



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
January 12, 2010 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP/REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Deaton and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Martin and Samples were present. Mayor Pro Tem Truett and councilmember Childs were absent. A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell, Public Safety Director Christenson and Building Director Donevant, Recreation Supervisor Ellis and Fire Chief Packard. Attorney Mr. Smith was also present.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Deaton led the pledge of allegiance. Councilman Samples gave the invocation.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Martin made a motion to amend the agenda to add a Rotary Club presentation right after the minutes approval. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL – Regular meeting held December 8, 2009

Mr. Samples made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. WORKSHOP/COMMUNICATIONS

Presentation of Surfside Rotary added to the agenda: Mr. Steve Ouverson thanked the town for opening the streets up for their annual 10 K / 5 K run. It is held each year and the Rotary raises money from this event. The purpose of Rotary is to raise money and give it back to the community where it is needed. Mr. Ouverson stated that this year was a little tougher than previous years. Mr. Ouverson recognized Ms. Ellis and Public Safety for making this a wonderful event each year. Mr. Ouverson presented a check to the Town of Surfside Beach Recreation Department in the amount of \$2,000.

a. *Employee Recognition 10 Years: Officer Fred Curry*

Officer Fred Curry was recognized for 10 years of service. Mr. Booth stated that the officers keep our community safe and they are something to be proud of.

b. *Presentation: Rusty Jones from Omar Shiners*

Mr. Jones was not present for presentation. Mr. Booth reported that this presentation will be made at the next meeting.

c. *DDC Parking Plan Presentation*

Mr. Michael Wooten, President of DDC Engineers along with representatives of DDC Jessica Brown, Landscape Architect; Frank Schultz, Land Art Division and Eric Sanford, who runs the municipal divisions of the firm were present. Mr. Wooten reported that his firm had been working on this parking plan for quite some time and stressed that it is a plan for the town; not a study. It is a plan of action that the town may adopt or decide to make changes to. Mr. Wooten

presented copies of the presentation to council. A slide presentation was given. Mr. Wooten stated that the purpose of the meeting tonight was to present the high points of what DDC has done and how they got to where they are and what they are going to recommend as a plan for the town. Mayor Deaton asked council to make comments or suggestions during the presentation if they have any.

Mr. Wooten stated that the goal was to develop a plan to control, improve and enhance parking within town limits. The town has spent a lot of money and has put together some good parking areas for the citizens and visitors. These areas are, unfortunately, underutilized. DDC put together a plan of action to determine what the existing conditions are, identify the problem areas then decide what the solutions would be. From the solutions the best and most feasible course of action would need to be determined to take place over the next 5, 10 and 20 years; this is a long range plan being presented. Mr. Wooten stated that DDC was commissioned by the town to complete the comprehensive plan several months ago and the intent was to identify the parking and transportation infrastructure; a parking plan cannot be done without looking the infrastructure. The town needs to look at how traffic, pedestrian traffic and golf carts are handled. Identifying opportunities for more efficient parking uses and constraints would need to be considered. Many parking opportunities have cost and feasibility constraints and these were all analyzed by DDC. Suggested improvements to help the town to better identify, manage and maintain its assets for the future would need to be considered for the future. The town should not just look at parking but traffic and how traffic is dealt with. One issue with parking is for those who do not live in the area they do not know where parking is located. A phased working plan to guide the town to relieve parking problems is included in the plan. Key findings in the study were that the town should continue to enforce the existing parking regulations while implementing the recommended course of action. Phase I is something the town could implement immediately and it should have a positive effect on the town. The town should make improvements to the downtown area that will both functionally and aesthetically enhance the streetscape while providing additional parking. The plan first focused on the oceanfront parking but then it was realized that the downtown area and the municipal complex also had a need for additional parking. The town would need to provide safe and efficient routes for all major modes of transportation. This includes vehicular, golf carts, bicycles and pedestrians; people need to know where they need to be in order to get to the town parking areas. DDC went through an intensive data collection process; a helicopter was chartered and they flew the beach the first possible Saturday after they were commissioned and this helped them to determine from the air where people were parking legally and illegally. Previous town reports, town records and town maps were reviewed and they performed a lot of on the ground site recognizance. Every opportunity the town had for parking was evaluated. A base map was then constructed to identify routes and parking areas; DDC also identified problem areas and then from that they assessed the problems and developed solutions.

