinance as an excellent step towards addressing dangerous marine debris. It sends a clear message that Surfside Beach does not want businesses operating within its boundaries to contribute to plastic
Ms. Kelly Thorvalson, South Carolina Aquarium: [I'm] here to comment on the plastic waste reduction ordinance. I’d also like to thank you for your leadership in just having this conversation tonight, and last month when I was here. I’d like to just reiterate something I talked about last month. I am a sea turtle rehabilitator. I’ve been rehabilitating turtles for 14 years. We’ve seen a frightening increase of turtles being admitted into our sea turtle hospital at the aquarium with plastics in their G.I. (gastro-intestinal) tracts. In 17 years, we’ve treated 20 turtles with plastics; 15 of those have been the last three years, and 7 of those have been just in the last year. Seven of 20 in one year. This is the same trend that we’re seeing on our beaches; that were seeing in litter pickups across the state; that were seeing along the road sides as we travel from one place to another. It’s so, the aquarium, because we’re seeing this trend, we've made it a strategic imperative to try to combat plastic pollution and one way in which were doing that is to engage people to physically remove this trash from our landscape, from beaches, from river sides, from the streets. We've developed an app (software application) to track that data. So not only does this app help engage groups and individuals to track or two to pick up litter, but I can actually see what the problem issues are with plastics. Since this app began a little over a year ago, 4,205 plastic bags have been tracked in this (***) data app. Now this is a small part of South Carolina, mostly coastal that is being swept and tracked. We’re hoping to do a lot more throughout the state. Very little sweeps have been tracked in this app in the north coast, but we’re trying to do more. After the December meeting where this ordinance was introduced, a small handful of us did a sweep in Surfside for about an hour. It was freezing cold the next day. We picked up 44 bags in about an hour. Today as the Coastal Conservation League rep said, she picked up almost 30 just a few minutes before I got here. I picked up about six along with two bags of other types of trash and plastics. So plastics are an issue. Single-use plastic bags are one of the easiest things to remove from circulation. There are so many inexpensive options, and I assure you, we all know that change is hard, but you assure people will get used to it. Change is absolutely imperative for the betterment of society. When you learn that something is harming your community, your community members, the wildlife in your community, it's that important to make those changes that help. The community members that are on board understand why it needs to happen. Businesses need to consider the end game (time ended) of these harmful products. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Samantha Ladowik, Myrtle Beach: I'm a graduate student at Coastal Carolina University. I'm actually working on micro plastic, microscopic pieces of plastic, research in Winyah Bay, South Carolina. Winyah Bay is so beautiful, and it’s the third largest area on the east coast. So were bringing down a lot of pollution from above us, and I think we just need to be thinking about plastic bags as a bigger problem than what we can see, because they break down into teeny, tiny pieces that I need a microscope when I filter my water samples and my assessment samples to the been able to see the plastics. As they break down their surface area becomes a lot larger and so that allows them to absorb these chemicals a lot more so than they would before as they’re a bigger form of
plastic that we call macro plastics. So, it's just that it's a larger issue and we're seeing micro plastics in everything;
our sea salt that we get at the grocery store. Even lake salt, like it's horrible. Even drinking water. I have to use
what's called milique water in the lab, which is super filtered water in so many different ways to even get these
plastics out the water that I want to use in the lab so I don't contaminate my samples. So I think it's just a bigger
problem than what we really can even see or imagine. I want to just consider that as you’re thinking about this
plastic bag ban, because it's going to be more than just a meal for a sea turtle that day in his stomach, but we usually
pull out where or even of a whale, it's bigger than that. It gets down to the plankton size. So it's affecting everything.
Thank you.

Daniel Bundrick, Surfside Pharmacy: I’m here to talk about the plastic ban, also. I live and work in
Surfside Beach. My pharmacy Surfside Beach Pharmacy at 320 US Highway 17 North. Just as a business owner,
we've already banned plastic. I brought some of our paper bags (showed the bags to council). We use only paper, so
we have small, medium, and we have large bags. If it’s something is bigger than that, I’ll carry it out to the customer
for them. You know, I’ll take it out for them. We’re getting bags with our logo on [them.] As a businessman, I'm
always promoting, as people know on Surfsideians (Facebook page), I love to put my pharmacy on site. We’re going
to put our name and logo on the bags, and hopefully, customers will bring them back in and we teach them and
educate them. We’re also hoping to open our ice cream shop, finally, in April. We also want to use all paper straws,
paper cups. We’re going to be proactive even for that part of our business. Just as a business owner, I don't think is
very hard to do. I don't think it would be an inconvenience for my customers. So I’m in support of it from the
business standpoint. Again, you can put your logo on here. On plastic bags you don’t really see the logo, but you see
'em on the paper. So, anyway, thank you.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Business Committee Update, Inside Surfside Beach, Chairman Truett. This matter deleted from the
agenda during business item 3 above.

