SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Johnson and Scoles were absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann, and Finance Director King.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
   A. Invocation: Pastor Okey Landers, Pine Drive Gospel Church, gave the invocation.
   B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

3. PUBLIC HEARING – Due to a typo on the agenda notice, the public hearing was deferred until 6:30 p.m.

4. MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA. There were no motions.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL. September 24, 2019; October 1, 2019, and October 18, 2019.
   Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the September 24, October 1, and October 18 minutes as presented. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only.
   Mr. Harry Kohlmann, Ocean Boulevard South; Mr. Rod Schilling, Melody Lane, and owner of S2 Golf Cars, and Ms. Cindy Keating, Cherry Drive, spoke in opposition of Ordinance #19-0909 to amend Chapter 9, Motor Vehicles and Parking.
   Mr. Bob Hellyer, 7th Avenue North spoke in opposition of Ordinance #19-0911 to lease the two parking lots.

7. COMMUNICATIONS. Finance. Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mayor Childs called a ten minute recess at 6:20 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., Mayor Childs ended recess and opened agenda item 3. PUBLIC HEARING at 6:30 p.m. for comments on Ordinance #19-0908.

Mr. Kohlmann, Ocean Boulevard South, opposed the administrator having sole authority to manage parking. Businesses on the pier should have to pay for parking. He supported working with the golf cart rental companies to negotiate parking. In his opinion, problems are created by out-of-town neighbors who use the town’s beaches but don’t contribute.

Ms. Cindy Keating, Cherry Drive, believed nonresident parking decals should allow parking at the pier, because they pay for the decals.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South, said the town is a golf-cart using town. He believed beach access parking should be available to town residents only. The residents pay taxes and the town takes care of them. He had complained about the two spaces at 6th Avenue South for years. People should not be allowed to lease a parking space from the town.
Mr. Larry McKeen, 6th Avenue South, appreciated Mr. Shilling’s comments that offered solutions to the problems for rental golf carts. His preference was that anyone staying in town would be allowed to park free at the beach accesses. He supported charging out-of-town neighbors. He opposed too much signage at the beach accesses. He supported citing those who did not permanently attach their parking decals and suggested that the decals be confiscated and returned to the town. Any vehicle, including golf cars, which use two parking spaces should be required to pay for both spaces.

Ms. Carol Holt, Yaupon Drive North, asked what brought about all these changes. She only could find one meeting in which council agreed to have the administrator check into charging at the beach accesses. She opposed the administrator having authority over the parking function.

Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North, suggested that council defer the ordinance since there will be several new councilmembers after the November 5th election.

There were no other comments. Mayor Childs closed the public hearing at 6:41 p.m.

8. BUSINESS.

A. Second Reading Ordinance #19-0908 Chapter 9, Motor Vehicles & Parking.

Administrator Pieper. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0908. Mr. Dietrich second. Mr. Stevens moved to amend Section 9-9, Paragraph (i)(a) to remove the words “along all town streets from Dogwood Drive to the Atlantic Ocean” so the paragraph now states “All vehicles shall pay in areas designated for parking with signage within the town’s corporate limits using ParkMobile or other approved internet application, unless exempt from payment by decal permanently affixed to the vehicle, or exempt pursuant §9-16(c) or (d).” Mayor Childs second. After discussion, all voted in favor. MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. After additional discussion, Mr. Pellegrino moved to table Ordinance #19-0908. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED.

B. First Reading or Ordinances.

i. #19-0909 Budget Amendments Fiscal Year 2019-2020, Director King. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of #19-0909. Mr. Dietrich second. Ms. King presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Ott asked how much money was in the underground wiring fund. Ms. King explained that Santee Cooper held those funds; a breakdown will be sent with the next franchise fee payment. Mr. Ott urged council to complete the Ocean Boulevard underground wiring project, which in his opinion was the number one project. Mr. Stevens asked if parking reserves paid for the two lots on Surfside Drive. Ms. King said yes, and for the up-fit. Mr. Pellegrino moved to strike the $15,000 increase for the front end loader that was budgeted at $100,000. Mr. Dietrich second. Mr. Pellegrino said the loader should be bought with the amount budgeted. Mayor Childs, Mr. Ott, and Mr. Stevens agreed that the front end loader was a necessity and the increase offset the value to the town’s drainage system and staff’s safety during storms because the swashes could be cleaned 50-percent faster. All voted in favor. MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. Ms. Herrmann pointed out that even though the majority spoke against the motion, it carried and asked if that was council’s intention. Ms. Crosby explained that anyone voting on the prevailing side could move to reconsider. Mr. Stevens moved to reconsider the motion. Mr. Ott second. MOTION TO RECONSIDER CARRIED. Mayor Childs called for a vote on the original motion to amend. Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino voted in favor. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, and Stevens voted against. MOTION TO AMEND FAILED. All voted in favor of first reading of Ordinance #19-0909. MOTION CARRIED.

