



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MAY 22, 2018 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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 Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Interim Administrator Duckett; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris; Police Chief Hofmann; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Pastor Oakie Landers from Pine Drive Gospel Church gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

3. PUBLIC HEARING. Ordinance #18-0871 to adopt FY2018-2019 Municipal Budget. Mayor Childs opened the hearing at 6:33 p.m. to hear comments from the public on Ordinance #18-0871. There were no comments on the proposed budget. Mayor Childs closed the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Stevens noted a scrivener's error on Item 7.B.iv. because the director was misidentified. Ms. Herrmann said the error was already corrected for the final record.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL. Regular Meeting May 8, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the May 8, 2018 regular meeting minutes with an amendment to line 291 to show that he voted against the motion. Mr. Ott second. Mayor Childs said he reviewed the audio of the meeting and there were only aye votes cast. Councilmember Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, and Scoles voted against. **MOTION FAILED.** Mayor Childs moved to approve the May 8, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: I'd like to begin my comments on the historical society presentation with a little history lesson. Council several, a couple of years ago, voted and bought a piece of property, and it's been a bone of contention ever since. Some people said it shouldn't've been there. Some people said you shouldn't've done it. It's going to be exchanged for this. It's gonna be exchanged for that, and this is history. We can't deny that history happened. It's part of who we were; where we began. There was a historical festival this past October a year ago and it was amazing. I'm not part of the committee. I didn't know anything about it until somebody said they need volunteers, and I'm always up for an adventure, and I did, and it was absolutely great. But, I was so disappointed. As it got closer and closer to the festival, I never saw any banners. I didn't hear any noise about it. But, I was there. No one from council showed up except for the Mayor. Absolutely no one. No support from council whatsoever, except for the mayor. One person told me, well, it was their birthday. Apparently a lot of you are having birthdays. And someone else said, well, I don't do that kind of thing. I'm not gonna celebrate slavery. We weren't celebrating slavery. We were talking about how people lived at that time. There were [sic] farming equipment. We made butter with a little shaker jar. Everybody loved that. Sweet potatoes were for sale there. It's a very small plantation, and while I was there, I learned that there were actually gravesites. One of the present presenters said that a slave couple the wife had to be buried there on the Ark Plantation, because that's where she was born. Her husband had to be buried somewhere else, because he was not born on the Ark Plantation. It was such an education. We had, if you want to look at the economic aspect of it, we had visitors who came in and said, wow, this is great. I didn't know anything about it. We had councilperson to walk up, take a look at it, and walk away; never come in. I don't understand this. I really don't. We have another opportunity and to the best of my knowledge, this opportunity is not getting much support from council. Once it's gone, it's gone, people. We're always trying to label our town. We want to brand our town as being something. We're the family beach. Wouldn't this be an amazing thing to be able to put the paperwork? I don't understand. My granddaughter, as I was telling them [sic] about it, what we did and what

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57 we saw. They live in Nashville. (*Time ended.*) They wanted to know when the next one was. They can't come. There
58 may never be another. Thank you.
59

60 Good evening everybody. It's been a long time. It's been four years since I stood up here and I did a
61 presentation with [Mr.] Cad Holmes and [Dr.] Ben Burroughs. We're the ones who brought it to the attention of the
62 town about the Ark Plantation and the Ark Cemetery. I'm not up here to speak tonight. I had no intentions of
63 speaking. I was gonna let [Ms. Mabry] do that, but this afternoon something came across my desk. I've been
64 working very closely with [Dr.] Burroughs. This afternoon around four o'clock we got the commitment for the
65 historical markers. State of South Carolina Historical Coordinator Aaron has approved the historical markers for the
66 Ark Cemetery and the Ark Plantation. So congratulations to the town of Surfside. We will be on the Historical
67 Register. (*Applause.*) I want to thank the volunteers that helped out with the Historical Society, because it's been a
68 very long four years. I feel like we took a lot of loss, invisible loss and it's up to you. It's up to the people of the
69 community. What do you want to do with your historical site? Thank you. Mayor Childs: Could we get your name
70 and address? Ms. Suliman: It's Joyce Suliman and I live at Cypress Drive smack dab in the middle of the cemetery.
71 (*Laughter*)
72

73 Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South: This has to do with Item 7.A. Over two years ago, Town Council
74 purchased a lot on South Willow Drive and 3rd Avenue at an absurd price of nearly \$400,000 between actual cash
75 and tax write offs to the seller. Will the townspeople ever be able to get into that property? Better yet, Town Council
76 should find some sucker as you were and sell it back to them for \$400,000. This town is not in the museum business.
77 To me that's up to the county to be in the museum business. I have yet to see one item that was unearthed at the
78 \$400,000 park that we cannot go into. I'm told they're in town hall. They apparently are not. That was \$400,000 of
79 taxpayer money that nobody yet has been able to step onto. Don't do it again.
80

81 Ms. Carol Lucas, Cypress Drive: My comments address the two agenda items: Communication Item 7.A.
82 Historical Society and Item 8.D. in Business, Historical Society Request. About two weeks ago a neighbor gave me
83 a letter that he had gotten from yet another neighbor. The letter began Surfside Beach Historical Society needs your
84 help. We must raise \$120,000 by August 4 to purchase the last undeveloped lot in the Ark Plantation Cemetery. The
85 address wasn't given, but I can tell you it's a narrow lot on South Hollywood between Cyprus and Juniper. The letter
86 goes on to say the seller has agreed to give us 90 days to raise the purchase price and there is a post office box where
87 you can send your donations. The members of the board are listed, and they include Ms. Mabry as parliamentarian
88 and publicity. Last Thursday I asked [Ms.] Herrmann to forward a copy of this letter to everyone on council and
89 with it, my email stating in part I strongly oppose the intent to purchase the lot on South Hollywood Drive. I urge
90 council to review the actions of the society and its legal relationship with the city. To understand my position, first
91 of all I should say, I do not oppose an Ark memorial, but I think that we already have a place for it on Surfside Drive
92 near the Veterans Memorial. In August 2015, the city purchased land at the corner of 3rd Avenue South and Willow
93 Drive for over \$300,000 where the plantation home had stood. On November 15 of that year this historical site,
94 society, asked to be a committee of the city and that occurred. It's important to remember, because committees have
95 rules to follow. At this time, the property has been off-limits to citizens; ropes around it with no trespassing signs. I
96 get irritated every time I drive past it. Last year, the society again made efforts to get the city purchased a lot of
97 empty lot on the corner of Hollywood and Cypress. A private party bought the lot. On the day they closed the
98 property, they were met there with members of the society and newspaper people with cameras. What a welcome,
99 and it hasn't stopped. Yesterday, the cameras were back filming the empty lot next door; the lot the society wants to
100 buy now. Then it got worse. An unidentified woman told the two children who live in the house that has been built
101 on the corner lot that they were living over graves. What was she thinking? It really doesn't matter now that no
102 bones were found before the house was built. They dug up the lot down 10 feet tearing out roots of trees. There were
103 no bones; she was wrong, but the damage is done. Where will this end? I hope with council choosing not to spend
104 more of our limited funds for the Ark memorials [sic]. I don't think members of the society have bad intentions, but
105 they do not speak for me. I am not one of the 'us' in their letter, and I wonder, did the society discuss this plan with
106 (*time ended*) members of council to get it approved before acting? I doubt it. That's probably what tonight's about.
107 Perhaps the society would be better off if they disenfranchised itself from the city, then it wouldn't have to follow its
108 rules.
109

