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: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Planning, and Building & Zoning Director Morris.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Dr. John Gambrell, First Baptist Church Surfside, 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. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the minutes of January 22, 2019 as presented. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only.

Mr. Larry McKeen, 6th Avenue South, suggested that council hold its elections in even numbered years, because there is better turn out during national elections, and that would extend the members’ terms instead of shorten them.

6. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator Pieper reported:

- All permits and applications for the pier were submitted
- Pier plans are at 100 percent
- Staff completed filling in the holes at the 3rd Avenue & Willow Drive park; it is open for the public’s use
- Staff attended a Safety Committee meeting on February 5th
- Staff met with Lanier Parking; parking lots are being restriped and pay stations are being prepared for the summer season
- The interior of town hall is being repainted, which was sorely needed
- Staff continues to work on the upcoming budget

Mr. Ott thanked Mr. Pieper for his work to get the park opened. There was a lot work to be done to accomplish that.

Mr. Johnson asked for an update on the historical signs. Mr. Pieper said he was told by Dr. Ben Burroughs today that the town may place the signs wherever Town Council deems appropriate. There was an erroneous email message distributed that stated the State decides where the signs are placed. However, the State only approves the sign’s content. Sign placement will be on the next agenda for Town Council’s consideration.
7. BUSINESS.

A. Second Reading of Ordinances.

i. #19-0882 Chapter 13, Permits, Reviews & FOIA Disclosure, Director Morris. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0882 as presented. Mr. Ott second. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. After a brief discussion, all voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Council CONCURRED to review this ordinance in six months with Ms. Morris providing information.

ii. #19-0884 to Prohibit Residential Use in C4, Director Morris. Mr. Ott moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0884 as presented. Mr. Johnson second. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Ms. Morris said for the record, “The existing residential properties that are there may continue as non-conforming uses under §17-502 of the Town Code, so they will be grandfathered.” All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Morris left at 6:45 p.m.

B. First Reading of Ordinances.

i. #19-0886 to Transfer Elections to Horry County, Attorney Crosby. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0886 as presented. Mr. Ott second. Ms. Crosby presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Johnson referred to Section 5.4 and asked if electors were the voters. Ms. Crosby said yes, which is a Constitutional term. Before an individual can run for office, he or she must be a qualified elector. Mr. Johnson said council adopted an ordinance several years ago requiring three years residency. Ms. Crosby said that was not included in this ordinance; the language presented is appropriate under the South Carolina Constitution. Mr. Ott wanted elections to be held during even years. Ms. Crosby said even year election was the initial proposal, but in late November 2018, we were informed that was not acceptable to the Horry County Municipal Election Commission. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, Scoles and Stevens voted in favor. Councilmember Johnson voted against. MOTION CARRIED.

ii. #19-0887 to amend Section 9-9(a) Increase Oceanfront Parking Rate, Director King. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0887 as presented. Ms. Scoles second. Ms. King presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Ms. King noted that this would not affect residents or second home owners, because they receive parking decals. A public hearing will be held at the February 26th meeting, if first reading is adopted. After a brief discussion, Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, Scoles and Stevens voted in favor. Councilmember Johnson voted against. MOTION CARRIED.

C. Surplus Parking Meters, Director King. Mr. Ott moved to declare parking meters surplus and authorize the town administrator to dispose of them. Mr. Stevens second. Ms. King presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

D. 3rd Avenue South Promenade Bid Award, Director Adair. Mr. Ott moved to award the bid to R. H. Moore in the amount of $743,900. Mr. Stevens second. Ms. King presented the decision paper and bid results, copies of which are on file. (Mr. Adair was attending the CTC Committee to ask for additional road money.) All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
E. Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority Advisory Board Appointment (1 Vacancy)

Mr. Cody Sluder. Mr. Stevens moved to appoint Mr. Sluder to the advisory board. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION. There was no discussion.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South; Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, Mr. Al Lauer, Harbor Lights Drive, and Ms. Terri Lauer, Harbor Lights Drive all asked why the town administrator could not answer questions asked during the public comment portion of the meeting. Mayor Childs explained again that anyone with a questions should visit the town administrator.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Mr. Dietrich had no comments.

Mr. Johnson understood the public's concerns, but didn't know the solution. We will try to figure this out. I do not agree with a parking rate increase; the rate is good as it is. Our parking regulations and lack of parking on Ocean Boulevard have caused people to go elsewhere. I bet you on the East Coast you will find fewer towns regulating boulevard parking than not. God bless; see you next time.

Mr. Ott said most northern East Coast cities charge $17 to $20 for each person to go onto the beach, and a parking fee. In New Jersey, the parking spaces are $3.50 an hour. The extra quarter doesn't hurt anybody. More people are coming here. It's harder to get on the beach. The parking lots and beach walkovers require maintenance. We continue to try to make them better; new handicapped access restrooms are replacing the old ones. Thank everybody for coming tonight, and for your questions. We'll see if we can answer them.

Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for coming. The administrator did answer questions in the past. There are many different situations now, but I will ask some questions about that to see if we can offer a good solution. I voted for the parking increase on the beach front spaces, but I am concerned with parking enforcement, because many residents and visitors get a 'sour taste' over parking issues during the summer. Staff is working on the budget for next year. My main concern is cash flow, because of all the big projects being done, i.e. pier, engineering, road paving, underground wiring, Highway 17, and 3rd Avenue South, all of which are partly funded through reimbursements. Ms. King is tracking all of that very well, and that will be a big part of the budget discussion.

Ms. Scoles thanked everyone for coming. I have been at the parking areas on the ocean front during the summer and watched people circling the boulevard waiting for a spot to become available. I don't really think a quarter an hour more will devastate a tourist. We have other lots with lower rates, if they want to park there and walk over to the beach. So, I support the increase. Have a good evening.

Mr. Stevens said the town has thousands of neighbors nearby in the county. Those people are going to come to Surfside Beach. The tourists staying in town have parking where they rent. Businesses pay 85 percent of the taxes; residents pay 15 percent, so to increase the parking rate for the neighbors who come to our beach doesn't hurt, because many of them don't even clean up their trash. As residents and second homeowners you get to park free. Raising the rate is no big deal. People come here because we're the third safest town in South Carolina and we are the Family Beach. We're not like Myrtle Beach where there is a lot of crime. Surfside Beach doesn't have drug problems like other cities, because we have the best police; we have the best fire and sanitation departments. We've got a great town. Residents get the best deal for their money in this town. Thank you for coming out; have a good evening.
Mayor Childs thanked everyone for coming out.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Ott second.
All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by:

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Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: February 26, 2019

Surfside Beach Town Council

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Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

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Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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Ron Ott, Town Council

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Debbie Scoles, Town Council

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Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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