



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2015 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Samples called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Samples, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, Magliette, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Fox; Public Works Director Adair, and Events & Recreation Supervisor Ellis. Town Administrator Fellner was absent due to illness.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Chaplain Carmen Carella from the Surfside Beach Fire Department gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Samples lead the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL.

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Magliette seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL.

Mr. Childs moved to adopt the March 10, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only. (3-minutes per speaker)

Mr. Ron Ott, 7th Avenue North spoke opposing offshore oil drilling. The difference between drilling off South Carolina's coast and the Gulf Coast is that the South Carolina's coast has the Gulf Stream, which has a constant churning current of about 15 miles an hour. A spill of our coast would take the spill to Portugal. There are many places to find oil before the coast is explored and our beautiful beaches are destroyed.

Mr. Joe Martin, 8th Avenue South spoke to support the adoption of a resolution to oppose offshore drilling. Offshore drilling has worldwide, national and local impacts. For local considerations, he said, the buck stops here. What this council decides can have far reaching influence for other towns, states, and indeed, countries. Due to the oil industry's influence in Washington, DC, and Columbia, he knew this was an uphill battle. It is far better for us to make our position known than to sit back and say there is nothing we can do. According to Energy Wire, an online media service that covers global oil and gas production, in 2013 the US oil and gas industry was responsible for a least 7,662 spills, blowouts, and leaks. That was an average of about 20 spills per day, and 18-percent more than the previous year. The combined volume added up to more than 26 million gallons of oil, gas, hydraulic fracturing fluid and other substances. This was in spite of the fact that there hasn't been an increase in drilling sites. Aside from the potential environmental damage from an offshore oil spill, consider the economic consequences. Surfside Beach has one and only one asset: our beach. We depend on tourism for virtually all the revenue our town gets. One offshore spill could put us OUT (*speaker's emphasis*) of business. If offshore drilling is allowed, it is not a matter of "if" there will be a spill, but "when and how big." Please let the world know that we do not want oil drilling off our coast. Thank you.

56 Ms. Jenn Cribb, 14th Avenue South, spoke in opposition to offshore drilling. South Carolina
57 needs to stop being a doormat. Our town must stand up and oppose any offshore seismic testing,
58 drilling, and any oil or gas exploration. I understand the need for a better local economy. We all want
59 that, but this is not the answer. If we allow seismic testing and drilling exploration here, our ocean,
60 beaches, estuaries, wetlands, marshlands and inlets will be in grave danger. In addition, wildlife and
61 marine life will suffer. So will our local economy. More jobs will be lost than gained. It won't be worth it.
62 Our pristine coast will no longer be the reason for tourism. The Grand Strand will no longer be a
63 destination. Real estate values will take a hit. Every job along the coast will be affected from the fishing
64 industry to all businesses related to hospitality and travel. Big oil is not the solution. We must demand to
65 pave a new path with clean energy growth, encourage environmental awareness and be active in making
66 our state an even better place to live, work, play, and retire. Let's make a difference and focus on
67 protecting and preserving our greatest asset, the coast. We can start now by supporting a resolution to
68 oppose offshore testing and drilling for oil and gas. It is up to us to do the right thing. Thank you for this
69 opportunity to speak.
70

71 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, spoke in opposition to offshore drilling. In 2010 there
72 was an oil spill. A study was done in 2012 on lasting effects by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
73 Administration (NOAA.) Studies showed the spill may have been far more profound than initially thought.
74 As many as 30 deep sea coral colonies several miles from the spill site were damaged or destroyed.
75 Deep water eco-systems were also damaged. The 2011 dolphin birthing season showed many more still-
76 born fetuses; about ten times the normal number. In 2010, scientists found 90 dead dolphins. In 2011,
77 200 dead dolphins were found in the Gulf. At that time, NOAA placed a gag order on the findings as a
78 criminal investigation regarding the oil spill was opened. In her opinion, the gag order was because of the
79 high number of dead dolphins. Environmental Science and Technology stated that 32 dolphins briefly
80 captured from an area nearby the oil spill suffered from liver disease, pneumonia, loss of teeth, and one
81 pregnant female was carrying a dead fetus. The oil spill impacted other sea life resulting in malformed
82 and mutant fish, fish with lesions and oozing sores, shrimp born without eyes, crabs with softer shells and
83 without claws, etc. A subsequent study determined that the cleanup materials and old oil were more toxic
84 than the fresh oil, even after it was broken up and disbursed by the water. Prior to the oil spill,
85 approximately 0.1-percent of Gulf fish has lesions or sores; after the spill, many locations had 20-percent
86 of the fish population with lesions and as high as 50-percent in some areas. She suggested that some of
87 the toxicity found its way into the food chain. *(Time ended.)* She thanked Town Council very much for
88 listening, even though she hated to be the bearer of morbid news.
89