110 Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: I would first like to request that the person behind Surfside Beach
111 Keeping It Real (*a Facebook page*) apologize to the mayor, council, residents, and members of the Rutledge family
112 for her post that states 'Most communities embrace their history, but not Surfside Beach it appears. One question

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113 bodes to be answered. If the cemetery in the area of 3rd and Willow were a white cemetery, would the town officials
114 respond to it differently?' This is not a racial issue and I find it appalling that they are attempting to make it into one.
115 I would also like to ask her why she blames developers who purchased the land at the site, and built homes, why was
116 this site not maintained. Why was it determined to be abandoned? Per [Ms. Mabry's] request on the May 10th email,
117 I ask you to dissolve the historical society and allowed it to break away from the town. Via a Facebook post a week
118 ago, I asked if the park would be deeded to the town and the society responded no, it will not be deeded to the town.
119 This raises multiple questions. If the society owns the property and remains a town sponsored society, doesn't the
120 town own the property? Who will ensure the land? Who will maintain the land? If this society dissolves due to lack
121 of interest, then who owns the land, if the town doesn't? If you allow the society to remain a town sponsored entity,
122 how can you give them permission to become a 501(3)(C), and establish a Go Fund Me Page, which is in conflict
123 with our ordinances? The town has invested tax dollars and accommodation dollars; 10,000 of our accommodation
124 tax dollars to pay for those plaques that she was speaking about, and on what I consider to be a pet project of a
125 couple of town residents, the archaeological dig produced a handful of trinkets and the graves were cavities in the
126 ground, which could've been part of the cemetery, or perhaps the burial site of the Chicora or Pee Dee Native
127 Americans or the Spanish who roamed the area long before John Tillman did in 1801. It also could have been graves
128 of the early plantation owners or their families or slaves. Again, I ask you to dissolve the society. [Ms. Mabry] back
129 in June 2015 per council minutes said that the town is more than flip-flops and beach towels. Well, yes, we are more
130 than flip-flops and beach towels. We're an autism friendly beach, a family beach with activities and amenities to
131 attract many visitors. [Ms. Mabry] on 7/27... Mayor Childs: (*gavel*) Ma'am, please don't mention names. Ms.
132 Cook: I'm sorry. Per the council minutes from 7/27/15 one of the councilmembers stated 'that corner is the whole
133 history of Surfside Beach.' Again, really? What about the Native Americans (*time ended*); thank you.

134
135 Mr. Tom Meccia, Hollywood Drive South: I live right next door to the proposed site. The lot is 423
136 Hollywood Drive South. Putting a sign up that says this used to be part, part of a cemetery right next door to my
137 house is gonna cut my property value probably in half, as well as the next-door neighbor who just built a house and
138 was first occupied less than a month ago. Let me go back a little bit and correct one thing. Everybody's saying this is
139 a cemetery, but the letter definition of the cemetery is much different. This was actually a burial plot in shallow
140 graves always on higher ground so that the bodies wouldn't float up in a flood. This lot floods every time there's a
141 heavy thunderstorm. In the previous flood we had two years ago, a year and a half, farmers lost their crops. It stayed
142 flooded for three days. It's much too low. There's nobody buried there. There are plots, they exist. They're up the
143 hill about 100 yards east, not in this low ground. Just a few feet across the fence at my property line, the previous
144 owner built a pool. I called him. He said they found nothing when they dug that pool. You can't dig a pool in a
145 modern cemetery without finding something. Also if there's, if this was an attraction for people who want to come
146 by there, I'm gonna have a problem with people parking in my yard; my driveway. This is a very small lot. There's
147 other options. I agree there should be a memorial. We need to remember history. If they put a memorial on a lot over
148 on Willow, a beautiful piece of land; you can't build on it. This lot is intended to build a family home, which would
149 not only add to the tax base of the city, but it would also be part of the city's model, the Family Beach. Somebody
150 just mentioned that a few minute ago, the Family Beach. This is a residential area. While a park is not commercial, it
151 does attract like a commercial business does, and I'm most concerned about my property value. And, there's just so
152 many other options, why is there not a plaque where the graves actually are? Because it's privately owned property.
153 Nobody wants a plaque on their property. Even the lady who belongs to the society and lives in that area isn't
154 putting a plaque on her property. Why should I have to have a plaque on mine, next-door, of course, but still
155 affecting my property? (*Time ended.*) Severely affecting it. Thanks for your time.

156
157 Ms. Sherry Singleton, Historical Society Secretary: I am on the board. I'm the secretary. I live in Socastee,
158 actually. We had a business here many years ago, and my interest originally stemmed from the fact that I was doing
159 genealogical work and found that my husband is a grandson of the Tillman's. And when they found the information
160 and I learned that there was a meeting up here when [Ms. Suliman and Dr. Burroughs] presented the information, it
161 intrigued me tremendously that we could bring back and educate the people about the history, and the fact is that we
162 are in a unique position. We have got descendants of the people that lived at the Ark Plantation that are still in this
163 area, and very much interested in the preservation and the realization of what took place here, and what has
164 happened in Surfside is not any different than what's happening all over the South where cemeteries in the South; it
165 is so common for there to be burials, as you said shallow, maybe, but burials on private property. That's how it was
166 done, and the plantations, the Ark Plantation was a large plantation. It was 3000-plus acres and it was here since the
167 early 1700s, so the graves, the burials that took place there took place over a period of over 200 years, and the, yes,
168 it is true the graves would've been primarily in the higher area. Just recently, the couple that bought a house behind

169 [Ms. Suliman's], they had the county come out and do the under, the sonar and they found, was it four adult graves
170 or three (*speaking to audience*)? There's five total, so they found four adult graves and one of an infant. One of the
171 graves was only about 12 inches below the ground. So, those are facts. That's not, you know, hearsay. Could it have
172 been Indians? You know, maybe, except that the graves all faced east to west, and that is traditional for the African-
173 Americans or the slaves that were there. They believed that they were buried facing the east their souls with catch
174 the next wave back to Africa. That was part of their beliefs. They did not use markers, not because they were poor
175 and could not afford them, but it was not tradition. The tradition was to use maybe a shell or a piece of sandstone
176 and there are graves that we, the first graves found were once marked with sandstone. So it is not proper in that
177 context to say, well, they weren't marked, therefore, it didn't exist. (*Time ended.*) Oh, it did exist, but it was tradition
178 to not have it marked. So, I'm very much in favor of continuing our preservation efforts.

180 7. COMMUNICATIONS.

181
182 **A. Historical Society, Ms. Mary Beth Mabry.** Mayor Childs explained that Mrs. Mabry will make a
183 presentation on behalf of the Surfside Beach Historical Society. He asked councilmembers to hold questions and
184 comments until the business item was presented and welcomed Ms. Mabry to offer the presentation.

