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, Ott, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Johnson and Scoles were absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Interim Administrator Duckett; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris, and Police Chief Hofmann.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Fire Chaplain Carmen Carella 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. A. Budget Workshop May 17, 2018, and B. Regular Meeting May 22, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the May 17, 2018 budget workshop minutes and the May 22, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Ms. Sandra Elliott, 5th Avenue North: What I wanted to speak on was the historical society. I’d like to say that I support the project, but we must remember for all of us that we remember our past, live in the present, anticipate our future. When the lot is purchased and made into a park, I’d like to suggest that we name it ‘Reflections.’ Now, I’ve been doing a little research, and I looked up the ethics commission written laws and it says that elected officials, public employees, or public members cannot solicit for funds. Ethics defines public members as an appointed individual on it, on a board with or without being paid compensation. So I have three questions for you guys. Our ordinance on solicitation of funds, has it been approved by the state ethics commission? If not, are we superseding state laws? The chair is a realtor. She says so in her write up. Is any commission being paid to her? And the settlement charges are not included. What about a title search and a policy? And three, are you willing to help them with some funding? Thank you.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Historical Society. Ms. Joyce Suliman, Chairman. Ms. Suliman presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. Mayor Childs asked councilmembers to hold questions and comments until this item came up for discussion during business. Ms. Suliman apologized to Town Council for the society’s failure to comply with the code and said everyone now understands the correct process. In response to public comments, Ms. Suliman confirmed that she is a licensed real estate broker, but no sales commission would be paid to anyone, if the option to purchase is exercised. The fact that this area was recognized as a plantation graveyard by the state, disclosure of such will be required to all purchasers of lots on Blocks 21 and 22, because that might affect the value.

B. Administrator’s Report. Interim Administrator Duckett presented two concurrence requests: First, Horry County has awarded the town $450,000 from residual RIDE III funding and I’m asking for concurrence to use that money to pave town roads. Council CONCURRED; second, I’m asking council to concur to a request from WORRELL 1000, through Chuck Bargeron, its research and development director, to allow catamarans on the beach in front of the Holiday Inn Oceanfront one night, May 12th, 2019. This stop will finish one leg of a multi-day race from Fort Lauderdale Beach, Florida to Virginia Beach, Virginia. There will be between 75 and 100 participants staying at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront that night. Council CONCURRED. Mr. Duckett explained that FY2018-2019 is under business for second reading; there haven’t been any questions or comments. He recommends
that second reading be adopted. The General Obligation Bond is recommended by the bond attorney and financial advisor; he recommended adoption as presented. The budget amendments for FY2017-2018 includes items that have already been approved by Town Council, and this ordinance simply approves the expenditures and confirms the actions.

7. BUSINESS.

A. Reading Ordinance #18-0870 Nuisances, Interim Administrator Duckett. Mr. Dietrich moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #18-0870 as presented. Mr. Stevens second. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Second Reading Ordinance #18-0871 FY2018-2019 Municipal Budget, Director King. Mr. Ott moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #18-0871 as presented. Mr. Dietrich second. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

C. First Reading Ordinance #18-0872 Issue GO Bond for Pier Reconstruction, Director King. Mr. Duckett presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. The town received notification today that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has approved $700,000 from which the town can draw for pier related expenditures. Staff did not expect that, so the town won’t need money right away. Once the ordinance is adopted at second reading, there is a waiting period of up to 60 days while things are processed. Then, we will have up to five years to draw various amounts of money as needs arise, which is repayable annually. He reminded council that the town’s only debt is for three payments on the fire truck. He urged council to pass first reading of this ordinance. Mr. Ott said it was like a line of credit. Mr. Duckett said yes, it serves the same purpose. Mr. Pellegrino thanked Mr. Duckett and Ms. King for working with the bond agents on this ordinance. I think it's really well-written. The $4 million is a high number; hopefully, we won’t come anywhere near that number. The bond shall be payable as to principal on the basis of a 360 day period, so basically we’re paying it back every 360 days. As you borrow, you’re paying back, which is good. That will force us to repay quickly, so we can minimize the overall debt load. We’re in good fiscal shape right now so we can make those payments. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0872. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

D. First Reading Ordinance #18-0873 Amend FY2017-2018 Municipal Budget, Director King. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0873 as presented. Mr. Ott second. Ms. King presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. She explained that the town doesn’t have a means of funding stormwater projects, so we usually use hospitality funds. We still don’t have the final bill for the Myrtle Swash Culvert Bridge, so the estimates are a little bit higher to cover anticipated cost. The payment to Collins Engineers is shown in case an invoice is received prior to June 30; approving this will keep us from having a violation of the ordinance. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

