



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE SESSION DECEMBER 12, 2017 ♦ 5:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2017 ♦ 6:30 P.M.  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Executive Session – 5:00 p.m.**

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 12, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss the appointment of a person or persons to a public body, specifically the zoning board of appeals and the stormwater committee; and pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice where the legal advice relates to pending, threatened or potential claims, specifically the Lazar lawsuit. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino (arrived at 5:30 p.m.), Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Mr. Ott moved to enter executive session at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Ott moved to reconvene regular session at 6:16 p.m. Mr. Courtney 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. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:17 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, and Deputy Administrator Harrah.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation:** Reverend Kirk Lawton of Ocean Lakes Campground Ministries gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

**4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Workshop November 20, 2017, and Regular Meeting November 28, 2017.** Mr. Johnson moved to adopt both the workshop minutes of November 20, 2017 and the regular meeting minutes of November 28, 2017 as presented. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I'd like to speak about under business C, first reading ordinance about the rezoning of a small portion of the pier area. Less than two years ago when I was on the parking committee, [then director] Morris came to us and she was speaking about the E zone, entertainment zone. The reason why she came to this us was about parking. The way the ordinance reads right now is you need, I believe, one parking space for every four stools, which has, and we thought that was crazy. That's, in that area you can't do that. So what we did, we recommended that if you build something or 50-percent of the building went down, you had to rebuild, we recommended that you have to keep the spaces that you had already, be it eight parking spaces; four parking spaces; seven parking spaces, because parking is at a premium down that area. She agreed with us. She brought it to the planning commission, and they talked about it and on June 6, 2016, they concurred with us, and I read the small a small portion of the meeting minutes from June 7 [sic,] 2016, page 6, the last

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54 paragraph, last sentence: *If construction is done, the buildings will be elevated to meet flood*  
55 *requirements, and have parking under the building. After a brief discussion, the commission concurred to*  
56 *move forward.* Ms. Morris [is no longer employed by the town.] Now we have another, the same planning  
57 commission has, this comes up again. So people we're concerned about parking and no, no we don't  
58 need the parking. We have adequate parking down there. We looked at between five and seven o'clock  
59 at night. There is plenty of parking down there all months of the year. Well, that's if people are going for  
60 early bird special. Most people stay till five on the beach, and in the come back on seven or eight o'clock,  
61 after everyone takes a shower, and they go get something to eat. Now, I don't know if any of you know,  
62 but how many spaces do you think, if this ordinance went through, where you don't need parking, how  
63 many spaces would you lose? You think maybe 10, 20, 50, [or] 60? I'll tell you what, over 150 parking  
64 spaces could potentially be eliminated. You could take the Bubba's parking lot and make a restaurant  
65 there, and have no parking. If you go down to Bubba's in the summertime, people are not only parking in  
66 Bubba's parking lot, they park in Yaupon lot. If this goes through, River City Café has two lots there,  
67 *(time ended)* they can make one lot into a restaurant; they can keep one as parking, or they can use  
68 both parking lots. I think you really making a really, really bad mistake by not doing the way it was  
69 planned out to do, and I'm just really shook up that nothing changes, nothing changed in a year and half,  
70 except for no parking. Mr. Johnson called *point of order*. Time ended. Mayor Child thanked Mr.  
71 Kohlmann for his comments.