185
186 Ms. Mabry: Thank you so much for allowing us to speak. We do appreciate it. You already got the good
187 news. But, I would like to make that clear about the markers. Council did vote to have four. We've only gotten two
188 approved from the state, so it is not going to be the 10,000. We've already; the town's already graciously given us
189 the money to have the state look at it, and it takes forever. We're talking years sometimes to get something
190 approved. Our documentation has to match up perfectly with the state's documentation, and then they go back and
191 research everything to make sure every period and every comma is right where it's supposed to be. So it's not an
192 overnight thing. I've never lived in a town and never visited a town that did not have a historical society, and we did
193 not have historical markers throughout. It is important to recognize who you are; what you've become, and how far
194 you've grown, and that's one of the things that our society wants to do. We want to talk a little bit on 3rd and Willow.
195 There's some misunderstandings about that property; how it was paid for, and what our intent as a society was to
196 help the town do, and that was the town was bought out of discretionary finds [sic], as all council knows, but a lot of
197 people, other people, don't, and that it comes from meter money. There is a land fund. We used that land fund to
198 purchase that property wisely. We did have a full appraisal on the property and we did, we did appraisal price, which
199 would, we would not want to go over, but we did have to meet appraisal price. That's a beautiful piece of property.
200 One of the prettiest pieces of property I think you're going to find anywhere. Garden City; you're not find anything
201 that we have that anyone else have. I don't even know if you can find that in Myrtle Beach to be quite honest, and
202 what it could be is amazing with the grants that are available. Simply by saying that this is an Ark historical garden
203 and educational center, you open yourself up to hundreds and hundreds of grants. Anytime you use the word
204 historic, education, and flower, you pretty much get them all in there, so there's no reason what we're doing here
205 tonight is asking if we can help the town apply for every grant available and make that into a wonderful destination
206 park where we would actually have people come and visit. While they're here visiting, they're going to eat lunch.
207 There is a secondary residual effect of that having that park fixed the best it could be. I talked to an architectural
208 landscape. He recommended at least a third of it be in historical plantings so that we would get more people
209 attracted to the property, and also, there's grants out there that would help you recoup your money. I mean, wouldn't
210 the council like to get some of the money that they spent back, and that's possible, too. So we'd like for you to take
211 that into consideration that we apply for every grant we can. That we make that a real showplace, and we all,
212 because the frustration is there about not being able, I agree, we can't walk on that property, and it's unfair and
213 unfortunately often times the historical society gets blamed for it. As far as artifacts, it was very important, and I
214 want to thank them. Well, we're not supposed to do that. I want to thank the ones that were so encouraging with the
215 archaeological dig, because it did date things exactly as we had documented, but excuse me, it really did help do
216 that. I also want to talk about the cemetery. We know that we don't have the support of council to buy that piece of
217 property, and we do not blame you. We do not fault you. We do not ask you. However, we feel that that is a
218 preservation historical site. We have no intention of doing anything with that property, except applying for grants
219 and make it in, and actually it is a very small lot; narrow and long, and it would only be half of what it is now,
220 because the driveways have to go in one way and out the other. So it is a very small plat [sic] of land when you think
221 about a park. It would be tree lined with one bench. It is certainly not going to be intrusive to the neighborhood. I
222 doubt if you see thousands and thousands of people going into a tucked-in little tiny park. It just isn't gonna happen.
223 We have only two pieces of property in the Town of Surfside Beach that we're going to have as historic sites. Only
224 two. We want this to be more, and I do use the word sand and flip-flops. We are more than that. We have a rich

225 history and one of our projects is to have a snapshot in time going from 1740, because we know that we were here
226 before the Revolutionary War, all the way up to 2018, when it was a fishing village in the 50s and the 40s; when in
227 the 60s we started to expand, and in the 70s we start to have visitors come in and the town really changed in the 80s
228 when we started thinking about paving streets and having really good protection and becoming a really a vibrant
229 beach community. There is such progress from 1740 to today. We'd like to do that in snapshot in time. There are
230 things that we know that it's not just the Ark. It is much more than that. Further back and up till today, and we want
231 to make sure that the town has education. That they have the knowledge that we should share. We should be proud
232 of what we are and not hide it. We don't want to be intrusive. But, I know that there are some people that think we
233 should go away from the town. I prefer not to. We did have a vote and the board was very clear that we do not want
234 to leave the town, but in order to buy property we have to become a 501(C)(3), because nobody will give us money,
235 if we can't give them a tax deduction, and I think y'all are aware of that. It is against the ordinance, I'm very well
236 aware of that, and we want you to know that we are aware of it. We have our hands tied. Historical societies live on
237 donations and grants. That's just a fact. It's all over the United States. We're in a position that if we don't get
238 donations, and if we don't have funding and individual donors, then we can't proceed. We can't print a bulletin. We
239 can't have a brochure. I have to come up here and beg you for permission to buy a box of pens. You can't educate
240 without funding, and our funding has to come through grants, and we can't get a grant, if we don't have a 501(C)(3).
241 That's just the fact. So we're kind of in the devil and the deep blue sea. So, what we're asking for is two things: that
242 we help you and you help the town by applying for as many grants as we can, and we open up the park, hopefully
243 reimburse the town a great deal of the money, and we go forward with that, and that we're granted an exemption on
244 the 501(C)(3), provided that we have the town audit our books yearly. That we have in our articles very specific
245 ways that we're allowed to spend the money that's given, and that you get a quarterly report every quarter. If you
246 choose not to allow us to stay within the town, I would like to say we're not gonna go away, but we would like to
247 have your support. We want to be part of this town. We are proud of being part of Surfside Beach. We want to do
248 more than what we're doing. We have gathered in four years as many documents as anybody could gather, but now
249 we want to put them to good use. So, I'm begging you. I'm humbly coming before you to please let us remain with
250 the town with very strong stipulations on that 501(C)(3) which you have every, in fact in our articles, it does say that
251 the town can look at the books; they can be audited. You can have carte blanche. It also says very clearly how we
252 can spend the money. That would only be on teaching materials, and brochures, preservation of property, and it's
253 very clearly written out. We don't have an opportunity just to go willy-nilly and do anything on public land. As far as
254 that lot goes, if we are lucky, excuse me, if we are lucky enough to buy the property, we have a team of attorneys.
255 We would be trustees of that property, because we do not want it sold. We want it to remain forever and ever.
256 Amen. If we remain with the town, certainly the town would be involved in that property. So it's up to you. I hope
257 that you take our words to heart, and our good intentions to heart, and thank you for your time.

258
259 **B. Department Reports.**

260
261 **i. Events.** Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Staff visited 99
262 businesses and distributed a copy of the ordinance along with a flyer regarding the public information drop-in for
263 plastic bag ordinance held on Friday, May 18th. Two people showed up: Doug Bell from Divine Dining and town
264 resident Rod Smith. Out of those 99 businesses, 36, which is over one-third of them, have already complied with
265 plastic bag ordinance. Eleven businesses were totally unaware of the ordinance. Unfortunately, the lady who does
266 the hula shows will not be available this summer due to illness and she won't be back from Duke Hospital until
267 sometime in August.

268
269 **ii. Finance.** Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. There were no
270 questions or comments.

271
272 **iii. Fire.** Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Ott asked how
273 volunteer recruitment was going. Chief Otte said four applications came in, and they are waiting for medical
274 clearance for a couple of them. There are at least 44 more applications to review, and we anticipate being well
275 staffed for the summer season.