B. Administrator’s Report. Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.
Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Fellner if additional information was available from FEMA (Federal Emergency
Management Agency). Ms. Fellner said we are located in Region 4. When we told FEMA that Region 2 has
approximately $500 million obligated under 428 programs with the same type of parameters as our pier would have,
they didn't feel comfortable making a decision any longer. So they kicked it up to FEMA headquarters, and there are
four people at FEMA headquarters. I emailed all of our representatives and sent this information along to them. I
also included in the email those four people from FEMA headquarters who are the decision-makers. That's where it
resides now; it is at the highest level. Mr. Ott asked regarding beach renourishment did we change our focus point
where the height will be, because what was done before was inefficient. I don't believe they had a target height that
was high enough. What I've seen in other beach renourishment was much higher. Ms. Fellner understood his
concern. When renourishment is done, the Army Corps determines the height, and because this is an emergency,
because of what happened with Hurricane Irma coming right after the renourishment project and washing all the
sand back into the ocean, they will put back what we lost. Mr. Ott said we won't be able to grab some of that sand
and push it back into the dunes like I see them doing in North Myrtle Beach. Ms. Fellner said right; we could do that
after, but certainly not before. Mr. Ott said referred to the flood ordinance and asked don’t we usually have this in a
discussion form first? How did it come into the business section without council consensus? Ms. Fellner said I think
because these were changes from the representative and from DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and I think
you have a sheet in front of you with regard to the person at the DNR, because this was all sent to the DNR. Mr. Ott
said Mr. Harrah may be sick for a while. Maybe we should set up some kind of workshop quickly and really
educate ourselves on this, so we all understand exactly what’s happening, if we could. Ms. Fellner said obviously,
there is a lot of discussion with the public. There was a lot of input tonight. I think that be a great idea. Mr. Ott said
the business committee chairman was added to the agenda under communication and business without council
discussion. The council does run this. I don't know why we're jumping over and running with these things and
pushing them so fast. Ms. Fellner said I think that's why that's taken off the agenda. Ms. Samples said to clarify Mr.
Ott’s statement about the flood damage prevention was put on discussion at last meeting. We have gone through
discussion on that ordinance once. So, it was quite appropriate for it to be brought forward as a business item
tonight. But, I agree that we should probably defer that and discussed it when Mr. Harrah is present, so he can
answer our questions. Ms. Fellner said I agree. Mayor Childs said when the business section is opened, any member
may make a motion to defer business item ‘D’ to a later date. Mr. Stevens said regarding the flood damage
ordinance what the FEMA recommendations were and in his opinion, the CRS committee should review it. Ms. Fellner said I think that's why we just talked about having a workshop. Mayor Childs said I think the CRS committee has been disbanded. I asked Ms. Fellner to contact the members to ask them to review this. I think even prior to I would like to see the committee review prior to a workshop, if we could get that the group to review it. Then if we still want a workshop, we can do so. Ms. Samples said one of the concerns about the CRS committee, as a resident pointed out, is that the committee was made up of business people in town. I realize that that was at the direction of FEMA, but these are stormwater issues, and flood issues. We certainly, I would hope, get some expertise in the area of stormwater and flood when we're talking about flood damage prevention. I just offer that up as a suggestion, if we're going to talk about bringing back a focus group. It sure would be nice to have that expertise. It certainly above my knowledge and skills. Mr. Courtney asked by the flood management ordinance did not go to the planning and zoning committee for review. I have a grave concern with this. None of us are FEMA experts. Ms. Fellner said again, I think that's one of the reasons why we're going to have a workshop. Mr. Courtney thanked staff for doing a good job during the winter storm. Do we stock any kind of salt or pellets for icy conditions? The pier was completely salted, but Surfside Drive was a sheet of ice and not salted. People were walking to our restaurants. The sidewalks are town property. The property owners had a problem with this, because they can't put a sandwich board out more than three feet past their door, but they are expected to take care of the ice on the sidewalk. Isn't that our responsibility? Why don't we have a pallet of the stuff in the warehouse? Ms. Fellner said we had two pallets. We went through a tremendous amount of ice melt. I believe the afternoon that you and Mr. Ott came into my office, they went over there. They put some down, but they had to chop the ice to get it off. It looked a lot better and the business owner was happy. Mr. Courtney said this issue has to be addressed in the future. We have to have enough product to use. The pier was definitely all clear. I don't see why both sides of Surfside Drive should have been clear, as well. I watched many people take falls over there when going into Surfside Pizza. So, it is something we need to address for next year. Ms. Fellner said I agree with you 100-percent. Mr. Courtney said I think there was a mistake made when signs were placed on Yaupon Drive North. The signs read 'no parking any time except for C3 permits only.' Ms. Fellner said I think as we discussed when we met, the clerk is going to queue up all of those particular times council discussed that and council voted. You and another councilmember were going to come back in to listen to those recordings. Mr. Courtney said Mr. Ott and I read all the minutes. The intent was, I think I was very clear on this, the intent was that the employees of these businesses were going to get green decals. Again, it got stalled over the course of last summer, and they never implemented that. The green decals were never bought. Now we were originally going to charge the employees for these decals with their owners paying for them. But then we came back to council after speaking with the parking committee, and we said we would give them to free. The parking committee designated [sic] the green decals were given so they would be able to park in regular parking spots. We preferred they didn't park in the pier parking lot, and we asked him if they could park on Surfside Drive and Yaupon South in that parking lot. To designate a whole block for C3 permit parking on Yaupon North, you're taking away parking from the residents and you're taking away parking from customers. You're designating a whole block for employee parking. Ms. Fellner said I hear what you're saying. The appropriate time to address this is to come back and to hear what is on the record. After we've heard what is on the record, then we can put it on an agenda, if you want to discuss it in public, or if you just want corrective action, if, indeed, there was a misstep made. We'd be happy to do that. But, it's not on tonight's agenda or in my report. Mr. Courtney said well, I'd like to add it back on the agenda. I did read the minutes, so I did go through them thoroughly. I don't see where the error occurred. I would like to add to the agenda, because I'm not going to designate a whole block of parking and take it away from the residents or people visiting and give them a whole block of free parking, and nobody else can use those spots. Ms. Fellner said minutes are not verbatim, so we need to actually listen to all of those recordings, then determine what the vote was, because if the vote was passed, and you were not one of the people who passed it, if you didn't vote in favor then it couldn't be brought back by you. It would have to be brought back by someone who it's stated was in favor of it. So there are a lot of pieces to this puzzle. We have to start with the audio recordings. Mr. Ott said I read a lot of them and I found out and there is an error. Nobody is flawless. What I've seen, and I saw it written in the minutes in a couple places the liaison to the parking committee and the chairman of the parking committee both spoke of Yaupon and Surfside Drive without designating north or south. I think it's best if we get together and make the correction, if we can and just make it right. Ms. Fellner said I'm happy to do that. That's all we're attempting to do as staff.

7. BUSINESS.

Mayor Childs reminded everyone that Ms. Fellner already said Mr. Harrah was absent due to illness. He believed the only item about which there were questions was business item D, first reading or Ordinance #18-0864.
regarding flood damage prevention, and asked if there was a motion to defer that item. Ms. Samples moved to defer first reading of Ordinance 18-0864. Mr. Pellegrino second. Mr. Stevens moved to amend to have the ordinance sent to the CRS committee, and also have the South Carolina Department of Natural Resource recommendation letter delivered to councilmembers. Mr. Courtney second. Mr. Ott asked Ms. Fellner if the CRS committee was still in existence. Ms. Fellner said no, they have not met for very long time. We can certainly contact the former members. Mr. Ott said that's all I need to know. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Temp and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino and Stevens voted in favor. Ms. Samples voted against. MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. All voted in favor to defer first reading of Ordinance #18-0864 as amended. MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.

