



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING December 11, 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 Johnson, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Dietrich and Ott were absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann, and Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Dr. John Gambrell, Surfside First Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

Mayor Childs asked Ms. Suliman, chairman of the Surfside Beach Historical Society to introduce two guests: Dr. Ben Burroughs, Director of Archives, Coastal Carolina University, President of the Horry County Historical Society, and historical advisor to the Surfside Beach Historical Society, and Mr. Jamie Thompkins, Chairman of the Horry County Board of Architectural Review and Historic Preservation. Both guests spoke about the importance of historical preservation and education. Dr. Burroughs said of the four historical site signage applications submitted the State of South Carolina has approved two, which should be delivered by February. He and Mr. Thompkins thanked and praised Town Council for its continued support of the society and its projects.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL.

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Workshop November 20, 2018 and Regular Meeting November 27, 2018.

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the November 20 workshop and November 27 regular meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only. There were no public comments.

6. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator's Report.

Administrator Pieper said staff has been preparing specifications for the new fire rescue pumper, which is ready to bid this week. The budget calendar is completed. The proposed budget workshop date is April 11th; please check your calendars and let the clerk know if that date is acceptable. We are preparing for the upcoming accommodation tax meeting in January. All of the events have been great. There was a "super" turnout for the Christmas tree lighting. Excellent comments were heard about it. The parade was attended well. Everyone is busy taking care of day-to-day business. Mr. Johnson asked if an update was available about changing the town elections to November. Mr. Pieper said the county will discuss the request at its meeting this week and he expects a positive response. However, the county will

54 require that town elections be held in odd-numbered years, because they can't have two sets of books at
55 a General Election. The ordinance adoption date will determine when the next election would be held;
56 once Town Council adopts it, it would be the next election cycle.

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58 **7. BUSINESS.**

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60 **A. First Reading Ordinance #18-0881 to Repeal Section 17-209 Complaints filed with**
61 **PB&Z Department, Director Morris.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0881
62 as presented. Mr. Pellegrino second. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of
63 which are on file. Ms. Scoles asked if it would be better to have complaints in writing and to know that
64 the person complaining was a town resident, which would document consistent complaints that might
65 mean an ordinance needs to be addressed. Ms. Morris said all complaints are documented. This particular
66 code was adopted with the initial code, and is antiquated. The department has accepted anonymous
67 complaints for many years; 98 percent of the complaints prove to be valid. Most complaints are from
68 neighbors who share their names, but they do not want to be identified. The current ordinance says "you
69 may file a written complaint," but no one wants to do that. Town Council may amend the ordinance to
70 state "shall," if written complaints are desired. If that is done, emailed complaints would not be accepted;
71 the complaint would have to be delivered in writing. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and
72 Councilmembers Johnson and Scoles voted in favor. Councilmember Stevens voted against. **MOTION**
73 **CARRIED.**

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75 **B. Resolution #18-195 to Authorize the Town Administrator to Execute MASC Setoff**
76 **Debt Agreement.** Mayor Childs moved to adopt Resolution #18-195 to authorize the town administrator
77 to execute the Municipal Association Setoff Debt Agreement. Mr. Stevens second. Mayor Childs explained
78 that this is a housekeeping resolution to simply authorize the administrator to execute the agreement.
79 Town Council already adopted Ordinance #18-0877 that states the town will participate in the program.
80 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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82 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.** Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

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84 Mr. Johnson said Ordinance #18-0881 would be discussed further at second reading. He raised
85 the question of the town paying for the attorney hired by the planning commission to sue the town over
86 the entertainment district. In his opinion, the commission hired an attorney was because of Town
87 Council's actions adopting amendments conflicting with other ordinances. Mr. Pellegrino needed more
88 information, because the commission hired an attorney before bringing its questions to council. After a
89 short discussion, the clerk was instructed to add this item to business at the next meeting.