90 Mr. Al Lauer, Harbor Lights Drive, spoke in opposition to offshore drilling and seismic testing. In
91 his opinion, the risks outweigh any benefit the town could get. All it would take would be one storm and
92 the town's economy and the environment would be devastated. In his opinion, we would be better served
93 if private industry and government would intensify their research for an alternative source of energy that
94 would save our coast. Thank you.
95

96 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

97 **A. Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful 2014 Accomplishments, Chairman Nancy Jo Weber.**

98 This item was deferred until the next meeting, because the projection equipment was not available.
99

100 **B. Department Reports.**

101 **i. Finance.** Director King presented the finance report, a copy of which is attached to these
102 minutes and made a part hereof by reference. The corrected General Fund Balance was \$3,236,925.
103 General fund now includes the town's general operating revenue. Underground utilities, stormwater,
104 capital projects, and road improvements were moved to capital projects.
105

106 **ii. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the public works report, a copy of which is attached
107 to these minutes and made a part hereof by reference.
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111 Mr. Magliette asked when the Dogwood Lake weir project would be completed. Several lake area
112 residents were concerned that there was a general lack of communication by the town about the project,
113 and the 2-foot water level reduction. Mr. Adair said the water was dropped about 2-feet to allow the
114 contractor to work on the weir. The construction was completed; boards were put into place, and the
115 water will rise about 12- to 13-inches higher. The goal is to keep the lake level about 10- to 12-inches
116 below the previous level. Mr. Adair said he received several emails about the project to which he replied.
117 He will be sure to inform lakeside residents about future projects and routine maintenance.
118

119 Mayor Samples said the new weir would prevent loss of property on the north side of the lake.
120 Mr. Adair said the weir project was done to prevent water from encroaching onto private property that had
121 wetland areas. Mayor Samples asked if any paving would be done during May 2015 Bike Events. Mr.
122 Adair said no paving was scheduled during Bike Events.
123

124 Mr. Stevens asked if the swale area where water collects in the large dog park would be
125 corrected. Mr. Adair said work is planned to grade the large dog park and replant grass during this
126 spring, probably within the month. The large dog park will be closed for a couple of weeks during
127 construction.
128

129 **iii. Special Events and Recreation.** Supervisor Ellis presented the departmental report, a copy
130 of which is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof by reference. BBQ teams are already
131 being asked to be included in next year's event. She updated the report to state that 497 Taste of
132 Surfside Beach Passports had been sold to date. The movie screen provider recommends using Martin
133 Field for Movies after Dark. Yaupon Drive is too windy. Mr. Childs asked if Ms. Ellis could track
134 attendance at the movies this year, because some of them rent for as much as \$765 per night. Council
135 may need to reconsider the event, depending on attendance. Several councilmembers voiced
136 agreement. Ms. Ellis said a different rental company would be used this year that offers newer movies.
137 Mr. Johnson said Yaupon parking lot has wind coming directly from the ocean through the pier parking
138 lot, but Yaupon offers more visibility. In his opinion, it was a double edged sword. He asked if the town
139 paid for movies that were cancelled due to wind. Ms. Ellis said the screen rental would not be paid, but
140 the movie rental had to be paid. But, the movie would be available to show at a later date. Mr. Childs
141 suggested using Martin Field this year. **COUNCIL CONCURRED to use Martin Field and to track**
142 **attendance.**
143

144 Ms. Ellis asked Town Council for permission for Horry County to conduct summer camp from
145 when school ends until the first week of August at the Floral Lake Clubhouse as was done in previous
146 years. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.**
147

