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: Interim Administrator Duckett; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King, and Police Chief Hofmann.

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

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Workshop March 8, 2018 and Regular Meeting March 27, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the workshop minutes of March 8th and the regular meeting minutes of March 27th as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only. (3-minutes per speaker). There were no comments.

6. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator’s Report. Mr. Duckett said there was very little to report, but he would be glad to answer questions. There were no questions.

7. BUSINESS.

A. Reading Ordinance #18-0869, Chapter 5 Elections, Clerk Herrmann. Mr. Courtney moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0869 as presented. Mr. Johnson second. Mr. Ott said six years ago the mayor pro tempore election was change to require that the candidate with the highest number of votes in the election be nominated as mayor pro tempore. I believe that process showed respect to the people who voted. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file. Mayor Childs and Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmember Courtney voted against. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Resolution #18-189 Declaration of Results for General Election April 3, 2018, Clerk Herrmann. Ms. Samples moved to adopt Resolution #18-189 as presented. Mr. Ott second. A copy of the resolution is on file. Ms. Samples congratulated Councilmember Pellegrino and newcomer, Bruce Dietrich on their successful campaigns for office. (Applause.) All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Johnson called point of order, and asked if the candidates for the runoff election could be introduced. Mayor Childs said point taken, and invited them to introduce themselves. Ms. Debbie Soles and Mr. Tim Courtney were recognized.

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

A. Grant Writer Program, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott. Mr. Ott said I asked for a discussion on the grant writer, because I would like to see citizens throw their names out there, if they’re qualified, to be able to write grants. We were never asked for grant money to [pay the writer.] In fact, I prefer to be paid out of whatever appropriate funds for which the grant is related. I, personally, would love to see the big lakes dredged. If we received a grant for that, we could take the money from stormwater [to pay the grant writer.] Payments could come from capital equipment, beautification, or some tax funds, or whatever fund applied. During research, I saw some opinions, but I’d like to see some law or an attorney’s opinion on the matter. In general, I want to be very ethical, and open this to the public to get some grants for this town. We have a lot of infrastructure work to be done. We’re
this project is completed. Mayor Childs said this would be discussed further during the budget process. The Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) is the maximum grant RIA issues, and another grant cannot be requested until things the town doesn’t have and wouldn’t qualify for. The $500,000 grant we have now for stormwater from the department director comes across a grant, they apply for it. In many cases, grants are for schools, meals, hospitals or things the town doesn’t have and wouldn’t qualify for. The $500,000 grant we have now for stormwater from the

Mr. Ott asked the finance director to come up with some ideas for our budget meeting. Mr. Courtney asked

Pellegrino said Mr. Johnson is correct. I agree with Mr. Stevens. It's unethical to pay them out of the grant. We

money. Let somebody get the grant for us, and we pay that person out of general funds or whatever. You can’t gage

the performance of a grant writer. I don’t believe in putting another person on payroll; they need to be paid for 100

position description will certainly need to be written and then advertising for that position would have to occur. Mr. Johnson said if we have a grant writer, we're going to have to figure out how to pay for that position. As far as the police body cameras, we bit the bullet to purchase those before the grant money was available, [so our officers were prepared for bike week.] We need to determine where the money will come from for a grant writer. Perhaps the answer is to raise your taxes. I have a feeling that no one wants to raise their taxes. Although, we have the one of lowest tax rates on the Grand Strand. Mr. Stevens said he found during his research that there is an Association of Grant Writers. Those people like to be paid a salary. But we don't have to pay the grant writer out of the grant money. Let somebody get the grant for us, and we pay that person out of general funds or whatever. You can’t gage the performance of a grant writer. I don’t believe in putting another person on payroll; they need to be paid for 100

Pellegrino said Mr. Johnson is correct. I agree with Mr. Stevens. It's unethical to pay them out of the grant. We

building one bridge. We’ve got four more to do. We have more outfalls to do, I don’t want it to come out of our tax