A. Second Reading Ordinance #17-0861 to amend Chapter 17, Article 6, Signs, Deputy Administrator Harrah. Mr. Stevens moved to approve second reading of Ordinance #17-0861. Mr. Johnson second. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file. Mr. Ott said I know that we spoke explicitly about the political signs, which this is in reference to and the size of the signs, but there were also changes made in this as per the code enforcement officer and the fine and procedure in that. I'm not sure if Mr. Harrah was here if he would be able to tell me if it was in reference to the nuisance ordinance, also, where they would be combined. I just didn't see that in there before. Does anybody else on the council remember seeing that? There was no discussion, right? Ms. Samples indicated she did not. All voted in favor of second reading of #17-0861. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Second Reading Ordinance #17-0862 to amend Chapter 17, Article 3, rezoning a small portion of C3 in the pier area to Entertainment District, Deputy Administrator Harrah. Ms. Samples moved to approve second reading of Ordinance #17-0862. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Johnson said according to the town code neighboring property owners within 150 feet are required to receive a letter of proposed zoning changes no less than 15 days prior to the hearing date. He asked regarding the entertainment district if all of the neighboring property owners were duly notified. Mayor Childs said council held an extensive workshop on this past Saturday on this ordinance. Quite a few business owners came. In fact, I think all business owners were present at the workshop, and asked all their questions. Mr. Johnson asked for a copy of the letter delivered to the property owners. Ms. Fellner said that was probably done, but that specific question was not asked. Mr. Johnson said the sign that was actually posted was for a variance request, which may be an issue. Ms. Fellner said it may, and I'll check on that. Ms. Samples said to inform the public, I want to state that in 2016 there was at least one planning commission meeting, and discussion about the E district and in 2017 the planning commission met on it at least twice, and council had a workshop this past Saturday when the affected business owners attended. So it's not like this has been done autonomously. We have had public meetings, so I just want to make that statement for the record. Ms. Fellner said yes, and I appreciate that. I just want to make sure we do it the right way. If Mr. Johnson’s comments are true, and we need to go back and retrace our steps. Ms. Samples said this is why it's important to have conversations with our employees, and we could have had this resolved before tonight's meeting. Mayor Childs said it could have also been brought up at the workshop. Mr. Courtney said I believe Mr. Johnson’s point is whether or not residential was contacted. I didn't hear that in the statement. Ms. Fellner repeated that she did not know. Mr. Ott said the sign at the corner of Ocean Boulevard and Surfside Drive did say variance. We usually have a rezoning sign that was actually a different color. We did have a workshop, and I asked for the workshop, because I had questions on the parking issues, and the parking issues were quite extensively covered by Mr. Harrah. One other question that was asked about this is as far as I've been told, and I read this rezoning will keep all parking spaces as they are today going forward and they would have to be changed in the future by our planning commission and the council. Saying that the only thing that were stopping is if somebody would buy one of the businesses there and put up a condominium or something like that. This district will remain a business district, and not anymore residential homes built there. That's what council has been informed. Mayor Childs said you’re absolutely right. That's the main objective so it can’t be changed into a residential area. Mr. Pellegrino said I have a point on Mr. Johnson's comment, if we don't know if we follow the ordinance, can we vote on this or should it be deferred? Ms. Samples agreed with Mr. Pellegrino, since we cannot answer the question. I don't think we can adopt second meeting, so, I would like to withdraw my motion and asked that the second be withdrawn. Mr. Ott withdrew his second. Ms. Samples moved to defer second reading of Ordinance #17-0862 until a later date. Mr. Stevens second; several other members also second. All voted in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

C. First Reading Ordinance #18-0863 to establish a ban on Single Use Plastic Bags, Deputy Administrator Harrah. Ms. Samples moved to approve first reading of Ordinance #18-0863. Mr. Ott second. Ms. Samples said I talked about this at our last meeting. This is something for our coastal community that is very important. We’ve heard a lot of people talk about it tonight. Let's see if we can make this thing happen. Mr.
Pellegrino said for those of you who were at last meeting, we talked extensively about this. I appreciate your comments, but I didn't say anything during the last meeting because I always know there's two sides to every decision. It is my responsibility to understand both sides to a decision before I vote, obviously. The reason I tried to postpone this item was because I'm personally not ready to vote. When I did research, and you know information can be skewed in all kinds of different ways, [I found] in the city Toronto, Canada a plastic bag ban was adopted. They are now looking at repealing it right now for three reasons. First, it didn't fix the problem. Second, the default was paper and it created five to seven times more solid waste, depending on the neighborhood, and [third] they found a huge increase in people purchasing plastic bags from stores to meet all their needs for plastic bags. That's history. That's factual. The US EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) website has a whole bunch of facts supporting each side, but in the end EPA didn't recommend it. There's pros and cons each way. The UK EPA (United Kingdom Environmental Protection Agency) did a study on the cotton bags, which are commonly handed out. According to their study, which how accurate is I don't know, you would have to use those bags 131 times before you had economic impact that would make it better than single-use plastic bag. Whether it's 131 or 50 or I don't know, but it is information. Personally, I don't like littering. I don't like pollution. I don't like driving down the highway and seeing plastic bags in the trees. I hate that. But in the end, it's a personal responsibility whether we litter. It's a personal responsibility whether we recycle. This is a choice. Those bags don't end up in the ocean without someone throwing it out. I'm not ready to vote yes on this today, because I still some follow up that I'm waiting for and I just know there are two sides to every story. I'm probably the only one in this room on the side, but I may vote in two weeks for the plastic bag ban, but I don't have all the information today. I know we haven't met for weeks. My wife and I did some research, and reluctantly found compelling arguments on both sides. I'm still waiting to talk to more people and get feedback. I just want everyone to know that there's benefits to one thing but it could hurt another and vice versa. So, at this point, I'm not prepared to vote yes. Mr. Ott said I respect Mr. Pellegrino's decision. But the Town of Surfside Beach, and when we do strike this ban will not put an end to the problem. It's too big, but we're gonna spearhead this forward. We're gonna make something happen. We're going to show other people this is how we do it. We stopped smoking in our stores and restaurants here. Horry County still hasn't done it. I believe that you have to start somewhere and we're gonna start it. Mr. Courtney said my opinion on it is that you don't have to use a paper [sic] bag, you can use one these that was just given to me (held up reusable cloth bag). Plastic bags don't get thrown out by the public, they get loose. They fly out of the cars. They fly out of the garbage pails when they are being dumped. I watched plastic bags wrapped around a telephone line that was there for two years. They finally came off. My friends and I watched those bags during two Super Bowl games. Where it went? To the ocean, Long Beach, New York. Hopefully, it won't make its way down here. I believe that we should work on the Styrofoam products, as well. I'm in favor of this. I don't see why we should not move forward today. Mr. Stevens said as a fisherman I see a plastic bag on the shoreline, and I go 'what in the world is that doing there?' Who was dumb enough to throw it out there and put it in the environment? The fact is, when my nieces visited me, we toured the Pee Dee River. When we stopped to see a plantation house near Georgetown and I pulled a bag out of the water that was made Cheraw, South Carolina. That bag travelled down the river from somewhere around Cheraw to near Georgetown. Plastic bags can't be recycled. If they could be recycled, I could see using them. Paper [products] can be recycled and made into paper bags. It would be very easy for the town of Surfside to ban plastic bags and provide a paper bag, recycled, so we could recycle the bags and make them put them right back out there. I understand Mr. Pellegrino. I'm for businessman out there but at same time, I'm for the environment. I want to fish and not pull in a plastic bag. There is a big sign at Sandy Island Landing that says ‘Don't eat the Largemouth Bass and Mudfish,’ because there are pollutants in the water. Fish are dangerous to eat when the water is polluted. Mr. Pellegrino said just for the record, “I didn’t mention anything about businesses. I mentioned environmental facts, and yes, paper can be recycled. Plastic can be recycled. One time [use] plastic bags can’t be recycled the for reuse, but they are recycled to pick up dog poop, to put in your trashcan at home, to do a lot of things. But, recycled, there is no guarantee recycled paper will be recycled, our paper will be recycled. Also, someone else has to invest millions of dollars to build a facility do it, and then manage it. So, I just want to say I challenge this council to research both sides, and I may still vote for the ban in two weeks, but I'm gonna be sure that I understand both sides of the argument. So I challenge you, because I bet there’s people up here that haven't even looked at the other side.” Mr. Courtney: I appreciate Mr. Pellegrino's comments and I do respect them. I did do some research, and we took a trip down to the Solid Waste Authority. I was very surprised. We were given a tour. I went with another councilmember. The biggest problem that they had was plastic bags. It was a big issue for them. [Plastic bags are] getting caught up in the machinery. I could not believe what I saw. They actually had people climbing into the hopper to get rid of these plastic bags. It is very dangerous to do so in that big size of the equipment. It is a problem for Horry County. Mayor Childs said I do agree with the majority of council. I think banning plastic bags is a good thing. I know we went through similar arguments when this town was out in the front
with banning smoking. They wanted to tar and feather those of us that were on council at the time. I think eventually everything will have to be recyclable, because we are just burying ourselves in trash. I went to Maryland for the Christmas holidays. We went to a major restaurant, and my wife got a box to go. They actually gave us a small small cardboard box instead of Styrofoam, because you can actually put cardboard boxes in your microwave. Actually, the silverware was recyclable. So, I think this is a good thing that Ms. Samples has brought forward. I certainly hope that council does support this. I think it’s one step in the right direction. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Samples and Stevens voted in favor. Councilmember Pellegrino voted against.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Samples said before business is finished, she wanted to share that Mr. Harrah was contacted and confirmed that the letters Mr. Johnson spoke of were properly mailed to the neighboring residents. However, the issue of the proper sign posting remains. Mr. Johnson said he would still like to have a copy of that letter.