ii. First Reading Ordinance #19-0910 Amend §2-39(b) Agenda (Executive Session), Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0910. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Pellegrino said this change would make it more convenient for the public. This is the way
iii. **#19-0911 Lease Agreement for Two parking Spaces, Administrator Pieper.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of #19-0911. Mayor Childs second. Mr. Pieper presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Ott opposed leasing the spaces saying they belong to the town’s people. If these leases are allowed, all residents should be offered the same option. Mr. Pellegrino agreed saying that this sets a precedent. The situation was created back in 2009 according to Mr. Adair to correct a problem. He asked what the alternative is if the use is eliminated. Mr. Pieper believed the use went ‘way back,’’ that would be a legal question. All voted against. **MOTION FAILED.**

C. **Resolution #19-199 Work Place Safety, Administrator Pieper.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt Resolution #19-199. Mr. Pieper presented the resolution, a copy of which is on file. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. **Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Appointments (2 vacancies.)** Mr. Stevens moved to appoint Ms. Tabitha Mull and Ms. Amy Santagata to the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

E. **Business Committee Recommendations, Administrator Pieper**

i. **Declare Seat Vacant.** Mr. Stevens moved to declare the seat held by Ms. Rigney vacant. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ii. **Approve Façade Grant Applications.** Mr. Stevens moved to approve both grants. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Pieper stated for the record that the grant amounts were $5,000 for Benjamin’s Bakery at 810 3rd Avenue South, and $1,462.50 for Brian Lawless for the property at 411 Highway 17 South. Mr. Pellegrino said the grant awards were the result of good work by the Surfside Beach Business Committee. They simplified the application process. Benjamin’s Bagels was the first project completed; go view the property to see how nice it looks. Highway 17 Corridor has “opportunity for curb appeal”, so this grant program is a positive for the town. Up to ten businesses could be awarded maximum grants; there may be more grants depending on the amounts awarded. This was a great idea and a great implementation by the business committee members. Mr. Stevens said the business committee was formed many years ago, and now it is having a positive effect on the town businesses. He was glad council supported the grant program, because the improvements at Benjamin’s are [exceptional,] and he looked forward to the improvements at 411 Highway 17 South. Mr. Ott agreed saying this puts a little lipstick on the town. He hoped other businesses would take advantage of the grant. Thank you to the business committee members for developing the grant. Mayor Childs agreed, and believed once the improvements to Highway 17 were completed many other businesses would apply for grants. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

F. **Bid Award: Disaster Recovery Services, Administrator Pieper.** Mr. Stevens moved to award the bid [to Hagerty Consulting.] Mr. Pieper presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. Mr. Pellegrino said he supported the award, because Hagerty Consulting got almost $10 million from the Federal Government to rebuild the pier, when initially the town expected $2 or $3 million. Hagerty also has the expertise to deal with the various government agencies. Mr. Ott agreed; he appreciated Hagerty’s work on behalf of the town. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Town Services or Business Conducted.

Mr. Steve McAvoy, 4th Avenue South, asked why he couldn’t have Italian ice carts on the street side of the beach accesses. Mayor Childs said council does not respond to questions.
Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, was surprised to learn that staff worked on the beach during hurricanes, and appreciated council purchasing equipment to help keep staff safe by getting them off the beach 50 percent faster, and help stop flooding in yards.

Mr. Bill Kinken, Dogwood Drive North, said there is a sink hole on the north side of Ocean Boulevard that needs to be repaired. Until the repair is made, he suggested that warning signs be placed there. Walkways along the boulevard are being covered by shrubbery that needs to be cleared. He supported burying power lines on Highway 17 Business first, which would be the best value for the town’s businesses. His taxes went up 32 percent. Thank you.

Ms. Donna Kaloz, Seneca River Road, Myrtle Beach, spoke about the importance of I-73 and encouraged council to continue its support of the corridor. She gave a packet title “Build I-73 in SC Now!” to the clerk for distribution to councilmembers, a copy of which is on file.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, Ocean Boulevard South, was almost sure the town always had a candidate forum and didn’t know why it wasn’t being held this year and he was positive during election season candidates were introduced at meetings. Mayor Childs said candidates would be recognized after public comments.