There’s no reason why we can get all kinds of grants. There’s a lot of people in the town can write grants, and get grant for us. We could pay them once they get the grant. I don't believe in paying anybody a salary to do the work. When they actually produce, then we pay them. I like the idea of putting this out to the public. There may be somebody sitting in this audience that get us a lot of things like that. Mr. Pellegrino said I also agree with the grant writing program. One thing we do need to keep in mind is many of the government grants are matching grants, and therefore, when we do have an opportunity for a grant, we need to make sure we go to the budget to ensure we have the money to match. On a large grant you could have to come up with a very large sum of money to match our portion. A lot of these items that these grants will be written for might not be in the budget. So we need to consider that. If we can get projects done from federal money, I’m all for it. That's a positive. Ms. Samples said I, too, agree that anyone in the community who sees the opportunity for a grant for the town is encouraged, but certainly as Mr. Pellegrino pointed out, there would need to be a collaborative effort between those individuals and staff, and to ensure that those items that do need matching funds that the town is capable of doing so, before a lot of time is allocated to responding to the grant. Staff will certainly have to be involved in that. So I think it's a great idea. In the research that I've done, and as Mr. Ott pointed out, I'm not an attorney, but Google grant writing and when you pull up the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, it states that paying a consulting fee from a grant award is not allowable expenditure and considered unethical practice. Also, if you look at Grant Professionals Association, the GPA, they state unequivocally no commissions or any form of percentage compensation is to be paid from the grant award. So it's kind of clear that we have rules to follow and again I encourage anyone who wants to participate in grant writing to do so. We certainly have to be mindful of what the rules are, and what our auditors will consider an allowable expense. Again, I think it’s a great idea and staff will have to be intimately involved in that collaborative effort as it relates any grant writing. Mr. Ott said I agree with Ms. Samples. We don't know all the rules. We need to look at the rules, and as I said, it doesn't sound like it would be ethical to take it out of the money you're getting. But, I know that that we have some good people on staff that would know where to get the money one way or another. What I need to know now, maybe from our financial director, or council, or the interim administrator, is where do we go next? Mr. Courtney said I think it's important that we have a grant writer. It’s something that we should have done a long time ago. As we have these retention ponds, lakes, they need to be dredged, and we should be seeking grants. We can hire part-time grant writer and we can figure out how to pay them. I'm sure there's a way around each grant that's written is written differently, so depending on the amount, depending on the grant, they all come in different shapes and sizes. We put the money up front for our police body cameras, but then we applied for a grant that was available and got reimbursement. The grant money is out there. We should have someone looking for it. I can't believe this town does not have a grant writer, so I would concur with Mr. Ott on this and would definitely look for grant writer. Ms. Samples said let me also add that if that's what council desires to do that is certainly something that can be discussed at budget as far as allocating another position, but I also stress that a

Mr. Johnson said if we have a grant writer, we're going to have to figure out how to pay for that position. As far as the police body cameras, we bit the bullet to purchase those before the grant money was available, [so our officers were prepared for bike week.] We need to determine where the money will come from for a grant writer. Perhaps the answer is to raise your taxes. I have a feeling that no one wants to raise their taxes. Although, we have the one of lowest tax rates on the Grand Strand. Mr. Stevens said he found during his research that there is an Association of Grant Writers. Those people like to be paid a salary. But we don't have to pay the grant writer out of the grant money. Let somebody get the grant for us, and we pay that person out of general funds or whatever. You can’t gage the performance of a grant writer. I don’t believe in putting another person on payroll; they need to be paid for performance. Mr. Johnson said I have no problem with that, but we still have to come up with the money. Mr. Pellegrino said Mr. Johnson is correct. I agree with Mr. Stevens. It's unethical to pay them out of the grant. We would have to have a fund, but we need to discuss this during the budget process, if we want this for next year. Ms. Samples said if it is going to be paid out of the general fund, you may want to consider a bid process just to be fair. Mr. Ott asked the finance director to come up with some ideas for us for our budget meeting. Mr. Courtney asked