276
277 **iv. Planning, Building & Zoning.** Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is attached
278 hereto. Mr. Johnson asked for an explanation for the variance request on Highway 17. Ms. Morris said that is a
279 variance request from Surfside United Methodist Church to allow a new LED monument sign on the property line
280 instead of no less than 5 feet off the front property line as required by the code. The second variance regards the

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281 window coverings at the BBQ House that prohibits mirrored or reflective window coverings. Mr. Ott said the
282 council chamber doors have that mirrored tint. Mr. Morris said the public works director was notified about that.
283

284 **v. Police.** Chief Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Statistics from
285 the 2018 Spring Rally were received today. The date range is May 12 to May 19, Saturday to Saturday, the police
286 department answered 691 calls for service; issued 155 citations; issued 146 warnings; 61 people were booked into
287 jail, 42 of those were Surfside Beach Police Department arrest. During that period, we made almost the same
288 number of arrest that we did during the entire month of April. A citizen commented to me, and I thought it would be
289 worthwhile to comment on why we have so many written warnings, in case you have questions from your
290 constituents. I don't consider the department a money maker. When our officers stop law-abiding citizens about
291 minor traffic violations, and they feel a warning is appropriate, we encourage the officers to take appropriate action
292 reflecting a minor violation. Officers who are being proactive will stop people for minor violations and turn those
293 into investigations by looking beyond the stop resulting in drug arrests, etc. I think that's important to leave that
294 decision in their hands. Mr. Ott said the canines have been really active. Are they called when stops are made?
295 Chief Hofmann said K9 Units can be called to a scene when an officer has a reasonable suspicion or concern; assist
296 when they see a stop, or initiate an investigation independently. The K9 Unit has authority based on case law that
297 supports open-air scents by canine officer, so the dog can be walked around every single car that we stop. Often
298 times K9 Officers are assigned complaints about drugs. It is important for the canines to be involved to get negative
299 and positive alerts, because it reinforces their training, and builds reliability on the K9 Officer's skills. Mr. Ott said I
300 find it amazing. They're doing a great job, and I think we should put their pictures on both sides of the town.
301 (Laughter) Mr. Stevens asked about the automobile break-ins on the south end of town and asked if any arrests have
302 been made? Chief Hofmann said there haven't been any arrests; but all of the vehicles that were involved were left
303 unlocked. The subjects are going around and just checking for unlocked doors and stealing items. Please lock your
304 cars. Mr. Dietrich asked if the town has a decibel meter. Chief Hofmann said yes. Mayor Childs asked if the beach
305 officers could be reminded to limit digging of holes on the beach to two feet. Chief Hofmann said yes; shovels were
306 placed in the beach vehicles last summer so officers could fill in holes when necessary.
307

308 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Tom
309 Nophsker took first place in the American Public Works Association Backhoe Rodeo for the Pee Dee Region.
310 (Applause) The traffic island at Pine and Cherry Drives has been re-landscaped. The grounds department gets all the
311 credit. They are doing a great job. Town Council was asked to concur to use lighted traffic signs on the Mast Arms
312 to be installed on Highway 17 at a cost of approximately \$33,000. **Council DENIED.** Mr. Johnson asked what the
313 plan was regarding [yard debris] paper bags after July 1st. Mr. Adair said he would comply with the Solid Waste
314 Authority's directives. There may be a grace period, but if we take a load of your debris that has plastic bags, it their
315 plan is to fine the town per load. Residents that continue using plastic bags will be given a written notice. There will
316 come a point in time when the plastic bags will no longer be collected. Mr. Johnson asked if anything could be done
317 to stop the depositing of yard debris on Cedar Drive at 10th Avenue North by the lake. Mr. Adair said that problem is
318 not unique to that particular area; it's all over town. Unfortunately much of this happens in the evening when there's
319 nobody working that can do code enforcement. Unless the offenders are caught by a citizen who immediately calls
320 the police, there is no one who can respond. Mr. Johnson asked if there could be an exemption to allow lawn
321 maintenance companies that work for handicapped and elderly individuals to leave the debris for the town to collect.
322 Mr. Adair said not without violating the current town code, which council could amend, but there has to be a
323 subjective way to determine who was qualified. Mr. Johnson said I understand. Mr. Adair said if you open that door,
324 you might as well repeal the code. Mr. Ott asked if there were any other municipalities in the local area that has lit
325 signs on mast arms that he could see. Ms. Morris said Georgetown City. Mr. Ott said I don't think I've seen our
326 town look as good as it does right now. It looks terrific. (Applause) Between your staff and our Keep Surfside Beach
327 Beautiful Committee, you all have really made my town look beautiful. This is really exceptional. Mr. Adair said
328 many efforts and new things have been tried; staff is really top-notch. Crepe Myrtle trees that are on the highway are
329 being transplanted throughout town in anticipation of the Highway 17 upgrade project. Staff is doing a stellar job. I
330 will relay your comments to them.
331

332 **C. Administrator's Report.** Interim Administrator Duckett presented the written report, a copy of which is
333 attached hereto. Mr. Duckett said there are two consensus requests tonight. First, staff requests consensus to extend
334 the auditors engagement one additional year to end FY2018 2019. An RFP will be let during the spring of 2019 for
335 the fiscal years 2020 and thereafter. **Council CONCURRED.** Second, staff requests consensus to continue the

336 town's banking relationship with South State Bank for four years in response to the RFPs that were let. **Council**
337 **CONCURRED.**

338
339 **8. BUSINESS.**

340
341 **A. Second Reading Ordinance #18-0868 Design Overlay District, Director Morris.** Ms. Scoles moved
342 to defer second reading of Ordinance #18-0868 until after a workshop that includes the business committee
343 members is held to discuss the ordinance in detail. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Pellegrino said the first four levels of
344 modification in the code are the same as Horry County's, but three levels were added that require compliance with
345 all sections at the same time. In my opinion, that will deter people from upgrading their property, because it's all or
346 none, and they will have to spend lots of money to comply fully with the code to make it look perfect, instead of just
347 being allowed to make some modifications to improve the property. When businesses go to sell, they may have
348 trouble, because the new owners will have to invest a lot of money right from the start. I really like the way the
349 county overlay stated that, and that is what the business committee recommended. Mr. Johnson said in my opinion,
350 if you remove the change of ownership, tenant, and use sections out it basically strips the overlay. Mr. Pellegrino
351 said I did not say take those out; they are the triggers to make changes, but that all sections adhere for each of those.
352 There are levels of modification for very minor, minor, significant, major. You can have levels of improvement
353 without a situation where an owner has to do all or nothing. There should be a progression with levels of
354 improvement. Mayor Childs said this would be deferred to a workshop, and the clerk was asked to notify the
355 members of council and the business committee of a workshop date. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino,
356 and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, Scoles, and Stevens voted in favor. Mr. Johnson voted against. **MOTION**
357 **CARRIED.**

358
359 **B. First Reading Ordinance #18-0870 Chapter 7, Nuisances, Director Morris.** Mr. Dietrich moved to
360 approve first reading of Ordinance #18-0870. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Ott said we might need another workshop on this
361 even though it has a lot of teeth to it. Mayor Childs said we had two workshops on this. Mr. Ott said there are simple
362 things like timing that refer to what is 'a reasonable amount of time.' A reasonable amount of time might be
363 different for me than it is someone else. I want a time period stated. Ms. Morris agreed with Mr. Ott and said if it is
364 an imminent danger, we are going act on it immediately. The town has already adopted the Property Maintenance
365 Codes, a copy of which was distributed to each councilmember in the packets. The Property Maintenance Code
366 addresses much of the ordinance that was presented by the past administration, but that ordinance went above and
367 beyond what was required by law. The Property Maintenance Code allows for appeals to the construction board of
368 appeals. It also allows council to determine two areas of enforcement: one is the height of weeds, which council
369 decided several years ago that 12 inches high was the maximum before enforcement acted. The other is to determine
370 a reasonable time. Staff recommends counting business days to allow reasonable time for correction of a violation.
371 After a lengthy discussion, regarding times for notices, major and minor infractions as determined by the code
372 enforcement officer, and scenarios for correction, Mr. Ott moved to allow 15 business days to correct any infraction,
373 unless it was an imminent danger. Mr. Dietrich second. Mr. Pellegrino believed there should be different times for
374 correction for major and minor infractions, and moved to amend the motion to allow five (*changed by friendly*
375 *amendment from three*) business days to correct a minor infraction, with 15 business days to correct a major
376 infraction. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor the motion to amend. **MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED.** Ms.
377 Morris asked for clarification if the intention was to include the red letter changes in Articles I and III of the
378 proposed ordinance. Mr. Ott moved to adopt the red letter changes presented Articles I and III as set forth in
379 proposed Ordinance #18-0870. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** All voted in favor of
380 the primary motion as amended. **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.**