Ms. Jessica Brown presented the aerial video. The video presentation taken from the helicopter started with 17th and 16th Avenue North; there is an existing

101 parking area between 16th and 17th Avenue North. Many people are parked along
102 the ocean side and there are a lot of empty spaces on the land side of the lot.
103 Many people are parallel parked on 14th North along Ocean Blvd which seems to
104 be a popular thing to do especially on busy weekends. Ms. Brown reported that
105 there are many people who park in the neighborhoods on residential streets rather
106 than parking in a provided metered lot. People would rather walk than pay for
107 parking. Ms. Brown showed some additional street end parking. The Surfside
108 pier area has an existing curb and gutter system that runs from 3rd Avenue South
109 to 3rd Avenue North which prevents people from parking along Ocean Blvd in
110 this area. The River City parking lot is reserved for the River City and Latitudes
111 customers only and DDC feels that there is a lot of potential to use this parking
112 for beach parking as well and that perhaps an agreement could be reached
113 between the town and the owner of this lot. The Surfside pier area and the
114 Yaupon parking lot are very well used which reinforces the idea that it is not the
115 distance from using the existing parking that is the problem. Ms. Brown stated
116 that the same idea applies as one moves further south through the town. People
117 park in the residential areas on the edge of the road. People park along Martin
118 Field area as well. Ms. Brown stated that the video shows that there is existing
119 parking that is not being utilized and people do park on the side of the road. The
120 goal of the parking plan is to suggest improvements to control the parking while
121 enhancing the streetscape and making the parking and transportation issue work
122 more fluidly.

123
124 Ms. Brown stated that as a result of the research DDC has come up with a
125 recommended course of action. Phase I of the plan is to utilize and improve
126 upon existing resources that the town already has. Step one would be to tow or
127 boot illegally parked cars. Step II is to install parking control measures and step
128 3 is to improve and maintain existing metered parking. This would also include
129 simplifying and unifying signage and create additional parking. Towing or
130 booting illegally parked vehicles would decrease people from parking in areas
131 they should not park. The town currently gives out tickets. Booting and towing
132 would send a stronger message to offenders. The second step in Phase I would
133 be to install parking control methods which would include bollards, curb and
134 gutters and street trees. There are many different styles of bollards that could be
135 used throughout town. Bollards would be recommended for the residential
136 streets where illegal parking on the side of the road is a problem. This would
137 guide people towards existing metered parking; if they can't park on the
138 residential streets then they would have to use the metered parking. The curb and
139 gutter currently exists in the pier area of Surfside Beach from 3rd Avenue North
140 to 3rd Avenue South which defers people from parking there. Street trees are
141 encouraged to both enhance the streetscape, provide shade and to control
142 parking. If trees are planted in a proper method people cannot park their cars
143 between them. Mayor Deaton asked if only palmetto trees are recommended.
144 Ms. Brown stated that palmetto trees set the tone for the beach area; it is Ocean
145 Blvd. and it is close to the ocean and palmetto trees grow very well near the
146 ocean. There are other varieties of trees that can be explored but given the
147 current drainage of Ocean Blvd. palmettos do not have a root system that
148 spreads so they would be more easily installed without disturbing the existing
149 infrastructure.

Ms. Brown reported that the plan briefly goes through each of the streets that intersect with Ocean Blvd. from Melody Lane to 17th Avenue North and what the recommendations are at each of those streets whether it be bollards, sidewalks, parking or street trees. The street trees are mainly concentrated on Ocean Blvd. Ms. Brown stated that the next step would be to simplify and unify the signage of the town. The current signs around town include a variety of signs which are not necessarily unified. A recommendation would be to create a signature look for the town. When a visitor comes to town they can easily find parking and points of interest. Positive signage is also a recommendation. The town can limit "no" parking signs by using things like bollards and trees. The last step of the phase is to create additional parking. DDC Engineers did a preliminary plan for the intersection of Surfside Drive and Poplar Drive which is currently being used for construction parking for the fire station. This lot provides a great opportunity to provide an additional 20 parking spaces while also providing a park area for citizens to walk through. It is close proximity to downtown; off-street parking could be a great asset in this area especially if the downtown area is ever revitalized; the parking in this area would become useful during that time. Another main site for Phase I is the Surfside Drive amenity area which includes the library expansion, Passive Park and dog park that are going to be done. Currently there is a lot more space that can be used for parking especially with the closure of 1st Avenue North and the expansion of the library and the addition of the dog park. There is currently a gravel dirt area that can be used for parking. The area where the dog parks will go and at the end of where 1st Avenue will be closed there is opportunity to create a lot of parking off of 1st Avenue. The street will be closed which would make it almost a dead end but it would also become a parking lot area. Phase II would improve vehicular and pedestrian circulation. Phase I included immediate steps and Phase II is building upon that phase; it is to designate and improve major through roads and initiate the sidewalk implementation plan. Ms. Brown stated that the town currently has a sidewalk implementation plan in place and it is something DDC strongly supports.

