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: Acting Administrator Hofmann and Town Clerk Herrmann.

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

Mayor Childs recognized the 2018 General Election Candidates: Ms. Mary Nell True, Ms. Debbie Scoles, Mr. Bruce Dietrich, Ms. Carol Cook, Mr. Cabell Young, Mr. Tim Courtney, and Mr. David Pellegrino each introduced themselves.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Workshop December 11, 2017 and Regular Meeting January 23, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the December 11, 2017 workshop minutes and the January 23, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: I would like to address the agenda issue or item the resolution of formality, rather to formally ratify the vote taken on January 23 in connection with the termination the town administrator and the deputy town administrator. As a Town Council, you have no option other than to pass this. By far more important is why we are here. Each taxpayer resident of this town needs to know the reason for this resolution is an attempt to undo the illegal agenda change and resulting illegal motion at the January 23rd meeting when the Town Council misled all of us by identifying what the motion entailed and by thus doing denied us the opportunity for public comment, because we had no idea what the agenda was. Each of us needs to know that this council did not have an executive meeting (**) for the motion; refused to get legal action, and did not perform any kind of due diligence to minimize the town's legal and financial outlay liabilities, as well as not developing a plan on how the town was going to operate. This is actually the third meeting they're holding to make things right. The agenda item on the 23rd motion and/or directions to town administrator for executive session was placed on the agenda without the required 24 hour notice. It did not meet the regular required super vote to qualify for the emergency addition to the agenda. It was contrary to the legal advice that they had received; was misleading in that it was not that they did not have any prior actual executive meeting, misled the citizens of this town with clouded wording that did not identify the actual motions to be included. It overstepped its scope by including a motion to discharge the deputy town administrator and the rehire of a planning director. If I’m incorrect on any of these, I’d really like to have any corrections. We need to be aware that this abuse of power this council has demonstrated by the four members who voted for this council and the vote in the change in January 23rd. What is done is done. But we need to ensure this kind of abuse of power, failure to perform due diligence, and the knee jerk grandstanding does not continue. The four members who voted for this motion to terminate the town's entire administrative team did not exhibit sound professional judgment nor perform any due diligence. Something we've actually voted, elected you to do. Surfside deserves more from each of you, and depends on it. To the taxpayers and residents of this Surfside Beach, if you don't think this matters, wait until the Town Council meets its obligation of transparency and reports what the cost estimate will be for this illegal, unprofessional, (time ended) and now this attempt to lead our community. Thank you.

Ms. Meg Perrino, Cedar Drive North: I just wanted to speak to 7.C., resolution by Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful to declare the seats vacant and limit the membership to nine members. Throughout this year we’ve kind of had some changes. Some people kind of stepped down. We’ve had some new people. We’ve had some people come
and go for our committee. [The year] 2018 is lining up to be a huge year for us. We've added, like, I don't know, six or seven more beach sweeps. We have a few extra endeavors that we're gonna undertake, which we think are really exciting, but unfortunately it's been hard for us to form a quorum, and this has been keeping us from allowing to have votes and keep proper minutes, because of attendance, and this is preventing us from accomplishing the things that we want to accomplish to make sure that we can continue to beautify the town. So, I just would like you guys to consider that it is really important to us and our committee that we do limit our membership to nine members. We would just appreciate that. Thank you.

Mr. Steve Shore, 1st Avenue North: I'm asking about the reference a, 7A, council messed up by not following the rules in amending the agenda. You are such a hurry terminate the administrator and deputy administrator you failed to do your due diligence. Here we are fixing that error. Had the four of you taken the time to get advice and direction from the labor attorney as opposed to ignoring her, you might have realized your actions were in error. Just because the four of you want to do something does not mean it's right or legal. Your actions were all about you, and not about the best of town. Thank you.

6. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator's Report. Acting Administrator Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Chief Hofmann said we participated in a conference call with FEMA today. FEMA provided informal and nonbinding verbal approval to the Town of Surfside Beach, which will allow pier reconstruction and hazard mitigation through the 428 Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Program. FEMA will review and validate the town's request for eligibility and finalize a cost estimate for the project, then the town must agree with the final project worksheet scope and costs to confirm authorization to participate in the 428 program. The town will have to provide direction of record as to the intended pier design. A daily activities and working file is being kept that may be of interest to the interim administrator, which will be turned over to that person once they are appointed. Lastly, I believe you were delivered some information tonight as requested by council last night. I met with Mr. James Duckett to initiate negotiations regarding the interim administrator position as directed at the special meeting last night. A draft copy of the memorandum of understanding was presented to you tonight. If you wish to move forward with council consensus on that agreement, Mr. Duckett is prepared to execute it this evening. COUNCIL CONCURRED.