381
382 **C. First Reading Ordinance #18-0871 FY2018-2019 Municipal Budget, Director King.** Mr. Johnson
383 moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0871 to adopt FY2018-2019 Municipal Budget. Mr. Ott and Ms.
384 Scoles second. Ms. King said we don't have a tax increase. A public hearing as required by law was held at the
385 beginning of this meeting. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

386
387 **D. Historical Society Request (Presented during Communications.)** Mr. Dietrich moved that the
388 Surfside Beach Historical Society comply with the Town Code of Ordinance Section 2-62 that established the
389 society, and Section 4-30 Solicitation of Funds for town sponsored, charity, and nonprofit events that was
390 established for all committees under the auspices of the town. Mr. Pellegrino second. Mr. Dietrich said the concern
391 here is if we open the door, we open the door for everybody. Mr. Pellegrino said I have no problem with trying to

392 buy the property without the town actually buying it, but we have a process we need to go through and we have
393 ordinances. I don't think anyone up here wants to condone violating the ordinances. All voted in favor. **MOTION**
394 **CARRIED.**

395
396 **9. Town Council Discussion.** Any other matters to be discussed by Town Council.

397
398 Mr. Ott said I would like to have an executive session to discuss the possible purchase of two pieces of
399 property in the town at the next meeting. **Council CONCURRED.**

400
401 Ms. Scoles said I attended an MASC meeting in Georgetown today along with Mr. Stevens. Some
402 information came out of that regarding executive sessions and what's discussed in executive sessions. I have some
403 information that I received from the meeting that I would like to give the town clerk to pass on to every member of
404 council, if that's okay. Mayor Childs said that's a good idea; absolutely.

405
406 **10. Public Comments – General Comments (5-minutes per speaker.)**

407
408 Ms. Wanda Burgess, 15th Avenue South: Y'all just voted against the historical society request citing a
409 previous ordinance. Now, I realize y'all can't respond. Okay, that's no problem. But, if you're going to do something
410 like that citing a specific ordinance, saying that we already have this, we need to abide by this, how about at least
411 reading that ordinance so those of us who don't cart 'em around with this will know specifically what you're saying,
412 because you've voted against something and I don't know what you've (**.) You just point blank voted. Said nope,
413 we're gonna stick with what we've got, but no description of what we have. And like I said, I don't carry the
414 ordinance around with me. Appreciate it.

415
416 Ms. Mary Beth Mabry, 15th Avenue North: Needless to say, we're all extremely disappointed. We
417 understand, and we knew that the question was going to be raised if we do one for one, we gotta do it for the other.
418 Well, so what? What if the beautification wanted to be a 501(C) [sic]? What if they wanted to raise money? What if
419 they wanted to do grants? Would the whole world come to an end? Nothing would happen. As long as there was
420 oversight; as long as there were audits that could be done; as long as financial reports can be made, and as long as
421 the town knew exactly what the money was going for, I don't see why you would have a problem with that. So what
422 if other organizations wanted to do it? I don't understand what; I mean basically, what you're doing is telling us if
423 you become a 501(c) [sic], we are not gonna have anything to do with you. You are kicked out from the town. That's
424 what you said. If we don't become a 501(c) [sic] we can't buy the property that you will not buy. Do you understand?
425 Do you understand where we are? We can't even make brochures and have 'em printed. You are missing out on 55
426 grants that we know of that you won't even let us help you apply for because we have the documentation. Why are
427 you not wanting these grants? Why do you not want; I don't understand it. I can't for the life of me say here is
428 \$20,000; here is \$5,000 and you are saying, well, we got an ordinance, honey and you just can't do it. Why? Can't
429 you amend an ordinance? I see you do it all the time. I've done it. Everybody in this room that has ever set up there
430 has done it. We're not asking for something that you cannot have oversight on. We're not. We're asking for
431 something that is going to be giving back to the town. You're getting the benefit. My mind is about to explode with
432 the fact that you say, no, this is the ordinance, and by yiminie [sic] that's the way it's gonna be. We don't see any
433 benefit in you getting money and giving it to the town. God bless. I can see now we have been fighting 3rd and
434 Willow all the time with a rope wrapped around it, because you will not let us apply for grants that is [sic] there and
435 available, and would reimburse the town what they spent. How narrow minded is that? You would end up with a
436 property and the money, and a park with residual; people will come and see it. They'll visit it. They'll eat lunch
437 while they're here. I, I, my mind is going to explode. I expected to be dressed down. I expected to say this is what
438 you're gonna do. I expected it. I was prepared for it, but let me sit here and tell you now, we're not gonna go away,
439 because of an ordinance that could've been amended. Why won't you let us do our job? There's no historical society
440 that I know of that has greater restraints than we do. Why you won't you let us help you, and help the citizens? I
441 think I am absolutely in such shock that you are so narrow minded as to turn down perfectly good money. I just
442 don't get it. But, I would love to see an email, because let me remind the public here and you every step of the way I
443 kept you informed by email. You cannot act like you did not know. So, you did know. You chose not to ask me a
444 question. In fact, in one of those emails according to the attorney, if I do not hear from you, I will assume we have a
445 permission. Do you remember the last line of your email? We took that as permission. We gave you the email. The
446 last line asked for permission. If I do not hear from you, we know we have your permission. We did not hear from
447

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448 you. Remember, gentlemen, I don't write emails without an attorney. I wouldn't've put that in there just for my
449 health. We thought we had (*time ended*) your support.

450
451 Ms. Joyce Suliman, Cypress Drive: I just so happened to buy a house on the cemetery. I was told my house
452 was in the cemetery by the fire department. That's how I found out about it, and I kindly walked myself over from
453 the firehouse to town hall. Through the Freedom of Information Act I got the file on the cemetery. If the cemetery
454 never existed, the file wouldn't've existed, but it did. Now we're at the stage where the state has recognized the
455 documents that we provided them were enough to show that the cemetery does exist, has existed, and always will
456 exist. It is history. You just heard from me earlier today that we are getting historical markers. We have been
457 approved. The state has cross-referenced everything that we provided for the cemetery and also for the Ark
458 Plantation house. Now I stood here or sat here and listened to everybody talking. But there's one person in this room
459 that I think everybody's ignored, and that person is Sadie Rutledge. She's been sitting back there, and she's almost in
460 tears, because we're talking about the burial for her grandfather. He is Sabe Rutledge. The one who was buried in
461 1952. She remembers going to his funeral. Now, how are you going to tell her that that cemetery didn't exist? I
462 mean, you guys ought to be ashamed of yourself [sic]. Every one of you. This isn't something that came up
463 overnight. The town knew about the cemetery. The town always has known about the cemetery. Pat Giovanni (*a*
464 *former town administrator*), he wanted to put something in the file just to protect the town, because we had a builder
465 that came in and wanted to build, and he brought in a court document that said the cemetery was abandoned. State
466 law says you can declare a cemetery abandoned. But, state law also says you have to remove the remains. That's the
467 predicament that it left us in, and what about all of us homeowners that live on this block? We're left with; to pick
468 up the pieces. We have a neighbor that wants to put in a pool. She don't [sic] know if she's gonna dig up bones next
469 week, but we'll find out. But that's what we're left with, because that's what was put on our lap. So anyway, if any
470 of you have the decency, please apologize to [Ms. Rutledge.]