grants were done in the past. Ms. King explained that the police department wrote the grant for the police cameras. In the distant past, a college intern wrote grants. The departments write their own grants and manage them now. If a department director comes across a grant, they apply for it. In many cases, grants are for schools, meals, hospitals or things the town doesn’t have and wouldn’t qualify for. The $500,000 grant we have now for stormwater from the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) is the maximum grant RIA issues, and another grant cannot be requested until this project is completed. Mayor Childs said this would be discussed further during the budget process.
B. Employee Bonuses and Firefighter Pay Increases, Councilmember Sample. Ms. Samples said about a month or so ago when we as a council discussed well-deserved bonuses for our police department, council concurred to ask our administrative staff about bonuses for all of our employees, and not just our police department. Council concurred to have the administrator, and the department directors to review their budgets, since we’re coming to the end of the year, to determine if there was some extra funds available so that we could look at bonuses for all of our staff. I recognize that our interim has been out ill, and that acting interim Ms. King has been extremely busy, but I do not want to let this get away. I would like to ask Ms. King if she received feedback from our department directors as it relates to extra funds in their budgets for bonuses for employees. Ms. King said yes, except from public works and building, zoning and planning. Ms. Samples asked if council would concur to have the finance director bring recommendations for bonuses to the next council meeting for consideration. Mr. Ott said finding extra funds in the budget is hard. We need to add this into our budget. Ms. Samples said these bonuses are to be taken out of this year’s budget. Ms. King said that was correct. Mr. Courtney thanked Ms. Samples for the idea. We did talk about it at one of the workshops, but I think it’s more important that we take a look at manpower and what we really need. Yes, we’ve established that our police officers need to get better pay. Every time I’ve talked to the fire department staff over the last two years, it wasn’t about bonuses or pay raises; it’s been about having extra firefighters. We should be looking at proper staffing instead of giving out bonuses at this time. We need to bring our uniform forces on parity with other departments. Mr. Pellegrino said I agree with Ms. Samples a 100%. It also brings up the point, certainly in this year’s budget cycle, we should sharpen our pencils for next year. We have all these extra expenses; as always the first draft of the budget for the upcoming year is in the red, so we need to look where we’re going to cut to compensate for that. As far as Mr. Courtney’s comments, we’re comparing apples and oranges. There cost of bonuses is a very small amount versus $600,000 a year to staff up the fire department, which is something we may have to do in the future. But, that needs a lot more planning. It’s not something we could just do next year, even though the SAFER grant would be nice to use that would result in a pretty quick tax increase, possibly the next two cycles. Anyway, I do support the bonuses in this in this budget cycle. Thank you for that, Mr. Pellegrino, you’re exactly right. This is a small effort on our part and it’s certainly our job. I know the budget very well. There’s some money there to do some good with, and if we have to take it away from council’s travel budget, let’s do that. I believe we’re going to be getting maybe 1% back from the state retirement system. We have things we can do, if you look at the budget, and you know the budget, there’s going to be some money there. Before we prepare for the new budget, let’s take advantage of that. If we don’t invest in our people, we’re not gonna get anywhere. We did for the police department. Let’s do it for the rest of the departments. Ms. King has said she’s already heard from the majority of them. I bet you she can provide us with some specifics at the next meeting for recommendations for employee bonuses. I just think it is incumbent upon us as elected officials to look at providing service to our employees, and this is one way we can do that and say, ‘hey, we appreciate you.’ Mr. Courtney appreciated Ms. Samples’ and Mr. Pellegrino’s comments, but said going back to the fire department, it we don’t start budgeting now, you keep on pushing this off. You don’t have to hire six firefighters now, but you had hired one every three or five years, we wouldn’t be in this position. Same for the police department. If there had been incremental raises, we wouldn’t be in this position. We need to invest in employee safety and employees first by making them sound and whole to keep them here. I’m all for the bonuses, but again we need to start budgeting for future needs when our current staff nears retirement. Ms. Samples said again we’re talking bonuses and we’re talking budget. They’re two different things. I would ask that we have the finance director provide us with recommended bonuses at the next meeting. **Council CONCURRED.**