The first step would be to designate and improve major through roads. One of the major problems they noticed was that a lot of people who come into the town use Melody Lane and Surfside Drive and 5th Avenue North also has a light but 16th Avenue North and 10th Avenue South are also major through roads with some being town owned and some county owned. DDC strongly supports designating and improving these roads by adding signage that instructs drivers that they can get to Ocean Blvd and parking is available. This would deter some of the vehicles from going strictly down Melody and Surfside Drive. It would improve congestion by spreading it out throughout the town. Adding traffic signals along Business 17 where there currently are no lights for these 5 major through roads would inform the public where they can turn. Ms. Brown stated that hardscape and landscape elements could be added. A small entrance feature identifying a major road would also help. The downtown area was also discussed with a conceptual idea. There is room for a 10 to 12 foot sidewalk on either side which would include street trees, angled parking and two lanes of vehicular traffic. Currently people are backing out into the lanes of traffic and there is a wide expanse of unused paved area that could be utilized to enhance,

not only the vehicular traffic but the pedestrian experience. This would encourage people to walk downtown and not just drive through it. Another key part of the plan is a median; there is room for a 6 to 8 foot planted median. Evergreens and green plants could be added. It is also suggested to provide crosswalks for that area to provide a safe pedestrian area. It is suggested to initiate a sidewalk implementation plan and they are very excited that the town currently has one. Sidewalks are not only used by visitors to the beach but also are used by locals to walk their dogs, jog and run; they are even used often in the off-season. Sidewalks would be recommended to be installed throughout the town and especially on the major through roads.

Ms. Brown reported that Phase III gets into the town using underutilized land. There is land that the town currently owns or agreements that the town could make with property owners to enhance the parking situation. Mr. Wooten stated that DDC reviewed 3 separate functions that they feel that the town could pursue in this phase. One would be to institute a 60/40 split option. Another would be to negotiate the use of the River City Café parking lot; this is currently a much underutilized asset. Converting existing land owned by the town for parking could also be considered. A 60/40 split would be to offer a property owner of a currently unused piece of property that they are paying taxes on the option of using their lot for parking and the income received from the installed paid parking would be split with the property owner; the town and owner would split the income. This way the town does not have to purchase property. The pier area is the focal point of the beach and the parking lot at River City is currently only used for restaurant patrons. Through ordinances and through an agreement with the property owner this could be turned into a paid parking area that people can use to either go to the restaurants or to the beach. Many people that are on the beach patronize the restaurants. This would derive a significant amount of income for both the town and the owner. This could be tied to the currently existing parking at the pier. This would also provide a consistent streetscape from the beginning of Surfside Drive all the way to the pier; one is given a sense of arrival. Mr. Wooten explained that with the added signage to direct the public where to park would eliminate congestion and confusion. This should be implemented at the beginning of Surfside Drive along with the other 4 streets previously mentioned. It is important to lead people who are not from the town where to park. Forty additional parking places can be added in this area. Mr. Wooten stated that this was not originally part of their scope of work but signage plays an intricate part in a parking plan. Mayor Deaton asked if it was recommended to have continuity to the two lots by the pier. Mr. Wooten stated that they would recommend continuity and it should not just be for those 2 lots but should come all the way back out through town. There is a golden opportunity for Surfside Drive and it could be done without spending a lot of money. The parking could be tied in with the downtown revitalization plan and it could also be tied in with the pier and it could all work together.

