



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION FEBRUARY 28, 2017 ♦ 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 28, 2017 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 28, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to hear legal advice from the town attorney involving attorney-client privilege. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Mr. Ott moved to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 6:22 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Childs said for the record that no action was taken during executive session. Any motions and/or directions to the town administrator will be made during the regular meeting that begins at 6:30 p.m. as noted on the agenda under Business Item 7.C. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Town Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning Building & Zoning Director Morris; Interim Police Chief Hofmann; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Pastor Okey Landers from Pine Drive Gospel Church gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Courtney moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to omit Business Item 7.B. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Regular Meeting February 14, 2017. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the February 14, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Ms. Holly Watson, North Oak Drive: I like facts. One fact on the finance department report is that sanitation has lost \$149,700 in lost revenue and salaries and operating expenses over last year. Mrs. King's report says it's directly related to storm cleanup. Councilman Courtney has been asking for months now much it cost us to clean up after Matthew and still don't have a number on that. At least I haven't heard one. So I sent email to all of you all up there along with Micki Fellner, our town administrator, and asked to apply to the USDA for FEMA reimbursement; not FEMA reimbursement, but for another grant. She wrote me back and said that the window of opportunity had passed. It was January 6. My question to you is did we apply for FEMA reimbursement for our \$250,000 in loss on this storm, and if we did, when are we going to get the money? If we didn't apply, why not? We should know what to do in case of a storm to defray our costs. I thank our town administrator for applying for a grant from RIA. That with the entity that I brought to you last September. We did get a grant for \$500,000. So maybe this would be a great time to do a design build and save 6-percent on that bridge that were talking about on Ocean Boulevard. The pier enterprise fund change in net position is wrong on

55 finance report. The income from rental and leases shows \$132,000 under budget. It should be \$67,000
56 under budget, since we did receive monies and a net change of \$572 instead of minus \$64,947. So this
57 is an additional \$64,000 that's wrong on the financial statements. The last thing I want to ask is when
58 are we going to receive our insurance and bond money for the \$49,000 or so that was embezzled. So
59 grants, embezzlement reimbursement, FEMA reimbursement, however you want to look at it; just some
60 items I'd like to ask about. Thank you.

61
62 Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North: This is pertaining to the item about raising the rate to file
63 for running for town council. (**) Mr. Courtney said point of order, Mr. Dodge, that item was removed
64 from the agenda. Mr. Dodge: It should be struck. Mr. Courtney said I did at the beginning of the
65 agenda during the agenda approval.

66 67 6. COMMUNICATIONS

68
69 **A. Waccamaw Market Cooperative, Samantha Tipton.** Ms. Tipton presented the annual
70 report for the Surfside Beach Farmers Market 2016, a copy of which is on file.

71
72 Mr. Ott said everybody makes money on this, and it's a really good venue. I enjoy going there
73 all the time. He asked staff how the event impacts our balance sheet. Is it positive or negative? Does it
74 cost us money? Ms. Ellis said it cost us money. Ms. Tipton said the town partners with the Cooperative
75 and paid \$7,500 this past year. Each venue pays an amount that goes to the Coop providing this
76 network of farmers markets. Each one doing that individually wouldn't have the same reach that all
77 seven of them do combined. The combined funds contribute to the reach that we have in marketing,
78 recruiting their vendors, signage, or other actions to bring customers to the market. Mr. Ott said looking
79 at our pie charts that Surfside Beach is where you make most of your money. Ms. Tipton said next to
80 Conway. Mr. Ott asked if all the locations have a loss, and we take money from our tax payers to have
81 that event. Ms. Tipton said it was investment that they make to have the local farmers there.

82
83 Ms. Samples said thank you so much for coming and taking the time to share the report with us.
84 The feedback we get from our residents and our neighbors is that they love the farmers market. It's
85 been a success, and I hope it will continue to be a success. So we do appreciate you taking the time.
86 Ms. Tipton said we get great feedback as well, and we appreciate it.

87
88 Mayor Childs said I agree with Ms. Samples. That's quite a venue. I think each week more and
89 more people attend. That's really a lot of people walking through there. I think it's great.

90
91 Mr. Courtney asked if it was correct that we are losing \$7,500 a year. The question is, is it worth
92 it? Do the residents want this, because we're losing money on this? I read the report, but are we failing
93 in marketing? Ms. Fellner said the Cooperative does the marketing for us. That's part of the partnership
94 that we have with them. Mr. Courtney asked if the marketing was weak. Ms. Fellner said there's a huge
95 attendance at the farmers market. I don't think it's weak at all. Mr. Courtney said I just question the
96 loss. I hope that we'd be making money off the farmers market or at least break even (**.)

97
98 Mr. Pellegrino said we invest \$7,500. We honestly don't know if it's a loss or gain, because the
99 market brings 30,000 people into town. That's a lot of people, especially when large numbers come from
100 out of town, and that's on a Tuesday, which during the shoulder seasons isn't one of our busier days.
101 There's a lot of possible customers for businesses. So, it is an investment; there definitely is an upside to
102 the market.

103
104 Mr. Johnson said I agree. I don't see it as a loss. I see it as an investment simply because it
105 does bring people in to town. I really do appreciate the efforts the Coop puts into the market. It has
106 grown and grown and grown every year. We had to move it once. We may have to move again. You
107 just don't know. I totally support a farmers market in Surfside Beach.

Mr. Courtney said again, I do thank you for being here. I am asking these questions, but I do represent the taxpayers. I understand that it brings in tourism, and brings in residents from other communities. I just want to make sure that staff is keeping an eye on this. Are we the only municipality that has loss? Ms. Tipton said there are seven locations that we partner with and all but one of those makes a contribution each year. The city that does not contribute doesn't have any marketing or other effort put towards that event. If you get your handout on page four, you can see the sponsorships. The City of Conway pays \$26,000 for its farmers market. Georgetown and Little River each pay \$5,000; Market Common pays \$4,400, and North Myrtle Beach not only pays \$7,500, North Myrtle Beach also built a building for the market. Mr. Courtney said essentially the town is paying for marketing. Ms. Tipton said for marketing and recruitment to get the vendors to the market, and the cooperative's staff, so the town of Surfside doesn't have the burden of doing any of that. Instead, it partners with us and we take that on. Mr. Courtney, alright. Thank you so much.

Mr. Stevens said I understand Mr. Ott's and Mr. Courtney's concerns. I also understand Mr. Pellegrino's point that we're bringing in people to Surfside. Hopefully, these people will shop at our stores all up and down the area and on Highway 17. They'll go down and buy lunch or dinner at the pier restaurant, or Bubba's or River City. There is a lot of benefit to it. The tourists love it. A lot of tourist say they come here because of that farmers market. They like to come here and walk from the beach and go to the farmers market to get something. They're going to spend money here. It's good for the town. It also helps our family image.

Mayor Childs said I really think the town looks at the farmers market as a great investment. I think our residents would be very upset if it was cancelled. I enjoy it; it's one the greater venues we have in town.

Mr. Ott said I do like the farmers market. I just didn't understand how we could not make any money or just break even, but if you're saying it's marketing and things like that, maybe someday our investment will be a good investment. I don't want to make money. But we should break even and not use taxpayers' money. I look forward to having it here every week, and having fresh fruits, vegetables, pies and cakes. Thank you very much for bringing the market here.

B. Department Reports.

i. Events. Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

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

Mr. Stevens asked how much Hurricane Matthew cost the town. That question was asked by a citizen, and we haven't heard that answer. Ms. King said she did not have that information with her. Mr. Stevens asked if that information could be provided at the next Council meeting. Ms. King said the first check from FEMA came in a few days ago. There's a second check that's due to come in, but I'm not booking that money until we actually get it from the government. That's why it's not booked in these financial statements. We did not get it until February. Mr. Stevens said next month report the total cost, what you are expecting, and what we have received. He believed that is the information that councilmembers and the public would like to know. Ms. King said in fairness, Mr. Adair is the one who's worked with FEMA to get our money back. She will work with him to get the information.