**D. First Reading Ordinance #18-0864 to amend Chapter 14, Flood Damage Prevention, Deputy Administrator Harrah.** This item deferred to a workshop; see number 7 above.

**E. Business Committee Funding Request for Inside Surfside, Chairman Trued.** This item removed from the agenda, see number 3 above.

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

A. Public Safety, Councilmember Courtney. Mr. Courtney said I want to bring this to the residents. This is something very important. I been beating this drum now going on almost two years. Public safety, our police, fire, as you know, on the Grand Strand, Myrtle Beach has now raised their salaries for recruitment to Myrtle Beach police. They bumped it up over $10,000. They also have given incentives; take-home cars, and other perks, and more vacation time. We are facing a problem coming down the road. I’ve been informed that we are about to lose a few more offices to go there. It’s all about feeding the kids and taking care of your home. Our police department is under paid. If we want to retain our police department, which is the finest, we are known in Surfside Beach, we have our own police department. We have our own fire [department,] and you can’t get any better than that. We’re in a two-mile town, and you have a response time; I can have a police car at my house within a minute. I have to say, we have to start looking down the road, because I’m gonna ask that when we go to the budget meeting I’ve asked Chief Hofmann to address us. I’m asking council to take a good look at this, and look at what the other municipalities are doing around us, and that we have parity with the other departments or at least close to it. I spoke Chief Hofmann on this and he is bringing information to us at the next Town Council meeting, correct? Chief Hofmann indicated yes.

Mr. Courtney said, so I just want to bring this to every one’s attention. We don't need to be losing police officers. When we lose them, it cost us money. There’s money to train them, put them in uniforms, fire arms, leather, and more training, and they end up staying for a year, two years, and they roll on over to another department. We lose valuable officers, and what we do? We go high three or four more officers, send to the Academy, and it just goes on. It just does it all over again. So we’re really losing money. I think that we really need to bump them up and bring them up to parity with the other departments. Again, I ask council that you look at this coming this budget meeting.

Mr. Stevens said I would agree wholeheartedly with Mr. Courtney. We have, in my opinion, the finest police department anywhere in the probably the whole Pee Dee area. They are out there doing the job. They get it done. When we have criminals come in our town, a lot of times when they are caught they say we thought we were in Myrtle Beach. Chief Hofmann can verify that. We need to pay our police more. Let's face it, these guys are putting their lives on the line. They never know whether someone is dangerous and has a gun or not when they stop a car.

We need to take care of them. I attended a seminar on Public Safety with the Municipal Association. One of the things they said was be proactive. Pay your people enough money so they'll stay with you. This is a great town and I’ll guarantee you, if you check our crime statistics we have the lowest crime anywhere in this area. We’re way better than everybody else. [Police] will be at your house in no time, I've actually been on a drive along with the Police Citizen Academy and saw them in action. They do the job. This is definitely something we need to look. I applaud Mr. Courtney for bringing this up. Public safety, the safety of our citizens in this town, whether it’s police or fire, is tantamount; the greatest importance that we can have. So, I agree 100-percent. I’d love to see this brought back up, so we can get more money for police officers. Mr. Ott said I believe this is one of the issues by disbanding the organizational committee, we ended up and we can’t talk about this or discuss it. We need to have options, because I know vigilante groups aren’t one of our options. We don't have any options on the table. We can go into a
visioning meeting, and we have nothing. We have to address this and address it soon. I’d like to see the council bring back the organizational committee. I wasn’t on it, but I think they accomplished a lot [as a committee.]