Mr. Stevens thanked Chief Hofmann for his excellent communication while serving as acting administrator saying that he was better informed than he has been in years. He hoped that his communication style would be an example for future administrators. Ms. Samples asked how soon Mr. Duckett would begin. Chief Hofmann said he is prepared to be here tomorrow morning. I will need to meet with Mr. Duckett this evening to obtain his signature for it to be a binding contract. Ms. Samples was concerned that the FEMA commitment was verbal, and asked when written approval would be received. Chief Hofmann said according the Mr. Omara from Hagerty Consulting, it should be soon. I will inform the interim administrator of the importance of moving quickly on the pier. Mayor Childs said FEMA officials along with the state officials has put this as a top priority. I hope we have an answer in a very short time. Mr. Ott suggested that councilmembers write a letter of appreciation and commendation to Chief Hofmann for his service as acting administrator. He's done a terrific job. We really appreciate him taking on the additional responsibility. Chief Hofmann said thank you. It's truly been an honor. I really appreciate council putting their trust in me to handle this for this short time. It's been a very eye-opening experience for me in a really good way to see a different perspective on operation of the town. This was an incredible opportunity to see what a great staff the town has; strong department directors, and really good employees. Thank you. Mayor Childs said if you really like it, maybe we could stretch it a few more days. (Laughter.) Mr. Courtney said some of the councilmembers or at least the infrastructure committee member be included on the FEMA conference calls. Mr. Johnson believed councilmembers should stand back and let the directors handle this and report to council. I understand Mr. Courtney's concern. Mayor Childs said there will be another workshop, to which the public is invited and welcomed to comment, on the pier before anything is finalized. FEMA seems to know that they need to give us a resolution to our problem. I am very optimistic that this will come about very soon. Mr. Courtney said he and Chief Hofmann spoke about the number of police officers that we are losing, and asked if there was a report on that. Chief Hofmann said I am prepared to make a proposal to council at the vision meeting next week.

7. BUSINESS.

A. Resolution (Motion) to formally ratify the vote taken on January 23, 2018 in connection with the termination of the Town Administrator and the Deputy Town Administrator, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott. Mr.
Ott moved to ratify the vote made on January 23rd, 2018 to relieve the town administrator of her duties and responsibilities effective immediately, and the town administrator receiving her pay to the end of the contract and also to ratify the vote taken on January 23rd, 2018 to relieve the deputy town administrator of all duties and responsibilities effective immediately. Mr. Stevens second. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Childs and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Samples voted against. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Accommodations Tax recommendations for 2017-2018 Unallocated Funds, Chief Hoffmann. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the recommendations from the accommodations tax committee for 2017-2018 unallocated funds. Mr. Courtney second. After discussion about the equipment and the legality of a pier disaster fund, the motion was withdrawn. Mr. Courtney moved to defer the recommendation to the February 22nd vision meeting. Mr. Johnson second. Mr. Ott asked that staff provide more information and photos of the six-wheel beach vehicle. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

C. Resolution by Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful to Declare Seats Vacant and Limit Membership to Nine Members, Chief Hofmann. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the resolution presented by the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

