Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, 2018 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, and Scoles were in attendance. Councilmember Stevens was absent. A quorum was present. Mr. Dietrich moved to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 6:19 p.m. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Childs said for the record that no action was taken during executive session, and declared the session adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

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, and Scoles were in attendance. Councilmember Stevens was absent. 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: Reverend Brad Bellah from the Shepard of the Sea Lutheran Church gave the invocation. B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Dietrich moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to add Business Item 7.D. Motions or directions from executive session. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Regular Meeting June 11, 2018. Mr. Ott moved to adopt the June 11, 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. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: I am speaking to Business Item 7.C. Request to Abandon Right-of-way. I do have some concerns about that. This is not being done for a public safety issue. It’s not being done for the public good. It's not providing parking for business or anything like that. What it would do would be to increase the profit for the individuals who currently own it and want to sell it. There are two of those alleyways that go from Palmetto to Myrtle. One of them between the 800 block in the 900 block has been planted over and completely; it's gone. I don't know whether that was intentional or not. But, lawyer’s letter said that this was landlocked, and it's not. It's a right-of-way between Palmetto and Myrtle. It’s ten feet wide, about a 114 feet long, and it's, it's good business sense for the owners to want to add that to their property. You know, you can't fault them for doing that. That would give them five more feet and prevent any kind of access through what they consider their property. There was a comment made that they were keeping it clean. Well, we’re constantly picking up trash that other people leave on the roadside on the town’s rights-of-way from food bags to drink cans and so on, and that doesn't mean that the town has abandoned it. It simply means that we are doing what we need to make sure that our property looks nice. But, they do own both lots. It's not interrupting their property. They’re two separate pieces of property. They are not only the owners, but they are the sellers. Both pieces of property have sale signs on them, and both are undergoing renovation. So, the only purpose here would be to increase their profit, their profit and the town isn’t going to get any of that. You would be gifting someone land that they're going to make a profit on without any of it coming to you. There was a comment about they would be landscaping and paying taxes on it for years to come. I'm pretty sure that's not their intention. They want to sell it. I don’t think anywhere they want to pay taxes on this forever. So, I just don't think that's a good idea, and again, the access has been interrupted. Someone has put a makeshift patio on the Palmetto end of it complete with stones and patio chairs and so on and that’s in the public right-of-way. I don't know if that was accidental or intentional. (Time ended.) Thank you.

Mr. Bill Kinken, Dogwood Drive North: I’m speaking to the same thing, 7.C. I'm totally against it. The alleyways are there for a purpose. No, they're not being used currently, but if you decide at some point you want to
bury power lines, it would be a whole lot easier to use those alleyways than to go down your streets and tear them up, because they cost a lot of money to put back; interrupt your drainage systems, everything else. I know people have used them. They’ve got fences around them. They act like it’s their property. That’s fine, but it’s not. God help us, if we ever get gas in here, we’d have a place to put the gas lines. I just think you can’t un-ring a bell and this is just a good time not to ring it. Thank you.

Ms. Sandra Elliott, 5th Avenue North: I’m here for the same concern on the ten foot unnamed alleyway, walkway, between the two properties. I think [Ms. Lowery] said many things that I wanted to say, but the letter, the land is not landlocked. There’re two frontages, North Dogwood and Palmetto Drive. It’s not an easement. It is a walkway, and when you stand on the two, there are two on that section, you can see right to the access to the beach, and I think that’s mainly why they put them in to begin with. It was a shortcut to the beach. But my biggest concern is at 810 North Dogwood there’s a fire hydrant, and if you vacated that and deeded it five foot to one side and five foot to the other and they decided to put a six foot fence down, if there’s a fire on Palmetto, which I went up and down four times, I can’t find one fire hydrant. They’re not gonna be able to tie on to North Dogwood’s for the peoples’ fires. So are we saying to the fire company, if you have a fire on Palmetto, you better pump it out of the lake? And that’s what concerns me the most. And also, I ask that if you do decline it, request and instruct public works to clean both ten foot walkways and alleyways in that area, so that people can use them with their, with the main reason it was for. If you don’t; if you do vacate it, and give it to the two sides, then you need to instruct construction office to renumber the street, because there’s no break and you go from a 714, which is one side of the alley, to an 810, and there’s three blocks in that area where emergency vehicles who aren’t from our area and aren’t familiar wouldn’t be able to get to someone. If there’s a fire, of course, you can see the flames come up. But, if someone’s having a heart attack, and they’re looking for 810, and they’re riding down and say 700; 14 must be way down the end of the road, and it isn’t [sic]. The numbering needs to be addressed. Thank you.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Department Reports. i. Events. ii. Finance. iii. Fire. iv. Planning, Building & Zoning. v. Police. vi. Public Works. The written reports are attached hereto. There were no questions or comments from Town Council about department reports.

