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 Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmember Courtney was absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Councilmembers-Elect Dietrich and Scoles; Interim Administrator Duckett; Town Clerk Herrmann; Police Chief Hofmann, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Rev. John Gambrell, First Baptist Church Surfside, gave the invocation. B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Special Meeting April 19, 2018 and Regular Meeting April 24, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the special meeting and regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

5. ELECTED OFFICIALS INAUGURATION. Town Councilmembers-Elect Oath of Office.

i. The Hon. David Pellegrino, Charge by Mrs. Elizabeth Pellegrino. Incumbent Councilmember David Pellegrino was charged for his second term of office by his wife. The written Oath of Office was executed, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

ii. The Hon. Bruce Dietrich, and iii. The Hon. Debbie Scoles, Charge by Town Clerk Herrmann. Both Members-Elect Dietrich and Scoles were charged by Clerk Herrmann. The respective Oaths of Office were executed, copies of which are filed with these minutes.

6. MAYOR PRO TEMPORE ELECTION

Mr. Stevens moved to elect Mr. Johnson Mayor Pro Tempore for the 2018-2020 session. Mr. Ott second. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Johnson and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Pellegrino, and Scoles voted against. MOTION FAILED.

Ms. Scoles moved to elect Mr. Pellegrino Mayor Pro Tempore for the 2018-2020 session. Mr. Dietrich second. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Pellegrino, and Scoles voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Johnson and Stevens voted against. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Ott congratulated Mr. Pellegrino.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only. (3-minutes per speaker) There were no comments on agenda items.

8. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator’s Report. Mr. Duckett said I knew when I agreed to act as interim administrator there would be three major events during the short time that I would be here: the first was the election and fortunately the administrator had nothing to do with elections, except stay out of it, and I think I was successful in doing that; the second thing, and maybe the most important thing in my mind, was to help this council find a permanent administrator, and I think we’re on our way to doing that. I think everybody will be pleased when that does happen, and the third thing is to help prepare a budget, and as you all know, by law every council in every city has to pass a balanced budget. So at your next meeting will be the first reading of the budget for next year, and before the next meeting, there will be a budget workshop on the 17th of this month.
9. BUSINESS. All business was deferred until the May 22nd Regular Meeting.

10. DISCUSSION.

A. Public Information Drop-In re: Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance, Councilmember Ott. Mr. Ott said as we all know, we have an ordinance in place for plastic bags and I’m asking council for consensus to instruct our administrator to set up a half day in council chambers within the next two weeks where he would instruct his staff to get communication out to the business community and the public so they can get information and ask questions about the single-use plastic bag ban ordinance. Councilmembers could attend if they wish. Some residents don't think they can clean up yard waste with the plastic bags. Everybody needs to understand exactly how unrestricted it is to the residents. Mr. Johnson agreed and said there are several issues that have not been addressed, like the Farmers Market and other situations that are going to arise. It's easy to dictate to the major supermarkets, which may or may not be here in a month or two, but you do have some restaurants that were not notified. Mayor Childs asked if Mr. Duckett knew how to notify the businesses. Mr. Duckett believed notices could be sent through the business license office. Mr. Pellegrino agreed, and believe this was a good idea. Ms. Scoles asked how the residents would be informed. Many of them do not have Internet or use computers. Mr. Ott said maybe the word can be spread by word of mouth. We can publish in the newspaper, and send an email message to the subscription list. Council CONCURRED.