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91 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.**

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93 Ms. Carol Cook, Cypress Drive, expressed surprise that a presentation was allowed by the
94 historical society when it was not on the agenda. She gave a brief history of the society, purchase of the
95 land, how funding for the signs came about, and messages being distributed that were misleading. In
96 her opinion, the two signs to be installed in town should be placed at an established park, not in front of
97 homes. Rumors continue to be shared that bones were found. This has to stop. She said, "There is
98 nothing we can do now to correct the past, but we can stop making the present and the future so
99 difficult for those may have their family members buried there." Having attending four historical society
100 meetings, the most residents attending were two officers; a few town residents; the mayor, but the
101 society, which "is a very good thing" does not have participation by town residents.

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103 Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South, asked again that the administrator answer questions raised
104 during public comments. He asked if the town was following through with the E-Verify program; it should
105 to ensure workers are legal. What happens to the parking lot in the E District? I hope it won't be a

106 parking garage, because about five years ago town citizens "highly voted down" that idea. The Southern
107 Chicken is a new restaurant in town; it has great food and the portions are generous.

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109 Ms. Joyce Suliman, Cypress Drive, explained that when she said the town was turning the
110 historical property over to the society, it was to create a park, not transfer title. She apologized for the
111 confusion. She also said there is a difference between a memorial marker and a historical marker. The
112 state requires historical site markers to be placed in specific locations; memorial markers can be placed
113 anywhere. She was sorry that the town did not properly clear the property after the quiet title action to
114 ensure there were no remains. The Department of License, Law and Regulation recently adopted a new
115 real estate disclosure form this month that requires an individual to disclose if their property has
116 "designation as a historic building, landmark, site or location within a local historic or other restrictive
117 district, which may limit changes, improvements or demolition of the property."

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119 Ms. Tabitha Mull, 13th Avenue North, chairman of the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee,
120 said the committee started the "It's a Wonderful Life in Surfside Beach" project to bring our positive and
121 kind neighbors together and create a Christmas destination in our beautiful beach town. With this being
122 the first year, I'd say we've done a pretty good job. Businesses and residences have hung Christmas
123 lights; town hall has even more lights than usual. Both businesses and residents have donated time and
124 merchandise. Sponsors include Coldwell Banker, Surfside Beach Creamery and Pharmacy, S2 Golf Cars,
125 Piggly Wiggly, Shore Décor, Michelle Coleman Photography, Benjamin's Bagels, GIFU Crystal Exchange,
126 Food Lion, Waffle House, Office Depot, Carolina Limousine, Surfsidians, Surfside Beach Pizza and
127 Restaurant, Walmart, Malibu of Surfside Beach, CM Cakes Baking, Align Chiropractic, Carolina and
128 Company...WOW! All the businesses participating in the Christmas Crawl each Saturday report increased
129 foot traffic and sales, which is great. Everyone is invited to Martin Field on Saturday, December 15th to
130 watch the "It's a Wonderful Life" movie at 5:00 p.m. Christmas carolers, food trucks, donations of
131 cookies, popcorn, coffee, hot chocolate, and heaters will be on site, and a parking shuttle available from
132 the parking lots. Thank you to each one that supported this project, which has brought the town together
133 with a positive influence to make this project a success.

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135 Ms. Dianne Bond, Myrtle Drive North, said thank you to Mr. Johnson for standing up for the
136 residents. I love what the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee has done in Surfside, it's so much fun
137 and festive. It was a great, positive thing to do.

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139 Ms. Sherry Singleton, secretary of the Surfside Beach Historical Society, thanked Town Council
140 for its continued support. The initial work was hard and tedious, but we have met some wonderful people
141 who we now consider family. She doesn't expect all the town residents to attend the meetings, but the
142 society's vision is starting with the beginning, which in this community is the Ark Plantation. Public
143 acknowledgement comes with getting historical markers placed. Added to this will be documents
144 submitted by descendants and long-time residents; sharing this information throughout the coming
145 decades will educate the public about our history. Engaging children in history develops a passion for
146 reading, talking and even political involvement. Many of our great politicians were avid historians. We
147 covet Town Council's and the community's continued support.