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73 Ms. Mary Maruca, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South: I, too, would like to discuss, or give my opinion, rather on  
74 the E district. Not that I'm not thinking that and E district could work, but there are some things that I  
75 have issues with. One of them is outdoor music would be allowed up until 12 p.m. Well, if I were staying  
76 in one of those properties in and around there and I had to listen to outdoor music, and my kids were in  
77 bed at 10 or 11, I'd be kind of angry about outdoor music up until midnight, and that's part of the  
78 ordinance. The parking, I have, you know, I'm not sure there's enough parking there already. If you  
79 allow all of that area to be built up completely with no parking, even if you wanted a walking district, as  
80 you, as we all think it would be a wonderful thing, where are the employees going to park? That could  
81 become a problem. So you need to really address parking, or no parking, as it stands right now. The  
82 minimum width of the lot is going to be reduced to 35 feet, and to put it in perspective, this is a business  
83 and this business is going to be allowed to build from side to side on a lot, and it's only going to be 5 feet  
84 larger than the current are R3 split lots for beach houses. These beach houses already look like, you  
85 know, we've had issues saying, they don't look like they can actually fit, and we have fit them, and they  
86 have to do a 5 foot minimum on each side. You're gonna allow a building to be put on small 35 foot lot,  
87 and they can be 55 feet high. I think you need to look and visualize that more than what's on the paper  
88 right now. And lastly, or not lastly, the minimum impervious, they don't have to have stormwater. They  
89 don't have to worry about where the water goes. We are in a flood zone. We need to think about where  
90 the water is going. If you're building from lot to lot, this is not like up in Surfside Drive by [Highway] 17.  
91 The water went down this way. The water is; where's the water going to go in that area? We need to  
92 think about it. In the E district, what's plotted right now, why is the new beautiful town parking lot  
93 included in the E district? Aare we going to be giving that up, and allowing building on that or are we  
94 going to keep it a parking lot so that we can have people that aren't able to walk to this walking district  
95 *(time ended)* area to park in. Thank you.

96  
97 Ms. Erin Pate, Front Street, Georgetown: Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I am  
98 speaking on behalf of the Coastal Conservation League. I am speaking just briefly about the plastic waste  
99 reduction ordinance that [Ms.] Samples is introducing later in the meeting. I serve as the North Coast  
100 director for the Conservation League, and my office is in Georgetown. We look out for environmental  
101 concerns in Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg counties, and the Pee Dee [Florence County] area. We  
102 work to protect natural landscapes, abundant wildlife, clean water and quality of life in our state, and  
103 while were headquartered in Charleston, we have close to 5,000 members statewide. The Coastal  
104 Conservation League wholeheartedly supports this ordinance. It sends a clear message that Surfside  
105 Beach cares about wildlife and water quality. One would be hard-pressed to find anyone who doesn't  
106 understand that plastic bags pose a serious threat to the beach, to sea turtles, and other marine life. Sea