471
472 Ms. Carrie Johnson, Harbor Lights: I agree with everything Ms. Mabry said. I'll say that first. Second
473 thing is the overlay. I'm appalled that y'all sit up there and do nothing. Nothing, nothing, nothing. You sent the
474 overlay to planning and zoning several months ago. We sent it back to you. You tore it to pieces. You found out you
475 were losing business to Horry County. You sent it back to planning and zoning to make it more [sic] strict. We had
476 it strict to start with. You tore it up. Okay, we went through it with a fine tooth comb, page by page by page, and it
477 was; we listened to the recommendations from the business committee; we heard from the public, and we sent it to
478 you with a unanimous vote like we sent it to you, and all you do is kick the can down the road. Get off your rumpus
479 and do something. Thank you.

480
481 Ms. Janet Gambino, Hollywood Drive South: All I'm asking is a little bit of kindness and a little bit of
482 respect for P&Z, and to be included in the workshop. If the business committee is gonna be included, I get what
483 that's all about. But, if they're going to be included, please invite us, too. Thank you.

484
485 Ms. Sherry Singleton, Historical Society Secretary: One of the things that we have been doing over the
486 past year is putting together documentation, and we have much of it together. I brought with me packets. You all
487 have been given all of this information, much more than what I have got gathered and garnered together tonight. But
488 what I've got here just basically is the thumbnail sketch of why the cemetery is in evidence (***) and why the state
489 would approve the [historical markers]; we have pictures, photographs of the graves. Sabe Rutledge was a living
490 human being, and what's really interesting about him is that we have his story. The Works Project [by] Genevieve
491 Chandler interviewed several of the ex-slaves or their children before they would pass away, and it's part of the
492 Library of Congress; they're his words. She even recorded his dialect: 'You know, first thing I realized, remember,
493 I used to cry to go to the old boss, old mastah for sugar.' Now he tells his story and through his story we can see
494 through his eyes what life was. You can't get that any other place, and the thing that is really bothering me is the
495 steadfast refusal; the steadfast refusal to embrace. Okay, I'm saying the town made a boo-boo. It happens all over.
496 This is an article, you can pull them up yourself. This is just one. The *New York Times* has been carrying it, and I've
497 got copies of it. I can give to all of you. I made copies especially to give you that talks about a residential; this is a
498 residential developer in Georgia [who] came across the same thing. He bought a piece of property to develop it. He
499 did not know there were graves there. He found them, and rather than go through the process of contacting relatives
500 to see if they wanted to have the graves moved, and rather than going to the expense of having to move all the
501 graves, he took the prime [lot], and in his case, too, it was the prime piece of property, because it was the highest.
502 The nice lot that was the one he was gonna sell as the hilltop view, and instead, he took that lot, and he fenced it off
503 and preserved it, and did that at his own cost; his own expense. He chose to do that in this article. I like this one,

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504 because it relates back to South Carolina. Michael Trinkley is with the Chicora Foundation in Columbia, South
505 Carolina, and I have spoken to him and emailed back and forth with him on different occasions for different
506 cemeteries. This is not the only cemetery I am interested in, but he, the Chicora Foundation is the cemetery
507 preservation organization, and he actively helps with communities that are facing this kind of problem and
508 developers to help them navigate it, because it is a problem, and it's an ongoing problem, and it's our choice and it's
509 our town's choice as to how we are going to be viewed in the future. Are we going to stick our head in the sand and
510 try to keep kicking everybody around and say it didn't happen? Well, it's okay. We're not to tell anybody about it or
511 do we embrace it? Come on, I mean I'm tired of walking around elephants in the room. If the screw-up was made, it
512 was made, and you don't keep ignoring it when the facts are there. You just don't do that. We said a prayer. We
513 asked for God's help and guidance when we opened the meeting tonight, and I am telling you as a Christian, as a
514 decent human being, I cannot ignore the fact that a mistake was made, and people are going around acting like 'Oh,
515 well. No, no, no, no, not us.' Yeah, we're human. The town is made up human beings. We're gonna make mistakes.
516 Now it's time to move forward (*time ended*) in unity. I do not personally want to see ... Mayor Childs: (*gavel*)
517 Ma'am, time is up. Ms. Singleton: Okay, but we're volunteers. We're not paid. Thank you very much.
518

519 Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South: You people are evil. Well, maybe not evil; nefarious. Ah, maybe not
520 nefarious, but bad. Some of you on council were not here a week. What you did to Judge Wentz was horrible. Some
521 of you did not know anything about her, or probably never saw her, but the puppet master pulled your strings and
522 like little puppets, you did as you were told. Shameful. She is a wonderful person and a very good judge. You made
523 a horrible mistake getting rid of her. Have you done the background checks on the new council people yet? I'm
524 going to ask this question every meeting until you do it. So do it. Every police officer that's hired gets a background
525 check. Most people get a background check when they get a job. Do it here. I would like to see the background
526 checks. At the west end of nothing park on the corner of 6th Avenue South and Willow Drive, the owner of the
527 adjacent house has put a driveway to his home through the park. I think this should be stopped, because if he does it
528 long enough, it's his land. It should be stopped now. Nobody should be using that park, the nothing park for a
529 driveway. Has the town ever been reimbursed for the monies an employee of the finance department stole from us?
530 We've never had an answer to that question. What is the status of the investigation into the \$10,000 check to
531 Clemson University Endowment? Never really had a real answer to that question, either. Tell the people. Hey, we're
532 paying your salary. Wow, money came in the two mile town for one of our elected officials in the just held election
533 from Fort Mill. Now you hire an administrator from of all places Fort Mill. Sha-zam [sic]. What a coincidence. For
534 those of you very new to town two -mile town is a nickname for Surfside Beach.
535

536 Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: It's gonna be an interesting thing; a whole couple years here. I think
537 that Mr. Dodge did have a few points that should've been addressed, and I think he did a pretty good job of it this
538 evening. One thing that has been overlooked for the past couple years is the lawsuits against this town. We haven't
539 heard anything on that status. Since then, we changed administrators like a lot of us change clothes. I mean, it's like
540 so frequent it's unreal. Yeah, I think that we should bring it back up and let us hear, not to embarrass people, but to
541 let the town know what's going on in this town. Unfortunately, so often in this town, as well as across this state,
542 politics gets in the way of operating governments, and with the ethics of those governmental leaders, and I'm afraid
543 that it's really happening now. The overlay. I was proudly told by one of you that it was your vote that actually got
544 me on there, on the planning and zoning commission. I appreciate that, but make it work like, you know, you're
545 gonna have the overlay with the business committee meeting, the planning and zoning commission, if I was told
546 right about it of its importance and by all means should be included also in that meeting. It should be a joint effort,
547 and it wouldn't hurt to have councilmembers there too, you know, to understand what's going on. You know, give
548 their input. I would like to see that done. It's like, you know, it's why you have a commission, and if I'm not
549 mistaken, that's something required by the state, and not including the zoning commission, zoning and planning
550 commission (**). I think getting on track would be a really good thing, at this point, but again, I would like to, and
551 I'm sure that there are other people here in town that would like to hear where these lawsuits are, and why one of
552 'em is two years old. Thank you. Have a great evening.
553