Ms. Samples said the second part of my discussion is about firefighters’ pay increases. Just for information, we have in the Town of Surfside beach six full-time firefighters, plus a chief, plus one part-time fire inspector. Many fire departments, including Horry County and Myrtle Beach are short staffed. Specifically Horry County that has about 25 vacancies and that does not include the 22 firefighters that they have in training right now. They’re looking for firefighters and are actively recruiting. We do not have over time for firefighters in our department; we do not authorize overtime payments, which was surprising to me. Quite frankly, because I’m sure that there have been times and opportunities when we needed them to work some overtime. I know that it’s a controversy with Horry County and Myrtle Beach. We gave the fire staff a 3% increase cost of living increase last year, and that was it. We have no vacancies in our department. Firefighter pay in the town ranges from $31,500 to $44,500. Horry County starts from $35,000 to $51,000. Myrtle Beach firefighters from $38,600 to $43,900 or if you’re firefighter-paramedic it’s $43,900 to $68,000-plus. They are paid pretty well compared to the Town of Surfside Beach who is sitting with no vacancies. We have loyalty here. We have people who like their jobs and want to keep them. In preparation for the budget, and because we’re talking about, and I support increases for our police department, as well, and this is no impact on you and what you want your budget to be, I’m hopeful that this council will also take a look at our
Town Council Regular Meeting  
April 10, 2018

there was consensus to discuss this again at the budget meeting.

It's confusing, because what is it? I would like this answered at a future meeting. Mayor Childs asked if we have a balanced budget, then as Mr. Johnson said, a tax increase might happen. We don't want that. I agree with budget. Mr. Pellegrino said certainly I support looking at this, and I will bring it to the budget meetings. We have to consider this, because we're already dealing with police department pay increase, and there are other costs we know are coming: the pier, which requires us to put money up front even though the grant will reimburse us; again, this next budget meeting is going to be difficult. This group up here will have to make some big decisions, because every time we make a decision to invest in our employees, which is almost always the right decision, we may have to give up some other service or some other activity or some other task to have a balanced budget in the end. If we don't have a balanced budget, then as Mr. Johnson said, a tax increase might happen. We don't want that. I agree with pursuing this, because we're lagging way behind Horry County, and Myrtle Beach. Mr. Courtney said I agree with everyone that's on council and I don't have a problem with this. I want to make it very clear, if you speak to our firefighters they will say they are seeking one thing, manpower. They're not seeking raises. They are getting overtime. There was an overtime shift that was given out last week. I was told by firefighter. We are short firefighters. The chief and the fire inspector both live out of town. So I just want to be cautious with this budget giving out bonuses every year. I understand that we've gotta bring up certain departments to certain pay. I get that, you know there’s gonna come a time as Mr. Johnson and Mr. Pellegrino said about taxes. You start giving out 3%; 3% every year it’s going to impact us eventually. I'm all for sending it to the budget and letting them decide. Mr. Ott said this this is the same discussion where we found extra money. I heard the words extra money. When I hear extra money, I pay attention. This is in consensus and it's going to council. I think we’re happy with that. Ms. Samples said I do want to make two points. Mr. Courtney, I'm sure if you were to ask any one of those firefighters they would not say they're not seeking a raise, because I've spoken with them, so I disagree with that comment. But also, the reason why I'm bringing this up is so we do not look at departments individually, and that you look at the budget as a whole. If we're going to be looking at giving raises to our public safety, then let's look at the whole product of public safety, and not just the police department over here, and the fire department over here. If we’re going to do it, let's be fair and let's be equal. That’s the only reason I brought it up. Mr. Pellegrino said one last comment since we’re talking about the budget and how this fits in to all this is revenue growth is the key. As a council we shied away from revenue growth in the past. Mr. Courtney is probably right. He has experience, and at some point we may need more firefighters. But we need to increase our revenue, so we can pay for them. That's an investment. If we don't have revenue for this upcoming budget, we have revenues from the current resources and rentals and business we have. But until we start increasing businesses year over year over year, we can’t increase pay. When revenue increases, then we can bring on more firemen and do a lot of things. We need to take that risk and make the investment to try something different to increase revenues. That's a very important key. I’m going to be pushing that during the budget, just like I have the past four years. That's the key to making this all work. Right now we’ve had a couple good years as far as tourists. We had those years back in 2008 and 2009 when our revenue was shrinking. If we don’t have other revenue sources, or we will really struggle. Mr. Courtney said our public safety consists of two departments, fire and police. Those guys work weekends, holidays, and shifts. They have to be careful what they do. They’re first responders and they put their lives of the line. I’m not comparing them to other departments. I’ve seen the vision; the future, and what we haven't done in the past. Before you start handing out money, we need to be very careful about money. So, I agree with Mr. Pellegrino. We will see what happens at the budget. Mr. Stevens said I’ve heard everybody speak, and there are a lot of good points. If you live in a two-story house and have a fire, you want those people there to save your life. I also agree with Mr. Pellegrino that we have to increase revenues. We need to do it by creating more businesses in town that bring in revenue for us. It’s like a double-edged sword. We can keep spending money, but we’ve gotta create revenue at same time. That’s what we have to really look at it. We as a council need to start really looking at the business community, and how we can help them and how we can bring new businesses into town. We’ve got the pier; Highway 17 will be repaved, and we’ve got opportunities coming at us like crazy that we can really create a lot of business revenue. I hope that we have a business friendly council, whoever's sitting on the council, I hope they're business friendly, and they think about the fact that we need these extra revenues. Public safety is most important thing. We’ve got the third safest town in South Carolina, and a fire department with an ISO 1 rating. Mr. Ott said I appreciate everybody's thoughts on this, and go through a period of time where we will not have any pier there while it's being torn down. We’re gonna lose a lot of good revenue, because the restaurant is not going to be there for a while. We have to consider that in our in our budget. When we ask for a fireman to be added, we’re told the cost is $100,000; but the salary is $37,000. It's confusing, because what is it? I would like this answered at a future meeting. Mayor Childs asked if there was consensus to discuss this again at the budget meeting. Council CONCURRED.
C. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed. There was no other discussion.