Mr. Mike Holt, Yaupon Drive, complained about nuisance Canadian Geese, and encouraged the town to use ‘Avian’ spray, or to contact the USDA Wildlife Services to learn ways to abate the problem. Natural migration patterns were altered by people feeding them; there are no natural predators; a pair of geese will have 5 goslings every year; one goose will eat 2 to 3 pounds of grass per day, and drops 1 to 2 pounds of feces per day that processes through the stormwater system into the ocean contributing to swimmer’s advisories and pollution. He counted a gaggle of 50 at his house; do the math.

Mr. John Bonsignor, vice chair of Community Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee, complimented the town’s police department and the South Precinct for the cookout this past Saturday. Over 500 people attended. The most important thing was the interaction between the officers, children and the community. He thanked councilmembers for supporting the police, and the police department for sponsoring the event, especially Lieutenant Williams from Surfside Beach and Lieutenant Ward from Horry County both of whom put in innumerable hours. Mayor Childs thanked Mr. Bonsignor and the Appreciation Committee for their work to support all the area police agencies.

10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS.

Mr. Pellegrino suggested that Mr. McAvoy speak to the administrator about the Italian ice business. He agreed with Ms. Magliette that it was important to clean the swashes faster, but his point was that the equipment should be bought within the budgeted amount. Thank you to the police department for the great event; many people volunteered to make that happen. The parking ordinance came up a month ago. We realized it wasn’t good for residents or second home owners. Thanks to the public who spoke out, and he thought we are in a better position not moving forward, because there are so many questions. He talked with many residents, and they came through in the end.

Mr. Dietrich said thank you for coming out tonight and sharing your thoughts, especially on the parking issue. Your comments were well taken on this end; it should have been addressed a long time ago. Let’s look into that and get some resolution. If the front-end loader gets the beach clean quicker, and safer, it is a worthwhile investment. Don’t stop coming out and keep sharing.

Mr. Ott said the parking ordinance was tabled. Originally he only wanted one thing [the beach accesses], and he didn’t know how it became a monster. At one time the beach access areas were for decal parking only, but the signs disappeared. Residents can’t park there because so many people park there, 50 to 60 carts during the summer at every access. We lost that, because all these other things
were brought into it. He believed an ordinance should only have one or two elements. Mr. Ott said the
money taken from Ocean Boulevard was only to underground wire running east-west on Highway 17.
Since that project died, the money hasn't gone back to where it was originally designated. Thank
everybody for the comments and for coming out.

Mr. Stevens thanked everybody for coming out. Fourteen days from now is the town election. He
explained how in 30 days he worked the town's Horry County Council representative and the Solid Waste
Authority to solve the garbage situation on Ocean Boulevard; the cost was $8,000 instead of $125,000.
Candidates should get help from elected officials at every level of government. Please don't get the town
into another lawsuit. We have a contract and we may end up in another lawsuit bigger than Nibble's. A
report from Moody's states that the average middle-class American's income rose over $7,000 in the past
two and a half years; 6 million new jobs, and we are no longer dependent on foreign oil. We probably
have the best economy we will ever have in years. Lowest unemployment for minorities in history; lowest
unemployment in 51 years. That comes from being a problem solver. Whoever wins needs to be a
problem solver. He did not seek reelection. If eight years is good enough for the President of the United
States, it's good enough for him. Whoever is elected should do the best job you can and make the
citizens happy. I know there are some very talented candidates; solve the town's problems. Thank you
for coming out.

Mayor Childs asked candidates to introduce themselves: Mayor: Bob Hellyer; David Pellegrino,
and Julie Samples. Town Council: Jenn Cribb; Michael Drake; Paul Holder; Cindy Keating; Laverne
Kreklau; Kathryn Martin, and Larry McKeen.

Mayor Childs said that Mr. Kinken was right about the sink hole, and asked the administrator to
have public works place signage until it can be repaired, which is the next stormwater issue. The town is
very supportive of I-73. We need many ways to evacuate during storms. Geese are another problem.
Federal employees turn a deaf ear when you mention geese. He experienced the same issues as Mr. Holt.
Geese over-run the town. Council is very aware of making sure people clean up behind their pets, but
geese are worse than dogs. He hoped somebody would do something. Public works has tried disrupting
sleep; it works a little. Nobody seems to know a solution. Somebody posted that the candidate forum
usually held in chambers by the Coastal Carolinas Realtors Association was cancelled. That had nothing to
do with him. The Realtors Association did not have funds budgeted since the elections were moved from
April to November. The Association teamed with the Chamber of Commerce to hold one event. Neither
event had anything to do with him.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Mr. Dietrich
second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: November 26, 2019

Signatures on page 6.
Surfside Beach Town Council

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Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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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

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