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107 turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish. Once the turtle takes a bite, it must swallow the bag. The  
108 bag can strangle the turtle, or clog its digestive system, causing it to starve to death. In addition, single  
109 use plastic bags are difficult to recycle. Most waste management facilities do not accept single use plastic  
110 bags with curbside pickup. As a result, only 5-percent of plastic bags are actually recycled. Compare that  
111 figure to the recapture rate for paper, which now approaches 70-percent. In addition, plastics break  
112 down into tiny particles called micro plastics. These tiny pieces of plastics act as sponges for toxins like oil  
113 and PCBs that are already in the environment. Shrimp, oysters and fish ingest these tiny pieces of plastic  
114 and toxins that they have absorbed. Research shows that micro plastic ingestion cuts oyster reproduction  
115 rates in half. They have the potential to affect our own human health, as well as the health of our local  
116 fisheries. You may have heard the mantra that reduce, reuse, recycle. Let's focus on reducing instead of  
117 the others. Let's focus on reducing. A plastic bag ban will reduce the amount of plastic coming from  
118 Surfside Beach, and will help citizens understand the damage that plastic pollution can cause.  
119 Fortunately, *(time ended)* some coastal communities... May I finish this sentence? Mayor Childs said  
120 okay. Fortunately, some coastal communities are seeing the real and long-term harm associated, and  
121 Folly Beach and Isle of Palms have banned single use plastic bags, and Beaufort County and the  
122 municipalities in that county are seriously considering bans, as well. Thank you for your time.  
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124 Ms. Kelly Thorvalson, conservation programs manager, South Carolina Aquarium: I actually grew  
125 up in Georgetown, and I only tell you that because I spent a lot of time in this neck of the woods. The  
126 Grand Strand is very near and dear place to me. These beaches right here in Surfside, I've spent a lot of  
127 time growing up, and I appreciate this community. I'm here as much for that is I am to protect water,  
128 wildlife and wild places. I've placed in front of your packet. Basically, it's a letter from the aquarium  
129 stating some research about the harms of plastic bags, primarily to sea turtles. I will speak to my  
130 experience with the aquarium, 15 years of rehabilitating sick and injured sea turtles that wash up on the  
131 South Carolina coast. What we are seeing at the aquarium is a tiny fraction of what actually washes up  
132 on the beaches. It is probably about 10-percent of what washes up. Unfortunately, most turtles are dead.  
133 Then what washes up on our beaches is actually a fraction of what's dying in the ocean. So when I talk  
134 about these numbers, these numbers are fraction of a fraction of what is happening in the ocean with  
135 plastics and sea turtles. The very first turtle I encountered with plastics in its G.I. tract was in 2003.  
136 Didn't see it again until 2010, but since 2010 we've seen a marked increase. There's a graph on the  
137 second page, the third page of your packet that shows that incredible increase. Sea turtles have been  
138 known for it for a long time, forever really, to be a sentinel species. They are species that really highlights  
139 what's happening in the ocean. They're sounding an alarm bell that plastics are increasing really  
140 everywhere. It's what we're seeing along our roadsides. I saw it driving in. It's certainly the highest levels  
141 it's ever been in the ocean. It's in the food chain from plankton all the way up into humans. I work with  
142 turtles, and so that's what I'm specifically talking about, but we need to be concerned. These are just  
143 three [held up containers] of 20 samples of turtles that have excreted plastics that they ate in the wild.  
144 All of them contain all of these three contain plastic bag type material. I'm happy to pass these around if  
145 you'd like to see them closer. But 11 of the 20 turtles came in with plastic bag material. Plastic bags have  
146 such a lightweight consistency that of all of the single use plastics they tend to blow around. You don't  
147 find them on the beach as much, you find them in trees and on roadsides. But once they hit the ocean,  
148 water fills the bags and submerges them and then they're there for prey for sea turtles and lots of other  
149 marine life. They break down really quickly into those micro plastics, and they are eaten by, like I said,  
150 plankton, fish, and really everything up the food chain. They are quite possibly the easiest thing to  
151 eliminate *(time ended)* in terms of single use plastics. I applaud you considering it and for being a leader.  
152 You could be the leader on the Grand Strand for reducing plastic.  
153

154 Mr. Richard Lorentz, chairman of the local Sierra Club: I am also a local business owner. I own  
155 Black River Outdoors, a kayak tour company. I'm gonna try not to repeat everything people have already  
156 said about the plastic bag ban. As a kayak tour operator, we see a lot of it first-hand. We've rescued  
157 three sea turtles on our tours that suffered from plastic bag ingestion. There's one in the sea turtle  
158 hospital right now that fortunately is recovering nicely after their care. We see the plastic bags, because  
159 were in the saltmarsh in Murrells Inlet a lot and the stuff that blows into the ocean, a lot of it ends up

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160 washing into the saltmarsh; it's just the way that the tides go, that's where it ends up getting caught. So  
161 you may not see it all the time, but it's out there where all the wildlife is. We clean up everything we can.  
162 I was talking to Mr. Stevens before the meeting, you know it's not that people are just throwing their  
163 bags everywhere. Plastic bags blow really easily. I've lost them and chased them down in parking lots. It  
164 doesn't take much for a plastic grocery bag to get away from you. Unfortunately, we can't try to teach  
165 people not to litter, but plastic bags are still going to be a problem. The only solution really is to stop  
166 using them. I'm old; I'm almost 57. Old enough to remember before we had plastic shopping bags. So I  
167 know it actually worked. We could go grocery shopping; we could go to Walmart. I still think there is  
168 important steps to be done so that businesses are not impacted negatively by a ban. Obviously, we have  
169 to make it successful for the businesses. I'm a business owner, I do know this. I am willing to help with  
170 that, if there's any legwork I can help with. I really think the plastic is in our ecosystem. It's in what we're  
171 eating. You don't have to be a tree hugger to not want to eat a plastic bag. This is getting so bad it's  
172 affecting all of us. I love seafood. Seafood is probably the most impacted food. I don't want to have to  
173 stop eating seafood to avoid eating plastic. I do strongly encourage this. I don't take it lightly. I know  
174 this is not an easy thing, but I think there's a lot of us who will help try and make this work. Thank you.  
175