Mr. Courtney said to inform the public that he did get the spreadsheet in a department email. I appreciate that. Thank you very much. I also had asked Ms. Fellner to break that down further, as far as overtime. I don't know if they were emailed to all of you, if not, that was my error. Mayor Childs suggested that Mr. Courtney share that information with Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Ott referred to the money for the beach renourishment, and said it was confusing because money went out, and then money came but money, and is now going out. It's hard to follow exactly

where the money is; how much money do we have and who holds the money that's not in this town? How much money do we have for beach renourishment for the next year? Ms. King explained that we paid out \$672,000 of our money and \$672,000 of the state's money. In May we will have to make another payment for ourselves and for the state for the entire beach renourishment project, \$692,000. Then we will get half of that back from the state. Right now what we've expended is \$672,000 of our money, but we've expended money for the state. Mr. Ott said we had state money in there, too. Ms. King said no, we advanced it for the state and then they paid us back. Now, we have to do that again so they can start the project. Mr. Ott said we're not sure that we even have a deal with anybody, yet, but it's the whole Grand Strand that's involved in this. But we don't have a deal with anybody that's going to actually do the work as of yet. Ms. Fellner said the US Army Corp of Engineers had not put the bid back out again. Ms. King said Corps of Engineers has the money is my understanding.

iii. Fire. Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Ms. Samples asked Chief Otte to elaborate on the carrying and dispensing of medications. Chief Otte said this will be for emergency medical technicians (EMT). Right now 100-percent of our career staff is EMT certified. We also have part-timers and volunteers who also have their state licenses as EMT. The state has a list of approved medicines that an EMT can administer to patients. Ms. Samples asked if there was an outcome from the meeting with Horry county fire chief regarding automatic aid. Chief Otte said I spoke with the chief. We've actually had a couple meetings; some emails back and forth, and he has forwarded the information we talked about and what seems to be the agreement to the county administrator who will be in touch with our town administrator. Ms. Samples said I appreciate that so much. My last question is do we still have the antique fire truck, and to whom does it belong. Chief Otte said we do. My understanding is that it was given to us on loan. It belongs to American LaFrance. It was loaned to us because they were shutting down their building in Charleston, and had no place to put it. Rather than sticking it some old barn some place, they asked if we would like to have it to put on display and it was accepted. Ms. Samples said we are providing storage. Chief Otte said yes, but it is a good centerpiece for our station and draws in a lot of people.

Mr. Courtney asked if the department did its own fit testing for SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus). Chief Otte said we do; we have the machine and do our own testing. It is sent out and recertified every years. Mr. Courtney asked if the grant was awarded for the radios. Chief Otte said a letter was received notifying us that we were turned down for the radio grant. Mr. Courtney asked why there was resistance for basic EMTs. Chief Otte said there's no resistance. We just have to have a state license. I have to sign the state pharmacy license, and a site inspection has to be done, and also get approval from our medical director. Mr. Courtney said he saw on the town employment website an advertisement for career firefighter. Chief Otte said, yes, for an engineer position. Mr. Courtney asked why we didn't seek a Safer Grant. Chief Otte said at this point with Safer Grant, if we get the grant it will pay 100-percent the first year and then that drops off every year. After five years the employee is either laid off or the town picks up the entire cost. Mr. Courtney said I don't know why we wouldn't apply for the grant if we are advertising for career firefighter. Chief Otte said the position is already a career position in the department; it's a vacancy.

Mayor Childs said by the way, I love that firetruck. I'm a lover of antique cars; I have a garage full of them. Chief Otte said we try to dust it off, and give rides when we can.

iv. Planning, Building & Zoning. Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mayor Childs asked who was responsible for tearing down a condemned building. Ms. Morris said there is a process in place by the state that we have to go by. We have to send a letter to the owner telling them that the building is unsafe for human occupancy. They have the right to appeal our decision. It is generally 20 days. After the 20 days, we post the property, and the owner is responsible for taking it down. If the building is not razed, the town can take them to court and have them take it down.

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Ms. Samples asked if permits are required to have a yard sale. Ms. Morris said no. Ms. Samples asked if there were rules and regulations that surround having yard sales; not limited to how many you can have, or what you can sell. Ms. Morris said we have nothing in place in our department. There may be something in business licensing, but I don't think so.

Mr. Johnson said along those lines, can a business in the Town of Surfside Beach have a yard sale. Ms. Morris said they have to get an open display permit that cost \$25. Mr. Johnson said thank you for this comprehensive report. It's always spot on.

Mr. Ott said going down 17 Business where we go into Garden City, there's a beach store there, Tsunami, and they have a sign outside that has Tiki figures on it along with other decorations. Could that be built in town? Ms. Morris said, yes, that would be allowed in town. Even with the new ordinance that were proposing that would be allowed. Mr. Ott said very good. Yes, I always look forward to seeing your report. I believe everybody likes your report.

Mayor Childs said your pictures are worth a thousand words. The bigger picture, the better it is.

Mr. Courtney said Ms. Morris, thank you very much for being here. I appreciate you; your report is fantastic. Just following up some residential complaints. As you are aware, I received an email. I'm sure you got it, too, in regards to 14th Avenue South. Ms. Morris said we responded to that, and we did copy you. We notified them. As you're well aware that this is a violation of the stormwater ordinance right off of 14th Avenue South. The next step would be issuing a summons for court and the judge would have to tell them to remove it, which is our next step. That'll be done within the next week. Mr. Courtney said thank you so much. We have a lot of abandoned buildings in our business district on Highway 17. I just think that this town needs to move forward and do something about this problem, because what we have is a lot of businesses going out of business. We have abandoned buildings and it's not really looking great. So, just if there is anything that the planning and zoning could bring back to council, it would be fantastic, because all I see is 'for rent' signs hanging in store windows at this time. Ms. Morris said because of the comments that you have already made and council's comments during the visioning workshop, the next section of the zoning ordinance that the planning commission will consider is the design overlay.

v. Police. Mayor Childs welcomed the new interim police chief, Mr. Kenny Hofmann. Chief Hofmann said before starting the report, I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to serve as the interim police chief during this time after Chief Keziah has departed. I want to assure Town Council and the community that I will run the department to the highest standards. I look forward to working with you. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. Chief Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mayor Childs said that was a good seminar you had last night on drugs. I learned a lot, and I'm sure that everybody there did. There was an excellent turnout. Chief Hofmann said thank you. We were very impressed. We didn't know what the turnout would be, but about 100 people attended. A lot of good information was distributed and I think it was a success. Thank you.

Ms. Samples said welcome to the podium, and thank you for your willingness to step up to take on the interim chief position. I hope we don't beat you up too bad, but if we do, I think you can handle it. Welcome and thank you, again. Chief Hofmann said yes ma'am, and thank you.

Mr. Stevens said I again want to thank Chief Hofmann for the excellent moderation of the drug symposium on heroin and opiates. It was very informative. I learned a lot, also learned that the people who sell these drugs don't use them. I found out that that average drug user is a white male, 28 to 40 years old that uses heroin. I will say that looking at the map that Surfside was one of the least affected areas for heroin use. The bulk of the heroine use was north of Surfside past the State Park. I just want

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to say it was great that you held that symposium. I wish that more people had gone to it. It was very educational. Citizens need to be always be aware that we have that [problem]. Unfortunately, Horry County is one of the highest heroin use locations in the state. That's bad, but Surfside is not. Thank you very much for what you did.

Mr. Ott said Chief Hofmann, thank you very much for your service. This whole town appreciates what you and your officers are doing.

Mr. Courtney said welcome aboard. We're glad to have you. Thank you so much, Chief Hofmann. It's (**) until you make council aware of the police officer that got hurt on a car stop. I sure hope he gets recognized for that. There was an officer that was hit in the face while doing a car stop. May I talk about this, Chief Hofmann? Chief Hofmann indicated yes. Mr. Courtney said I just think that the town should really know what our police department does when you're in bed. Pulling over cars and they are approaching people. They don't know whether they have records; don't have licenses; are driving unregistered vehicles, so this is important that we should know what police are doing. They are out there working hard. It turned into a foot chase and I believe we caught the subject. Chief Hofmann said he was apprehended. Mr. Courtney continued saying unfortunately we had a police officer hurt in this incident. So, please, send our regards to him. I appreciate you being on board. Thank you very much. I'm just looking over your report. As far as traffic goes, I'd like to see the number of traffic accidents drop this summer, and not to go back up into the 60s as they did in the past. I guess we're doing traffic enforcement. But when you have a manpower issue, I'm sure traffic enforcement becomes a problem. Chief Hofmann said we will continue to monitor that as we go into the season. Mr. Courtney said thank you very much for being on board, and thank you and your staff and personnel. We really do appreciate them.

Ms. Samples asked Chief Hoffman if it was a female officer who was hurt. Chief Hofmann said no, it was a male officer. A female officer was present during the incident.

Mayor Childs said Chief, I will tell you and tell everybody here that you came highly recommended. You've done a great job up to now; there's no reason to believe that you won't continue doing the same work. Thank you for taking the position. We appreciate you and what your officers do, very much.

Mr. Stevens said I keep promoting this; you are having another police citizens academy that all citizens can attend pretty soon. Chief Hofmann said yes, we are looking at putting one together. Were actually planning to freshen up the course a little bit, so when we roll out the next class, there will be some new activities. We are putting that together while we monitor what's going on with planning for the upcoming bike events. We need to make sure those ducks are in a row before we do.

Mayor Childs asked if the driving course was part of the academy. Chief Hofmann said driving is part of the academy. We afford the attendees the opportunity to actually operate on of the police cars. Mayor Childs said we have a lot of positive feedback from that one.

Mr. Courtney asked that the academy be held during the shoulder season, because I understand that we have a lack of personnel that are available to do things in the summer. Chief Hofmann said yes, are we generally try to run one in the fall and in the early spring before it gets too busy. Mr. Courtney said thank you.