554 Ms. Naomi Bethea, (*address not given*): Good evening. I don't live in Surfside. I am happy to be a
555 descendent of Sabe Rutledge. I heard about the meeting and I came a few years ago when they were talking about
556 the historical society. My question is, basically, is there any reason why you can't amend your ordinance. Have you
557 ever amended an ordinance before? What, what are the reasons why you can't amend it to; it seems to me like they
558 are stating that you able to get funds. They may be able to get funds through grants and they've done a lot of
559 investigation. So I was just listening. I haven't heard from your group, the council. What's the reason behind it? Are

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560 you going to respond to your constituents why you just dropped it? And, is it just dropped? It's a dead subject?
561 You're not intending to do anything else, and that is my question. So, it's dead. The historical society will have to
562 find another route. You'd rather do without any funds, because it seems like they got a good plan, and they've
563 investigated, and they've got some sources, and anyone who knows anything about society, historical societies like
564 they said, know it's done with donations and fundraising. Is it because we don't have a large group of the relatives
565 here? I came to a meeting about four years ago. A lot of us came and I just think a lot of 'em have just gotten
566 disenchanted; why bother? But I heard that there was a meeting, and I had intended to join. I've had some problems
567 in the past, but it just seems like you're not interested; you're disinterested. What if it comes up again for let's say
568 the Indian tribes or some other descendants from across the water who came? Okay, would you have the same
569 attitude that you can't do anything? Thank you.
570

571 Sandra Elliott, 5th Avenue North: I see that there is [sic] seven elected officials up there, and it's, and I'd
572 like to talk about the main question of the night for the historical society. I cannot believe that the history of the
573 town will not be respected, or challenged in any way. But my question to you is why aren't we involving the county
574 in this; the state representatives, and try to change state law that when we find a cemetery whether it's maintained or
575 not, you do not build on it; you do not sell that land for a hundred years from last person buried like other states
576 have. You can look it up in their Constitutions and you will see that it's state law. I hate to say where I came from,
577 but that's where it comes from. This would not have ever happened to the lady who just buried her grandfather in
578 1952, because we would have till 2052, and none of those houses would have been on that property and the court
579 system should've not voted for it. What I would like to see is our representatives work with representatives of the
580 state that can change state law. Thank you.
581

582 Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: I would like to applaud the council for upholding our ordinances, and I
583 think by upholding our ordinances that [Ms. Mabry] got her answer that you are not backing it, and I hope that she
584 goes through with her threat of breaking away. She did not tell the council how the property would be maintained.
585 She did not say who would insure the property. It was stated by the historical committee that the property would not
586 be deeded to the town, so I fail to see where the residents and especially those residents whose property borders the
587 cemetery would benefit from it. Thank you again.
588

589 Ms. Dora Eaddy, Surfside Drive: I'm not gonna talk about a cemetery. I'm going to talk the police
590 department. About two weeks ago, I was outside, and blue light naturally stopped a car, and I have to look when I
591 see a blue light to see what's going on. Well, somebody had an expired tag. The police got out and she was very
592 nice, and she was very cordial. She talked to 'em, and I heard her say 'but it's expired.' So she went back and sat in
593 her car and did a dilly [sic] (*computer check*), and she came back and she said, 'Sir, I'm so sorry. I don't know...' I'm
594 sorry I'm so nervous; so, 'know all the laws in Tennessee, but I know the law in South Carolina.' But she stood
595 there for about ten minutes and talked to him, in that hot [sun], one of the hot days we've had. So, I just wanted y'all
596 to know that our police is good. We have a wonderful force. Thank you very much and good evening. (*Applause*)
597

598 Ms. Meg Perrino, Cedar Drive North: A couple of things. One, I just want to thank our public works
599 department for being so awesome, because they have helped the beautification committee get the Pine Drive and
600 Cedar Drive little island there looking really pretty, and that was requested by a citizen to our committee directly,
601 and we went to [Mr. Adair] and he and his team were able to make it look really nice. It looks really good with the
602 rocks there in front of the [Pine Drive] Gospel Church. And I also wanted to say thank you to the police, as well,
603 with all of your drug arrests. It kind of goes back to something that I still stand on, and I still kind of want someone
604 to take accountability for this, and I really want someone to think about the ramifications. That sounds like a lot
605 more drug arrests than we've had, and you know to hear from someone that there was a guy that was passed out in
606 Denny's [Restaurant] and the police had to revive him with NARCAN® (*a drug antidote*), and when he gave his
607 address it was a fake address. Turns out that he lives in a rehab house. I'm not gonna stop with this, because you
608 guys know my story, but we need to really start to think about what's now invited in our community, because the
609 first thing I said the first time I spoke on this is there are drugs in those homes. The police get there; he's got Xanax
610 that's not prescribed to him on his person. They take him to his room; he had Xanax there in his room. Okay, I told
611 you the very first time there are drugs in these houses. Do you remember hearing my voice say that? Do you? So,
612 I'm telling you guys, this is still something that's top of mind for me, and I'm not gonna let it go just because new
613 people are sitting here. You guys have to help us, too. Okay? This is an unprecedented amount of heroin, and now
614 we've got this over here behind the seafood [restaurant] is now like a known drug den to monitor that. We've gotta
615 make sure that we don't let more of this come in here, and I appreciate our police doing the things that they've been

616 doing. We can't just for money let more of this happen, especially if you want to be the family beach with me raising
617 children here and other people raising children here. Thank you.
618

619 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: I'm not talking about cemeteries. I'm talking about the historical
620 society. I'm talking about an opportunity to keep evidence of our history; who we were; how we became who we
621 are. It seems to have become a personal attack, and I don't like this. Ms. Mabry is not the historical society. She
622 speaks for them; them. So anything that should be directed, should be directed to the group. She is the speaker for
623 them. Also I think you're missing out on a real opportunity. I understand about the ordinance, and that's not up for
624 debate. I understand that. I also understand that they're in kind of an awkward position here. What are they going to
625 do? Fix it. You've messed up on this. Fix it, if the ordinance does not allow it, fix it. Don't just cut it off. Something
626 was said about people being involved. I will not forget that historical society festival when we had a politico out of
627 DC who managed to find room for us between breakfast in one state and dinner in another to have lunch with us.
628 That was from the nation's capital. It was important enough for them. We had state people there. We had county
629 politicians there. But somehow, nobody but the mayor; you know, you've messed up. Don't let this slip away. Don't
630 let people who are willing to work so hard for this slip away. It just shouldn't happen. Don't let this happen. If
631 there's something in the way, find a way to fix it. You're the people we hired to do this. Fix it.
632

633 11. Town Council Comments.