176 Mr. John Campbell, Pawleys Island: I've been in the area for about 17 years. My family owns  
177 and operates the Dead Dog Saloon and the Claw House restaurants on the Marshwalk [in Murrells Inlet.]  
178 I'm basically here to support an ordinance that I don't know much about, but I am a big advocate  
179 towards single use plastic reduction. Some time ago, my partner Peter Hutchins and I made an  
180 announcement to eliminate all Styrofoam at the restaurants that we own. We're eliminating plastic bags,  
181 and eliminating the little straws that go in your cocktails. I think some people are gonna miss those, but  
182 they cause major problems. I'm not an environmentalist and I'm not an activist. We did this stuff, we made  
183 these decisions because we think it's the right thing to do. We looked at this some years ago. The cost  
184 was tenfold. We wanted to do it then. This was probably in the early 2000's. It was something that not  
185 only was the cost literally tenfold, but the products weren't there yet. I am up here tonight to speak to  
186 any business owners in Surfside Beach that have questions about it, because over the years the costs  
187 have come down on these products, and the products that are out there now, the compostable to-go  
188 boxes, compostable paper straws, they're about three times as expensive now. That that may sound  
189 shocking to some of the other business owners. I come from the same camp. I'm a business owner.  
190 We're looking at ways to mitigate those costs by reducing our plastics. It's not just about going to a  
191 compostable straw, but it's about training our staff. It's about talking to them about these things. The  
192 straws, they're paper straws, but how about handing them out just on request. Try to mitigate the stuff  
193 to minimize the costs. The Dead Dog and the Claw have made these commitments. I sit on a board with  
194 the other restaurant owners. My partner and I would love to see this become a trend. We don't need  
195 an ordinance to get passed behind this, we love to see a coalition of all the Grand Strand waterfront  
196 restaurants make an effort to reduce their single use plastics. We have a big impact. We're a big  
197 restaurant. We have 800 seats between the two stores. We understand we have a big impact. This just  
198 seems like a no-brainer, easy way to go about being as responsible a business owner as we possibly can.  
199 I've come to know Dauphin-A (?) a little bit connecting through Facebook and the wonders of social  
200 media. You know, people with different interests; I'm a businessman, there's an environmentalist, there's  
201 activists. I don't fall under any of those categories. I'm a businessman and people with different interests  
202 and still share common goals. I think working together with these great folks, like I said, even though I  
203 don't understand much about the ordinance, I'm in support of its goal. Dauphin-A shared something  
204 great with me that Ann and Kirk, the folks at the Rustic Table read an article about us making these  
205 productions, and I believe they said that directly they were making these changes because they read the  
206 article, and that that made them happier, I think, making the changes ourselves (*time ended*) that someone  
207 else saw this change and acted on it. So I just want to say one more thing. If there's any in a local  
208 business owners that ever have any questions about how we were able to make these changes that's  
209 what I'm here to do is to talk to them and explain to them how they can do about it.  
210

211 Ms. Corrine Hilliard, Burgess: My family has several properties and live here in Surfside. I am an  
212 activist. However, I make it very clear that while I do support environmental issues, it's only through the