Chief Hofmann said I just want to assure Mr. Mayor and Council that the director change and transition in the department went well and was very smooth; I will maintain that. Thank you, again, for the opportunity.

vi. Public Works. Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Ott said on Ocean Boulevard we have pedestrian crosswalks. A lot of the lines are faded, but most important, we're missing signs that say 'state law yield to pedestrians.' This allows people to get across the street without being run over and also these are traffic calming places. I'd like to see the signs at all crosswalks, especially on Surfside Drive. There's nothing there. Just people dodging cars and trucks. Mr. Adair said when we initially installed those signs we installed about seven northbound and seven southbound; not at every single crosswalks. We are always on guard for sign clutter. This is a visual reminder, like when you came into town at Melody Lane. After we spoke about this the other day, I looked and we are missing a couple from the initial installation. If the desire is to put them on every single crosswalk that would be something I would have to be directed to do. Mr. Ott said yes, it does tell the cars to yield, and that's a big thing on Ocean Boulevard, especially for the people who come here. One other thing, have you set down plans to replace our Christmas tree. Mr. Adair said Ms. Ellis actually went with my ground supervisor this past week and they selected an Evergreen Red Cedar, 14 foot, which will be installed in front of town hall; it will be installed very quickly, and we'll give it a lot of love and care.

Mayor Childs said regarding the signs, I remember they came up before council. You're right. They thought it was too much sign clutter by having them spaced like that. I understand that possibly painting the crosswalks is a great idea, but all you'd see when you looked down there would be signs; signs, signs. Mr. Adair said communities handle it differently. If you go to Myrtle Beach and Kings Highway they have the crosswalks signs with a person walking at every crosswalks. Those are 6 to 7 feet off the ground. The sign the town has is a lower profile option; it's the state law sign. There are various ways to attack it. To stripe the crosswalks themselves is one measure that not everybody does. A recommendation was made about five years ago to actually stripe every crosswalk or at least one at every intersection going up and down Ocean Boulevard and we used thermoplastic paint. We felt that striping plus the sporadic state law signs were sufficient. But, we can do multiple types of pedestrian notices, if it's a problem.

Mr. Ott said these are safety devices and traffic calming devices. No parking signs could be considered more clutter. These are actually a necessity to safeguard our tourist. Mr. Adair said we just put signage on all three crosswalks in the business district on Surfside Drive last month at the recommendation of the police department, because they felt there were a lot of near misses of pedestrians.

Ms. Samples asked what the schedule for filling in some potholes and repaving was. Mr. Adair said we have a paving bid out right now for approximately 15 streets in town. A lot of them are state roads. This is a result of the CTC (County Transportation Committee) grants we were awarded last year. The bid will be opened in the next couple of days. Then we will meet with the winning bidder. We used to piggyback off the county's paving contract, but the county has moved away from annual contracts. So, we can't piggyback off of it anymore. Now we do own bid process, which is required for CTC funding. The paving will be done sometime in the next month or so, as soon as the contractor is selected and ready to go. I don't know what particular street you're referring to, but some of the worst streets are on the list. Ms. Samples said great. That was going to be my next question. You do have your list of priorities for what streets will be paved first, correct? Mr. Adair said absolutely, but if you want to see the bid package, it's on our website. You can pull the streets from the package, or I can email them to you all. Ms. Samples said that's great, and asked if I am correct in hearing that March 11th not only is our barbecue festival, but that it is opening day for the Sports Association at Huckabee? Mr. Adair said yes, they started practices this week. Ms. Samples said the Pelicans baseball team plans to attend and it sounds as if there will be full day of festivities. Mr. Adair said I believe so. We've been very aggressively preparing the fields. This week the parking lot was restriped. Some of the cracks were filled in the parking lot. The electrician replaced some lightbulbs at Martin field. Ms. Samples said thank you, I really appreciate your efforts over there.

Mr. Pellegrino asked for total amount applied for FEMA reimbursement from the storm cleanup.

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Mr. Adair said there are five different categories. Three were submitted, but two remain to be submitted. That is why it is very difficult to say the total amount. Mr. Pellegrino asked what has been submitted. Mr. Adair said emergency protective measures, which is Category B, which is all the actions taken and equipment used to prepare before the storm arrives, including barricades, police overtime, meals, and also includes everything that happened during the storm to protect life and limb; imminent threats. A check was received for that submission for about \$70,000, representing a 75-percent reimbursement. Debris removal, which is Category A, has had two different worksheets. One worksheet represents day 1 through 30, which is 85-percent reimbursement. The other workshop represents day 31 to 90, which is an 80-percent reimbursement based on the alternative measures that we selected. So both of those have been submitted, and I was told today by South Carolina Emergency Management Division that those checks are just about ready to be mailed back to us. For days 1 through 30, the amount is about \$275,000. Days 31 to 90 is about \$60,000. Between three checks, the total is about \$400,000. That money is credited to various departments. Ms. King was given the breakdown of expenses, so she knows where the revenue should be credited. Mr. Pellegrino said I appreciate that information. We've also received approval for a \$500,000 Rural Infrastructure Authority grant for Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Adair said yes, that's correct. We sent back the grant agreement just today agreeing to the grant terms. Once we write a contract, RIA will approve the contract, and then disperse money. The paperwork is in the process right now. Mr. Pellegrino said I just want to thank you and the staff who helped you, because I know we have a lot of citizens that talk about grants. We're really good at applying for grants when we can. I appreciate Ms. Watson mentioning the RIA grant a while ago. I don't know if that's what spurred the application on, but we got \$500,000. I do appreciate the public input, because it helps us. This staff is really good at getting grant money. If you have ideas for grants, like Ms. Watson did, certainly bring it up. If you have questions about grants, please ask the administrator. I knew Mr. Adair would know the answer to that question, because he's all over those numbers. Mr. Adair said three worksheets have been submitted to FEMA. There are two workshops for permanent work, which is Category G. One is a standalone for the pier and the other is for other permanent restoration work, such as the rebuilding walkovers, garbage can holders on the beach, etc. That work is still ongoing. We have a 1.5 years to submit those expenses for reimbursement. We're in the homestretch. That'll be about another \$100,000 that we get back. Mr. Pellegrino said thank you for all the work you're doing with that, because obviously a storm cost a lot of money. If we can recoup the majority of the cost, that is a huge benefit. Thank you.

Mr. Courtney said thank you Mr. Adair. I got a few complaints about the end caps at 13th Avenue South with the signage and Mr. Ott had talked to you about the signage. A lot of the signage is old. I know some of the child locator signs were donated by the Coastal Realty Association, is that correct. Mr. Adair said the lost children signs were originally provided by Surfside Realty, but that was years ago. The town replaced those signs and change the wording slightly. The animals and the colors were left the same, but in the last three years, we've replaced just about every one of those lost children signs. If there is one out there that's faded or still the old style that I don't know about, I'd appreciate you letting me know. I'm pretty sure we have them all replaced now. Mr. Courtney said regarding the signage on Ocean Boulevard when you talk about aesthetics and I see throughout town there are 4 x 4 wood post versus metal posts for signs. Can you tell me what you use and how you determine what you use where? Mr. Adair said mostly we use metal sign posts. On the beach we tend to use wood, because of all the sand and flooding. Wood is easier to put back up quickly. The location and exposure are considered when the choice is made. The Waccamaw Council of Governments suggested a few years back for our land development regulations that we use all metal post and wanted to codify that. I told them I wanted to have the option to do one or the other. For regulatory signs, like stop signs, metal is better. Mr. Courtney said aesthetically it looks better with the wood down on Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Adair said at the beach area. Mr. Courtney said on Ocean Boulevard we have those no parking signs that are all metal. Mr. Adair said you have to weigh everything to determine what would last longer. Mr. Courtney asked if state crossover signs were given to us by the state. Mr. Adair said we purchase them. Mr. Courtney said I noticed on Surfside Drive you did put one in the center of the median. Nobody is yielding to pedestrians. I don't know what the solution is. My last question for you is about potholes. Is there a number to call for the public to make reports about potholes? Mr. Adair said please call

843.913.6360, the regular public works number, or send an email message to jadair@surfsidebeach.org.
Appropriate action will be taken. Mr. Courtney said great, thank you so much. I appreciate it.

C. Administrator's Report. Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Ms. Fellner welcomed Interim Chief Kenny Hofmann who was sworn in February 17th. Lieutenant Hofmann has been with the Surfside Beach Police Department since 2007, and has acted in the capacity of lieutenant for over three years. He graduated from University of Georgia with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 1996, and has been law enforcement for over 19 years. He has worked in uniform patrol, special operations, drugs, vice, robbery, and homicide, while representing the Surfside Beach Police Department. He was promoted to corporal in 2010; transferred to investigations in 2012, and promoted to operations lieutenant in May 2013. As the lieutenant he has overseen uniform patrol operations, beach patrol, beach services, special events and community policing. Additionally, he supervised the training program to include field training officers, annual training, firearms training, vehicle training, and advanced training. In addition, he is a basic instructor, firearms instructor, driving instructor, patrol rifle instructor, Taser instructor, and specific skills instructor, and completed the FBI-LEEDA Leadership Trilogy in 2017.