634

635 Mr. Ott: I realize that, and you should realize, we don't, this five minutes is tough on us, and it should be
636 tough on us. This is what reminds us of what we're doing or not doing, and we need the people to come here and tell
637 us, because if you don't, do you know what will happen? I do. We won't do any of it. So you need to come back and
638 you need to say okay, I'm gonna keep reminding you. I'm gonna keep telling you. We need to keep hearing that so
639 that we work together as a council and I appreciate everything everybody says. There are, where you don't think
640 there's a will [sic], there's a way. We can we can do these things. Thank you for coming out tonight.
641

642 Mr. Dietrich: First of all, I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. The ordinance is what dictated
643 what happened tonight. It's not personal feelings. I can agree with a lot of things that were said. However, the
644 ordinance is the ordinance. Can it be approached again? I'm sure it can. Does it need to be? In my opinion, yes.
645 However, the ordinance is what dictated what happened tonight and I hope you all understand that. With that, have a
646 safe trip home. Thanks for your comments. I appreciate them.
647

648 Mr. Johnson: Thank you for all coming out this evening. Obviously, the historical society issue is a hot
649 button issue, and I do believe that we need to readdress the ordinance concerning 501(C)(3) issues. I do support the
650 historical society and their work. Someone mentioned that we should get involved with the county and the state, and
651 with other people. Well, I think the council at the time had given the historical society that guidance to do what they
652 could to get this thing rolling, because I was one of advocates of purchasing the Ark Plantation property, and I am
653 not against purchasing the other property; that corner lot. I don't know if we have the funds to do that. We just
654 passed first reading on a balanced budget and I don't believe we have any funds in that budget for the purchase of
655 additional property at this time. But, I just want to let you know that I fully support the historical society and I will
656 do whatever I have to do to help their cause. I don't know what it's gonna take, but again, I appreciate them. On
657 another note, I had a question from a client of mine who is on 10th Avenue South and they had heard that there is
658 another halfway house on Moss Drive. (Unknown speaker from audience: Bay Street) Mayor Childs: (gavel) Please.
659 Mr. Johnson: Bay Street, on Bay Drive. That really concerns me that they seem [to be] popping up everywhere, and
660 I don't know that we can do to stop it, but you know, it is an issue, and it really concerns me, and I would like to ask
661 the town administrator to do some research and see how we can either restrict it or eradicate it or whatever. I don't,
662 you know, I'm not against necessarily the people that are in these places, but you heard tonight about some issues
663 that go on in some of these places, so it's beginning to be a major concern in the Town of Surfside Beach, and I
664 would like to thank Mrs. Bethea for coming and speaking. Thank you, and I appreciate all of your comments. Thank
665 you to council for all that you do, and good night.
666

667 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming tonight. I do agree about the halfway house. It is very concerning to
668 me, and I agree with Mr. Johnson to request that the administrator see if there's anything we can do about that,
669 because I thought we had the two and we stopped the bleeding, but now it's still going on. That's very concerning.
670 As far as the historical committee, I mean basically were being asked to uphold an ordinance here and we all agreed
671 that we shouldn't break the law. Now, if four people agree to change ordinance; Ms. Bethea asked the question, we

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672 can change an ordinance. That's how it works. So I don't I don't think this is dead by any means. But, we really were
673 in a spot today where we couldn't tell you guys to move forward, because we were breaking an ordinance. Now
674 certainly in upcoming meetings we can we can look at the ordinance, and do something with the ordinance, but that
675 is the right process. We need to decide if we're gonna amend the ordinance, first, and then we can move forward
676 with the rest of it. So we have to make sure we go through the process there. There was a lot information to digest
677 for that ordinance to be amended at this meeting, because that whole fact that it didn't follow the ordinance was; I
678 know it was news to me, it was given to me with the packet. I'm sure that's when everyone discovered that. So
679 there's; we need to understand why this in the ordinance and what history is there. But certainly we can look at that
680 again. As far as the overlay, I think it's a great idea for the planning commission and business committee to sort that
681 out without my involvement. I honestly don't want to be. I was involved with a bit of business committee review.
682 Obviously, I have an interest in that, because I own a business here. I think that we would get a final solution very
683 quickly, if those two groups got together and hash through this. I think that's a pathway to the solution. Finally, I
684 agree with Mr. Ott's comment today; the town looks good. So thank you to the beautification committee. Thank you
685 to the staff, because it looks good. It's good for the residents. It's definitely good for tourist time now that they're all
686 starting to come into the town, and everything looks nice and clean and very well maintained. So, thank you. Thank
687 you very much. Have a good night.

688
689 Ms. Scoles: I want to thank everyone for coming this evening, also, and I'm sorry that there were so many
690 emotions about the historical society. I believe in preserving history, but I also believe in upholding the law, and we
691 have an ordinance in place, and that's what we went by tonight. So, if there's consideration, like Mr. Pellegrino said,
692 for the ordinance to be changed, then we can address that. We did what we thought was right legally here tonight.
693 Thank everyone for coming, and please be safe going home.

694
695 Mr. Stevens: Thank you everybody for coming out. Word was mentioned earlier by Ms. Mabry, 'grants.'
696 There ain't [sic] nothing that would please more people in this town than to see a grant pay for, give us all the
697 money back for 3rd Avenue South and Willow, and believe me, we had a lady in here and said she would go out and
698 try to get us grants. Seems like everybody on council didn't want to have anything to do it. We did have a course
699 today, and I attended it today where we talk about ordinances, and you know as well as I do you have to have four
700 votes to change anything. The fact is we talked about ordinances today. An ordinance to change it has to be
701 repealed, and a new ordinance put in its place. We discussed that today with the Municipal Association in a class. So
702 that's one of things we have to do. I like what Ms. Gambino said. She'd like to be here at our workshop on the
703 overlay along with the business committee, and I agree a hundred percent. We need all the information we can have.
704 As far as the overlay, I want to see the overlay mirror Horry County's overlay. I don't want to see it penalize
705 anybody. If I want to come in here and I have money to buy a piece of property, I don't want to be penalized just
706 because I buy that property. So, we need to take care of the overlay, and we need to follow state law. There are two
707 halfway houses in this town. One's at 10th Avenue South and Bay, corner, and the other one's over there next to the
708 bocce ball courts. I think is right across from Mr. Buzz Engelhard's house. But anyway, the problem is we have that
709 and there are laws that have to do with halfway houses, and I like, I think one of the council people said, ask you to
710 look into that real in depth. There are federal laws, and I have a, I think about 147 page thing about federal laws that
711 I sent to one of our town people about all kinds of housing, any kind of housing that I, government housing, it has
712 laws that has applies to it [sic], and I sent it to the person, and we do have a history, and I understand about slaves.
713 The problem with the cemeteries and things like; go to Sandy Island, for example. I can walk on one side of the
714 island and I can find graves all over the place, and go to the other side and find graves. So this was a plantation just
715 like Sandy Island was. Marina Plantation was their plantation and those descendants still live on that island. We
716 need to respect those people. That's why we need to somehow or another address what you just said. Basically, if
717 I'm understanding right, all you asked for was to be able to raise the money, and if it's not gonna cost the town any
718 for you to raise the money to buy a piece of [sic] lot, I don't have any problem with it. So, think about, I think this
719 council needs to think about everything we've talked about tonight, and we also need to look back at our laws and
720 see if we can adjust 'em. If they're not right, let's change 'em. I think Mr. Ott said always revisit your laws. Thank
721 y'all for coming out. I hope everybody has a good week, and may God bless you all.

722
723 Mayor Childs: On those halfway houses, what I can understand is it's a federal government thing. We had
724 nothing to do with it. We didn't know they were coming in, and as far as I know, unless somebody knows something
725 different, we're not gonna stop 'em. We didn't invite them in, and we certainly don't want problems that might come
726 with it. But, unless somebody has some real good suggestion, I don't know what we're gonna do about it. It's like
727 ADA, they're covered by the federal government. But anyway, I want to thank everybody for coming.

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12. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: June 11, 2018

Surfside Beach Town Council

VOTE:	Yes	No
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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

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