Mr. Pellegrino said I noticed in Garden City and also in Georgetown County continuing construction on the Greenway Bike Path. There's a gap in it in Surfside Beach. We had an opportunity many years ago to pursue this, but we didn't. I'd like to get consensus from council to direct the interim administrator to contact the government agency that provides grant funds for the Greenway to see if a grant is still available so we can pursue that so we aren’t the only ones on Grand Strand with a gap in the bike path. Mayor Childs recalled the town lost a $400,000 grant many years ago, because the bike path was unable to come through the town because of the exits and entries along Ocean Boulevard. We discussed using the frontage road, but that wasn’t a good choice. Mr. Pellegrino said the town has other options; there is a sidewalk going all the way down Hollywood Drive. That's what we need to see if a grant is available so we can talk about it, get the citizens involved and see what the best way to proceed is. Mr. Johnson said the biggest obstacle was that the right-of-way is so small in certain areas of Ocean Boulevard that it wasn’t feasible to put a large Greenway path. There were several options. One was to place it under the power lines just outside of town to connect with Garden City. Mayor Childs said Hollywood Drive sounds like a good option. Mr. Ott asked if the Greenway was only for bikes. Mr. Pellegrino said bikes and pedestrians on an 8 foot wide path. Mr. Ott agreed that this should be checked.

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

Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North: Some battles are never won. If you're going to put a Greenway in, you better realize that a lot of people aren't gonna want it in front of their house, and Hollywood Drive the sidewalk is not wide enough, so just don't put it on people who don't want it.

Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: I have a lot of things to say. I’m gonna reserve them for a later time. (** mention about the gap, Surfside Beach being a gap. How many more beaches along the Grand Strand allow tents? Bike path is a really good idea, but you know, being a gap is the least of the problems. Actually, this town doesn't even allow horses on the beach, and the rest of the Grand Strand does. So, we’re gonna be a gap no matter what we do. Maybe we should actually change the name of our, the seal to say not just the family beach, but we’re the gap. We have a gap in integrity. We have a gap in competence, and confidence. We really need to work together, and it’s gonna take a lot to do that. A lot, and I sure hope we can come together as a town, because I don’t see anybody winning right now. Sadly to say, but I wish the town, I wish the townspeople, and I do wish this council good luck, because you’re gonna need it, and I hope to gosh the town survives, because we’re all divided.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South: At the last meeting I talked about my fear is that the building height limit in the pier area would be raised for developers to put up high-rises. Mr. Pellegrino said he would not vote to raise the height limit in the R3 District. After the meeting, I spoke to him about not only R3, but also C3, and I hope it doesn't ever happen, but the E District. He told me and Mr. Johnson he would never vote to raise the height limit and R3, C3 and the E District. I would like him to state that publicly tonight for the record. Never trust a politician. At the last meeting, I also asked for background checks on our new council people. I think I can honestly say most
people do not know them, and I am once again asking for these checks. If you are going to hire a nanny for your child or grandchild, I am sure that you would ask for a background check. Well, you council people are our nanny. I for one want to know what my nanny, whether my nanny can be trusted. I don't know you. I would also request that the town administrator and future department heads live in our town. They make huge financial decisions, but have no vested interest. They pay no taxes here. It does not affect their wallet like it affects my wallet, and everybody else that lives in town. They should be asked to live in our town. Welcome back, Sabrina, what a pleasant difference it has been already, and finally, what's up with the no motor vehicle sign that's on Melody Lane just west of Ocean Boulevard? If there is no motor vehicles on allowed on Melody Lane, somebody ought to check it.

Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: Well, it was a rough election, but congratulations and God bless everybody who’s sitting up there tonight. May you have a wonderful four years. So we have something good on a flyer for our election. We had one of our people who got reelected, congratulations, had on his election flyers that I stand for the police and the fire department, and I think it would be good considering that were starting budget talks that we finally, as he said, it was from two years ago, that we finally, finally see some action on this for our police men, giving them a raise, because Myrtle Beach is like, I think, giving them 40,000 a year, and there was another flyer from another person who is newly elected that said he stands for public safety, and I think that between the two of them and the rest of the council we can really, like within this month, like within our budget talks see if to give our policemen their raise and give our firemen their two more full-time firemen to maintain our ISO number one rating. We have a very little town. We have a little population, and yet for the summer time, the town grows monumentally, hugely. Very important that the backbone of our town is the safe family beach; safety. We hear it all the time during bike week that Surfside Beach is a good place to be. Well, summer’s coming. We really need to have the police force amped up. We really need to have enough police that they can keep things going smoothly without, God forbid, having just three police on shift at one time. We really need to have firemen, because to count all volunteers isn’t necessarily going to work, but we’re a beach town and our firemen play a huge integral part in the safety of anybody at the beach. So you can see my concerns. You can see that they’re reasonable. That they’re honorable for everybody who visits our town. We get a lot of financial gain from our visitors. We have people who have been loyal to living in this town. Us [sic] residents want safety, too. It’s an honorable thing to ask and more so to support our wonderful police department and our fire department and the fact that we have an EMT parked right in our firehouse garage, and to respect the mutual aid agreement that we share with the county. It’s because of that that we have that EMT device parked. Whenever you call for police, fire, or EMT they’re there in like maybe two minutes, most often less. So please, let’s just not consider this. Let’s put our money where our mouth is and let’s do it, especially in particular because were planning an E District. We really need to have our backbone of our town our safety, our police, our firemen, our EMT settled in before we add even more to the pier district and to Surfside Beach. Thank you for hearing me out and I pray that it’s going to be real soon this happens, particularly starting our budget discussions.

Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: I’d like to remind the council up here that four of the members up here agreed that this was the first step was to pass the plastic bag issue and you were going to go on to other things. At the last meeting, it seemed that we were getting buyer remorse setting in relative to the plastic bag ordinance. I applauded Mr. Johnson for his honesty, insight and concern. However, I do not believe a step backwards is a solution. I applaud you for what you did in getting the initiative to proceed with this. It is an opportunity to forge ahead and actually make a difference for our beaches. Ordinance 18-0863 addresses the 17 Corridor and the suppliers of plastic bags. The public comments and concerns for this ordinance were focused on the proliferation of plastic bags and the concerns the plastic bags have on the beach environment and the beach wildlife. As Mr. Johnson said let’s get it off 17 and down to the beach. As written, it does not address the issues and concerns that were presented at this issue [sic.] It is directed to only the businesses, incidentally, probably one of our biggest revenue sources, and calls for no mandate for public action or commitment. In fact, the exclusions listed in the ordinance ensure the residents will not have to embrace the intent of the ordinance at all. Every public comment that was presented at the reading either was about the proliferation of plastic bags, the micro plastic dangers, and the toxic exposure that plastic bags present to the wildlife and beach environment. When you passed the ordinance, you said this was only going to be the first step. There are many stakeholders in this community relative to the well-being of our beaches. The greatest stockholder is not the retail businesses whom you’ve chosen to regulate, the greatest stockholder is the rental and real estate industry of this town. These are the businesses that bring the people to our town. These are the businesses that make our profits that make their profits and livelihood using our beaches. It is more than appropriate that they contribute to the protection, maintenance and well-being of the beaches they use and take advantage. In the next step consideration needs to solicit the assistance or require the rental and real estate businesses to promote the town's
concerns about the proliferation of and the harm plastic bags do to our beaches. Posting informational signs at each
of the rental facility registration points and in each rental unit is necessary. Distributing information bulletins,
notices at registration, and with the keys to pick up is necessary. Providing financing to the town for informational
signs for each of the town beach access or any other promotional needs the town feels is necessary. If the industry
will not volunteer this financing, financing could be mandated by imposing a business improvement or impact levy;
an annual fee for each permitted rental agency or a direct payment to the local real estate association or some other
means. Following the lead of the Folly Beach Ordinance 3116 and the Isles of Palms Ordinance 2015-18 the current
ordinance needs to include the public awareness and education facets, signage at the beaches, sponsorship, public
announcements, town sponsored community litter pickups, partnership with local business and civic groups and
educational organizations, establishment of a website similar to the ones of the two places I mentioned, and maybe
even possibly juvenile community service projects on the beach. The town needs not carry the burden for this task
alone. At the reading of this ordinance, many organizations and individuals stood up in support of the passing of the
ordinance, as well as providing insight into their contributions or activities and suggested that these to be addressed
for next steps. The supporters of the ordinance are resources for the town. Mr. Neil Gilbert from Sunset Beach
offered as president of the Brunswick Environmental Action Team as an environmental resource and marine
biologist to help. Mrs. Donna Grimes from Garden City from the South Carolina United Turtle Enthusiast's is a
resource and offered to help. Mrs. Carolyn Brander from Georgetown representing the Coastal Conservation League
and I called her, is very happy to assist in any way as you reach for the next step. Coastal Carolina has an
undergraduate and graduate program that can be coordinated with the town education programs through projects and
assignments for the students. One of those students was here and represented and spoke for the favor. Mr. Auburn
Hooker from the Grand Strand Surfrider Foundation offered the resources of the Worldwide Network
of the Surfrider Foundation. This is the group that also has their name on all the total informational plaques along
the town, and finally Mrs. Corrine Hilliard also from the South Surfrider Foundation who has assumed the
leadership role in the anti-plastic program for that organization offered assistance in education and transition into the
non-plastic bag era with anti-plastic programs and materials through the Surfrider website. She has already done
training at Coastal Carolina, Horry County… (**noncommittal noises because time ended) Mayor Childs: I’m
stretching it as much as I can. Mr. Reed: Okay, as you know you can go back and look at the minutes to find all the
resources you have available. Mr. Ott: I’d like to hear Don Reed’s name on that list to help us. Mr. Reed: Okay,
final thing, if I may. All we need to do, to have done here is prevent bags from being distributed on the beaches.
That's all we have to try to do, so we need to educate people to do it.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Mr. Ott: Thank you, Mr. Reed, for your statement and when we do set up this educational program that
we’ll do and it will be a few hours, not one hour. I’m hoping it’s gonna be five or six hours that we’ll be open and I
would, I would like to have your participation as you seem to have done your homework pretty well on that. It's
going, it’s going to take a while, because I remember sitting in here for a year hearing about how bad the smoking
ban was until everything got ironed out, and Rome wasn't built in a day, but we’ll make this plastic bag ordinance
work very well for this town. Believe me, there’s a lot of people who are going to help, and we had a good
ceremony tonight, and I welcome our new councilmen, and our new mayor pro tem, and it's really great to have this
town the way it is. Thank you.

Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you very much for coming tonight. Just in response some of the comments, we have
been talking about raises for public safety in the budget process, and continue on the 17th in a workshop. Hopefully,
we can make decisions on that. As far as the building height, just like I told Mr. Dodge two weeks ago, R3,
Entertainment District, C3, I won't go for anything over 55 feet. I think that is something very positive that this town
has done over many years, and that prevents us from being like Myrtle Beach, and surrounding communities. I say it
all the time that our maintenance of our height of 55 feet and 35 feet and also our lack of debt makes this town
different than everywhere else, and that gives us flexibility. It gives us the opportunity to be better, and give better
services, and also make better decisions for the future. Finally, I just once again want to thank Ms. Samples and Mr.
Courtney for their service over the last two years, and welcome aboard Ms. Scoles and Mr. Dietrich. Welcome to the
fun. (Laughter.) Have a great night.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you everybody for coming out tonight and there were some good comments from our
citizens here. I agree with Ms. Wescott, let’s be careful. Let's not put anything out there that citizens don't want. I
know that they’ve done that in the past. Mr. Sadler talked about gaps in the integrity, gaps in confidence, and wished
us good luck. Well, I wish our new councilmembers good luck, and that they have made a huge step and I'm going
to give them a word of advice. Whenever you get something thrown at you, just be a duck. Let it roll off your back.
Just forget about it. It'll be alright. I agree with Mr. Dodge and Mr. Pellegrino. We don't need to raise the height. We
have a family beach. As a matter of fact, we're second safest, excuse me, the third safest town in the State of South
Carolina, because we have a fine police department. Public safety, public fire [sic.] is one of the things that we need
to make sure that we take care of, and I've been talking with Sabrina Morris and she is actively working on a lot of
good things for the town. So, I'm glad she's back. As far as the plastic bags, Mr. Reed, if you could, it would
probably help us if you would email all that information you talked to each one of the councilmembers. You can
send it to Ms. Herrmann. She will disseminate it to all of us and that way we can get all that information. I'm one; I
don't like see plastic bags floating in the river and in the inlet or on the beach; see 'em anywhere, and obviously, we
need to take care of that. We, we've got; right now we're using plastic bags on the beach to pick up dog waste and
things like that, and at the dog park. So the town's got to set an example, at the same time. Once again, I want to
welcome all of, Mr. Pellegrino back to the council and welcome our two new council persons, and I hope that we
can work together in harmony for the next two years, and then we can accomplish a lot of great things. God bless
y'all all [sic.] Thank you for coming and have a great week.