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

Ms. Diana Taylor, 7th Avenue North: Who do you call when you need a question answered about our town? Debra Herrmann. Her knowledge about this town goes deep. She attends all meetings in this town, actually making sure that all venues are open and set up properly. She opened the voting polls at ‘0 dark hundred,’ I didn’t see anybody else there, providing food and drink for all who worked. She also checked on everyone throughout the day. Plus, I can’t even count her other duties she does for this town. She certainly puts in long hours to make everything happen above and beyond the call of duty. As a community, let’s take some time to thank our town clerk, Debra. I think applause would be appropriate. (Applause.) Mayor Childs said I think we all feel the same way, [Ms. Taylor.]

Ms. Holly Watson, North Oak Drive: I am flabbergasted tonight. I cannot believe that you don’t like free, when you have an opportunity to get grants for things that we already need that are in the budget or things that you have been told by your directors that you need, but yet you won’t allow someone to go find grant money for it. If you’ll recall, I brought you the name, the phone number, the email address, and all the specifications on the Myrtle Swash grant, and that grant was worth $500,000 that we did not have to pay as taxpayers. This town is losing millions of dollars in grants and funds and sponsorships that we can have, and no wonder we have to keep raising our taxes. North Myrtle Beach and Myrtle Beach, you know, we see them get them get beach renourishment dollars; $10 million for beach renourishment. We don’t get anything. I mean, what do we get? When you’re talking about a grant writer for other towns, they get anywhere between $80 and $140,000. I came to you in March of last year when a consideration was to tack on a fee to our water bill, because we needed $3 million worth of stormwater projects. I gave you at that time a full entire list of places that we could go for everything from community development grants to stormwater structures and all kinds of other things that other townships all over the state were getting. But did we apply for any of them? Not that I know of. And as far as you are concerned about they’re a matching grants, there are thousands of grants that don’t require any match, if you know where to go to look for them. I am so; I just can’t believe that you don’t like free. What is it about free that you don’t like? The argument that it’s unethical is a moot point. It’s not unethical to pay someone for their time. Grant Writers Association are salaried people, but they also pay a bonus based on how much grants the writer gets. So which is it? You don't pay performance or you pay performance. So I’m gonna give each one of the South Carolina procurement code where you can do a sole source procurement along with your written determination that that provider has specific and unusual expertise and you can pick a grant writer that you feel like can get the job done. I came to you with an offer, it wouldn’t cost you a dime, unless I brought home a grant. Now you’ve gotta remember that thousands of grants take a lot of time to apply for. That would be my dime, my time. If you don't want me, find somebody else with the same deal. I offered to finance the commissions. I offered to wait for you to pay the commissions. It’s up to you. Like I said, here’s a copy of the procurement law. There’s one for every one of you. Right on page 2 of this along with page one, it tells you all my qualifications. The same thing that I outlined, and they’re seven reasons why I felt like I should do this and my qualifications to you, because I know this town. I’ve been here for 32 years. I know all the stuff that’s under the rug, and you don’t want me to bring it out tonight. I guarantee it. Now grant specified procurements are exempt. You can read all about it. I did not expect you to pay me out of grant proceeds, ever. If it’s a stormwater structure, pay me out of the two mils. If it’s a sponsorship, then pay it out of A-Tax or some other place, but these are items that you could go for that you’ve already put in the budget. Things that we need. Do you honestly think that I would go out there and look for something that we don’t need? It doesn't make any sense. Anyway, thank you, and I hope you get one somewhere. Oh, and the other thing you might want to consider I would pick one. I would not pick several people working against each other for the same grant. That doesn't make any sense, either. Thank you.

Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: As I told you before, I have no agenda, just think it's important that our politicians and our public servants be honest and be transparent to the public. So I have a couple i’s and a couple t’s to cross tonight. I’d like to respond to a couple comments from the councilmembers at the end of the meeting that they presented. First, I would like to take a moment to speak for all of us who choose to write your comments down in advance of the meeting, and read their comments to stay on point, to stay within the time allotment, and for me, keep my emotions in check. Because we read our comments does not mean we are not passionate about our comments, nor are we any less spoken as it was spoken from the heart. A person was offended to think that at least
one councilmember thinks that comments from the person who reads his presentation is less important or genuine
than comments from someone who was able to speak without notes. Now, I did talk to that councilman. I do
appreciate his comments that he had, but I think it's important that everyone behind me understand that whether you
read your comments, or you speak 'em they should be received equally and are genuine from the heart. Second of
all, I would like to offer a clarification to another councilmember. A 4:3 vote is a simple majority, and that's the way
we run our business. It becomes a gang of four when you vote on your emotion; it's ramrodded through; there's
abuse of power, and when outside parameters of ethical and sound governance are not followed. At the last meeting,
I asked that we learn from our experience, and that the board should never repeat their abuse of power as they
demonstrated in the process. Now, I'm not saying that what they did was wrong; it's the process they used in firing
the town administrator. I estimated that the cost was about $55,000. That represents everyone in this room's taxes
went to this (**). A 138 of the average tax bill is $400; it's 138 taxpayers. So everyone in here contributed to that
error. Yet, one of the board members proudly proclaimed that he would again demonstrate the same abuse of power;
again waste the 138 of our taxpayers’ money, and the same board member stated that we probably saved money. I
asked him to present the facts that back up this statement or was it just another ego boosting political blurb? You
have the floor. Thank you.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Mr. Johnson:  I have no comments other than thank you all for coming out. I can't wait to see you next
time. Be sure and get out and vote on the next Tuesday for the runoff election. Thank you.