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149 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

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151 Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for attending. Thank you to our committees. Tonight we heard
152 from the historical board and the beautification committee. There are many people working hard to make
153 the town better and to give our town some [recognition]. Many more people put up Christmas lights this
154 year than in the past. That is very positive and that is certainly something to build on. Adding 10 percent
155 a year will eventually have most of the year-round residents participating. That is paying off and will gain
156 recognition over the years and draw people to town to shop our businesses. Merry Christmas. This is the
157 last meeting of the year. Remember that the reason for the season is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
158 He was about giving and loving. Keep that in mind during the season.

Town Council Regular Meeting
December 11, 2018

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Mr. Johnson thanked Dr. Burroughs, the members of the historical society, and everyone who was involved in the Ark Plantation project. As long as I am on Town Council, it will never die. We need to go forward even though it may be a slow process; I am behind you 150 percent. I also support this crazy thing called "It's a Wonderful Life in Surfside Beach." I love it! I am totally behind that, and I can't wait to see it grow and grow. Thank you all for coming out. God bless you. Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. Thank you to my fellow councilmembers for their work this year, and especially our employees. God bless.

Ms. Scoles thanked everyone for coming out. Thank you to the historical society for tonight's presentation. I think it is very important to preserve history anywhere. That's part of the town's past. We also have a committee that is bringing us forward into the future, and I want to thank the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful committee. They have done a most excellent job on the It's a Wonderful Life project. I look forward to the movie on Saturday. I encourage everyone to attend. Merry Christmas, and Happy, healthy, New Year.

Mr. Stevens was glad the historical society had done what they have done, because I wish that the schools would start teaching more history. Where did the Constitution and the Bill of rights originate? How did we get our freedom? We were under a king; thankfully, we ran them out of town. We think about how great this country is and all the things it has accomplished. We defeated the Nationalist Socialist Party of Germany; got Soviet President Gorbachev to tear down the Iron Curtain, and we have many things to be thankful for. Horry County was named after Colonel Peter Horry who fought side-by-side with General Francis Marion during the Revolutionary War. He was a Frenchman, and his name is pronounced O-ree; the 'h' is silent. We can be proud of the historical society. The Civil War was fought and more people died in that war than any other war in history, but the war abolished slavery, which was important. I just recently returned from Key West where I saw a nighttime bicycle parade; there were 300 to 400 bicycles lit up with Christmas lights. Our beautification committee needs to consider that as an event next year; perhaps include golf carts. Remember, if you hear a bell, an angel won its wings. It's a Wonderful life is about a man who overcame to reunite with his family. Saturday, December 15, at 5:00 p.m. at Martin Field, I hope you'll support the movie. If you haven't installed lights; get some! This is the greatest thing I've ever seen a committee in town do. They are doing Christmas! Christmas is no longer banned by certain people. It's okay to say, "Merry Christmas, and Happy Hanukah." May you all have a good Christmas; may you get everything you want, if you don't, get everything you need. A friend of mine who has been unemployed for a long time has a good paying job now; the economy is booming. Things are looking up for America. Merry Christmas to all of y'all and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Childs thanked the historical society and the guest speakers. Ms. Lucas, thank you for your presentation. The Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee has really done a great job. Everything you've heard is really true. I think we have more lights now than I've ever seen in town. Keep it up; don't give up. You're doing a great job. Thank you councilmembers for everything you've done this year. So far, it's been a very good, very productive year. Thank you all for coming. Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Steven moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: January 8, 2019

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Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

<hr/>	<u>Absent</u>
David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore	Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council
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Mark L. Johnson, Town Council	Ron Ott, Town Council
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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.

Approve