Mr. Wooten stated that the town could also convert some town owned land into parking. One of the areas suggested was Martin Park ball field; an additional 18 spaces could be added. Additional spaces could be added coming up Dogwood Drive as well; it depends on what the town needs. Once illegal parking is

248 eliminated and people are forced into paid parking the town would then be able
249 to determine the amount of additional parking it would need. 3rd Avenue South
250 and Dogwood Drive is another area where another 11 spaces could be added and
251 additional spaces could be added if the town was to continue up 3rd Avenue. The
252 danger would be that there would be people backing into traffic as people come
253 down 3rd there is a curve but it is an opportunity. Mr. Martin had a question
254 regarding the parallel parking by Martin Park and asked of this was suggested
255 due to no room available for angled parking. Mr. Wooten stated that the areas
256 are extremely tight and they did not feel angled parking would work but when it
257 comes down to doing final designs there may be an opportunity to put angled
258 parking there. Mayor Deaton asked about the other side of the street. Mr.
259 Wooten stated that there are currently constrictions on the street including trees;
260 there is probably opportunity for additional spaces but this plan shows the town
261 where they would get the most "bang for the buck". The current suggested plan
262 includes hardly any site work to be done; it would include grading and paving
263 and the other spots would include additional costs like tree removal. The
264 purpose of this plan is for the Town of Surfside to move into the parking plan in
265 a phase by phase basis without expending a tremendous amount of money. The
266 revenues would eventually come in from the added parking and then additional
267 parking with larger costs attached could be done. The goal is to force people
268 into paid parking and use the revenue to build additional parking and then move
269 forward from there.

270
271 Ms. Brown reported that phase IV is a big step to provide public transportation.
272 The town has a great opportunity to develop a shuttle service. The Legends in
273 Concert parking lot is a large lot and their shows are at night and the beach is
274 used during the day; this provides a great opportunity for people to pay to park in
275 an area of the Legends in Concert lot and they could then be shuttled to the pier.
276 3rd Avenue South is almost a direct route to the pier. A circular route could be
277 made and the shuttle could come back up Surfside Drive. This would alleviate
278 the amount of vehicles trying to find parking along Ocean Blvd. This would also
279 eliminate traffic throughout town. Mr. Martin asked if DDC had performed any
280 cost estimates for this shuttle service. Mr. Wooten stated that DDC has
281 experience with this and it would be explained in Executive Session. Ms. Brown
282 reported that Phase V would include the town purchasing property for parking.
283 Specific areas would be suggested in Executive Session. Mr. Wooten explained
284 to those in attendance that the reason suggested properties would be discussed in
285 Executive Session was that if they recommend a land purchase to a municipality
286 and it was discussed in public then those properties would then gain an added
287 importance to the owner and it could include price inflation. Once someone
288 knows a municipality is interested in their property prices could increase.

289
290 Resident Mr. Ray Kawa asked why the town needed additional parking; was it to
291 provide parking for the people in the County or to provide parking for the people
292 of Surfside Beach and added that the County does not provide Surfside any
293 money to maintain the beaches. Mr. Wooten stated that this is to provide parking
294 for everyone who goes to the beach. Mr. Kawa stated that this is a request for the
295 town to spend a lot of money for the County residents to come in and park. Ms.
296 Brown stated that the County people would pay for parking if you lead them to it.

Mr. Wooten stated that currently people from the County are parking illegally; this plan allows the Town of Surfside Beach to come up with a comprehensive plan to have people pay for the parking and through these payments the town can build additional parking areas. At some point in time, once all of the parking areas are put in, this will all be revenue into the town forever. Through this plan the goal is for the town to not be out of pocket. Mayor Deaton stated that there will be a public comments section towards the end of the meeting and instructed Mr. Kawa to give any additional comments then. Ms. Brown reported that the final phase is to build a parking garage. DDC feels that there should be a parking garage constructed in the Surfside Pier area once the town has enough revenue. It could be a parking garage that has retail space on the bottom floor. Ms. Brown stated that there is similar parking on 21st Avenue North at the Breakers Hotel in Myrtle Beach; they have a Starbucks, a pizza place and an ice cream place. It is close to restaurants and in the case of Surfside Beach the parking garage would be close to the pier. It creates an attractive streetscape for people walking in that area. The benefits are that it provides a lot of parking in an area using a limited amount of land and the town gets an active engaging pedestrian streetscape that will also add retail space. The location being recommended is across Ocean Blvd from the pier on the corner of Ocean Blvd. and Surfside Drive. This location was chosen because it is currently used for parking and because Surfside Drive is the main road into Surfside Beach. Many people come down this road and it is close to the beach; people would be encouraged to use this parking deck. This was not placed on the beach side of Ocean Blvd because it would block the beach view and the view of the pier. This would also encourage people to visit the pier.