A. Live Stream Town Council Meetings, Councilmember Samples. Mr. Samples said this was discussed before and explained that this discussion was not only about live streaming, but also about videotaping our meetings. We have an audio recordings of the meetings that are posted on the town website until minutes are approved [and archived permanently.] Minutes are done the meetings. Most towns and cities videotape their meetings. It certainly is an opportunity for those people who cannot make our meetings who are second homeowners or who don't live here full-time an opportunity to see their town at work; town business at work. I wanted to see how council feels about moving forward with this since we are going to be having our vision meeting and the budget is being prepared. I think it would be prudent for us to discuss the viability of doing this and whether this council would be willing to fund the opportunity to have our meetings videotaped and to also reach out to Spectrum and HTC who have public service channels to carry our meetings on those channels. So this discussion is to see if council is still as enthusiastic about it as they were the last time we had that discussion so we can ask our new interim administrator to put the time and effort into doing the proper research to determine what the cost would be. Mr. Ott agreed. I always wanted that. You did the research on this and it’s very well done. I’d like to go over and see Horry County’s system as they seem to be the only group that is actually doing live stream. We need to really find out how much it is going to cost. There will have to be somebody that's going to fix it, and so we have to put out all the dollars and cents. Mr. Ott asked Ms. Samples if she had seen Horry County’s system. Ms. Samples said, yes, I have, and thank you for your comments. First, let me clarify that I did not do the research on this. Our town clerk did the research. We certainly appreciate her efforts. There still is more information we need to receive and I think that it would be incumbent upon our new administrator to get that information for us. There is a possibility, I'm told, we can we could potentially tie-in with what Horry County is doing as it relates to their equipment and access to Spectrum and HTC. Obviously, we need somebody to do the videotaping and we need somebody to upload it. There's a lot of information that still needs to be obtained. I would like for our interim town administrator to put forward the effort to get that information so we can decide whether we want to put money into it, and how important is it to us. Mr. Ott asked if information could be brought to the vision workshop. Ms. Samples said that would be perfect. Mr. Courtney I have no problem with this. Horry County’s cost is $13,506 a year. There were many costs not added. We need to have better numbers before we decide. The biggest concern I have is the storage on the cloud, and that cost. Mr. Johnson said my biggest concern is that several cable companies serve this area, so we'll have to contract or notify all the cable companies in the service area to see what the options are. Ms. Samples said that was an excellent point. We do have franchise agreements with those companies now, so that should certainly not be a problem with implementing an additional source from them. But again, if we can have it is a discussion item at visioning, maybe our interim administrator can bring forward information for us so we have more data to discuss at visioning, if you all agree. Council CONCURRED.

B. Ordinance #17-0839 Landscape & Trees, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott. Mr. Ott said this tree ordinance just always needs to be looked at. All handymen require is a license, to be insured, and for the contractor to be bonded to protect the people. In my opinion, requiring bonds create an unfair playing field for the small contractors.
who cannot compete easily with large contractors. Many people in town have told me about scammed by different contractors, especially after a storm, and that's why the bond was required. The police department said there were 11 cases reported in the last two years. But, we don't know how many people lost their lost money. I'd like to see if I can get some council thoughts on this to help the small contractors. We would help our residents and taxpayers, but we need to ensure it is the right thing before we drop the bond requirement. Mr. Stevens said this is very important to protect our citizens. If there is an accident, who is liable? The homeowner or the homeowner's insurance company would be responsible, if the contractor doesn't have insurance. Anytime you deal with a contractor you need to have a certificate of insurance statement that you are covered as an additional insured on the contractor’s policy to protect yourself from claims resulting from an accident. Mayor Childs said I went to the building department about this. Staff called an insurance company, and found out that a $5000 bond that's good for one year and covers up to five employees is only $100. So these bonds are not really that outrageous. The first person the contractor did a job for would probably absorb that $100, and then the bond is still good for one year. I agree with Mr. Stevens. We had an incident on 13th Avenue North after last storm when a contractor came in cut a tree down. He walked away and left the homeowner with a huge tree in the front yard. We all know people come in, particularly after a storm, and try to get work, often without a license. I think a reasonable bond is a good thing. Ms. Samples agreed, and said I don't have any problem requiring any contractor to have a bond. My concern is that when we make changes to our ordinances like we did with the tree ordinance and we required a bond for a tree cutter that we had never required before, that there was no grace period allowed for the tree companies to purchase the bond so they could perform scheduled work. I think we need to have a bond, but when we make changes to ordinances that we put into place some sort of process to notify those to whom it applies or allow a grace period to provide the bond if the job is imminent.

C. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

Mr. Stevens said I'm going to talk about something that no politician wants to talk about: term limits. This is something we should look at as a town. Why have a person in there for 30 years? Term limits are being hollered at by people all across this nation. There are people that get in there and they get real cushy in the job and they spend the money and spend the money and spend money. I don’t know if this Town Council would like to talk about term limits, but I would like to bring it up during visioning and see what council thinks about it. It is a good thought. There are a lot of able-bodied people in this town who could probably do a good job like anybody up here. I welcome them to come up in serve for us. I don't want to do this for the rest of my life. Would Town Council be interested in discussing term limits at the vision workshop? Mayor Childs said I bet there’s a lot of people that would like to see one term. *(Laughter.)* Ms. Samples said I think it’s a great idea. We can discuss term limits, forms of government, pay, and many other things. I don't know if it's appropriate to doing during the vision workshop, but perhaps in its own workshop after the election is completed. **Council CONCURRED.**