148 Ms. Ellis reported that she and Mr. Lanford from the Waccamaw Market Association met
149 regarding the location of the Farmers Market. After reviewing the passive park, the two of them
150 recommend that the market remain at Harrison Park. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.**
151

152 Mr. Magliette asked how much, if any, profit was made from the BBQ Festival. Ms. Ellis said the
153 net profit would be around \$2,000, which would be split between the American Red Cross and South
154 Strand Helping Hand. Mr. Magliette thanked Ms. Ellis and all staff for their hard work and dedication.
155 The effort was very commendable; this is a great town. Mayor Samples asked Ms. Ellis to advise Town
156 Council when the final calculations were done.
157

158 **C. Administrator's Report.** There was no report, because Ms. Fellner was absent.
159

160 **7. BUSINESS**

161
162 **A. Second Reading Ordinance #15-0795 to add §6-7 to Establish Fees for Emergency**
163 **Services to Nonresidents by the Surfside Beach Fire Department, Fire Chief Fox.** Chief Fox
164 presented the decision paper and ordinance, a copy of which is on file. New information included
165 accident statistics for the past five years that were generated by Horry County Fire Rescue computer
166 assisted dispatch system for all calls to which Surfside Beach Fire Department responded.

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Mr. Childs moved to “vote on second reading of Ordinance #15-0795 as presented.” Mr. Mayor asked if the motion was “vote to approve.” Mr. Childs said, “Vote to approve.” Ms. Mabry seconded.

Mr. Magliette said after careful evaluation, he determined that the town would have potential revenue of about \$30,000 a year from insurance reimbursements, which is a significant amount. It was also significant that people would not come into town, because of the service fee. The reality was that tens of thousands of people travel through town annually, and yet, only an average of about five traffic accidents occurred per month. The risk is excessively low. He thought it was fair to forgive the fee whenever the insurance did not reimburse costs, so the individual had no out-of-pocket expenses. Mr. Magliette said based on the data and his evaluation, he thought the town should try the plan for a year to see if it was successful.

Mr. Stevens had a problem that the statistics report from Horry County did not state “Town of Surfside Beach.” The ‘Surfside Beach 29575’ area is very large, but the town itself is small. He was not convinced the statistics were for the town and said it did not meet his qualifications for information. Chief Fox reiterated that this report was generated based on calls to which the Surfside Beach Fire Department actually responded.

Mayor Samples asked if InnovaPad was a for-profit company. Mayor Samples asked how InnovaPad would be prevented from pursuing individuals when the insurance company did not pay. Chief Fox said it was the company’s policy to be ‘non-predatory.’ InnovaPad only seeks reimbursements from insurance companies; not individuals. Mayor Samples said he received a letter from Dr. David Powers that expressed some concerns about the program; i.e. people videotaping the incident to document what was done. Mayor Samples said he did not support charging people who were already in presumably a bad situation. He could not imagine charging a family that suffered a fatality. He did not think this was good press for the town. He understood the revenue; but it was Town Council’s obligation to provide emergency services and have the best fire department, which is rated an ISO 1.

Mr. Pellegrino supported the InnovaPad program and thought it would help maintain the town’s equipment. He questioned whether he could vote yes, because business owners have told him that residents in Caropines will shop elsewhere if the ordinance was adopted. Unfortunately, the program was totally misrepresented in the media. These are charges to insurance companies; other fire departments from the upstate explained their success, and the contract sets the standards for recovery. As much as he believes the program would benefit the town, he would not support the ordinance, because the possibilities of hurting local businesses was not worth the risk. The town has “squandered an opportunity.”

Ms. Mabry asked if there were any consequences when an insurance company chose not to pay. Chief Fox said not according to information conveyed to him by InnovaPad. Ms. Mabry asked why, then, would any insurance company pay. Chief Fox said according to InnovaPad, some insurance policies have emergency service reimbursement clauses in their customer’s policies. Ms. Mabry said she would not support the ordinance, because tourists paid for the fire station through accommodations and hospitality taxes. They paid for it and are entitled to those services.