Mr. Dietrich: Thanks for coming out tonight. Thank you for allowing me to serve this community. It's an
honor and privilege, and I will work very hard. I assure you of that. To address Mr. Dodge, I have no problem if the
chief would like to do a background check on me, and I will sit down with him and provide him with any
information he needs; both my personal careers and my financials. It doesn't matter to me. There's nothing out there,
but Chief [Hofmann], if you and I would like to get together, I have no problem with it. Mr. Reed, I couldn't agree
more. You brought this up at the last meeting, and it's a good point. Passing the ordinance is one thing; educating the
public about it is another, and we need to move forward with that. We really do. Thanks for coming out folks. Have
a great night.

Ms. Scoles: Good evening, everyone. I want to thank you for coming out this evening. I also want to go on
record being known that I, too, am against any height being raised on our buildings. I do not want to see anything
going above 55 feet, and as far as the plastic bag ban, I totally agree [they] need to be abolished, but we've got to
educate these people on how we're going to do that and we've gotta take the first step. Like Mr. Stevens said, we
still have plastic bags on the beach for the dog waste and at the dog park. So we need to set the first example. I look
forward to working with everyone on council, and hope that it's going to be a good four years for all of us. Thanks
again for coming, and I hope you have a great week.

Mr. Johnson: Thank you all for coming out again. It’s a virtual ritual; two times a month. We love that you
guys come out. I would like to welcome back Councilmember Pellegrino and the new Councilmembers. I would just
offer you a little advice, education is key, and I know that you both are intelligent, but municipal government is
monster in itself. I think everyone up here can attest to that. But, thank you. Welcome. I would like to thank Mr.
Reed for your comments and suggestions. I truly thank you for that. As far as the height restrictions, I don’t want to
go over 55 feet. I mean that’s ludicrous. If you go offshore, go 10 or 15 miles offshore, you can always tell where
Surfside Beach is, because Myrtle Beach is up here, and Garden City is up here, but Surfside Beach is down here
(indicated upper and lower heights with hands). It’s great. We have a great community, and I want to keep it that
way. Thank you, again, for coming out.

Mayor Childs: I do want to welcome both of our new members to council. Congratulations on your
election. I think everybody here seems to be in agreement on the 55 foot height limit. I look forward to a new
session here and everything running smoothly.

13. Executive Session.

A. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment,
compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, or the appointment of a person or
persons to a public body (town administrator).

Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.
Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 8:21 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor.  

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Childs said for the record, “No action was taken during executive session.”

**B. Motions or directions resulting from Executive Session.**

Mr. Johnson moved to direct the town administrator to negotiate a contract with Candidate A for the position of town administrator. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Pellegrino moved to direct the town administrator effective July 1st, 2018 to eliminate the full time position discussed in executive session. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**14. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Prepared and submitted by:

______________________________
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: May 22, 2018

**Surfside Beach Town Council**

VOTE:  Yes  No

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

Ron Ott, Town Council

Debbie Scoles, 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](http://www.SurfsideBeach.org) and the marquee.