(Note: Mr. Stevens requested that his comments during this particular discussion be transcribed verbatim.)

Mr. Stevens said: "I noticed that you have right now, according to the town website, a request for qualifications for information technology, asphalt, road resurfacing, request for qualification for engineering services, 3rd Avenue South swash bulkhead, town merchandise bid, and a FEMA grant program. I think we already have a bid result on that. My question is real simple. I sent you an email with questions about this, and you said you back an email. You basically were telling me about non-budgeted expenditures \$10,000 and over and budgeted expenditures \$10,000, and of course informal bids \$2,500 to less than \$10,000. So, council can do their fiduciary duty, we have an infrastructure committee. I'd like to pass these down to the members of the council. I don't understand why our infrastructure committee, being that the infrastructure covers things like engineering contract, stormwater, asset management, management, government, land use, and so on, why the infrastructure committee is not involved in the bidding process. I think it would be beneficial to have and since we have three members, the Mayor and the Councilmen Ott and Courtney, to be involved in the bidding process. That way we can get first-hand information on the bidding process (**) with the town. The town citizens would like to see this, and we'd have more transparency. We need more involvement with the council. I think this is definitely an opportunity for us to step in as a council and do our fiduciary duty for the taxpayers. If anybody has any questions about it, that's fine. I'll give you a good example. A few years back, we changed the bid, the price; the amount of money that we spent before we got bids. We went from \$5,000 to \$10,000. I keep getting these people telling me they're going to the check register. I found this thing on the check register in December, Clemson University Foundation, which is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c) organization that promotes the welfare and the future development of Clemson University. They seek financial support through annual gifts, capital campaigns, planned giving, and so on. On December 9, 2016 we wrote check number 72167 to the Clemson University Foundation for \$9,999. One dollar less than \$10,000. I wonder why we're, why we did that. There's no explanation of why we gave money to Clemson University, and I like Clemson University. I'm glad they won the national championship. But I don't understand that. I don't understand why." Ms. Fellner said that council was informed.

Mr. Stevens said: "Well, I don't remember us being informed that we were spending money with the foundation. Well, could you tell us when we were informed?" Ms. Fellner said long before the check was ever written. Mr. Stevens said, "It was, it was, when was it, could you bring it back, and let us know?" (**two speaking at once.) Ms. Fellner said I don't have a date right here. If you had possibly called me ahead of time, I could have that information for you here this evening. Mr. Stevens said, "My question also is why we don't have the councilmembers that are on the infrastructure committee, since

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they are in that particular lane of way, work, why they're not involved in the bidding process?" Ms. Fellner said because they are legislators.

Mr. Stevens said, "Well, I'll remind you that I'm on the finance committee." Ms. Fellner said that committee is made up of, and it is not really a committee, they are focus groups of subcommittees. They're basically staff, plus maybe three, usually three councilmembers. That could be political and it's not legislative. So I'm not clear why. Mr. Stevens said, "Well, the reason I ask you that is because I compare this to the finance committee, which I'm on. Every time we had anything to do with insurance for the people we were all brought in and we met with the insurance people and we discussed it. And we picked a particular insurance company based on the information that was given to us from the insurance company." Ms. Fellner said I totally agree with you. That's because there's no way to bring that to the public any other way. So we bring it to the finance committee, and then it's reported in a council meeting. They give us a rate in November. We have absolutely no control over that rate. We have no control over what the percentage raises. We shop it, we do all that necessary stuff, but we have no other way to clear that, if you will. A bidding process is controlled by the state. They have the procurement process clearly laid out, and we have our own. We follow it to a T. If it's a non-budgeted expenditure, council makes a decision. It's brought back to council and they make the decision. If it's a budgeted expenditure, council has already made the decision during the budgeting process.

Mr. Pellegrino said now that you say that I didn't realize what this was for. But I know that not this past budget meeting, but the previous budget meeting when we had the previous council vision workshop at Brookgreen Gardens, we talked about this, which would been on this budget. I'm pretty sure that we said we were going to put aside \$10,000 for landscaping on Ocean Boulevard. I'm pretty sure that's where that's from. You can correct me, but I remember talking about. I'm pretty sure that's where that came from, and that's probably why none of the new councilmembers know about this.

Ms. Samples said right after that Ms. Fellner did bring it before council for final approval before she did go out.

Mayor Childs said council did agree to that. Mr. Pellegrino is right.

Mr. Ott said I remember distinctly that we said no to that. We said no, we were not going to send that money for Clemson to come here, and tell us what kind of bushes we could put in. We said no. That is a definite thing; we said no. I don't know what happened with the visioning in Brookgreen Gardens, but we just recently said \$10,000 to have somebody come in here and tell me what pansy to put in is too much money. I'm a steward of the tax payers' money, and I didn't like that, if that's what that was used for. Please tell me that's not what that was used for. As for looking at budgets, I mean the bids, we represent the people of this town. Let me go through it again; the people of this town live here and we own this town. If we wanted to sit in as the infrastructure and hear what the bidding process is, we should be allowed. I was elected by the people. You were hired, and that's why we're going to do it that way. Yes, we should see these things. If there is just like \$9999.99; oh, it's a dollar. That doesn't look good, but I'll tell you right now, I sat in that meeting, too. It was at a workshop that we said no. It's a lot of money for what bush to put on Ocean Boulevard. Ms. Fellner said if it was a workshop, then there should be minutes for that which I will have the clerk look for.

Mr. Courtney said thank you, Ms. Fellner, for being here. I want to thank you for that spreadsheet. I really appreciate you getting that to me as I asked for a breakdown of the overtime. Going back to the bid process with the people, I'll be very simple, I think they have a valid point. If council should be there watching the bidding process, if it's legal, I don't see why councilmembers shouldn't be there overseeing it. It seems to be a big problem in the town. People have a problem with the bidding process. They want to know about where their monies are going. I don't see that it is wrong for Mr. Stevens to ask for the infrastructure committee to be present on bids. So if you could look into that it would be greatly appreciated.

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Ms. Fellner said I'm not clear what we're talking about. I'm not clear, if are you are wanting to participate in the process, because we write the bids or an engineer writes the bids if they are technical in nature. They're put up on the website; they're advertised. They're put up on SCBO (South Carolina Business Opportunities). Then we receive bids back and they're opened. Everyone is invited, including the public, to the opening of any bid. So, if that's what you're talking about, well, everyone is invited to bid openings. Mr. Courtney said that's what I'm talking about. Ms. Fellner said everyone is invited to all of our bid openings, which are public. It says so in the bid offerings. Mr. Courtney said maybe that is what we need to do, make it public. Make it known that when a bid is open, would that be too much to ask? Ms. Fellner said the invitation is on every single bid. It says the date it's going to be opened, and it says what time the opening is going to happen. Mr. Courtney asked if the location was on the bid. Ms. Fellner said openings are always in town hall. Mr. Courtney said I appreciate the grant that you got; fantastic job. I love grants. I like to see when the town gets them. There are a lot more out there. We really need to start looking for grants. We need the money. Good job on getting that \$500,000. I went to town website and see that we're doing a lot of hiring. I saw a lot of jobs posted today. A finance assistance, which you clarified for me, and public works had two openings. The building department had one opening that was on there today. The code enforcement officer is still posted on the website. Ms. Fellner said no. Mr. Courtney asked if that that was an oversight. Ms. Feller asked Ms. Morris to remove that listing; it was an oversight. Mr. Courtney said the last thing is the firefighters. I see that we have a move in ranks, and so with a move in ranks, if you're moving up the ladder, are we replacing the firefighters that we have? The question I asked, I see there's the employment of an Engineer Class II Firefighter. Ms. Fellner said that was right, because the person who was in that engineer spot has moved up. Mr. Courtney said to a training position, would that be correct? Ms. Fellner said they're a Battalion Captain. Mr. Courtney asked who replaces the firefighter. Ms. Fellner said the fire chief could explain how this is done. He develops a list; it's a whole process. Mr. Courtney said I'm not here to beat you up. I'm just asking questions, I just want to get an understanding of the process. Ms. Fellner said that was fine. This is an interesting process, and probably a lot of the public doesn't know. Mr. Courtney said thank you, Chief, for being here.