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

Ms. Anna Johnson, Cedar Drive North: This is to Mayor Childs, the Council, and citizens. I don't like some of the things that I've heard and seen that's happened at Surfside Beach lately. The citizens of Surfside Beach elected Mayor Childs and as our mayor and this position of his, and as a result of this he and that office are due our respect in every way. Again, there is a division with our council. This town is composed of people from all different places and there is no way that you're going to see eye to eye on all the different issues, and it is a good thing that you don't. However, before voting time do you ask yourself this question, do I truly believe my vote is in the best interest for Surfside Beach and its citizens? My husband, Dick Johnson, loved this town and I do, too. And we should try to make it the best place it can be. Citizens, do you pray for your leaders? We need God's guidance, if it's going to come out right. At these meetings, please, don't try to embarrass employees. If you have something against someone, go to them. Talk it out and try to resolve it. This will cut down on lawsuits. In the future, my wish is that if I meet a stranger and they asked me where I live, I can say with pride, Surfside Beach, one of the best small towns in these United States. Thank you.

Ms. Gail King, Hollywood Drive North: It looks like council’s gotta move forward. They’ve got a lot on their agenda: the pier; budget; find a new administrator. But, with all these needs, I don't think we need to focus on the continual attacks in all forms of the media, especially social media. I was just up here in September talking about this. I completely understand why council did not like being called ‘gang,’ but it is inexcusable as well for members of our council to post defamatory, long-winded comments, even in capital letters on Facebook. We should all be
I've got to go back to what I said a couple of weeks ago. Democracy at work. Regardless of whether you agreed, Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: Mayor, Council, citizens, and town employees. I mean, hey, wow. What's happening down there? The defamatory remarks that have been made in flyers, social media, is disrespectful to other councilmen and the citizens of Surfside Beach. May I remind all of the councilmen that we have an election coming up and it is the citizens of this community that may replace you in April, and in the election in two years? I think the actions of this current council have awakened the silent majority of voters in Surfside Beach. The values of the candidates that we choose to support will hopefully allow this town to move forward in a more positive manner than what it has been going.

Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: They say the biggest fear that most people have is public speaking, and I apologize for any quivering in my voice, or any stuttering that I do, but it's a new venture for me to be up here. I have already shared my concerns of the legal action of the agenda change and the subsequent illegal vote that happened on January 23rd. I tried to voice my objection and was told I was out of order. If I had had the opportunity to talk, I would have asked how long is the current contract, and the town's financial liability and obligation in terminating these two employees at that time. Now that I know that you've chosen to honor the contract instead of a severance package, a couple more questions come up. Do the medical benefits continue? Are we still paying for the holidays and vacation time continue and accrue, and what other benefits will continue to be funded by the town for the next six months? I would've also asked if due diligence was performed by the council to consider and ensure they were proceeding properly in such a manner that will reduce the town's financial liability for potential lawsuits, increased unemployment insurance, and any applicable state, federal, and financial obligations. I would've also asked how the town would be run during the interim. Who would make the day-to-day decisions? Coordinate the various departments, and do the daily business? Something as simple as signing paychecks. As the following, as the meeting proceeded, it was obvious no thought was given to these issues and was obvious the council did not perform or do their due diligence in this motion. What will it cost for a state administrator? Now, I guess we're not gonna have that. We're gonna have a temporary, we're gonna have two people, a temporary administrator and an interim administrator. So what will the cost to the taxpayers be for this decision? I am certain the chief of police deserves compensation for the additional responsibilities he's taken. While we continue to pay and how much is the interim financial person or administrator gonna cost? We will continue to pay these prices as we continue to pay the people that are, that have been fired. So we're doing triple what we normally would spend. I also wonder the effect of having a part-time police officer will have on his department and the services they provide. He's doing an excellent job and sooner or later it's going to be overburden for him. Also, what will the consequences be in our attempt to hire adequate quality professional town administrator. My guess is that no reasonable professional administrator would even consider a position working with this Town Council, no matter how much taxpayers' money you choose to throw at them. It seems to me you are getting the reputation and notoriety, notoriety the same as Atlantic Beach Town Council. I would've also asked who would facilitate the discharge. I found it very alarming that both the people discharge employees what at that this room with notebooks, paperwork, probably their keys to the files, desk and office computer access with no regard to this council. What is the town's liability in terminating, in the termination of the deputy administrator? Your motion did not include, when you terminated him, did not include continuing of a contract or not, so are we done with him or is there an ongoing expense there? On a related matter, at the same meeting you hired a planning board director. My question is if this procedure was followed, is there a procedure to hire town employees? Is there a requirement to advertise for such openings? Are there EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity), federal and state regulations that apply? Or, has this Town Council again, due to lack of due diligence, opened the town to further legal liability or federal and state scrutiny? Now, having said all this, the only important question that remains involves your obligation of transparency. What is the cost to the taxpayers of Surfside Beach for your actions on January 23rd? At the end of the day four of you councilmen chose to demonstrate your male ego instance and need to show, showboat instead of sounding, using sound professional judgment, the kind of sound professional judgment and due diligence we've actually elected you to perform. It is my opinion that with the exception of two or three Town Councilmembers, I maintain that the rest of you good old boys, the 'gang of four', need to do their homework prior to taking action, and avoid knee-jerk grandstanding decisions. Surfside Beach deserves more from each of you. (Time ended.) Again, I am just an old man enjoying my retirement in Surfside with no hidden agenda. But, I believe… Mayor Childs: Sir, time is up. Mr. Reed: I believe in holding elected officials transparent and accountable. Thank you.

Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: Mayor, Council, citizens, and town employees. I mean, hey, wow. I've got to go back to what I said a couple of weeks ago. Democracy at work. Regardless of whether you agreed
with what happened or not, I saw it working. I saw the Town Council doing what they needed to do. There was a vote taken. May not have been a really great reaction to it, or for some people it was great. We knew we were in for some rough roads ahead, you know, which is, it's, it's part of governing a town. Small as this town is, big are the problems we’ve got. I think you all came together to the point democracy worked and thank you for that.

Mr. Nick Delaplane, 13th Avenue North: You’ve heard from me before and you just heard two very good little talks from Gail King and this gentleman; the other gentleman, I didn’t get his name. So we’re covering pretty much the same thing, but I thought that it's important that I also just stand up here to support exactly what they said, by particularly Gail King, in the upcoming elections and the things we’re gonna remember and we’re gonna wake the natural, the silent majority. One more tiny little thing, I’ll cut this short. It’s my understanding that the council terminated the town administrator and assistant administrator without properly documenting their poor, in their mind, performance. There are clear procedures that govern how a person is terminated, which include written critiques of poor performance and the employee given an opportunity to correct this performance. In other words, a paper trail. This process is nationally accepted and has been established to avoid this exact situation that the certain councilmembers proceeded to clear these people out so they could instate a personal friend back in. So what has happened is you have placed already been, so I’ll cut it short, has placed this town in great financial risk. I just want to support what has already been said, and we’re going to watch this during this coming election very carefully. Thank you.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Mr. Ott: Thank you for all your comments. That’s what we have. We have a democracy. We’re allowed to speak. I want everybody to say what they feel. I want everybody to give us your opinion on what happens, because we all live in the same town, and that is a good thing. This is a beautiful town. Thank you for coming out, again, and thank you for being involved in your local government.

Mr. Courtney: I’d like to thank everybody for coming out. Have a great week and we’ll see you in two weeks. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson: I have no comments. Obviously, my voice is going very quickly. Thank you for coming out. God bless you. See you next time.

Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming. As far as the comments on the social media, I have no presence on social media. Although, people tell me that I’m a major target. So that’s my only presence. Nothing I put on, so I can’t get accused of that. Thank you, too, it’s nice to hear from the silent majority. In America often we hear from the vocal minority, so thank you for coming to the last few meetings. I appreciate the comments. I appreciate comments from everyone, but it’s nice to hear. So basically, as Mr. Reed stated, there will be a cost to the town for our decisions. But, as Mr. Sadler stated, you know, we voted. We made a decision, and now it’s done. So we have to move forward. So we still live in a great town. We still have the same people. We still have the same beaches. We still have the same roads, same parks, still have the same great police department, fire department, [and] same staff other than minus administrators. But we’re still standing. So we still have a great town. We just need to use the resources we have and move forward from here to make the best decisions we can so we can, can make sure that we go into to this vision meeting next week make decisions are right so we can maintain our budget and continue to build our unassigned reserve, because that's very important, and then also we have the pier rebuild, and it's good to hear that finally our federal government may be making a decision for us, and that will be good and we can get moving on that. Thank you very much. I appreciate all the comments, and we do listen to the comments, because although we get comments, and there's a lot of discussion between councilmembers after meetings and before the upcoming meetings, just based on comments we get from you guys, emails, phone calls, comments at meetings. So please keep that up, because you keep our information lines open. Thank you.