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213 lens of sustainability. There has to be an economic and social component in these things in order for  
214 them to work and move forward. So I am in the favor of business. I do want to see favored businesses  
215 do well here in Surfside, and I do support the plastic bag ban. I think there's a way to do both so that  
216 everybody wins. A couple things, I go to CCU (Coastal Carolina University). In my time there, I've done a  
217 lot of research on plastic, which has brought me to meet Dauphin-A and the Chirping Birds. I do a lot of  
218 work with them, as well. In my research, I can tie you down all day with the facts on plastic, if you'd like  
219 to know more, I have plenty of time, and actually, as a matter fact, I would like to invite all the  
220 councilmembers next Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. We will be doing a landfill tour. So if you want to see  
221 these plastic bags in action or you want to ask any questions, you'll have myself as well as landfill  
222 employees there to ask the questions for any more information you need on the impact on our local  
223 landscape. It is an issue. It is an issue with the way that landfill runs. It is an issue with our landfill filling  
224 before the time that it's allotted, and I don't know if you are aware of this, but Class 3 landfills, once they  
225 close, there's and 30 years of maintenance that goes into that. Once it's already in the ground, locked up,  
226 last truck has gone over those lines, there is another 30 years that we don't get back out of that before it  
227 gets to do anything. Before it's even allowed to grow trees, I found, because roots can break the liner.  
228 But more importantly, I understand as far as big businesses, a lot of these larger businesses, Walmart,  
229 Lowe's, [and] the grocery stores are in areas that already have these bans in place. There's protocols in  
230 order for them to move forward. They have them. They just need a little push from us to let them know  
231 that we would like for them to use them. A lot of the Dollar General and the BI-LO [stores] can take their  
232 current inventory and send it to another location. You can do proprietary bag. Where I come from  
233 Wegman's is huge. These bags build huge brand loyalty to your store, and then as you can see, they also  
234 do Christmas ones. People are willing to buy into the programs. You have a room full of residents, I'm  
235 sure you'd love to hear more from about how much we want to see this happen. We'd love to get your  
236 support on moving that forward. So, thank you very much.

237  
238 Mr. Matt Scalise, Scalise Realty: My family owns numerous businesses in the affected area, and  
239 I've been trying to stay up to speed as far as the details of the ordinance, which obviously our family is in  
240 support of. It seems like it makes a lot of sense, and I just feel like I wanted to come up and say I feel  
241 like members of Town Council and staff and the commission who have been working on this, and  
242 collaborating on this, to me, should be commended for basically having a progressive attitude towards  
243 something that is pro-business that's going to help the town, and generate more of a tax base. Most  
244 people; Town Council understands, but most of the voters don't realize that roughly 90-percent of the tax  
245 base is made up by the commercial district in the R3 rental district. The vast majority of the services that  
246 the town provides are made up of the tax base associated with those areas, and not in the absence of  
247 adopting ordinances like this, I think it's inevitable that two things; one of two things that are going to  
248 have to happen: either taxes have to go up or services are going to have to be cut. Some the same  
249 people who are opposing the entertainment district ordinance now or the going to be the same people  
250 that are going to be opposing a tax increase, and be upset with Town Council, if they end up having to  
251 vote for a tax increase, which nobody wants. But, it's those type things; those type decisions are going to  
252 be inevitable, if things are done that are more pro-business oriented. In area like Surfside pier area and  
253 in any resort area, you always have a limited amount of parking. I think some of the concerns about  
254 what potential changes that could happen are not well-founded, and I think they were grossly  
255 exaggerated. We all know that the ground-level spaces that are in the in the affected area in the  
256 entertainment district proposed area they're grandfathered structures, and the buildable footprint of the  
257 structures cannot be increased. Furthermore, the, if any one the owners of those affected structures that  
258 are below the floodplain, below the base flood elevation, if they spend any money on those properties  
259 they can only spend 48-percent of the value of the improvements every five years. So there's a lot of  
260 limitations that a lot of people don't realize that are going to limit the impact. As far as other parking  
261 issues, we all know that even already parking is a commodity, and we all know that. But I think we want  
262 to bring more people in the town, and one of the things from what I understand is the impact, the intent  
263 is to encourage more of a pedestrian atmosphere, with larger sidewalks to encourage all the people  
264 within close proximity, within three, four or five blocks of the pier area to walk there, so that they don't  
265 need parking. I commended the effort, and it seems like a positive move. I hope it works out.