Chief Otte said the process is basically a three or four step process. We start out with receiving applications. We take applications online and by mail. The applications are reviewed and checked for qualifications that the job requires. From those applications we determine which applicants will be invited to take the test. Anybody who has qualifications will be invited to take test. We also do give timeframes for people who don't have all qualifications. If they are hired, they will be given six months to 12 months, depending on which certifications they need. After the written test is performed, we'll have them do a driving test where they actually drive the apparatus through a series of mazes and cones, including forward and backward. After that, the applicants will have an oral interview. Mr. Courtney asked how many career firefighters we have now. Chief Otte said we have a total of six career employees, but right now we've got one vacancy. Mr. Courtney asked why you haven't reached out for the Safer Grant as Myrtle Beach did. Chief Otte said I have to look at the Safer grant to determine if the town's going to be able to incur those costs. Mr. Courtney said I understand. I read the grant and it is a two-year grant. It used to be four year grant. Myrtle Beach hired 10 firefighters using the grant. We had hired five up in the northeast, so I'm very familiar with the grant. I understand at the end that we will be picking up the cost, but within that two year period these grant will pay for training uniforms from socks down to underwear, boots, and as I said, it buys them belts and everything. Chief Otte said that's correct, they will do that. Mr. Courtney said my question is should we be seeking firefighters through this grant, assuming that we will keep them for long term to replace firefighters that will be retiring in the near future. I know some of our guys have some time in this firehouse, correct. Chief Otte said I don't really have anybody who's making any plans to leave anytime soon this point, but of course that that can change by the day. Right now, I don't think that there is anybody really planning to go for at least five to six years. Mr. Courtney said show me what the advantage of a hiring and seeking a firefighter without doing that grant. Chief Otte said basically, we put them back on payroll where a position is open right now. We have six positions of career personnel. Mr. Courtney said we had six within the department. Chief Otte explained the full time positions and how promotions affect staff. A captain resigned last year. One of our engineers was promoted into the captain's position. Promotions require a six month

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595 probation to make sure that the employee is suitable for the job. Now that the six-month probation is
596 up, we know the employee can perform the captain's position. Now we have an opening in an engineer's
597 position that we've been filling with part-time staff. We need to fill that full time position. Mr. Courtney
598 said so you're tell me you're going to fill it from a part-time position to a full time position? Chief Otte
599 said he had a couple of applications from members within our department, right now. We've also got
600 some from outside of the department, as well. Mr. Courtney said okay, you understand my concerns; my
601 worry as time goes on we'll have career firefighters that will be retiring. I hate to see us not take
602 advantage of this Safer grant before it expires. I don't know where you stand with that. So that's my
603 question to you. Chief Otte said my only concern with the Safer grant is that after the first year the town
604 has start picking up those cost. Mr. Courtney said it was two years. Chief Otte asked if it is 100-percent
605 in two years, because I thought it changed to where the first year was 100-percent, and the second year
606 was 75-percent, and then it went down to 50-percent after that. By putting three additional people on
607 staff, our initial cost would be about \$250,000 to \$300,000. Will we be able to incur those costs in two
608 years or will we wind up laying those people off? Mr. Courtney said I understand that. I just want you to
609 look into it. Chief Otte said absolutely, I will look into it. But again, I was looking out at the overall cost
610 to the town. Mr. Courtney said thank you.

611
612 Mr. Stevens said this this came off the website today (referring to a page.) It says Engineer
613 Firefighter II, which that is a non-starting position; that's a person who's already has experience, right?
614 Chief Otte said in the Town of Surfside Beach we have Firefighter II Engineer and Battalion Captain.
615 Those are the two career positions. Mr. Stevens said I see there are some other public works labor,
616 sanitation division, ground division. There was about seven or eight positions; everything from light
617 equipment operator to part-time finance. I think you already hired a part-time finance assistance? Ms.
618 Fellner said I hired an accountant. Mr. Stevens said okay. I got it and looked at it and then it changed
619 during the daytime, but it had executive assistant to the director. I'm not sure what it was. Ms. Fellner
620 said no, nothing was posted like that on the web. Mr. Stevens said my question is not so much these
621 jobs, but my question is we keep talking about we are in a financial crunch. The town is. We have
622 beach renourishment; we have this, and we also have the possibility of losing revenue, if the State
623 Senate and House changes the business license fees. I'm just wondering what our plans are, if that
624 happens. I put [services first, like] public safety, fire, police, and of course everybody wants their
625 garbage picked up. We don't let garbage cans not be picked up. Those three things are very important
626 to the town, and to the citizens. I want to make sure that if something happens up in Columbia that
627 were not sitting here holding the bag, and then we gotta go raising taxes the maximum amount. The
628 citizens want better government, and they been asking for it. They've been coming up here to the
629 podium and have been asking to get better bidding. That's the reason I brought up the infrastructure
630 committee. They want better financing on everything. They want to see their money well spent. These
631 are important things, and I guarantee that a lot of people out here agree with what I'm saying. They
632 want to see us get the best bang for our buck for the tax payers' dollars. We have to be fiscally
633 responsible. We have to you do our fiduciary duty, and that's reason why we have three people that are
634 on our infrastructure committee. That's why we did not think that they should be involved in this and
635 getting things so we can know and we as a council can know exactly what everything is bidding; who's
636 bidding on it, what engineer. I noticed that your bid for the engineer was for five years. I think that's a
637 mighty long time to get hung up with one person. Ms. Fellner said it was not for professional services.
638 The bid, if you read the bid, it does not preclude us from using another engineer at any time. Mr.
639 Stevens said I just want to make sure that were doing our best to watch the tax payers' dollars; cutting
640 expenses everywhere we can. That's really why I want to see these guys involved in it.

641
642 Mr. Johnson thought the town administrator made it perfectly clear that anyone could attend the
643 bid opening process, including all members of the infrastructure committee, and the general public.
644

645 Ms. Samples asked Mayor Childs to explain council subcommittees; why they exist, and who
646 could call a subcommittee meeting. How do the subcommittees work? I'm new to council, and I'm
647 curious. Mayor Childs said usually they're involved in anything that has to do with the topic; like the ...
648

649 Mr. Johnson called *point of order*, and said this should be under council discussion. It is not part
650 of the administrator's report. Ms. Samples said that's fine. We can bring town council discussion, but I
651 brought it up because it was to Mr. Stevens point. He is the one that brought it up in his comments.
652

653 Mr. Courtney asked to clarify things up on the employment website, how many jobs are posted
654 now. Ms. Fellner said I don't know. I'd have to look at it. Mr. Courtney said he was looking at it and we
655 have employment ads for the street department; an executive assistant to the director; a code officer; a
656 CDL driver; a finance manager, and for Engineer Firefighter Class II. Ms. Fellner said I, obviously, will
657 check after this meeting, because people who are assigned to those pages are obviously are not taking
658 down old positions, if all of those positions are there. We do not have an opening right now in finance. I
659 believe I discussed that with council earlier this evening. We have two positions in public works. We
660 have an engineer position in fire, and I believe that's all that should be on the website. Mr. Courtney
661 asked about the posting for executive assistant to the director. Ms. Fellner said that must be a very old
662 post. I don't know where that came from. Mr. Courtney said I pulled them up this morning and I have a
663 photo would like to see. Ms. Fellner said I would like to see it. Mr. Courtney said I'd like to ask council if
664 at this time as we're not sure where we stand financially, if we need a hiring freeze at this time. Ms.
665 Fellner said what Mr. Adair was trying to explain earlier is that these positions were open because people
666 left. He's been riding these slots since October 1 on one and December 1 on the other. What happens is
667 you can do that during this time a year, but if he doesn't hire sometime relatively soon, it's the whole
668 hiring process and making an offer and then if they agree to accept the offer of employment, then by the
669 time they come on it's starting to be the shoulder season and things get busier here. That makes us run
670 short staffed and then we incur over time, so it's like a fine balance. Mr. Courtney said I understand on
671 public works, but what I don't understand that the finance manager is still up there. Ms. Fellner said that
672 should have been taken down. I'm telling you there should only be three positions there, the engineer
673 and the two public works positions.
674

675 Mr. Stevens said I kind of agree with Mr. Courtney. We don't know what's coming up. I can't
676 see in the future, but the fact is, we have a budget coming up. I was wondering if we could have a
677 hiring freeze until we look at the budget so we can see where we are. I think that would be a smart
678 move on us to do that and not hire anybody at this time, until we look at the budget to really get into the
679 budget and then see what we need. Ms. Fellner said I would be opposed to that, but if four
680 councilmembers want to vote to do that, obviously you can do that.
681

682 Mr. Pellegrino said we have our budget meeting on April 27. When do you think will able to the
683 see the budget? Ms. Fellner said not much before that. Our schedule goes right down to days before
684 that; it's our crunch time now.
685

686 Mr. Stevens said I would like to see a hiring freeze at least till we get to the budget, so we can
687 look at it. Does anybody agree? *(No comments were made in response.)*
688

689 7. BUSINESS

690
691 **A. Second Reading Ordinance #17-0837 to amend Section 9-16 Parking Decals &**
692 **Exemptions, Councilmember Courtney, Parking Committee Liaison.** Mr. Courtney moved to
693 adopt second reading of Ordinance #17-0837 as presented. Mr. Stevens second. Mr. Courtney
694 presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file.
695

696 Mr. Johnson said I am opposed to this, if for no other reason that funds are assigned parking
697 operation needs and land purchases. The comment was made we need funds for beach operations and
698 so on and so forth, but that's not what these funds for. I think going from \$100 to \$200 in one year is
699 too much.
700

701 Mr. Courtney said the funds do go to purchase land, parking lots, or additional paid parking lots,
702 I'd like to remind council.