Mr. Johnson said he was an insurance agent, and he could speak for days on this matter. He spoke with representatives from two of the major nationwide companies. Neither of the representatives had ever heard of this concept. They wanted to know if InnovaPad contracted with the insurance companies. The 44 fire department districts contracting with InnovaPad were either in the upstate or west of Columbia, and all have interstate highways through their districts. Surfside Beach is a resort town and he thought the town would be representing itself negatively, if this ordinance was adopted. Mr. Johnson said unfortunately, two representatives from InnovaPad spoke at the hearing. One said the company was a “start-up,” and the other representative said they “had been around for 20-years.” That immediately told him that he did not want to be involved with this company either personally or as a councilmember. Mr. Johnson said he would not support the motion.

223 Mr. Stevens said InnovaPad is basically a commission driven business. Having worked on
224 commission, he knew you were paid based on sales. Their job was to collect from the “big bad insurance
225 company.” He did not feel comfortable trying to collect off of accident victims. At first he thought this was
226 a great idea, but the more he thought about it, the more it seemed that it would negatively affect the
227 tourism business. Mr. Stevens did not want to be the first tourist town to adopt this; let someone else be
228 first. It can be revisited when more information was available. Mr. Stevens would not support the ordinance.
229

230 Mr. Magliette was very happy that Town Council held this discussion; many good ideas and
231 information were shared. The process was 100-percent transparent. Mr. Magliette agreed with Mr.
232 Pellegrino that it was tragic the town missed this opportunity because of misinformation. He did not want
233 to do anything that would damage the buy local campaign to promote town businesses, or damage the
234 town’s image. As wonderful as the extra \$30,000 revenue would be, Mr. Magliette said based on the
235 discussion, he would not support the ordinance even though he personally did not believe it would affect
236 the tourists visiting the town. There was no drama, so congratulations to everybody! (*Laughter*)
237

238 Mr. Childs said regardless of the vote, he knew that Chief Fox had the best interest of the fire
239 department and the town in mind. He thanked him for his hard work on the ordinance. Chief Fox said the
240 intent was not to make money, but to maintain and replace equipment used during the course of
241 operations. Many agencies he spoke with set the revenue aside to purchase new hydraulic equipment
242 and replace hazardous material spill cleanup equipment.
243

244 There were no votes in favor. All voted against second reading. **MOTION to adopt second
245 reading FAILED.**
246

247 **B. First Reading Ordinance #15-0798 to repeal §9-16(b) Golf Cart Registration Required,
248 and to add §9-16(b) Golf Carts without Town Issued Decals, Councilmember Mabry.** Ms. Mabry
249 presented the decision paper and ordinance, a copy of which is on file. She explained that this was
250 discussed at length during the last meeting, including that the police department would continue taking
251 golf cart registration on a voluntary basis, but registrations would no longer be mandatory.
252

253 Mayor Samples said he spoke with Chief Keziah earlier today. This is to repeal the additional
254 registration at the police department by golf cart owners, who now will only have to get the regular parking
255 decal. Under state law, golf carts must be insured. When the ordinance was adopted, Town Council was
256 told it was a loss prevention measure. Instead, it has turned out to take about 3-months of man hours to
257 perform registration, and did not really help recover stolen golf carts.
258

259 Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #15-0798 as presented. Ms. Mabry
260 seconded.
261

262 Mr. Magliette believed it was always good to reduce bureaucracy and to eliminate people waiting
263 in line to obtain stickers along with saving each owner \$2! It’s a win-win for everyone. Hooray Surfside
264 Beach! (*Speaker’s emphasis.*)
265

266 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
267

268 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

269 **A. Parking Committee Recommendations, Councilmember Childs & Committee Chairman
270 Kohlmann.** Mr. Childs presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. Mr. Kohlmann and the
271 parking committee worked very hard to determine safe parking spaces along Ocean Boulevard. For now,
272 signage would be required to delineate the parking spaces, but signage would eventually give way to
273 landscaping.
274

275 Mr. Stevens thought the recommendations were good and would provide delineated spaces for
276 citizens with parking decals. This was a good step in the right direction.
277
278