B. Administrator’s Report. Mr. Duckett reported that the Secretary of State’s Office issued a Charity Public ID number that will expire on November 15, 2018, to the Town of Surfside Beach Historical Society in connection with the on-going fund raising project. He said the town clerk is going to be out of the office beginning July 11th on medical leave, and recommend that Town Council concur to cancelling the July 24th regular meeting. Council CONCURRED.

7. BUSINESS.

A. Second Reading Ordinance #18-0872 Issue GO Bond for Pier Reconstruction, Interim Administrator Duckett. Mr. Dietrich moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #18-0872. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file.

B. Second Reading Ordinance #18-0873 Amend FY2017-2018 Municipal Budget, Director King. Mr. Ott moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #18-0873 as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file.

C. Request to Abandon Right-of-way, Interim Administrator Duckett. REQUEST DENIED; NO MOTION OFFERED. The decision paper is on file.

D. Motions or Directions resulting from Executive Session (added by approved motion, see item 3 above.) Mr. Johnson said, “Mr. Mayor, on the personnel issue that we discussed in executive session, I make a motion that we authorize and direct Attorney Moss to take such actions as are necessary to consummate a settlement with the employee pursuant to the terms negotiated and recommended by Attorney Moss.” Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed by Town Council.
Mr. Ott suggested that a pedestrian crosswalk be placed at the intersection of Willow and Surfside Drives, because so many events are held there. Mr. Adair believed that one should also be installed at the corner of Myrtle and Surfside Drives, so crosswalks would be at both ends of that block that houses the Fuller and Passive Parks in addition to the Bark Park. Cost would be a couple of thousand dollars. Council CONCURRED.

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

Ms. Karen Hedges, 2nd Avenue North: I just want to come before the Council and Mayor for a request that possibly dogs would be allowed to walk on the beach after 5 o’clock and before 9 o’clock in the morning during the summer hours. I realize that it’s very busy on the beach as far as the evening at 6 o’clock at night. Right now many of us that are walking our dogs are either having to travel to other towns to take our dogs to walk on the beach, and we do pick up after our dogs, so it’s not a matter of waste that’s been left on the beach. In fact, when we walk our dog on the beach, we always have a garbage bag with us and every night we end up with a garbage bag full that we take care of along with walking our dog and picking up after him should he go to the bathroom. It’s just hard from, from September 15 through May 15. We can go on the beach all day; every evening to take a nice walk, and then from May 15 to September 15 we’re not allowed at all, and it makes it really, you know, I’d like to be able to walk on our beach and not have to travel to an adjoining beach on either side to walk the dog. He enjoys it. I know he does. I enjoy walking the beach every day. It’s nice and peaceful, and it’s a request that I’d like you to reconsider. It’s not a huge change, but it’s just the request that I’d like to make. Thank you for your consideration.

Ms. Darlene Moody, 17th Avenue North: I have approximately 70, 7-0 foot of a drainage pit dug in the right of easement area in front of my property. It is both unsightly and hazardous. 17th Avenue North is a busy street. Walkers, joggers, bicyclists sometimes need to be on the homeowners properties to clear the traffic. In effect, they can end up in my ditch with severe injuries or worse. While I appreciate the town trying to remediate the flooding issues, when the when it rains the street still floods. The water stands in the ditches for 2 to 3 days. As a new resident, I am frustrated with the lack of positive response from public works and lack of common courtesy. I was informed that you don’t have the funding to fix the drainage pits. Wouldn’t be more economical to work with the affected homeowners, for example, you could lay the piping and drainage and the homeowners could backfill with your approval and guidance. Honestly, I’m having a difficult time finding a contractor. The general consensus is that Surfside is too hard to work with. I find this very disheartening as a resident in a friendly town, a family-friendly town. In closing, could you please address what has been accomplished with the general maintenance? Who measures the effectiveness, and how can we move to resolve the items mentioned? Thank you for your time.