Mr. Wooten stated that depending on what materials the town uses the range would be approximately \$600 to \$800 a space. A parking garage would cost approximately \$12,000 to \$13,000 a space. Parking garages are very expensive and they normally do not recommend parking garages for municipalities or universities unless the land is worth approximately a million dollars an acre or more and in the case of Surfside Beach when the economy was good those values were there and eventually the town may want to consider a parking garage. It may be 10 to 20 years from now but it may be something to consider. Mr. Samples stated that when that area becomes more valuable he would assume that the residential area would also be at a high market and this is something to consider and agrees that the town needs to decide who they are building the additional parking for. Mr. Samples stated that a parking garage would definitely change the character of this town. The town is currently based on neighborhoods and the people who live here. One of the reasons he moved to Surfside was because it was different than Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach and he, personally, is not interested in moving in their direction. Mr. Johnson asked if Mr. Wooten would be available to come back in 30 to 60 days to give council time to review this plan and at that time be prepared to answer council questions. Mr. Wooten stated that he would also be working with Mr. Booth and if there are any questions in the interim period that council has he would be more than happy to answer them.

d. *Administrators Report*

Mr. Booth reported that he had issued new policy letters regarding town vehicles to make sure the town is covered for future situations.

i. Mr. Booth reported that the town will hold an indoor yard sale January 16th at 9:00 AM at the fire station. There will be some town items for sale.

ii. Mr. Booth reported that the Downtown Redevelopment Committee will hold an Open House January 18th 5:30 PM to present plans for the proposed downtown development. Owners of the businesses and buildings have been invited along with the public. The Committee is looking for comments.

iii. Mr. Booth reported that February 1st there will be a budget rehearsal beginning at 9:00 am and will go until 4:00 pm in council chambers. An agenda will be provided and the public is invited. The council budget retreat will take place February 6th and 7th in Pinopolis. This will be advertised.

6. **BUSINESS**

a. *Decision Paper: Recreation Concession Stand*

The budget was amended at the last meeting to include scoreboards and now the council needs to amend the budget to spend the additional funds from Horry County for a concession stand. The Surfside Rotary has volunteered to build the stand; the town will provide the materials. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the concession stand funds as submitted. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. Mr. Samples asked if specs for the concession stand have been put together. Mr. Booth stated that Earthworks prepared the plans for a cost of \$7,432.00. Mr. Samples asked if the bid document was issued for construction. Mr. Booth stated that the materials have not been purchased yet. Mr. Booth confirmed that the Rotary Club would build the stand and the materials would cost approximately \$21,000. **Ms. Blair, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Martin, Mayor Deaton voted for. Mr. Samples voted against. MOTION CARRIED.**

b. *Decision Paper: Appliances for Fire Station*

Council had requested the town to get energy star rated appliances. The total bid was in the amount of \$3,515.00 from Home Depot. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

c. *Decision Paper: Floral Lake Enhancement project bid approval*

Mr. Booth stated that one of the recommendations from the stormwater committee was to perform enhancements on the lakes. A pilot project was performed on 14th Avenue North and it has been a huge success. The project included the addition of a gazebo and it allows people to go out and fish. Mr. Booth stated that his original estimate for Floral Lake was that it would cost approximately \$40,000 and when it was bid out it came in at \$17,100, way below his anticipated price. There were 3 bids received with 2 not qualifying. Mr. Samples made a motion to adopt staff recommendation. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only – 5 minutes per speaker**