279 Ms. Mabry asked if Mr. Adair could comment on the parking committee recommendations,
280 because he was the professional. Mr. Adair appreciated the comment and showed the 2.5-inches thick
281 Uniform Traffic Control Device manual that was used nationwide. He said the committee report was very
282 good insofar as delineating parking spaces. A data sheet was distributed to councilmembers that showed
283 the locations, number of spaces and signage that would be required. There were four single spaces and
284 a several two space areas that he would recommend omitting because the signage would be cluttered. A
285 discussion followed about specific addresses during which Mr. Adair explained that these parking spaces
286 would be measured at 18-feet instead of 24-feet used at the parking meters. The end result would be
287 losing between six and ten spots of the 85 spaces; 39 poles and 99 signs would be added to the west
288 side of Ocean Boulevard. Currently, there are 31 poles with 31 signs.
289

290 Mr. Childs supported Mr. Adair's recommendations. Ms. Mabry, Mr. Pellegrino and others also
291 agreed. Mayor Samples asked if this matter would be brought back for action. Mr. Childs believed the
292 intent was to give direction tonight. Mr. Magliette asked if Chairman Kohlmann could address the council,
293 because the committee spent as many as 20 hours delineating the parking spots.
294

295 Chairman Kohlmann said the poles and signs were temporary; and the majority of blocks would
296 only have two signs. He personally preferred no parking to be allowed on Ocean Boulevard. The
297 problem was taking parking away from residents that lived inland, but needed to drive down to the beach.
298 Once landscaping replaces the parking signs, the boulevard would be beautiful. In his opinion, the
299 occasional pole to delineate parking was much better than having up to a hundred cars parked on Ocean
300 Boulevard. The committee supports eliminating parking where there was only one space on the block.
301

302 Mr. Magliette asked if the parking committee would make recommendations for plantings on Ocean
303 Boulevard; whether priority areas would be designated, and if a budget would be requested for the new
304 fiscal year. Chairman Kohlmann said that would be left up to Mr. Adair. Mr. Childs said Clemson University
305 and Ms. Fellner have recommendations for landscaping Ocean Boulevard that can be discussed when Ms.
306 Fellner returns. Chairman Kohlmann recommended planting the five or six blocks with multiple poles first.
307 He suggested that the beautification committee be consulted for plant recommendations.
308

309 Mr. Childs said referring to his earlier comment that he learned that action cannot be taken on
310 discussion items. Mr. Adair needs to prepare a final plan for consideration by Town Council. Mayor
311 Samples added "for a decision paper under business."
312

313 **B. Offshore Drilling, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino.**

314

315 Mr. Pellegrino summarized the decision paper, which is on file and said that he and Mayor Samples
316 met with the Coastal Conservation League about the prospect of oil drilling off the coast. Governor Haley
317 asked to be included in the federal energy study that is done every five years. This could lead to
318 exploration and/or development of oil drilling off the coast in the future. Governor Haley is looking at it from
319 the point that it can open up a new industry for South Carolina and create more jobs in the future. However,
320 there are risks associated with this decision considering our tourist based economy. In summary, the US
321 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has a public hearing open until March 30. The Coastal
322 Conservation League would like Town Council to sign a resolution declaring its opposition to seismic testing
323 and offshore drilling along South Carolina's Coast. The cities of Beaufort, Charleston, and Folly Beach
324 have already submitted resolutions. Myrtle Beach has addressed the resolution, but has not yet made a
325 decision. Mr. Pellegrino sought Town Council's desire whether to move forward with the resolution to
326 oppose seismic testing and offshore drilling.
327

328 Mayor Samples said data presented at that meeting showed there was enough energy offshore to
329 furnish energy for six days. Later in the meeting, he believes he heard that the data was collected in the
330 1970's. If for no other reason than knowing what is available off the coast, in his opinion, he did not feel it
331 would benefit the town to take a position at this time.
332

333 Ms. Mabry went to a seminar about oil drilling last year. Those who hear the presentations would
334 have strong opinions against, and others would have equally strong opinions in favor. The fact is, she did

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335 not have enough information. Her heart says one thing, but her mind might say something else. She
336 doubted very seriously whether testing would find significant resources to begin oil drilling. It is a very
337 expensive endeavor to mine oil in the Atlantic Ocean. At this time, Ms. Mabry wanted to gather more
338 information and see what could be done. She believed there would be years to plan this, and it would not
339 happen tomorrow. She hoped that in the event oil drilling occurs, the town has good language in
340 whatever contracts signed or codes adopted to protect itself.