Mr. Stevens said when you look at and somebody says \$200. Last year it was \$100. There's plenty of people out here that pay \$1,200. The second homeowners pay \$5,000, and they get a little sticker so they can park. Somebody sitting over in Surfside Beach Club or the Lakes, or wherever it might be, can come over here and park for \$200. Basically, if they are retired, they come to the beach a lot, in 14 days they've got the money back. That's cheap. Believe me, parking is at a premium in this town. I think it's fine. I paid \$1,200, plus my car tax, plus my wife pays taxes on her car. Everybody pays taxes. We're paying way more than the people that are coming over here and parking than those in Surfside Beach Club or wherever it might.

Mr. Ott said these decals are a gift. They are not a mandatory; nobody has to buy them. We never had them four years ago. It doesn't mean anything; if you want one, and you use the beach a lot, you will get a break. If you don't, don't buy one. It's as simple as that. It's not a tax, not a license, it's a gift.

Mayor Childs said Mr. Ott was right. As I recall when this was first brought up, a hundred dollars was just a trial period to see how worked, and then if it caught on and then if it did catch on then we'd go back and reassess the situation. I think I see the [parking committee] chairman here. I think he would back me up. That's exactly what it was, a trial basis for a hundred dollars. It works; we have them standing in line. We proved it did work. All of our parking fees have gone up everywhere in town and this just merely follows suit with the rest of the parking. Mr. Ott was right; you don't have to buy a decal.

Mr. Courtney said I just want to say that we have limited parking here. Selling one hundred decals is taking 100 parking spots away from our residents that live in town. We have 300 vacant lots available for sale. This is just a burden on the taxpayer, and it shouldn't be. They're giving up 100 spots.

Mr. Johnson said I would just like to point out that the 50 cent parking lot fees did not go up. Mayor Childs said yes, that is the only one, Mr. Johnson, you're correct. We're trying to figure out how to get people to use that lot.

Mayor Childs called for a vote on the motion to approve second reading of Ordinance #17-0837. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens voted in favor. Councilmember Johnson voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. First Reading Ordinance #17-0838 to amend Chapter 5, Method of Election and Candidate Filing Fees, Administrator Fellner. This item removed from the agenda by approved motion. See number 3, Agenda Approval.

C. Motions and/or directions to the Town Administrator from executive session. Mayor Childs said there were not motions to be made or directions to offer.

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. Information Workshop on Town Council Meeting Days and Meeting Time, Administrator Fellner. Ms. Fellner presented the discussion paper, a copy of which is on file.

Mr. Stevens said I don't see wasting the staff time during the day. That's when the staff needs to be out there working, doing their jobs. Nine o'clock, we don't need that. And let me just remind the administrator that it says under Section 2-115 under the town administrators duties, except for purpose of inquiry, which is council, the members of Town Council shall communicate directly with the town administrator and in all matters concerning department activities of the town. That states basically that anytime we need information from the director, we can inquire to that director and get that

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information. We can send an email. We don't have to go and meet with them. Mr. Adair has too many things to do. Chief Hofmann has too many things to do. Ms. King has too many things. Just send the email to inquire for the information. We don't need to waste staffs' time during the daytime. The 5:30 time; I'm totally against that. You have somebody who wants to be here at the council meeting who works on the other side of Myrtle Beach. The traffic is heavy. He's going to get here from five o'clock to five thirty and make council meeting...he's going to get in a car wreck. I like it at 6:30. This gives people time to get here. We should not try to force people to get here 5:30. We should be making available; this is their town. We should adapt to them; not the citizens adapting to us. We owe it to the citizens of this town to have a meeting at 6:30 in the evening, so they can get here and have at least an hour, but it takes time to drive from the other side of the Myrtle Beach. It took me an hour to get here before. You will get a ticket from a police officer. You're putting people at risk by asking them to come here. They need to be able to come here and they want speak. Some people who are retired can come here. But what about the people who work. It doesn't make sense to do that to them. This is what I believe.

Ms. Samples said I'm good with it. Whatever works; whatever is going to make it work. I'm good.

Mr. Pellegrino said I agree with Mr. Stevens on this. I disagree with the workshop. Even if we get our packets on Friday night or Saturday, we have all day Monday and all day Tuesday to call and get in touch with someone if we have a question. I don't think we need to waste staff time. Ms. Fellner said the problem is that that's not happened. What's happening is that we come to the council meeting and that's where all that takes place. There's no email beforehand. There's no phone call beforehand. It's all taking place here, so we are trying to avoid that and to have the information given to council, so that council can understand any items that they wish to do. Mr. Pellegrino asked from your standpoint would this make your jobs more efficient or waste more time, in your opinion. Ms. Fellner said it shouldn't waste time, if council avails itself of the opportunity to come, if they don't understand an issue. What it would prevent is there wouldn't be a lot of unanswered questions. Mr. Pellegrino said that's fine, if you want to do it. But I recommend you going to this meeting; not all of staff. Ms. Fellner said staff would only attend if there was an item relating to their department. Normally what happens is like tonight, for instance, there were two items under business; one was taken off, so there was one thing by council member. No staff would need to come. Normally, there might be one or two directors involved, so it's not like we're going to have a staff lineup at the nine o'clock meeting. And again, this is because what we are doing doesn't seem to be working.

Mr. Johnson said I do not have a problem with a workshop. My only concern is the 5:30 p.m. beginning time. I would support 6:00 p.m., and hopefully, councilmembers would have their questions answered [before the meeting.]

Mr. Ott said the problem with the 5:30 start would be the executive sessions would be at 4:30. That's almost lunchtime.

Mayor Childs said over the last few months I've had a number councilmembers come to me numerous times, and say we've gotta try something different. I don't like staying around here at night. It's 8:30 now. I want to get out earlier. Ms. Fellner is just trying to help us to expedite this thing; doing was good for council. She's not doing this to punish anybody. A lot of times we get here on Tuesday night and we might ask Mr. Adair a lot of questions that he doesn't have the answers for at that time. Had it been during the day, by evening he could have it, or been better prepared. A number times of I've heard we have to do some different; we're staying around too late, I don't want to do this. Everybody will be inclusive on this, and the good thing about it...

Ms. Samples interrupted saying *point of order*, we're having a hard time hearing. I'm having a hard time hearing, because of the noise from the audience. Mayor Childs said yes, everybody, please. I agree with Ms. Samples.

Mayor Childs said I think it's a good idea. This is not something that's written in stone. We don't have to do this forever. If it doesn't work out, we don't do it. The good thing about it is that it doesn't take a quorum. So if we only had one, two or three councilmembers that had questions, nobody would be neglected coming to a workshop. It would just informed those particular members of what they want to know. I just think we ought to at least try it. If it doesn't work after a couple of months, we can go back to everybody can complain about staying around late at night. This is the second time we've tried to streamline things, and make it easier. Why don't we do like the county; a 30 minute meeting. The reason they have 30 minute meetings, is they have a workshop during the day. Myrtle Beach does the same thing. They have a workshop. They know the questions; they know the answers, and during the meeting it's merely voting on items. That's my opinion.

Mr. Courtney said I have no problem with the workshop, if the majority of council can make it. Again, the problem I had whether or not council could make it; all councilmembers. So that was my only concern. I'm willing to try it. As far as the early meetings, I'll be quite honest with you. I don't think there is anybody in the audience that wants to be up to make those early meetings. Myself, I have two children with activities after school. To get to a five o'clock meeting is virtually impossible.

Mayor Childs said I think time is not a stumbling block. We can always change the time to what council chooses. I think Mr. Johnson said six o'clock. Mr. Ott said how about 6:30. *(Laughter and applause.)* Mayor Childs said 6:30 will work good; with the workshop we will still be out of there by 7:00. Let's try it. Ms. Samples said that works for me. Mayor Childs said the good thing about it, like Mr. Courtney said, if council could make it, well that's the whole purpose; the whole council does not have to be here. If only one person has a question, that person can attend. Mr. Pellegrino has a very busy schedule, as does Mr. Johnson. If they have a question, they could send it to the administrator for an answer. Mr. Courtney said I have a busy schedule, too. Mayor Childs said Mr. Courtney has a busy schedule, too. He doesn't work, but he's busy.