Mr. Bernie Williams, Dogwood Drive North: The city as a parking lot diagonally across from my house. The reason why I’m addressing this, the week before last was high school senior week. Between the house was across the parking lot and the one behind my house is anywhere from probably 80 to a 100 high school seniors staying in these two houses. They used the parking lot and it was like an animal house with a large parking lot. People were coming and going. At one point, something happened in the house, people literally dove over the decks to get out of the house. I’m not asking for much. I need a solution. Maybe just for that week you put barricades up like at seven o’clock at night till seven in the morning to keep the parking there, because right now, they’re going home and telling their friends, we had a great time. We found the perfect houses to stay in. My front yard was an Uber lift drop off and pickup site. You wouldn’t believe the amount of people who were Ubered [sic] in and Ubering [sic] out to get to this party, and it was just a mess. And right now, pardon me, right now in the parking lot there’s a pile of Bud Light beer bottles that have been sitting there for over a week right in the middle of the parking lot. The parking attendants drive by it every day; walk around it to go to the meters to check the cars. It’s still there. I don’t know. You know, if the departments don’t talk to each other or what, but it’s just a problem that needs to be addressed, and like I say, it could be a simple solution, maybe. Thank you. Mayor Childs asked Mr. Williams to meet with Chief Hofmann.

Mr. Nick Delaplane, 13th Avenue North: I hadn’t thought much about it, but the lady that mentioned the dogs on the beach, and I don’t know all the background for the town and the decisions of the background. I’m pretty new here. But basically, I see so many dogs on the street being walked by owners, so there’s a lot of dog owners and I would think that being a family beach and that it would be fair to consider allowing the dogs to walk after five o’clock and before nine, even during the summer, because I think it’s apparently not been a problem for other beaches, but I’m not sure about that, but I’d like you all to look into it. I like to know more about that. Thank you.

Mr. Bill Kinken, Dogwood Drive North: First of all thank you, council, for passing a budget that didn’t include tax increase. As a retired person, I do appreciate that. I think you are to be congratulated on your good
Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: I’m always gonna complain. We know that. You actually have streamlined the meetings here. But, you’ve streamlined the meetings to where we don’t really know what’s going on. I think that could be detrimental to, you know, people who are interested; who want to help; want to be a part of the community. But if it’s all gonna be done in executive session, you may as well eliminate these meetings. About the dogs on the beach, I have to disagree with those people that say dogs should be permitted on the beach in the summer time, only because for every responsible pet owner, there are ten irresponsible; those who don't put their dogs on leashes; dogs run free, and they really do startle people. If nothing else, they startle people, and there’s a lot of times walking on the beach I just gotta make sure I’m looking down because they’re piles out there. Irresponsible people, and I think that’s, you know, a reason for not allowing it during the busy season. We have the same issue in the winter time. One other thing; no, I have two other things. I did want to bring up the fact that the meeting before the last one, I did make a request to be brought before the people of town what lawsuits are still against this town and who’s involved and how they are being settled, or if they have been settled. We don’t hear anything on that. And the only thing I see is it’s, I think, is a pretty important thing that we need to think about. There’s gonna be a lot of money coming into this town with the pier, with projects going on, I really think an, an oversight committee should be established to make sure the funds go where they’re supposed to, because of the fact we know there’s been a lot of gray [sic] money, and a lot of it before I got here. That’s all I have to say tonight.

Ms. Sandra Elliott, 5th Avenue North: I’m gonna comment on the Plantation buses. Now, I know when I first came here, I sat down with [Ms. Fellner], and [Ms. Fellner] made an arrangement with Plantation bus that they wouldn't be coming down 5th Avenue riding down Hollywood Drive and, because that’s a bus, bus lane. It was arranged that they would go down Poplar, come down our Surfside, down to ocean, and come around, because there’s a drop off point. But now, they’re just driving on all our streets, parking near the dog park, and they’re not agreeing or not doing their agreement, whatsoever. So I was wondering if we could talk to them again, and see if we could remind them that there are children in this neighborhood that they agreed to try drive down Poplar and down Surfside Drive. Thank you.

Mr. Eric Botany, North Ocean Boulevard: I just wanted to lend an opinion on the dog walking on the beach. I would agree with allowing dogs to walk on the beach. I ask that you consider that. Although, I mean when we walk on the beach, you can find old beer cans and other things like that that could be just probably more dangerous than if you happen upon some waste left over by a dog. We are responsible dog walkers. We do collect garbage when we walk our dog, as well. The other thing, I want to comment on are bicycles on the sidewalks. I’m not sure if the town has an ordinance against riding bikes on the sidewalks. But we’ve witnessed quite a bit of bike riding on sidewalks. It’s dangerous for everybody involved. In fact, today I saw two bikes going down and a car coming out of a condo association and it almost hit the bikes, bicycles, because as a driver you’re not necessarily looking for bikes on the sidewalks, you’re looking for people walking, and maybe jogging. So, just like you to consider, if there is an ordinance, maybe instruct the police to enforce it more, or if there’s not, maybe consider creating an ordinance on that. Thank you.