341
342 Mr. Childs agreed with Ms. Mabry and said the public can make comments until the end of this
343 month. He spoke with a great many members of the Legislative Delegation. Every member he spoke to
344 supports the study. Only one member had a negative comment, which was "he had some concerns."
345 Estimates are 26 trillion feet of natural gas are off South Carolina's coast. Natural gas may be sought
346 instead of oil. Mr. Childs said people choose sides based on which argument they heard. He knew there
347 was a lot of opposition tonight, but he has two pages of support for the study. He agreed with Mayor
348 Samples and Ms. Mabry. More study should be done so Town Council could make an informed decision.
349

350 Mr. Pellegrino agreed that this probably would not happen for years to come. In his opinion, the
351 town's livelihood, and all along South Carolina's coast, is tourism. He supported the resolution 100-
352 percent, but honestly, in the end, the US Government would make the decision on this. The best tool the
353 town could use was the resolution. Mr. Pellegrino thought the town should adopt the resolution. The
354 town's position would be on record, if testing found sufficient resources to develop offshore drilling 10 to
355 20 years in the future. If a catastrophic event occurred, it would stifle the town's economy for years.
356 Safeguards will probably improve in the future, but as seen in the past, anything could happen. Mr.
357 Pellegrino reiterated that he supported the resolution to oppose seismic testing and offshore drilling.
358

359 Mr. Johnson had not yet made a decision. He agreed that it was too early to adopt a resolution.
360 He felt the same about offshore windmills. Town Council needs more study on all these issues. He
361 wanted more information.
362

363 Mr. Magliette agreed with Mr. Pellegrino in supporting the resolution, although initially he did not.
364 His opinion was changed because he received over 30 emails and phone calls from citizens. Over 90-
365 percent of those messages were opposed to seismic testing and offshore drilling, because of the potential
366 harm to marine life and the coastal beaches. Mr. Magliette believed he needed to support what the
367 majority of his constituents wanted, and that was to support the resolution. He was elected to do what the
368 people wanted him to do. Mr. Magliette read in part from an email message he received, which sums up
369 his opinion, too:
370

371 Hello, Ralph. Thanks for the opportunity to give my opinion on offshore drilling. There
372 are probably a lot of things to consider about this question. First of all, does this country
373 need more oil fields at this time, and do we have enough oil producing wells and outside
374 sources of oil that could be put off opening new fields at this time? What about my
375 children and grandchildren? What about future generations and their needs? There're,
376 hopefully, a lot of future generations and they need the oil we have offshore. Secondly,
377 why don't we push more for solar and wind producing power? We should also consider
378 the impact that this would have on our tourists industry. Aren't there other offshore areas
379 where oil has had such accidents and there have been tremendous implications?
380 Wouldn't that kind of impact have on us [sic], if it happened here? I don't think we should
381 be in a hurry to open up our offshore oil drilling here in Surfside Beach. Thank you.
382

383 Mayor Samples said rest assured, there would be nothing fast about this process. If history was
384 any guide, the government will take longer than they were suggesting; the courts would be involved, and
385 this matter will drag on. In his opinion, it would be a disservice to the town to take a position at this time.
386

387 Only two members expressed a desire to move forward. Mayor Samples said there will be no
388 action on the item.
389
390

391 **C. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed by Town Council.**
392

393 Mr. Stevens reminded everyone that the Taste of Surfside Beach was going on this week until
394 Saturday, March 28th. Around 100 businesses were participating offering discounts to passport holders.
395 On Saturday the grand finale will be held at Neal and Pam's on Ocean Boulevard. There are raffle prizes
396 totaling over \$3,800, including vacations, restaurant certificates, and two 3-day tickets to the upcoming
397 Country Music Festival. Passports were still available at town hall. He encouraged everyone to shop and
398 buy local to support the town. Mayor Samples thanked Mr. Stevens for his hard work on this event.
399 *(Applause.)*
400