E. Historical Society Requests (Presentation during Communications.) Mayor Childs moved to approve a fund raising project by the Surfside Beach Historical Society for the purpose of possibly purchasing the property known as 423 Hollywood Drive South, and comply with all town codes. Mr. Steven second. Mr. Ott asked if an attorney had reviewed this. Mayor Childs said not that he was aware. Mr. Ott asked whether that would be advisable. Mayor Childs said the precedent was already set, because he personally on two occasions in the past solicited funds for the town and council approved that. The town will not be involved in this effort; it is the historical society’s project. Money received will be documented and the town will be the bank, so to speak. I have no issue with that. Mr. Ott said I understand that part, and ask what happens if enough money is not raised to buy the lot; are the taxpayers obligated to buy it? Mayor Childs said no. If insufficient money is raised to purchase the property, as I understand it, the money will go into the maintenance of the other property and will be earmarked for the historical society. This is strictly the historical society’s fund raiser. The members will comply with all town codes; follow all the rules and regulations that the town has already adopted. Mr. Pellegrino said I checked on this because I was confused. This time the presentation does follow our town ordinance. There were some pending questions from the previous activity, and I don't know if they were addressed. A receipt book was outstanding for some proceeds already donated, and a [bank] account was created. We don’t know if that was closed. I assume the town would have to have a separate account to hold this money. During the presentation, Ms. Suliman did explain that moneys would be reserved for historical society use, if they don’t have enough donations to buy the property. I’m fine with the whole process as long as they follow the ordinance. Ms. Suliman said she and Ms. King have
already discussed the account, and it would be closed. The receipt book was promised to be returned to the town. Everything has been accounted for and turned in. Ms. King acknowledged agreement from the audience. Mayor Childs said the receipt book will be brought up again should it not be returned. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Town Council Discussion. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed by Town Council.

Mr. Ott said I’d like to inform the public that when we first awarded the contract for the Myrtle Swash Bridge, I asked that the contractor not come back and ask for more money. That's pretty hard to do, and as you saw in Mrs. King's presentation, there is $55,000 transfer to capital projects for that. Well, most of that was the lowest bid was $33 or $34 thousand over the amount of money we budgeted for the project. We had to get somebody to do the work that needed to be done. So, we had to raise that, and that was part of the money that Ms. King had to move. That left $20,000 additional, but that wasn't exactly caused by the contractor. There was a cracked asbestos 4 inch water pipe. They had to install two valves with 100 feet between each valve, so they could shut it off. That was around $7,000. There was a need to install a concrete pylon, because there was a massive tree stump removed, which cost a little over $1,000. Some additional things to improve the town were also done, like extending the asphalt to the edge of the bridge to eliminate the dirt sides where grass won’t grow. A stainless steel rail was put on the east side of the bridge to protect pedestrians. A concrete pad was placed there that won’t crack like asphalt. I’m the one that said don't give them any more money, but it was necessary. But, I think it's better that we have explanations for the increased cost. It was beneficial for the beautification and improvement of this town. We have a stronger, better bridge. Mayor Childs: Yes, it did turn out very nice. Mr. Ott: Go see it if you haven’t. I’d like to do the other ones next.

9. Public Comments – General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker.) There were no public comments.

10. Town Council Comments.

Mr. Pellegrino: This is a record here. I don't want to talk long and keep it longer. Thank you very much for coming. Thank you for involvement, and thank you for the passion for our town. There’s a lot of people involved in a lot of different areas, and that's what brings up ideas to improve our town and helps us move forward with. So, thank you and have a great night.

Mr. Stevens: Thank y’all all for coming out. I was glad to see everybody sitting out in the audience, and come to our meeting. Let’s make Surfside the best place in the world. Y’all have a good week. Thank you a lot.

Mr. Dietrich: Hello, everyone. Thanks for coming out. I don’t know what to say. I’m looking at my watch going ‘seriously!’ This is good stuff, though. Thank you so much. I appreciate your comments. I thank the historical society for clearing things up for us. A little tumultuous meeting a couple of weeks ago. But I’m glad we’re where we’re at. God bless you all. Have a safe trip home. Thanks for coming out.

Mr. Ott: I want to thank everybody for their comments tonight. It was very good (laughter), and I’d like to thank Councilwoman Scoles who mailed some information about executive sessions. It was a very boring read, but it was very precise, and I learned a lot from it. I’d to put it on record that I thank Ms. Scoles. We’ll see you in two weeks.

Mayor Childs: I want to thank council for studying their package. This wasn’t done that fast; we have a packet of information that we read to get all the details, along with staff’s and the administrator’s recommendations. I appreciate that council reviewed the packet. We've gone through and accomplish what we want to do in a short time with no argument. Can you believe that? Thank everybody for coming.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
Clerk’s Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the town’s email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org and the marquee.