Mr. Courtney said during the last six months I’ve never seen a mess in Surfside Beach like I’ve seen before. I’ve seen stuff done, permits. I’ve seen stuff done that we don’t have answers for, because we have untrained people giving us information. We had a FEMA expert working for us, and at this time, I’m gonna ask consensus to reinstate a former director of planning and zoning. Ms. Sabrina Morris. I’m gonna ask consensus of this council to bring it back as a business item at the next council meeting. She was an expert in FEMA. She knew her stuff. If there was an issue, I mean I’m not going to get into personnel issues, but I’ll leave it at that. She was an expert. We put a lot of money into her. We trained her. She was here for years. She knew her stuff. A lot of this stuff that we’re challenging every council meeting, she would have the answers, and we never hired a planning and zoning director. We hired a deputy administrator to replace the administrator that was heading out in June. So we still don’t have a planning and zoning director. I think that we should bring it back in the business, and I’m looking for consensus of council.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Stevens concurred. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Samples objected. COUNCIL CONCURRED.

Mr. Johnson said several ordinances that have not been enforced, such as the sign replacement at 16 Avenue and Highway 17 North. The panel replacement was allowed even though the sign does not meet size requirements. Nonconforming signs shall not be allowed to remain after a change of ownership of property. That is exactly what happened there. On the south end, Hall’s Automotive changed hands. A freestanding sign was allowed to change without meeting the sign ordinance. The freestanding sign is in the right way. By ordinance it must be set back five feet from the property line. That was not done. The new owners were not required to meet the overlay requirements. The car lot on the corner of 4th Avenue South and Highway 17 South, the landscaping does not meet the overlay. The owner allegedly presented a plan that met the requirements, but later came in complaining about the requirements, and was given approval to use less landscaping by one of the town employees. The owner should be given the option to request a variance from the board of zoning appeals, since the property had the available space to plant the required landscaping. Instead, someone granted the variance, which is not the legal way to grant variances. At 641 Sparrow Drive, I don’t know if it was the owner or a renter, but they [severely] topped the trees. They did not have a permit. Topping trees under our ordinances is not allowed. Council was told by Mr. Harrah during a meeting that the trees were not topped; they were pruned. That is not true, they were topped. You can go by there today or next week and see how those trees were topped. I’m not talking about being topped 10 feet off the ground topped. The building official is required to take all decisions to the assistant administrator who has overridden most decisions. By state law, the building official's decision is final. The only avenue by law is an appeal of the decision to the construction board of appeals. The administration has no legal jurisdictions. I could go on. I don't think that there is pertinent qualification in certain areas of employment in our planning and zoning department. One of the major issues was never addressed and it included one employee who is still employed by the town. I have some serious issues, and so therefore, I support Mr. Courtney’s recommendation wholeheartedly. Thank you.

Mr. Ott said last week we had an infrastructure meeting, and we spoke about the additional money [being used] to rebuilding the bridge at Myrtle swash and Ocean Boulevard. It’s a lot more than what was estimated. We gave $22,000 or $24,000 more. So, what I’d like to do is look at what we have approved already, and see by the structure committee, and see which one we want to cut back from what we approved to save that money. As Mr. Pellegrino said we have needs and wants, and I'd like to see what the cut off for want is. I’d like to bring this as discussion item of the next meeting so that we can we can look at it. I know the 3rd Avenue South, that's a lot of money. We have that money and it’s in a grant and we’re not gonna touch that. We do have the bathrooms that we are putting in the Passive Park or the concrete on the parking lot over [at the fire station.] I would like to try to save that money in the budget for that item, if we could. I’d like to get consensus from council to bring this back. All members concurred. COUNCIL CONCURRED.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker)

Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: I’m not gonna take five minutes. Okay, so we do know we have the finest police force around. My burglar alarm went off by accident. I barely had time to even answer the door and they were there. They make us safe, particularly for the elderly, and the people with little kids. I mean you know your family is safe here, and same goes for the fire department, and also the emergency personnel who come when you need to go to the hospital. If we really can't scratch up the money, okay, so we know we all like the pier,
Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North: The technology to make biodegradable plastic bags out of corn oil has existed for at least 25 years. In another life, I worked for a food broker who actually represented them. Now, I can understand why the oil industry isn’t very happy about it, and the manufacturers and retailers aren’t very happy about it, because unless they rotate their stock it’s gonna start to decompose before they can use it. But, I would like to suggest that some of the people who like to do research, and some of the young people who are here today, would take a look at this, and do a little bit of research. It would solve a lot of problems.

Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: This plastic bag thing is a problem. It’s a real problem. My wife and I walk the beach every day. We pick up plastic bags. We pick up cigarette butts, which I think is already law on the books that says you’re not supposed to do that. We continue to pick up cigarette butts, and we even have sought; identify some birds that have been tangled up in bags. We didn’t know who to call to help them out. I’ve listen to this committee, or these speakers and a couple of things have happened. It's established that there is a problem. It's established that we want to be an example for the rest of the world, and that's the truth that picking up bags has saved, the problem, is one of the things for the problem. I don't know if the law addresses that or not. I’m not an expert in this. I’m just a little old man that’s pragmatic. We need a law that is gonna be effective. I don't think the law that I’ve heard so far is going to help stop having bags on the beach. I’m fearful that this is nothing more than a knee-jerk bumper sticker policy that's got, that's designed as a PR (public relations) event for Surfside to look real good and for, to help our tourist and residents that want to be good, goody-two-shoes. So we need a law that is really going to do this. Not just bumper sticker stuff. Surfside is 2 miles long. It has plenty of bags come from the outside. The percentage of bags that come, that are on the beach, probably don't come from BI-LO. They probably come from Walmart and all the other places that the tourists bring ‘em in and that we bring back. I wonder how many; it won’t limit this, and that, as a matter fact, I think Surfside, even distributes plastic bags at most of the public access is to beach. The doggie bags. So we need to look at this comprehensively, and not something that just gonna be a bumper sticker approach towards things. It makes us feel good, but it doesn't do a (expletive) thing. Businesses already have plastic bag recycling. How many people here that have spoken up for this bring their recycled bags to work, to the shopping? How many do that? And yet we say we have to ban these for businesses. I’m not a business person. I’m fearful that this will be another government restriction or infringement on businesses that’s gonna affect doing business in Surfside. There's a couple of things I would suggest. Volunteers patrolling the beaches each day to pick up these bags; if you're very concerned about this, do a little action. Don't just pass a law that you're not going to enforce and that is unenforceable. I don't see any signs posted at the beaches next to the riptide about the dangers of plastic bags on the wildlife in the community. There’s not a sign there. People don't know this. They should, but they don't know it. There’s another thing. My wife and I have tried to find who to call if we see an animal in distress. There's no signs that tell me where to call. I called the police department. They don't know where to call. We need to inform the public on what to do here. We need to inform the public of what we want to try and do. We want to take some action. Maybe have some volunteers walk, like my wife and I do, walk the beaches. We had what,
Ms. Mary Mabry, 15th Avenue North: I would expand a little bit on the PPI committee or the CRS committee. We were never disbanded. That's another myth that you have been presented with tonight. FEMA requires that we meet once a year, unless there's going to be a change, then we get our ordinance together, because sometimes FEMA does come in and ask us to make changes, and so we look at it. We make those necessary changes, and before council gets it to go to the stormwater committee, because it has to incorporate into their ordinance. We can't have conflicting ordinances going around. So that ordinance would be written. It would be approved by the district FEMA director. It would go to stormwater. They would approve it; look at it, but, I mean they always say okay this is what we have to do, this is what we have to do. They still have to know so they can change their ordinance, and then council gets it that time with that decision paper of why things on there have been changed and who has reviewed it and why. So it was a process. As far as thinking that a bunch of people sit around a table that have not been trained, I alone had to attend two webinars and I had to go out for four classes. I had to read a number of books and study, as well as being trained during the class time. So it's not something that was taken lightly that we're not informed. FEMA sets a guideline of who they want to sit on that committee. There are some that are citizens that represent the town, as I was. There are real estate agents. There are mortgage lenders. They have a big stake in seeing the reduction of flood insurance and having a more sustainable community. Although CRS is wonderful, you do get a big reduction, especially if you live in the Coastal A and the V zone. You're going to get the 25-percent. Homeowners now are getting up to 10-percent off their flood insurance. That's a huge benefit, especially when you say you want to bring businesses in. But it's more important that we remain sustainable. That we don't have the flooding issues that we would have to deal with later. We would actually have people that can remain in our home. One of the prime examples is during our rain event, the actual meteorologist said Surfside will not flood. Everyone around it is gonna flood. But, we're not gonna flood. And you know what? We didn't flood. Why? Even though we were taking the water from county, why didn't we flood? Because we had over the years with a strong tree ordinance, with a strong ordinances [sic] in place had protected our town. When you protect your town, you protect your citizens. The residents benefited from that. If they had not saved a dime, they benefited from our work, and the work of the previous councils down the road. So when you talk about this committee as if it didn't exist, if they're not knowledgeable, if they don't understand what's going on, let me tell you, I know more about...
I want to make sure you have it tonight. Thank you.

Mr. Bill Doggett, Dogwood Drive: I was at the pier the other day after the ice storm. We spent a lot of money building a new handicapped ramp. It goes nowhere. When it gets to the top the door is locked. You can’t; I don’t understand why you would have it so if a person went up that ramp, I didn’t go up it, someone had a yellow tape across it. But if somebody had been there with a wheelchair, they would’ve had a heck of a time going up the old ramp. The federal government says that you’ve got to have that handicapped ramp. If you build a handicapped ramp why wouldn’t you build it so you could open the door and get off of it? If you go up there now, the door locked to the ice cream place. You cannot go through. So, the people in the restaurant are really illegal. Everybody is illegal down there. That’s a federal law. Thank you.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I just want to talk again about the E district, the parking. You’re correct, Ms. Samples, that the planning commission a year and a half ago they did discuss this, and it was also brought before the parking committee, and where it was presented that every building if it was torn down they would still have to replace every single parking space that was there. That's the way it was written. That's the way it was presented. Why didn't go anywhere for a year and a half? Well, I was told because the person brought that to the administrator and was told that would not go. I don't like it. We can’t have these parking spaces. So a year and a half later, you present it to a semi-different planning commission by a different person and he neglects to include the parking provision that every establishment would still have to keep their existing parking, and it came before you and I came up here and I brought it up. Now, Mr. Harrah gives you all these crazy numbers; 376 parking spaces down there includes 61 parking spaces on Surfside Drive that no one is ever gonna use. Maybe six small spots. Says you’re only losing 28. You’re losing 55, and you only keep it 82. Now, Mr. Ott said that in the ordinance is an existing property if it's torn down at have to keep it. I believe that's what he said. But it doesn’t say that. It says any lot containing parking areas for existing businesses that doesn't have a structure, doesn’t have a structure that's, that's the key word. So it’s like Bubba’s parking lot. If they want to put a building there, they’d have to have, say if they have 40 spots there or 20 spots there, they would have to have that with the new building. Same with River City Café. But if you go to like Surfside Realty, he has 16 parking spots there. He has to have zero. Zero, because he has a building there already. The Scalise building, he has ten parking spots. Six of those, half of the parking spots, their property is in our parking lot. That’s why they get to keep it when they sold their business. So that’s another ten spots you’re losing. So, why are we doing this? Why are we rushing this so much? Why are we getting rid of the parking? I mean Mr. Scalise came here at the last meeting and he told you about if you don’t do this, the taxes in town are gonna be raised. Well, about 10 years ago, his family came in and said if you don’t buy the pier, we’re gonna put condos up there, and we bought that black hole. Really, we literally bought a black hole. You didn't get it inspected. You bought it without getting it inspected. The pilings are going. The bolts were going. The decking was going. It’s a black hole. This is, now we have, he was in the audience. He’s gone now. But, he was here. It’s because he was gonna tell you how great a deal it is for the town. As Mr. Harrah said at the planning commission [meeting], when they said what about this building, it’s not in the zone. Well, they can always get in it and they probably want to, because their real, their value on their property is gonna skyrocket. This is what it’s about, folks. No parking. I can build a building from plot line to plot line, and I can get top dollar for it. This is what it's about. So slow down and look at it. Make sure there’s still parking there, because you want to put more stuff on the pier. There’s not enough parking now. I love the idea of an entertainment district. But, you’ve gotta think about it. You’ve gotta put parking. The thing about the pier, too, like Ms. Magliette said, we should seriously, if we don’t get $10 million from the Feds, think about selling it. Government has no business being in the business. It’s crazy. We’re losing all this money. Thank you, I think.

Mr. Don Reed approached the podium. Mayor Childs: Didn’t you speak one time, sir? Mr. Reed: I think I have 45 minutes left. Mayor Childs: No, sir. Your time’s expired. Sorry. Mr. Reed: Are you sure I don’t have (**). Please pass the (**), but let’s brainstorm and come up with some viable good ideas. It’s very important.