Mr. Pellegrino:  Thank you for coming. As far as the grant writer program, I'm all for moving forward. I
think we had consensus, too. I don't think we had a specific task that was generated from that to move forward. So
we'll talk to the administrator and see how we need to move forward with that, but I think all of us up there were in
agreement to move forward with that. As far as revenues, I mention them all the time, and that's one thing I'm
passionate about. There's five keys going into the budget that I'm going to push. First of all, the tourist experience is
a key; that's where we get most of our money, obviously from tourists. Help our existing businesses to grow, and fill
up the storefronts. Mr. Stevens talks about that all the time. We have a lot of opportunity there. Then you've got the
other two opportunities that are commercial annexation is an opportunity that we haven't chosen to move forward
with, and the pier is a huge one. We did make some decisions on the pier. We did make a decision to build three
buildings. We can keep talking about that and, you know, there's opportunity to grow and change things up, possibly
to the two stories later on. If we're not going with annexation, then the pier is our big money maker in this town. So
that's critical that we go through that process. Finally, I just want to thank all my supporters who voted for me and
thank Ms. Herrmann and the Election Commission for running the election. I definitely don't thank Surfside Strong,
whoever they are. I don't need that type of support. I know they sent stuff out for me from information from four
years ago with the picture my kid, and my address, which I don't agree with. That was that was a pretty horrible
flyer they sent out, and I don't know who it is, but I hope we find out, and I will give 'em an ear full when we do,
because that's unacceptable, and I don't need their support. Finally, please vote on April 17th. We struggle to get
voters out on runoff [election days]. So please, please get out next Tuesday and vote. Have a great day.

Mr. Courtney:  Yes, I'd like thank everyone for coming out. Ms. Holly Watson, I do like the idea about
getting a grant writer, and about getting it free. There's gotta be some kinks there to be worked out; questions that
have gotta be answered as far as who pays for it. I will also say that whatever actions were taken by this council, by
these members, were legal and proper. It was in the best interest of the town. There was a majority vote. It's very
simple. You've got seven councilmembers up here. You got four that vote in favor. You've got three that vote no. It
is what it is. It can be rolled any way on any decision, on any business item. I want to say that I am actually
surprised. I went through the last election, and I'm gonna talk about the flyers, because nobody's mentioned it. Yeah,
they were pretty nasty. [Mr. Pellegrino] brought it up. He doesn't know how his name got or how his family got on
the flyer, but they were pretty nasty, and came on Easter Saturday, on the Easter Holy Weekend. It was an
embarrassing to this town was an embarrassment to this town. It was an embarrassment to the residents, their
families when they came to sit down to dinner, they got a hold up that card as one woman told me, she held this card
and said to see this beautiful town? This is what makes it ugly, and she held at that flyer. It send a bad message to
our tourists. This is not who we are. Let's see if we can see we can make it a week without any bad fliers. I doubt it,
but you'll see that nobody up here asked for an investigation, did they? Last election, oh, boy, they wanted to call the
FBI in. Then they did, right? Nobody asked for investigation on who Surfside Strong is. But they had a lot of
money, I'll say that. On annexation, I'm totally against it. Sorry, I'll never change my mind on that. I'd also like to
say whatever happens after this election, I ask that all of you be kind to each other. Be civil. When you walk around this town these are people that we live with, alight? I want to be able to say to you, regardless of whether I’m on council or not, say hello to you, and not have to look the other way. But remember, be civil when you walk out these doors. This has gotta stop. You’re actually being bullies out there some of you by putting out these flyers. It was awful. On a good note, the beach sweep, we have a beach sweep coming up, and I believe one of our beautification members… Can you please tell me the date, please? Ms. Mull responded from the audience, Saturday, April 21st 10 a.m. at the pier. Mr. Courtney said please come out and help us clean up our beaches. Even if you can pick up a couple plastic a day, it makes a huge difference. It shows who we are that we love our beaches. That’s it. I’d like to say thank you. God bless you. Have a good night.