Mr. Stevens said basically, I feel like that's what email is for. I sent Ms. Fellner an email; she answered it. There were a couple of extra questions I had about it, but the fact is if we get the information, we can always send an email. I can send an email to Mr. Adair, Ms. King or Ms. Herrmann. I can call them on the phone. I don't see any sense in changing a thing. I think the meeting should stay at 6:30. The citizens want that. I know that. You take the bulk of the citizens in this town; they want a 6:30 meeting, because they have time to go home, freshen up, and get here to attend the meeting to see what we're doing.

Mayor Childs said Mr. Stevens, I think we agreed to 6:30. Mr. Stevens said I want to make sure. Mayor Childs asked if we council would concur to trying workshops. Mr. Pellegrino recommended that Ms. Fellner schedule the workshops on a trial basis. Several members agreed.

B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

Ms. Samples said I'm ready to move on to my discussion item. I'm sure you can answer this quickly. Subcommittees that are made up of councilmembers, when do they meet; who calls for a meeting; can any member in that subcommittee call for a meeting? Ms. Fellner said they can. Ms. Samples said if you want to have a meeting on your subcommittee, you can call it, correct? Ms. Fellner said that's correct. Ms. Samples said that was what she wanted to know.

Mayor Childs said the subcommittees were started when the town began its underground wiring and infrastructure project. Ms. Fellner said it was. Mayor Childs said there were a couple of us on the committee just trying to keep council informed about what was going on. As I pointed out, we've got three members that are busy during the day, and they couldn't always make the meetings. The people that were assigned to that were able to keep them up to speed on what was going and was a way in which the contractors that had questions could bring them to those particular committee members.

Mr. Stevens said I have a matter of discussion that I want to address. I've been trying to push this for a long time. I think we need to. This has do with the town clerk. I would like to make the town clerk completely under council. Let her report entirely to council and the council liaisons. I think this needs to be done. It's been postponed, and postponed. I think we need to bring this back to the next meeting.

Mayor Childs said council has discussed this on numerous occasions. I think the last time, I am not mistaken that it was felt that under the administrator it's worked out good. If the administrator does not have the help of the town clerk, I think we been informed that she will have to get an assistant. In order to avoid that the town clerk is a great assistant to the administrator. I think past council going back before this council thought was a good idea to have the clerk working very closely with the administrator. I think most council here agreed that so far that seems be a very good working relationship.

Mr. Pellegrino said I'm fine with your comments, but I think last time we talked about it we deferred until April, if I remember correctly, and we were going to talk about it again in April. So I agree with Mr. Stevens. We should put it on the agenda sometime. We deferred last time for three months when we talked about it. April is the time when it's time to talk about it.

Mr. Courtney I'd like to keep that deferred table at this time; we deferred it until April.

Mayor Childs said I think the administrator's making a note of that. Mr. Stevens said it is coming back up in April. Mayor Childs said yes.

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

Ms. Ruetilla Ford, Sparrow Drive: I was reading the Myrtle Beach Herald the other day, and I saw this advertisement on paving the streets. I would like to know who picks the streets that's to be repaved (**.) Mayor Childs said we can't answer at this time, but I would tell you, if you please get with the public works director, he could answer your questions on that. Ms. Ford: (**) It seems like it's all on the north that's gonna get repaved. We don't get anything, and I've got a place wide as that right there (holding out her hands) in front of my house where the postmaster has turned and turned and dug the pavement up. Mayor Childs assured Ms. Ford that the public works director would get in touch with her, and said we would take care of it.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I wasn't going to get up, but something just hit me when a couple of heads of department were up here. We had one department head said he lost a person, I believe he said in October. Another one, I believe he said, he lost in December. Fire department had someone on probation for six months, and they use part-time people. Why am I talking about this? Is the person they lost in public works, or two people, they're not going to hire them; the last filing date is March 31st; the other one's March 24th. That's like six months we did without those people. What happened to seasonal help? With seasonal help you don't have to pay benefits. There are plenty of people out there who would love to have a job seasonally. And then, groom them. If you're good seasonally, then maybe we'll take you year round. I just think if we don't need someone for six months, we shouldn't be paying somebody for six months. I don't know if we're in a fiscal crunch or not. We can always use a couple extra dollars for other things. I also noticed on the website advertisements for jobs is for \$24,000 to \$35,000. I mean the guy pushing out a garbage can he pushes it out better at \$35,000 than somebody being paid \$24,000? What's the big 11-percent, \$11,000, difference? It should be a set rate, unless the guy is a specialist in garbage-ology. I don't know. You understand what I'm trying to say; \$11,000, that's a lot of money. You should look at these things. Also, the Chief said he had some guy who was an engineer. Now he made him a captain. He was on the base for six months while he was an engineer you should have some kind of idea if he's good a lot quicker than six months if you're using him for part time. Even with the police department, I believe we have seasonal workers. Part time cops, and then we went to this on the beach, we had law-enforcement officers on the beach

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919 where they actually do something. (**) on passes. They're getting the same amount of money, I
920 believe, as the police officers. They're not armed. I don't believe they can arrest anybody. I don't even
921 know if they can write a ticket. But I think we'll see a lot of problems, if we get either retired police
922 officers, it could be certified as a category three, whatever, who do something other than watching girls
923 in bikinis. I think it would help a lot with smoking, dogs on the beach, surfers where they're not
924 supposed to be, fishermen where they're not supposed to be, and have an ambassador get up and tell
925 someone what to do, and there's really no enforcement power they, and then they have to call a police
926 officer. That's a waste of time. Especially, I believe, they're getting the same rate as a police officer.
927 Thank you.

928
929 Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North: I wonder if anybody's thought about maybe splitting up the
930 department reports into two meetings, instead of having them all lumped into one, and all this other, and
931 then not having anything to talk about the second meeting of the month. My preference would be
932 maybe finance and streets and roads and one other, maybe fire, the first Tuesday and then the second
933 Tuesday be the other department heads. The second thing I want to talk about is transparency. I
934 appreciate the administrator's report when she noted that on February 13, the mayor was notified that
935 we had this grant from RIA. But at five o'clock on February 13th, I was here pleading for council not to
936 institute a water fee so that we can have stormwater, and \$500,000 of what they were looking at out of
937 the \$3 million that they said they needed, was that RIA grant. The following Town Council meeting on
938 February 14th, I read the administrator's report, there is no mention of this grant then. There was no
939 mention of this grant anywhere during that meeting. So, we kind of wonder, me, myself, and I, why we
940 have to spend our time on things that we really shouldn't have to spend our time on. If we could find
941 out information or find out that we have applied to FEMA, we expect the money in; if we could find out
942 that we have taxes that are due from years past, and we're working diligently on it, and we reasonably
943 think we can collect this amount of money out of the \$200,000 or whatever that's owed us, you all
944 probably don't even know we have that, right? We do have several thousands of dollars in past-due
945 taxes that are owed to this town. I for one would like an explanation of how that happens, because
946 normally you lien somebody's property, and then they have to pay. Just like the water bills that Grand
947 Strand Water and Sewer wrote off. I'm confused as to why when somebody moves into our home, they
948 don't have to pay the past due water bill. But all these things can be answered. I have asked questions
949 and asked questions and asked questions, and I still don't have the answers to some of them. I don't
950 know if we paid Tim's landscaping everything that we owe him. We're holding his retainer. I still don't
951 have an answer as to whether or not we paid him in full. That was in the last question about that. I still
952 don't have an answer. So I'm just asking for more transparency, and I'm asking if the next time you vote
953 on some fee that you want us to pay for that we get clear picture of what it is that we are expected to
954 pay for without being somewhat suspicious of whether or not those numbers are correct. Let me put it
955 like that in a very nice way. Okay, thank you.

956
957 Ms. Carrie Johnson, Harbor Lights Drive: I don't why everything always has to come down to the
958 almighty dollar, because I think some things are more important than the almighty dollar. The \$7,500
959 that we spend on the farmers market, really? I'm a citizen of this town, and I really enjoy that. I know a
960 lot of other citizens do, as well, because I see them there. Another thing, a few weeks ago when we had
961 the big to do about Huckabee and the money that we were spending over there, that's an investment in
962 our children. I want my tax money to go to invest in our children, because I think there's nothing more
963 important in this world that investing in our children. And last but not least, we are called to be a good
964 neighbor. Charging the enormous fee that we're charging for the decals for people outside of this town
965 is not being a good neighbor. Thank you.