Ms. Gottlieb McClaran, Pawleys Island: Pawleys Island is very adjacent to Surfside, and I have to tell you that I am very proud to live beside this very progressive, finely clever little city. I think tonight you have made a giant step forward for mankind. Plastic is such horrendous issue facing our planet that even the smallest, smallest
little bit of support that we can get to stop this plague is to be commended. I'm so proud of all of you. Thank you so
very, very much. I personally suffer from ‘PIS,’ plastic intolerance syndrome, (laughter) and I go to bed thinking
about it and wake up thinking about it. There is no question. There is no doubt at all that plastic is destroying our
planet, so we have to do something. I thank you, again, each and every one. Thank you.

Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: It’s kind of difficult when you only have three minutes to
talk about the important things on the agenda and then five you can stand up here and talk about the wind. But, I’m
not gonna use my five minutes. I’ll spare you all. First, I want to say two things on the record and a request that the
copy of the community assistance flood mitigation form that South Carolina DNR sent to the town, I would request
that not only does the council get a copy of that, but can it not be published on the webpage, because I spoke to
DNR. They said that’s a readily available document. So when you go into town and ask for it, you’re supposed to
receive it. That did not happen in the Town of Surfside Beach. They were turned away. Nope, we don’t have the
document. Well, then if town hall does not have the document, who has the document? There is another myth that
goes around. And the other thing was when I had this problem with the fill and again, it was December 1, what we
on now, January 9th? And that dirt that was dumped there was then leveled, and according to you ordinances and
everything else and I met with [Ms. Fellner.] I appreciate your time. However, the words used, I call it
wordsmithing, and I don't appreciate it. Once the fill is leveled, the natural landscape of that lot is forever changed.
So the reason that the flood ordinance was written the way it was written that no fill can be used in that location, it's
written that way because you specifically have to have a stormwater plan and a permit before you can do anything
on that property, because they come in and you have to put the pilings in; the columns have to be in place before
they do their survey, because that's how they're gonna find out where the natural plain is, and then it goes by
hundred year floodplains and 500 years and again like, Ms. Mabry said, it's really involved, and that’s why I was
upset when I saw you only got 8 pages. What I did do was I remember distinctly Town Council back a few years
ago said when somebody has an appeal to the, to a decision made by the town in regard to the flood ordinance can
they appeal? And I remember was [Mr.] Stevens actually who said is there a fee involved. No fee. You can appeal
the administrator's decision. I called up and I asked for that form. I was sent a form. The first form I was sent was a
board of zoning appeals form. I'm reading it and it says $200 for each complaint you have or each ordinance you
think you think was violated. Well, I have five that I found so far, I'm paying a thousand dollars to go to the zoning
board of appeals to be told by the town that oh, well, we're gonna do it anyway or we're just gonna change the
ordinance. So that form is really nothing. And I sent back and I said no, I want the flood appeal form. I get
construction board of appeals form; $175. That's not what I'm asking for. I was then told there is no such form.
Well, me being me, I have it, because I have my records, and it says right on the form no fee. So if you would like a
copy of that for your office for future people that call up, it’s right here and it says no fee required and it’s
application for flood appeal. So I don't appreciate spending a lot of time going in town hall, emailing and writing,
and I really hate doing it, but like I said, if I get misled, then I’m like a dog with a bone. Don't lie about things. Give
us the facts. Let us work with this. And I want to commend all of you up there today, especially you, Mark, I have to
tell you I think that you have done more tonight than you've done in a very long time, and I commend you. I never
had the problems I have been had…don't laugh (addressing Mr. Johnson), that’s a compliment. I have never had as
much problem dealing with P&Z as I have since [Ms.] Morris has left. And I want to to for the record to say that I
agree with you all, and I hope that y'all stand by your word and bring her back.

Mr. Boyd Saddler, 10th Avenue South: Good evening, Council, Mayor, public. I heard a comment from an
11 year old kid one day. She said in jest, she did a good job. Tonight reminded me of that. There was a bag floating
across the sidewalk at a Walmart, she said, ‘Wow, look. There’s a city tumbleweed.’ And unfortunately that's what
we really looked the things for so many years. It’s something that needs to be addressed; it really does. A lot of
people are outspoken. A lot of people are reserved. It’s; I know it’s gonna be mixed. But, like everything else in this
town, it’s gonna be a mix of picking, and I guess that’s what this country is all about. But back to the problem with
the E district. I think the E district is a great idea, if we had parking to cover it. We don’t. Our deputy administrator
said we’re 159 parking spaces short for our own ordinance. So we’re in violation of own ordinance already and
that’s just for the pier. We’re back to like what are you gonna do? There’s 303 vacant lots in this town and how
many do we as a town own? Well, I mean we paid $300, what was it almost $400,000 for that 3rd and Willow, I
mean, my gosh, how much are our parking spaces gonna cost around that area? It’s gonna be phenomenal. But, you’re gonna need satellite parking. If that’s going to pass, you’ll bring in the business there, you’re gonna have to
come up with a lot of parking. A lot of parking. A lot of satellite parking, and a conveyance for people to get there.
Maybe we’re gonna have to buy a train set and go pick it up to run through town and carry all these folks. Good
luck. Standing golf carts, great. You know they’re like buses, and they do have the slow motion ones that you can
license and run at night. But, you need to think about it. Really need to think about it hard and you need to think
about it for a long time to get to down to the road before bringing it across. You’re the magnificent seven. You’re
the ones here representing us. It’s in your hands. We have a lot of really interested people in this town. A lot of them
been involved in transportation most of their lives. Might be able to help coordinate something. But you got to come
to an agreement that are you going to have satellite parking or are we gonna have a major traffic jam and a traffic
light at Ocean Boulevard and Surfside Drive? It’s gonna really create havoc. Have fun with that one. Good night.
Thank you.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South:  [Ms.] Beth and [Mr.] Harry [Kohlmann], don't you just love 'em? I
mean let's face it, these are two good citizens of this town. As I've said before at these meetings, sell the stinking
pier.