Joe Zoltak, 414 Pine Drive: “I’d like to commend councilman Samples for reminding us all here tonight why we live in Surfside. I think he was very brilliant in pointing out to us that a garage is the beginning of large commercialization of this town. We all love the character of the town. I’m deeply troubled, why the need for all of this revenue? We’ve been doing quite well with the revenue you have. What I distinctly notice in the plan presentation is that nothing was said about putting parking lots in residential districts. Parking lots are only a permitted use in this town in the R-3 districts, immediately adjacent to the beach and all of the commercial districts in town. They are not a permitted use in the R-2 and R-1 districts. Do you, the residents of this town want your neighborhoods to be commercialized with parking lots? Sometime back it was proposed to put a parking lot, and I saw the picture up here tonight, at the corner of Surfside Drive and Poplar and it was pointed out at that time that that was an R-2 district and again, parking lots are not permitted in the R-2 districts. There was quotes at a previous public meeting, well, let’s make it 51 percent park and 49 percent parking lot or whatever we could get away with. I have that quote from an open public meeting, OK? I saw an artists’ conception of that tonight and just roughly looking at that that does not even look like 51 percent park and 49 percent parking lot. It looks more like 60 percent parking lot and 40 percent park. Do you really want to have commercial parking lots in your residential neighborhoods? Thank you.”

Ray Kawa, 655 3rd Avenue N.: “I was talking here earlier and you asked me to hold my comments until now about this parking thing. It troubles me that we seem to be worried about parking for the tourist industry. All of the people that come here to this town that support this town in tourism rent places on the beach. They don’t need another parking place; they have a place underneath their house. To move all of the parking lots, to spend all this money so the people in the County can come here, I think is wrong. It’s a bad way to spend the town money. If you need parking that bad down on the boulevard why don’t you enforce the setbacks and the right of ways on Ocean Blvd.? Have the people who own all that property down there that put there landscape or sidewalk to remove it and take a bulldozer, plow it out and put diagonal parking all the way down Ocean Blvd. That’s where the tourist town is; put the tourist parking down there. Don’t put it up in our neighborhoods. There’s two other things I’d like to mention here. This town has had a couple of problems here in the last few weeks. People in my neighborhood and people in town have been talking about it. The one, the Public Works Director; myself and the people in my neighborhood feel that this man took a town vehicle, had people who were not town employees, had an open container in his car and in one article I read in the paper admitted he done that before. I understand the town is trying to do things to help this man but I feel the man broke the law of the town. If it ain’t a law of any employee of the town, it should be and the guy should be fired. If one of the lower ranking employees did that you’d fire them in a minute and the second thing, Mr. Mayor, is the deal with you. You really embarrassed this town.”

Mayor Deaton: “Please hold your applause. This is not a show. This is a business meeting and I don’t know if you’ve ever been to a board meeting but this is what this is for the Town of Surfside Beach. Thank you.”

Mr. Kawa: “There has been comment in the paper you said it’s a personal deal and it’s not a public mayor issue, but it is. You are our mayor; you represent this town 24/7 and the actions you take in driving down the road in whatever condition you was, it’s against the law. You were speeding. You set a bad example to the people of this town and the young kids that live in this town. All these people see in the news is you did something wrong and it looks like you’re trying to get away with it. The Public Director did something wrong and it looks like he’s going to get away with it. That’s not a good example. This is a town beach; a family beach and family values hold strong here and I’m going to ask you one more time just to remember that you are our mayor. You’re not our mayor when you feel like being our mayor; you’re our mayor 24/7, all the time and you represent this town. Don’t make this an Atlantic Beach.”

Don Craig, 1011 Cedar Drive North: “I speak as a concerned citizen of Surfside Beach. I am concerned about the actions in our public utilities department and action by someone on our town council. My statements are not to judge nor condemn but I am concerned about developments in our town and I hope I am speaking for the citizens of Surfside Beach. First of all I would like to thank the Surfside police for the excellent work in our town. I know they get a lot of criticism but I think they do a great job. They protect our town and they make us feel safe. We have a concern in our Public Works Department, very tragic in our town, bad decision, poor judgment and I sincerely hope that those in charge of making decisions concerning the situation would respond effectively and not allow a friendship or other elements to effect their decision. I’ve worked in Public Works for over 40 years and I can promise you in all of the industries I worked in, if I had been involved in this situation I would not be on suspension I would not have a job. Also there’s another concern in our town. We should never grow lax of our responsibilities to ourselves, to our families and our position in society. First, none of us are above the law. Second, what message are we sending to our town? Third, what message are we sending to our young people? The decisions we make here today, as a council and as a town, will affect our leaders of tomorrow. Don’t allow poor decisions to set the pace about tomorrow. When I was in college at Virginia Tech a tragedy happened at Kent State University. Many of you will remember what happened. Some students were killed by the National Guard that were marching and protesting against the war in Vietnam, which seems like so long ago. What is my point from this? At the end of the day the National Guard was doing their job. Paul Harvey wrote one of the best reviews on this situation I’ve ever heard and what he said was ‘if we choose to participate in any type of war we must be willing to suffer the consequences’. What is he saying? We are each responsible for our actions regardless of what they be and especially if we are in the position to represent a town of people; our responsibility is greater to uphold the high standard of excellence. If we make a bad decision we must accept the punishment whatever that might be. So I urge this council not to take your responsibility lightly or the responsibility of this town because the voters and the taxpayers are watching. Thank you for your time.”