966
967 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: Thank you, I'll make it short. Okay, the way I hear
968 it, this workshop prior to council meeting is kind of like so let's iron out the bugs before we have the
969 council meeting. Well, when my husband first went on council and was brand-new, he talked to
970 somebody about something, and he was slapped with a polling violation, or I near polling violation. I'm
971 not quite sure what the definition of polling is, but I think they understand that it's when all of our council
972 people get together and discuss and premeditate and figure out how they're going to vote before they go

before the public. I think that's what it is. I'm not sure, but for one, I like transparency. I like to see the discussion that happens before us town people on that night. I like to see transparency when our employees who work for the town show us what they know and what they don't know. If we ask them as a taxpayer a question, we find out what they don't know that's not a slam on them. That just means that we get to see what they know and what they don't know and how proficient and also how quickly they can get back to us at the next meeting with the answer that we asked the previous time. I really don't think that we all need to gather together and discuss the meeting before we have the meeting. I think that is a waste of time, and I think that like it was said, emails are a wonderful way to iron out the bugs and this getting together beforehand to streamline the meeting, well it just seems that it doesn't sit right with me. And one other thing, yeah, I know none of us like staying late at night. But, we are the taxpayers. We do pay your salaries. So if you can't stay out late once every two weeks. I'm ashamed of council that can't stay out late once every two weeks. If we're going for a good time to be with friends and neighbors, we don't worry about staying out late. So, why not do it for your town? Thank you for listening to me rant and rave. God bless you all.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North: I totally agree with what Mrs. Magliette just said. But I'd also like to ask questions now, and I've been reminded of it, what has happened to the Huckabee Park money that the town was supposed to (**) the Youth Association wants to extort from the town? Let me put it that way. Nothing has been said since that original meeting when there was 5,000 [sic] people here in the room, and 98-percent of them being county people. Eight-percent of the children in that program come from this town. Eight-percent, yet they're asking this town to pay all the bills; to pay them. They want us to be their lackey, and nothing has been said to the town people who pay the taxes. What has happened with that information about Huckabee Park? Transparency is a wonderful thing. You should try it sometime. Thank you.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Ott: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. If I could say a couple of things, especially about Huckabee. There was a contract in place, and neither side was really abiding by it. And now they will be abiding by it, and we're looking at the Youth Association to start finding ways to fund themselves. To throw the children out because adults can't negotiate correctly, no. I believe today there is going to be; they are negotiating correctly. They're face-to-face and nobody is saying, well, I was supposed to do this, but you didn't do that. We're going to act like adults. We're not going to punish the children right now to do that. The future look for this is to have the Youth Association get their own money and stop leaning on the taxpayers in this town. We need to watch that. We need help them and push them to do that. They're going to forget about it, but we need to stay on top of this. Again, the \$7,500, I just wanted to know what we were doing with it. We have a farmers market and it's terrific. I never miss it. It's a good thing, but the taxpayers are paying money to bring it in here. It's a franchise, or whatever, an investment. I don't like investments where I lose money. I don't know about the rest of you. But I don't really care for it that much. To have discussions without council having a quorum, and we will discuss things without the public, that's a no-no. You should know it. Even if it's here or in the parking lot, we should do it in front of everybody. Everybody should hear exactly what we're doing. Nothing should be hidden. It was great to see everybody's smiling face and we'll continue to try to build something that we haven't done before, trust. We need to have trust and when we don't have trust. We have disappointment. I was disappointed today, because something happened. Thanks everybody. I thank everybody for coming here. We need your support. We need your input. We need your intelligence. Thank you very much.

Mr. Courtney: I'd like to thank everybody for coming out tonight. I'd like to thank staff. Thank you for being here. Thank you for taking the questions. I want to start off by saying that I love the farmers market. I think it's a great thing. I'm doing my job. I'm checking over every contract. I'm looking at it to make sure that everything is right. It does bother us when we start to lose money on events. We don't want to lose money. We want to break even on events. So just the goal of council is not to lose money; it is to gain money, if anything. I heard public comments before about transparency in

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the minutes. Again, I would like to make sure that the minutes are transcribed properly. That they are available for you at all times. I like Mr. Kohlmann's idea about seasonal [employees.] Again, they are used across the whole East Coast. They hire police officer seasonally; EMT seasonal, and lifeguards, we hire seasonal. A lot of these seasonal programs they sign and they know they can't collect unemployment at the end of it. Most seasonal programs start May 1st and October 1st. Up in the Northeast, they use them. You have here you have Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 officers. We can use part timers, if we as council decides to do so. So I think Mr. Kohlmann had a great idea. I think we should look into it all. My concern was with the firefighters, I know were running on a minimum staff, and I don't like it. I don't like minimum staff. National Standards minimum manning is four per tour. I don't know if we are there yet. As far as the decals, listen, you don't have to buy them again. You know when they first started they were experimental. They put out a 100. That's a hundred parking spots being taken from the residents. I moved here to Surfside Beach for a reason. You want to come, as my friend said to me across the street, I don't have to pay your taxes, but I get to use your beach. We've got to pay for the cross; the walkovers. We got to pay for repairs. Unfortunately, as my neighbor says, they don't want to pay my taxes, but they're going to have to help me share the cost a little bit. It wasn't done to hurt anybody. It's not personal, it's a business thing. If you don't want to buy there's a \$0.50 lot that you can use. There's actually, if you have a handicap placard, you can park anywhere. If you [are a disabled] veteran [with a disabled plate], you can park [free]. You're not required to get decals or pay the meter. But then again, if you don't, you can use \$0.50 lot or the other paid parking areas to park. I want to thank everybody for coming out. Thank you. God bless.

Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thanks for coming out everyone. I just want to remind you about the pier workshops coming up Thursday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m., Monday April 3rd at 10:00 a.m., and Saturday, May 13th at 10:00 a.m. I just want to address potentially the crosswalks on Surfside Drive. I was recently in Florida in a community that was about the same size as Surfside Beach. They had crosswalks across each street and they were visibly marked. But they also had pedestrian crossing signs. In addition to that they had buttons that you could push just like a regular crosswalk, but it illuminated the pedestrian crossing sign. It indicated to the drivers that there was someone trying to cross road. It only worked for like 30 seconds, and then it would go off again. I thought that was great idea potentially for Surfside Beach. I don't know what the cost would be. But I really do think it would be something worth looking into, especially on Surfside Drive up in this area. Anyway, that's about all. God bless you. See you next time.

Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming tonight. I'll just hit on some of the high point from tonight. Farmers market, I don't see that as a loss, obviously. We're a tourist town. It's important to invest; you have to invest in many things to make money. We want people to come rent our houses. We want people to come to our businesses and restaurants. We invest in a good fire department; we investment in a good police department. We also have to invest in events, so that people who haven't been here come here. I mean, 30,000 people coming through. I go to the farmers market, and I'm sure a lot of guys do, but there's a lot of people from outside Surfside, and especially in the summertime there is a lot of vacationers go there. If they are staying in Garden City, and they go to farmers market and say, wow, what a neat community, need to stay here next year. Guess what? That's positive for business owners, and the rental house owners, and also for the town. So I fully think that's one of our best events. The Huckabee, as far as Huckabee, obviously we let the kids play the spring season, and we're still in negotiations with that. We need to figure out how to maintain this, the opportunity for the kids to play baseball. And the administrator has been talking to the county. Really, that's where lays, the county needs to pay some share of this. That's where the solution is. If 90-plus percent of the kids are from the county, the county needs to foot some of the bill. So that is really where we need to focus, in my opinion, our efforts to get them to; and the administrator has been talking to them. I don't know for making ground or not, we certainly need to have something in place by fall season. The one thing that was mentioned today was by Mr. Stevens was a hiring freeze, which was interesting. It kind of got brushed under the table pretty quick. Honestly, we have basically four for five weeks before we get the first draft of the budget out. Honestly, I don't think that was that bad of an idea, because we have a lot of uncertainty with a lot of big bills we have coming. Then Mr. Kohlmann mentioned seasonal help. There's

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other options there, and in my opinion, when you're held, when you're limited in your departments, it's when you get creative, innovative, and you learn how to be efficient. So that's certainly something for us, if the rest of council agreed, I would certainly want to talk about again. As far as that, thank you very much for coming and have a great night.

Ms. Samples: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Good night. Be safe.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. To answer Mr. Dodge's question, we're not giving [the Sports Association] any money. They didn't get anything. It's status quo; what it was before. In reference to Ms. Watson, yeah, sure would be nice. Think about the accolades that staff would get, if you put your grants that you received on the website. Everybody would go on the website and say hey, we got this grant. We got that grant. So that's a great idea. Transparency it makes it, and I'm just reading the letter to the mayor from Robert Hite. I was at a meeting with him not, about a year ago, about \$500,000. That is a lot of money, wish I had it. As far as Ms. Johnson, she missed, talked about investing in children. Believe me, I believe in children, and the baseball, I didn't want to see it go. I'm glad we still have it. Ms. Magliette, I remember when Ralph got hit. They said he was polling. I didn't think he was. He was just asking questions about something. Did they think it was a good idea or a bad idea? He got thrown under the bus. I don't know why, but it was the one of the worst things ever saw. Really upset him. So, we've got a lot of things to do. I think the staff, they're doing a good job, especially when they're getting money for us. Keep, keep that up. Thank everybody for coming out, and y'all have a good evening and good week.

Mayor Childs: Ms. Samples, you set a great example. I need a motion to adjourn.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Prepared and submitted by,

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: March 14, 2017

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

Julie M. Samples, Town Council

Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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