Executive Session – 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order. Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. 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, and Police Chief Hofmann.

2. Executive Session. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss the appointment or release of a person or persons to a public body, and pursuant to §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements regarding house of inmates, and Ordinance #19-0891. Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Scoles and Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session at 6:30 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. Any action will be taken during the regular meeting under item 8, Business.

3. Adjournment. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:30 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: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris; and Police Chief Hofmann.

Mayor Childs welcomed Boy Scout Troop 891 from Socastee United Methodist Church, and invited them to lead the Pledge after the invocation. He presented each member with a town lapel pin. The audience gave them a standing ovation.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Fire Chaplin Carmen Carella gave the invocation. B. Pledge of Allegiance: Boy Scout Troop 891.

3. PUBLIC HEARING. Mayor Childs opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. to hear public comments on the adoption of Ordinances #19-0889 Hospitality Tax and #19-0890 Local Accommodations Tax. There were no comments. Mayor Childs declared the hearing closed at 6:35 p.m.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL. February 26, 2019 and March 5, 2019. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the minutes of February 26, 2019 and March 5, 2019 as presented. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator’s Report. Mr. Pieper reported:
• The new Veterans Memorial Wall is completed and plaques are being installed
• Staff expects the FEMA Environmental Study for the pier reconstruction to be completed within the next few months
• The pier architects are completing the final details and the package will be ready to let for bids as soon as the FEMA Environmental Study is complete. Once construction begins it may take 16 to 18 months to complete.
• He has been meeting with department directors on FY19-20 budgets and staff continues work to develop a balanced budget for presentation to Town Council
• Bids received on the fire department pumper truck will be presented at the next meeting for approval
• The BBQ Festival was very successful. Several vendors sold out of food

Mayor Childs said any active or retired service member may purchase a plaque for the wall for $50. The weather was great for the BBQ Festival and it was the biggest crowd ever.

8. BUSINESS.

A. Second Reading Ordinance #19-0889 Hospitality Tax, Administrator Pieper. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0889 as presented. Mr. Orr second. Mr. Pieper presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Johnson asked if this ordinance impacted Interstate Highway 73. Mr. Pieper said no, the town did not have an agreement regarding I73. Town Council will need to decide how to manage the funds. This ordinance allows the town to collect the statutory limit. Mayor Childs said the county wants to assign a committee to decide how to handle the funds. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Second Reading Ordinance #19-0890 Local Accommodations Tax, Administrator Pieper. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0890 as presented. Mr. Ott second. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

C. First Reading Ordinance #19-0888 Amend § 14-51 Stormwater Definitions, Director Morris. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0888 as presented. Ms. Scoles and Mr. Ott second. Mr. Pellegrino recused as he owns a business in town that this ordinance affects. His written recusal is attached hereto. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Ott said this is a good example of why ordinances should be reviewed after adoption. Mr. Johnson asked if the current ordinance was approved by council. Ms. Morris said yes. Mr. Stevens asked for clarification that the amendments would allow upgrades and maintenance without a stormwater plan as long as the footprint didn’t change. Ms. Morris said yes. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, Scoles and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino recused. MOTION CARRIED. Note: Ms. Morris left at 6:50 p.m.

D. First Reading Ordinance #19-0891 Lease Extension Pier Outfitters, Inc., Administrator Pieper. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0891 as presented. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Pieper presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. He explained that this is a month-to-month lease that is valid until the existing structure is razed. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

E. Stormwater Committee Appointment (1 vacancy). Volunteers: Ms. Yvette Hellyer and Ms. Tabitha Mull. Mr. Johnson moved to reappoint Ms. Mull to serve another term on the stormwater committee. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

F. Motions and/or directions resulting from Executive Session. Mr. Pieper noted that an agreement would be forthcoming for council’s consideration.
9. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION. There was no discussion.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South, said thank you for fixing the microphones. We can now hear.

11. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Mr. Johnson said unfortunately I was not at the last meeting, and I was disappointed that council adopted an ordinance that allowed a person who only lived in town 30 days to run for office. I know we got an attorney’s opinion and some other documentation. We are a small town. I just think you need to live here more than 30 days before you know exactly what’s going on. We originally mandated five years; 30 days in my mind is ludicrous. Thank you for coming out. Thank you to the Boy Scouts for showing up. God bless you all.

Mr. Ott said at this point the town belongs to the residents. We all live here. There are comments; there is work that is done on boards, commissions and committees that is extremely important to the town. It always has been. Thank you.

Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for coming and said to follow up on Mr. Johnson’s comments, I hope that anyone who only lived here 30 days wouldn’t get any votes, so it won’t be a problem. Have a great night.

Ms. Scoles thank you to everyone for coming out this evening. I hope you have a good week.

Mr. Stevens implored the citizens to shop at the town businesses. Don’t forget they pay 85 percent of our property taxes; $1.5 to $2 million in business license fees; hospitality tax and accommodations tax. I just recently learned that the town businesses pay 70 percent of the sanitation fund that enables us to buy new garbage trucks to keep the town clean. Spend your money in town so our businesses can benefit from our patronage. They keep us afloat; if we didn’t have them, we’d probably fold up as a town within three to four months. Thank you for coming out. I hope all of you have a good week. Looks like good weather for the rest of the week. Take care of yourself.

Mr. Dietrich said good evening everybody. There are people here tonight that were kind enough to come to see me when I was ill a few months ago. Thank you very much. God bless you all. I may not remember you being there, but I know you were, because you told me so. Thank you for coming out tonight. God bless you all.

Mayor Childs thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

12. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by:

____________________________________________
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: March 26, 2019
Clerk’s Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and is 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 town’s LED marquee.
The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be a conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37.) A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

Justification to Recuse:

___ Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

✓ Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

___ Other: ___________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Date: 3/12/19

Member Signature

This document shall be included with the meeting minutes and shall become part of the permanent record.