Mr. Lee Zulanch, Benjamin’s Bakery, 3rd Avenue South: I’m gonna take about 30 seconds. I have no idea
where this fits into it, but I’ve got to thank [Ms. Cribb]. Single use bag, reusable, recyclable, bio-degradable (held up
bag). I was socially pressured into doing it. (Laughter.) I have in here the straws and wooden stirrer that kind of
follow it. I’d like to leave this with you. This is just a sheet of who sells these. They’re available, I’ve done a cost
analysis. It cost a little over penny more than a single use bag. I have no idea whether a turtle eating this will ever
digest it or not. It doesn’t cure the wind problems and the littering. But is available and if we do ban single use, you
may want to just kind of address whether this is banned as well or part of a possible solution. Thank you.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Mr. Ott:  I appreciate every comment. This is who we are. The family beach. We work together for all
citizens. We’re all the same. I'm in a different chair than I used to be. I was back there all the time (indicated back of
the room) for the past 18 years. Now, I’m sitting here. Maybe next time you'll be sitting here. I need to have your
input. As you say it the input helps us, and I appreciate every comment that was said. Thank you.

Mr. Courtney: Plastic bags; I have to say I went home back to Long Beach, New York for Thanksgiving. It
is a heck of a ride with two kids in the car. Not fun; next time we’ll fly. They had implemented no plastic bags. This
is the city of Long Beach that has 38,000 full-time residents. I couldn't believe it worked. It works. Some people
complain; some people made a big deal of it, but before you know it, I was only one that was lost, because I went to
the grocery store and didn’t bring a bag with me. I ended up walking home with the groceries in my hand. It’s a
good thing it was a short walk. As far as the town, I bought my house here April 10, 2009. I moved my wife, [and]
my children. I have a 10-year-old. I have a 16-year-old. This is our town. Okay, we will moved here for a reason.
We all came down here because it was paradise. It was gorgeous. Things were kept in check. There were balances.
I've never seen it in this mess as it is now. Our employees are great employees. They make good money. They get
paid. They get to go home to their homes. My home is here, right down the block. This is my town. Our town.
There’s gotta be a balance in government. I don't want overregulation nor do I want less regulation. There’s gotta be
a balance in government. So this is where we need to be, and we need to take back our town. This is ours. It belongs
to us. Thank you very much. God bless you. Have a good night.

Mr. Johnson: Thank you all for coming out and staying for the duration. Just one quick comment, I am still
amazed that the flood damage ordinance was not sent to planning and zoning instead of sending it straight to Town
Council. That troubles me a lot. So, that's all I have to say. Thank you for coming out.

Mr. Pellegrino:  Thank you very much for coming. Surfside Beach is a great town. Tonight was a great
example. I think it’s great that all of you came out here and gave your comments. Sometimes I’ll agree; sometimes I
won't. But, it's nice to see people who are passionate about what they think is good for the town; what they think is
good for everyone around us. So, I do truly appreciate that. Have a great night.

Ms. Samples:  First, let me say that I don't think we’re a mess at all. I think we're a great town, and this
council and this council chambers is; we do good. We don't always agree, and that's okay. If there are those if you
who think we are mess, let me say this, we are in the middle this week of filing for elections. We have an election
coming up in April. This is the week to file to serve on this council. There are three seats that are up for grabs, and I
encourage anyone out here who thinks we are a mess or who thinks you can just add to the happiness that is this
council, I encourage you, I seriously encourage you to pay your $25, sign-up, run, it’s fun. We get to do a lot of
good. (Laughter.) You’re laughing down at the end, but you know how serious I am. I am very pleased that this
council saw fit to pass first reading on the plastic ban. It is important that even though were small, we can be very
mighty in our result to do good. I’m grateful. I appreciate council’s support, and thank you all for your comments
tonight. I appreciate it. Hope you have a wonderful evening.

Mr. Stevens: I want everybody that was talking about the plastic bags just remember, if you buy a pizza,
what does it come in? A cardboard box. You go to Aldi’s to shop, you’ve got to bring your own box or bags. It's
taking a step. I understand people like Kmart, Walmart, and Kroger. I can guarantee you my wife came home with a
bunch of groceries last night from Kroger, and they were all in plastic bags. I stuck ’em in a thing we keep them in
the house. But, this is what I want to point out to you, we are one step in a long series of steps. If you’re gonna run a
mile, you gotta make the first step. I understand that some people might say y’all are just doing this for publicity.
But, if we do it, and another town does it, and another town does it, maybe somewhere down the line people will say
let's get rid of plastic bags completely. They’d be off the beach, they ought to be out of the dog park, they ought to
be out of everything. As far as the town ordinances, I heard Mr. Kohlmann, Ms. Kohlmann both speak on the town
and trying to get something back from them. Let me say when I first moved to this town, I didn’t have no intention
of running for council at all. But the town violated their own town ordinances for four years. They ran an illegal
dumping site, commercial dumping site, in a residential district for four years, until I asked the courts just to stop
‘em. Not no [sic] money. Just to stop, and they did 30 days later that lot was cleaned up. Now they made it into
green space, made it into the dog park. I’m happy with that. Nothing will ever be built around me. They wanted to
put a parking lot. Mr. Johnson, I would love to get that list that you were talking about. If you would make me a
copy of that, I would love to have that because I see so many times that the town breaks their own laws, and that's
unfortunate. The CRS committee, I was told it was a focus group. I was told it was a committee. I was told it was a
this or that and everything [sic.] I knew this committee, because I actually went to about five of their meetings, and I
sat in. There were some very intelligent people and they were discussing, and flood, and FEMA. I want to see the
FEMA people here. I know the South Carolina DNR. You go out hunting, you’re gonna meet their game wardens.
But that ain’t all they do. The fact is I would like to hear from the FEMA people. I'm glad we postponed the
ordinance on the C3, because we do have some questions. My understanding is that if somebody tears down a
building and they build up, they have to build up a certain height according to the FEMA. They have to have parking
underneath. I would like to know some more information. I think we’re doing the right thing with the flood
ordinance, and also I think we need to make sure we do have the parking the C3. As far as this town, this is a great
town. That’s the reason I moved here. My daughter told me years ago, we were down the beach, ’one day, daddy,
we’re gonna have a house here.’ We do, and I’m glad I live here. We’ve got a lot of great people, from all walks of
life, from all over the country. I want to thank all y’all for coming out here and speaking up. Really, that's what it's
all about. We don't know what you want unless you speak up and you tell us. Believe me, I like to know about what
the town is doing wrong, and I will thank [Chief Hofmann] for running one of the best police department's anywhere
in this area, and also [Chief Otte] for running a great fire department. (Applause.) Thank y’all for coming out. I hope
there’s somebody out that wants to run for office. There’s three seats up and we can always use some help. God
bless y’all all. Have a good week, and may everything go right for you.

Mayor Childs: I want to thank everybody for coming tonight, and I agree with everything that was said on
the plastic bag ban, and I totally agree.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Mr. Stevens
second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: January 23, 2018

Town Council Signatures on page 18
Clerk’s Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media 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.