



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION AUGUST 14, 2018 ♦ 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 14, 2018 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 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, and the appointment of a person or persons to a public body. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ms. Scoles moved to reconvene regular session at 6:17 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Childs said for the record that no action was taken during executive session. Any motions and/or directions to the town administrator will be made during the regular meeting that begins at 6:30 p.m. as noted on the agenda. Mayor Childs adjourned the session at 6:17 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, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Pieper; Finance Director King, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

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

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Ott moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to remove the public hearing and business items A, B, and C. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Approval of minutes is deferred until the clerk returns.

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Resolution #18-192 Adopting the 2018 Solid Waste Management Plan, Horry County Solid Waste Authority. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt Resolution #18-192. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. Resolution #18-193 Constitution Week, Jean Courtney, Incoming Regent for Theodosia Burr Daughters of the American Revolution. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt Resolution #18-193. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

C. Administrator's Report. Mayor Childs introduced Mr. Dennis Pieper, the new town administrator and welcomed him to his first meeting. Mr. Pieper said he had been meeting residents, council members, staff and visiting the various departments over the last month. The annual audit has begun. We just closed out our \$500,000 Rural Infrastructure Grant for the Myrtle Swash Culvert Bridge.

7. BUSINESS. Business Items A, B, and C were deferred by approved motion. See Item 3 above.

D. Associate Judge/Clerk of Court Appointment, Ms. Valerie Riley. Mr. Stevens moved to appoint Ms. Valerie Riley as Associate Judge/Clerk of Court for a four year term. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

E. Appointment of Town Attorney. Mr. Johnson moved to authorize the town administrator to negotiate and execute a contract for legal services as town attorney with Ms. Elise Crosby. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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60 **F. Motions and/or directions to Town Administrator from Executive Session.** None were offered.
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62 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.** Any matters of concern or information to be discussed. Mr. Ott asked for
63 consensus from council to hold a workshop about town rights-of-way usage. **Council CONCURRED.** Mayor Childs said
64 the workshop would be scheduled once the clerk returns.

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66 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)
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68 Mr. Al Kelley, Dogwood Drive North; Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard; Ms. Kathryn Price, Maple
69 Drive; Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North, and Mr. Bernie Williams, Dogwood Drive North, each said changes to the
70 zoning districts should slow down, and they like the town as it currently exists.

71
72 Ms. Sadie Parmley, Glens Bay Road, said she was a descendant of Mr. Sabe Rutledge, Sr. He along with about
73 50 other slaves cultivated the land in Surfside Beach on the Ark Plantation, which was the beginning of Surfside Beach.
74 After emancipation in 1963, my fore-parents continued to live on the plantation working the fishery. After explaining her
75 family history, she said the town should have recognized the importance of the property as a burial site when it allowed
76 the property to be developed in 1987. The effort to raise money to purchase the last lot failed, and the society asked the
77 town to purchase the Hollywood lot to preserve it.

78
79 Ms. Dolores Nicholson, Pine Drive, and Ms. Pat Winegardner (?), Cypress Drive, both complained about the
80 flooding in town during the recent rains, and asked what the town would do to improve drainage and the outdated
81 infrastructure.
82

83 Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South, complained about a resident that had several outbuildings in his yard against
84 whom the town had charges, and that fines were lowered and the buildings can stay. He said that sets a bad precedent.
85

86 Ms. Joyce Suliman, Cypress Drive, asked that the property at 3rd Avenue South and Willow Drive be released so
87 the Historical Society could plan and hold the annual Living History Day. Mayor Childs said an answer would be sent
88 tomorrow.
89

90 Ms. Kat Brown, Sparrow Drive, was happy a working was being scheduled on the rights-of-way, because there
91 are many violations and there seems to be selective enforcement.
92

93 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**
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95 Mr. Dietrich said addressing the stormwater issue there is no argument that the town has problems. We have to
96 better maintain what we presently have to move stormwater. We will be moving forward trying to resolve this as quickly
97 as possible.
98

99 Mr. Johnson said I don't believe that there's any plans for high-rises anywhere in the Town of Surfside Beach
100 other than you can build in certain zones up to 55 feet; basically on the beach and maybe on Highway 17 Business. I just
101 think it was misguided that these ordinances were presented tonight.
102

103 Mr. Ott asked the administrator to report back to council what the processes is for stormwater infrastructure
104 maintenance. Regarding outbuildings, I believe you can have two outbuildings and one greenhouse; the square footage
105 cannot equal more than 50% of the main home. I know we have a problem with the rights-of-way that need to be
106 addressed. The town needs to be responsible and accountable. We are still working on the entertainment district and have
107 been for over a year. There is no rush. I will never vote to increase height limits over 55 feet.
108

109 Mr. Pellegrino said the flooding issues are a concern; some are already being addressed. We will follow up on
110 the new ones mentioned tonight. There are two districts being discussed: one is the entertainment district composed of
111 about three blocks surrounding the pier, and the other one is mixed-use on Surfside Drive. Our maximum building height
112 is 55 feet currently and will remain there. The planning commission is charged to make recommendations to council, and
113 I hope that comes forward. He encouraged public speakers to ensure they had facts prior to disparaging councilmembers.
114 Councilmembers make judgments based on information received.
115

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Ms. Scoles also spoke about the flooding problem, and agreed that the height limit would remain at 55 feet; no councilmember wants a parking garage. There are some issues with rights-of-way enforcement, so we are addressing that.

Mr. Stevens said I will vote against any ordinance to increase the height limit. Stormwater will always be a problem. Surfside Beach will be the only town in South Carolina with a concrete pier, which will bring tourists. Rooftop dining will increase hospitality taxes. Highway 17 is being improved by the South Carolina Highway Department, which will help fill those empty businesses. Council will ensure the town remains the Family Beach.

Mayor Childs hoped the Entertainment District in the Mixed-use ordinances would be separated; they are not the same. Council deferred action tonight, because the planning commission deferred its recommendation. Comments about high rise buildings are based on bad information. The pier may take up to five years to complete, so there is no rush. He said the mayor had nothing to do with the situation at 1st Avenue North; the comments were not true. There are some stormwater issues in town but we ran out of money. Projects cost hundreds of thousands of dollars; until funding is identified, there isn't much that can be done.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approved: August 28, 2018

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Surfside Beach Town Council

VOTE: Yes No

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

Ron Ott, Town Council

Debbie Scoles, Town Council

Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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