Ms. Robin Partin, Pine Drive: I also have rental property here, I own a building, a commercial building, and I have a business here. I have 825 Surfside Drive. I have Surfside Shore Décor, and as far as I know, only one person on the council has been in my store before, and I think that was you, Mr. Mayor. Once you were dragged in by your wife, I believe. (Laughter) So, if you have never been there, please come see what we do so that you can understand my comment here. Now, I am the only, my store is the only retail store on Surfside Drive. We started out with a little community of some business and things have happened. Restaurants have burned. You know, different
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Mr. Johnson: I really don’t have any comments tonight other than thank you all for coming out. God bless you and we will see you again next week.

Mr. Pellegrino: Yeah, thank you for your comments, and I do take notes in the comments and follow-up. But if you, I mean take advantage of our staff. We have a very good staff here. If you have issues with rowdy teenagers, call the police department. Have them look after it. If you have problems with something with public works, please call Mr. Adair or someone on the staff, and ask questions about it. Now, if you’re calling and not getting a response, then you’ve got to go to the next step and talk administrator, obviously. But, please use our staff here at town hall to help you, because they want to help, and there’s always obstacles and different things we have to overcome, but please make them your first contact, and certainly I mean I’m gonna go and follow-up on all these and talk to talk to the directors, and I do all the time, and a lot of times they say why, I didn’t even know that was a problem. So you guys contact them first that’s the right first step, and then we can move up from there, if nothing gets done. So, other than that, thank you very much for coming. Thank you for your comments. Have a great night.

Mr. Dietrich: Hi, everybody. Thanks for coming out tonight. I really appreciate your comments. If I may, Mr. Williams, I’m very familiar with your situation down there. I dealt with it when I did parking enforcement for four years, and chief, with your blessing, can I sit and have a conversation about this this week? (Chief Hofmann indicated yes.) Because I think we can both give each other different insight from it, and it’s very problematic, and you’re right, (**comment from audience – gavel) … No, but when it is, it is. and Ms. Elliott, again, with your blessing, chief, I’m familiar Plantation Resort and their busses, if I can have a conversation like this week and try an resolve that. Again, thanks for coming out and I will answer one question, one question only. Yes, I bought this (blue plaid) jacket in high school, because I came in here tonight (laughter) and I got abused by everybody, including the press, but I’m okay with that, [Mr. Papanonis]. This is a high school jacket. Thank you very much. Have a great night, folks. Take care. God bless you.

Mr. Ott: Thank everybody for coming out, and yes, I would love to walk my dog during the summer on the beach, but the problem is and this is why it’s not there, is people won’t clean up after their dogs, and it’s one thing to step on a beer can, and it’s another one stepping in a big dog drop. It’s not easy to get off your foot, I bet, especially when you’ve got bare feet. That’s the reason there’s no way that we can get people to say, hey, you know, we want to walk the dog this is what we need to do; I would say you need a license to walk your dog in the town, and you need a license to walk on the beach. A lot of people come here and they don’t. They don’t have license, and there’s no other way to control it. But, you have one vote on council that would let you walk your dog on the beach. That’s me. I appreciate that people still want to do that. The sand is very hot in the in the evening still, so it’s early morning for me or nothing. Thank everybody for coming out and telling us the problems. Yeah, we do have ‘em, everybody has a little bit of a problem, but as was said, we do have a great staff, and they will address every problem you have. Thank you. Good night.

Ms. Scoles: Thank everybody for coming and for your comments, and I agree with Mr. Pellegrino, If you can first taken your concerns to the department head and give them a chance to handle your issue but if you feel you don’t get an answer or you still are not satisfied with that answer, then bring it to council. We’d be more than happy to discuss it and work with you on that. I would also like to thank Food Lion for providing the bags that you saw in your chair this evening, and I hope everyone has a safe time going home. Thank you.

Mayor Childs: I would like say to the gentleman back here this agenda that we go on, none of this on this agenda is discussed in executive session. None of it. I just wanted to clear that up. I agree with Mr. Ott on a couple, on one issue. The young lady back there that talked about the dogs on the beach might be the most responsible
animal owner in South Carolina, but I personally have seen people that don't abide by that. They've actually taken their foot and covered [the excrement] up. So it is a problem, and I'm sure everybody was like you, it would not be a problem and it would not be an issue, but it is an issue and it won't go away. In the wintertime, you don't have to go on the beach, you have to be careful where you walk on the sidewalk along Ocean Boulevard. So there are a lot of people that are just as not as conscientious as you, and I wish there was more like it. Thank everybody for coming out.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Ott moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Surfside Beach Town Council

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

Absent

Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

VOTE: Yes No

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.

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