401 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)
402

403 Mr. Ron Ott, 7th Avenue North, looked forward to the Taste of Surfside Beach becoming an
404 annual event. Mr. Stevens did a great job promoting the event, and it is a success. He almost felt guilty
405 because he made his \$10 [passport cost] back a couple of times. His daughter also used her passport;
406 he didn't think his son would use his. Insofar as data collecting for the oil companies, of course they are
407 going to claim they found the "mother-load!" (*Speaker's emphasis.*) Natural gas is \$2 per million cubic
408 feet. Do we need more? No. The cost will be a buck. The reason they were asking people along the
409 coast if they supported offshore drilling was so when the companies went to the US Congress, they
410 needed to have a punch, because they would be slapped back down. The companies needed to be able
411 to say the coastal communities did not have a problem with studies and the "mother-load" was out there.
412 They don't care what they find; they will just say they did. It will be hard for them to mine the east coast.
413 Thank you very much, again, for the Taste of Surfside Beach.
414

415 Ms. Patti Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, did not think there would be much more than a few
416 dollars in offshore drilling. Three miles off shore happens to belong to South Carolina. Any further than
417 that probably belongs to the Federal Government, who would do whatever they wish whether or not the
418 town gives permission, while any damages that occur will impact the town greatly and any profits would
419 go into the pockets of national or multi-national corporations. In her opinion, the jobs would probably be
420 part time, because most full time jobs were becoming extinct. They may not even be permanent part time
421 jobs, because most jobs are contract from month to month, and they let you go whenever they want. So,
422 we need to think carefully on this whole situation. Thank you.
423

424 Ms. Ann Wescott, North Cedar Drive, realized her comments would not be popular, and they
425 would not make any difference. She understood why surveillance cameras on street corners sound like a
426 really good idea. She said, "I got it!" (*Speaker's emphasis.*) She was angry beyond words that the
427 Federal Government is spying on everyone. Without a warrant, it was a flagrant violation of our Bill of
428 Rights. Now, Myrtle Beach wants to put spy cameras on all the corners. The local people want to do this
429 to us, as well. A man who was a whole lot smarter than her once said, "People who give up their freedom
430 for security won't have either."
431

432 Ms. Mimi McKee, owner of Southside Grill, explained that once again, she was seeking help to
433 resolve the parking situation at Southside Plaza. She explained the steps she had taken to resolve the
434 problem. The town's zoning office told her she could not appeal to the zoning board, because there were
435 no grounds for appeal. She was told zoning for parking only applied to new construction. Valentino's, a
436 neighboring restaurant, currently has occupancy of 133. Per the zoning department, the restaurant has
437 eight parking spots. There is signage directing customers to the rear of the restaurant and to the Golden
438 Egg lot. Eight cars were parked in the rear at four o'clock; those same eight cars were the only ones
439 there at eight o'clock. She was trying to get photographic evidence of the parking situation in Surfside
440 Plaza. But, she received a letter from her landlord threatening legal action, if she took any photographs
441 without his written permission. The box truck with Valentino's advertising has not been moved since
442 October 2013. Her business had been in Surfside Plaza since May 1999. Unfortunately under the
443 current Town Code, Valentino's can expand without providing any additional parking. Her business would
444 suffer as a result of that expansion. She humbly sought Town Council's assistance to correct the code
445 that allows such an expansion without requiring any additional parking. Ms. McKee said a restaurant that

446 seats 130 people and has only eight parking spots should not be allowed to expand unless additional
447 parking is required.

448
449 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

450
451 Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for attending. He no comments, but he and the council
452 appreciated all of the public's comments and their attendance.

453
454 Mr. Pellegrino thanked Mr. Stevens, Mr. Truett, and the business committee members for
455 the Taste of Surfside Beach event. He already made his \$10 passport cost back, plus. It is a great
456 event and it was amazing that so many passports were sold. It was nice to see the energy in the
457 restaurants. He went to Surfside Pizza Friday night. Every single seat was filled. The customers
458 and employees were excited. Great job; it will build on itself year-after-year. For all the headlines
459 that told people to stay out of Surfside Beach, because the town would charge them for accidents,
460 Mr. Pellegrino asked the media to write new headlines saying it was voted down, and welcoming
461 them back! (*Speaker's emphasis. Laughter.*) He said use the same vigor and intensity that you
462 used with the previous headline. Thank you.