Mr. Stevens: I appreciate everybody coming out. I hope y’all had a good week. I will point out to our people that are running for office now that we are a council form of government that was established in 1976 through the State of South Carolina. That means every councilmember has equal opportunity. There's nobody has more power than any other councilmember. In a council form of government it’s majority rules. Whether it be seven or six. I know I’ve been on the one and we had six people voting and I was the lone voter. I don't know if that was a gang of six against me. I’ve seen it go 4:3, 5:2, we talked about gangs. That's a made up word, because that when
they voted for taxes a few years back to raise the taxes we had the third highest taxes in Horry County. Was that a
gang of four that raised taxes? I don’t know. You have to make that judgment. As far as, as far as this council is
concerned, everybody should go out and vote. That’s your democratic privilege. You can go out and vote for the
people and decide who you want to vote for. That’s what it takes, and I like the fact that y’all are coming out and
y’all are speaking, whether you like what happened or you don’t like what happened. I don’t know that that’s a
minority that wanted the things, but I’ve got a lot of people that there were glad with what we did. Some people
didn’t like what we did. But, that’s the way government works. I mean, let’s face it, a few years ago I didn’t want the
insurance to be nationalized, and then I found out my daughter’s insurance went up $391. I said what happened to
my cheap insurance, and I said welcome to government. In closing, we are going to go on. Surfside’s gonna be a
good town. We’re gonna survive. We’re going to get things done, and thank y’all for coming out. God bless you all.
May the world treat you good [sic] all next week.

Ms. Samples: Chief Hofmann, I wanted to personally thank you for your efforts the last few weeks and
stepping in as the interim administrator. You have done an excellent job at that as we expected you to do. We’re not
surprised, but certainly appreciate it, and most importantly though, would you please convey to staff how much we
appreciate them during this transition, and hope that they continue their commitment to Surfside, because were
certainly committed to doing the right thing for them. We hope. So please convey that. Thank you very much.
Visioning February 22. You’ve heard us talk about a lot tonight. Visioning is the big picture of where we hope to get
over the next year, hopefully, without any indecisions and distractions. It's an important opportunity for council to
hear from staff to see what their thoughts are and to share with staff what our thoughts are. It's enlightening it's a
plan of action. It's by no means for sure going to happen. I know a lot of things come out of vision and it needs to be
understood that it's just a plan, and it's our hope, and we do expect to have, we like to hear what the needs are, and
we like to hear but the wants are, but the needs are certainly our priority. And that's what I hope this council chooses
to focus on during visioning February 22 on Thursday [starting] at 9:00 a.m. So, we hope you all come out for that.
As it relates to public comments, I do want to have this comment to make based on our last meeting. There were
some comments about, there were some comments from the public about people coming and speaking at our
meetings, and I felt the need to address that, and that is, I want to say that I agree with everyone up hear. Even
though we are divided in many instances, one thing this council, every single person up here, is appreciative of and
encouraging of is public comments. Whether you come to every council meeting, and feel compelled to get up and
speak every council meeting; whether you have come to your first council meeting, because you were frustrated or
outraged by something you may have heard or seen, you're welcome. Whether you are a neighbor of the Town of
Surfside Beach, or whether you are second homeowner, your comments are welcome. We encourage them, and no
one should be, should be, it should never be suggested that your comments and are not welcomed, because I can
assure you this council, every single one of us, welcomes them, and so we appreciate you so much.

Mayor Childs: I have a couple things. Chief Hofmann, I think I speak for the entire council, we appreciate
you taking on the headache that you did. You've done a good job and believe it or not, not one complaint. So, on
behalf of the seven, we thank you so much, and we'll know where to find you. The other thing is I think for once I
really feel good about the federal government dealing with us on this pier. I really; I know it's frustrating, but if
anybody here has ever dealt with the federal government, it’s not overnight. The bureaucrats, they have a job to do,
and they’re gonna do it at their pace, but it was really a good conference call. The state is on board, and for the first
time, I really feel that the federal government is on board, and I think we will get what this entire council has wanted
at our last workshop. We’re gonna get a really good pier; a good resilient pier where we don't have to go back to
FEMA again and go through the same exercise that we have gone through. So I really, everybody keep your fingers
crossed, and I believe that we're within a couple weeks or so of hearing something positive.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Courtney
second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: February 27, 2018
Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

Julie M. Samples, Town Council

Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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.