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Samples: “I want to thank everybody for coming out tonight. I don’t think I could say it any better than Mr. Don just said and that’s all I have to say.”

Mr. Martin: “I’m sure many of the people here who are so ready to criticize consider themselves good Christians. I would suggest that they go home and read their Bibles.

The reference you want is John 8-7 'he that is without sin among you let him cast the first stone'. That's all."

Mr. Johnson: "Thank you ladies and gentlemen for coming out. This is your town and I appreciate your attendance here. I would like to make a comment on the parking study. It is just a study. It is a recommendation. We have heard a lot of those options bantered about a lot and I don't mean to say bantered in a derogatory way. We have discussed those situations and we are going to take a look at all of the parking study. Something does need to be done whether it's enforcement of our current laws or additional parking areas and spaces but please trust us; we're going to do the best that we can with the parking study. As for everything else I think enough has been said. I don't think there is anything that I should say at this time. Thank you for coming out."

Ms. Blair: "Thank you all for coming. It's awfully cold out there for all of you to come out and I appreciate that. I'd like to encourage you to come on the 18th if you can. That committee's worked very hard to have some renderings and some information available for you to look at Main Street, and it's the business block, and to see some of our proposals and get your input on that. I believe there is a list of the worthwhile items for the auction on the website so if you would like to access that you can see what will be up for auction on the 16th and the last thing I would like to encourage you to take part in is for this past week I've been a team leader for the Extreme Makeover as a health officer (SIC). It's very rewarding to see some of the people coming together in a volunteer effort and many of you, if you are able, and I don't blame you for not wanting to stand in this freezing cold weather, you can actually see very little at this point, so tomorrow they said (SIC) but there is a canned food drive going on and it is to stock our local pantry with a huge amount of food, actually a record amount of food, drop offs are at all of the Wal-Mart's as well as the Chamber in Myrtle Beach if you're up that way, so, if you can, and we're all out shopping and we all are stocking up on things drop off a few cans at those Wal-Mart's to help out our locals who need all our help at this time. Thank you all for coming. Have a safe drive home."

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

FOIA 30-4-70 (2) Discussion pertaining to purchase property and discussion regarding contractual agreements; FOIA 30-4-70 (1) Discussion regarding personnel matter and appointment of Election Commission member.

Mr. Martin made a motion to move into Executive Session. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

The regular session was reconvened. Mr. Samples made a motion to terminate the Public Works Director. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Martin stated that he agreed with Mr. Booth's decision on this subject. **Mr. Samples, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Blair voted for. Mayor Deaton and Mr. Martin voted against. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Samples made a motion to appoint Marybeth Mabry to the Election Commission. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All present voted for. MOTION CARRIED.**

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540 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

541 Mr. Samples made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All present**
542 **voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.
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544 Approved: January 26, 2010
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546 _____
547 Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk
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552 K. Allen Deaton, Mayor
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554 _____
555 Joseph P. Martin, Town Council
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557 _____
558 Vicki W. Blair, Town Council
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560 _____
561 James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem
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563 _____
564 Douglas F. Samples, Town Council
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566 _____
567 Mark L Johnson, Town Council
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569 _____
570 Robert F. Childs, III, Town Council
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572 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. This meeting was transcribed by Clerk Pinnell . In
573 accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on
574 file in the clerk's office. The agenda was posted on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting
575 notice was also posted on the town marquee.