Mr. Stevens: I realize that some money went out for $55 thousand for 138 taxpayers. I remember when I saved the town $760,000. That 1,906.9 taxpayers I saved money for. When Mr. Childs and I got together with Mr. Servant, and the town wanted to spend $70-some thousand to pick up garbage an extra day, we got garbage picked up for about $8,000. We saved another 50 to 55 to 60 taxpayers’ money there. So, we don’t always throw away money. We try to save money every chance we get. Now, I’ve done that. As far as what Ms. Watson said, I agree, there ain’t nothing better than free. I like that, and I think that this council would be foolish not to look into what she said. This was the opportunity to get money and have somebody working for the town that's a citizen that cares about the town. She wouldn’t offer this, if she didn’t care. She cares. We need to step up to the pumps and think about this, and talk seriously about it. As far as Surfside Strong that's about as low a flyer as I've ever seen in my life. At the bottom of the septic tank. To know that 10-year-old girl had to walk out there and pick up something about her father comparing him to Saddam Hussein is so low, I don't know how anybody could sink so low. I hope that this type of gutter lying politics is gone forever. I hope they don't rear their ugly head in this runoff. Whoever it is they ought to be ashamed of himself. They ought to leave this town. They’re not worthy of living here. (Applause) Now other than that, we still got great town. We’re the third safest town in the state of South Carolina. We got a fire department that does a great job. I don’t see Mr. Adair here, but he picks up our garbage every week, and that's really what, you know, we’ve got three things that we have. So we’ve got a good town. Thank you for living here. Thank you everybody who’s interested in this town. Please get out and vote on April 17th. Cast your vote regardless of who wins, it doesn't matter. Get out there and vote. That’s your duty as a citizen of the United States. Thank you.

Ms. Samples: Thank you all for coming. Mr. Mayor, I'd like to take a moment of personal privilege, if I may since my time is short up here on council, and so there some thoughts that I would like to share since we’re having a short meeting, if you will indulge me. Ugly, nasty political flyers are bad enough. Just as bad, are the ugly, nasty, false accusations, especially when they come from town leaders, and you wonder why there is division on this council? It's sad, and frankly desperate when you accuse someone of something without benefit of proof. I had experienced a nasty flyer myself when I ran almost two years ago. That flyer was not only designed to impact my support, but to hurt my livelihood. My 20+ year business. I was told state law conflicts with federal law and pretty much anyone could print anything they wanted, especially if you are a public official or running for office. Let me tell you what I did, I consulted an investigator who not only provided me with documented proof of who produced the nasty flyer, but also who paid for it. They different, believe it or not. I’ve not shared that information even though a lot of you have asked me to do so, but I haven't shared it publicly, because I believe the impact to the town would have been epic and negative and I did not want to do that. It just wasn't worth it. During last Tuesday's election we had town residents calling the news media with false accusations of voter fraud and our town clerk who is the epitome of grace and who possesses unmatched knowledge and skills was subjected to implications of wrongdoing. Come on. We are better than that. Who does that? And finally, and finally, there's been a lot of speculation as to why I chose not to seek reelection. I never tried to make it about me when I sat up here, but again personal privilege, I have so enjoyed my public service and governing. For me it's been easy. Nothing hard about it. The job requires preparation, research, and asking lots of questions; respecting staff, and responding to town residents, and town businesses. I personally believe that this council has been paralyzed by indecision and the inability to grasp the big picture of our proper roles as councilmembers. God willing and the creek don't rise, as my
grandma used to say, I will return in two years. It is been an honor. It has been a privilege, and Mr. Mayor nothing
but respect for you. Thank you. (Applause)

Mayor Childs: You know, a couple up here mentioned flyers, and I just want to say one thing. Most of you
have known me for about, I’ve been here eight years, now. I’ve never, ever, ever, and I underline never been
involved in dirty politics, and I resent the fact that I was blamed. I have been cussed out, threatened, and I had
absolutely nothing to do with those mailers. No proof, just go ahead and hang him; public hanging. What’s the proof;
no proof, let’s just do it anyway. You know when people that are supposed to have a background investigating
people, yet they will blame somebody; the easy target. It's unbelievable. It could happen to anyone of you there. I
can make a charge to anyone. It’s gonna be up to you to prove your innocence. You’re guilty, you’re guilty and I
had people; one person told me how very smart they were. How smart they are, and they went after me, but they
didn’t think to investigate. There’s no evidence that I have anything to do with that. Not a bit, and that’s why there is
none. I did not do it. I had nothing to do it, and it really upsets me that people would just think that. It’s just
absolutely unconscionable that anybody would think I did that when I’ve got eight years of service for this town
without any negative politicking. The former mayor and I are to this day good friends. He didn’t negative politic on
me and I didn’t negative politic on him. Thank you very much.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino
second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: April 24, 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.