463
464 Mr. Magliette thanked everyone for attending and participating in local government. The only way
465 government works is with participation of its citizens. He thanked everyone for sharing their ideas and
466 views. He reiterated Mr. Pellegrino's thanks to the business committee, Mr. Truett and Mr. Stevens and
467 all the others who supported the Taste of Surfside Beach. It is a wonderful event, and he hoped
468 everyone attended. Tax time is almost over, but if you need help preparing a simple tax return, free
469 assistance is available at the Surfside Beach Library. Times are Monday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.;
470 Tuesday 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. On Wednesday, March 25th at
471 10:00 a.m. Senior Bingo will be held at the library. It's a really good event; prizes are books. God bless
472 you all and thank you again for attending.

473
474 Ms. Mabry thanked everyone for attending. She wanted everyone to know that when Town
475 Council said it was going to think about something, it did not mean that they were not going to take
476 action. It meant that the councilmembers were going to study more. The fact that the town has a
477 council willing to consider both sides was a really good thing. A lot more would be heard from both
478 sides about offshore oil drilling. Personally, based on what she had read, Ms. Mabry did not think
479 offshore oil drilling would come to South Carolina. If it does, she hoped and prayed that the town
480 had enough information and good language in any contract that would protect the town. That was
481 her number one concern. Thank you again for attending, and we will see you in two weeks.

482
483 Mr. Stevens thanked all the town businesses that participated in the Taste of Surfside
484 Beach, and all the citizens who bought passes to support the Red Cross. He had a personal tour of
485 the Red Cross facility and realized he had no idea of all the things the Red Cross does. It is a great
486 organization that does a lot to help the community. The Red Cross housed all the people who lost
487 their homes during the Carolina Forest fire. A step was taken to help town businesses; the small
488 business man is the backbone of the economy. Mr. Stevens said he was listening to every small
489 business man, including Ms. McKee who spoke earlier. He wanted to find a solution to every
490 business problem. He encouraged everyone to shop in Surfside Beach this week, and enjoy all the
491 fantastic businesses located here. There are many, many great people in town. Thank you. Have
492 a good night.

493
494 Mr. Childs thanked the business committee for the Taste of Surfside. He bought a couple
495 of passports, and he already washed half of his fleet at 50-percent off at the Surfside Shine Car
496 Wash. It was the best deal in town! (*Speaker's emphasis.*) He also wanted to thank Chairman
497 Kohlmann and the parking committee members for all the time put into the packet of parking
498 information. He believed the plan would resolve many of the issues. Once it was completed with
499 landscaping, there would be fewer signs and less confusion.

500

501 Mayor Samples appreciated everyone attending the meeting. There were a number of
502 issues that he thought were handled as well as seven different thinking people could handle.
503 Regarding Southside Grill, those shopping centers were built a long time ago, and they could not be
504 built in the same manner today. He had not checked the latest zoning ordinance on parking, but
505 not too long ago, there was a situation at Crystal Lite Café at 8th Avenue South; there are standards
506 in terms of parking. It seemed to Mayor Samples that the landlord was the problem. He did not
507 want to get into a discussion, but he recognized that because he had done commercial property
508 management in the past. Unless the landlord would step up, he did not know how to resolve the
509 private property dispute. He was sympathetic, because the town wants the businesses. He would
510 speak with Ms. McKee after the meeting. Mayor Samples thanked everyone again for attending.
511

512 **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

513
514 **A. Pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment,
515 compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee (Town Clerk
516 review.)**

517
518 **B. Pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements.**

519
520 Mr. Johnson moved to enter executive session at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Stevens seconded. All voted in
521 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 8:52 p.m. Ms. Mabry
522 seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
523

524 Mayor Samples said that no action was taken during executive session.
525

526 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

527
528 Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Mr. Magliette seconded. All voted in
529 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
530

531 Prepared and submitted by,

532
533
534 _____
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

535 Approved: April 14, 2015

536
537 _____
Douglas F. Samples, Mayor

538
539 _____
David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

540
541 _____
Robert F. Childs, Town Council

542
543 _____
Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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545 _____
Mary Beth Mabry, Town Council

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547 _____
Ralph J. Magliette, Town Council

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549 _____
Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

550 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded.
551 Contact the town clerk for appointments to hear recordings. Bring a flash drive to obtain a free copy. In
552 accordance with FOIA §30-4-80, meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and
553 subscribers on the town's Email Updates list. The agenda was posted on the town website, the entry door
554 at Town Council Chambers, and in the Town Hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the
Town marquee.