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**6. COMMUNICATIONS.**

**A. Employee Awards.** Mayor Childs presented a 25 year award to Willie Myers, and a 10 year award to Patrick Ryan, both of whom work in public works. Vickie Mattingly, finance department, and Christina Mueller, police department were unable to attend to receive their 5 year awards. Mr. Myers and Mr. Ryan received standing ovations.

**B. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Ott asked if Ms. Fellner could invite the infrastructure committee to meetings with Santee Cooper, and utility companies so the members could listen to discussion. Ms. Fellner said yes, that will be done from now on. Ms. Samples said I understand that we've not heard anything from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) about the pier. What is your best guesstimate, where are we as it relates to timeframe for hearing from FEMA. Ms. Fellner said they contacted SCEMD (South Carolina Emergency Management Division). I reached out to them, and Ms. Ryan shared the email from FEMA stating that they were in additional discussions. I think what happened is a good thing, a positive thing. The last outreach that I had was to ask them to please, and this was to Senator Graham's office, and to Congressman Rice's office, to please have the FEMA representatives in Region 4 find out why Region 2 is so successful in making these projects work. I think that's what's going on, and I think that's what's taking the additional time. Having said that, they have said that they hoped to get back to us this week or at the latest, next week. That's what the email said. Ms. Samples said I really appreciate that. I know you have done everything humanly possible to move this along. I'm certainly appreciative of that. Some of us have certainly talked in these council chambers before about this. At some point in time, probably soon, we're either going to have to make a tough decision to cut it loose and make some decisions on our own to get the pier built back. I just think at some point in time we just have to say we can't wait any longer, because we're going to go another summer or two without our pier. Ms. Fellner said nobody wants that. Mr. Johnson said I totally agree with Ms. Samples. We probably should've had this conversation months ago, whether we got the FEMA approval or not, because of all the meetings that we held pretty much said we wanted to build pier back bigger and better. Now we been waiting for FEMA's permission. It's up to council what we want to do. I would like to say maybe one month, if we don't hear anything back from them that we need to take action on our own. Mr. Pellegrino said I did mention this in a meeting here last April. I said we should think about dumping FEMA and going off on our own and just building our pier back, because I was worried about this exact situation. Obviously for this coming summer were done. Could you talk to the engineers to find out how late we can go to make the decision to ensure that we have the pier for the summer of 2019? Ms. Fellner said I can get that for you. Mr. Stevens said I agree that we're waiting much too long on the pier. The pier is the central point of the town and is one of the reasons that people come to Surfside. We need to go ahead and get involved and do something on it. In addition, I know that we got funding from SCDOT (South Carolina Department of Transportation) to pave from Melody Lane all the way to Highway 544. Do you have an update on that? Ms. Fellner said that was paragraph 1. C. in the written report that was just read. Paving will be the last thing done. The reason is because we've got to do a lot of burrows under the road to bury the cross wires on Highway 17. Mr. Stevens asked what Ms. Fellner estimated the start date for that project. Ms. Fellner said they hope project construction will start in fall 2018, if everything continues on schedule. They plan to let this and open the bids sometime in June. Mr. Stevens said unfortunately, the Affordable Care Act cost the town a 954-percent [sic] increase. I hope that Congress will do something to eliminate these skyrocketing prices with healthcare. Mr. Courtney said I think everybody in this council had agreed that we do need an answer. I've been beating this drum for six months, and actually have been criticized a few times in the paper about it. We're going on two years. We need to move forward with the pier, but I'm not willing to drop FEMA. My question is can we move forward without FEMA and still receive those approved funds. Ms. Fellner said no. You either get the grant or you don't get the grant. There's no just going ahead and doing it. Mr. Courtney said by doing it ourselves, we will not get the grant. Ms. Fellner said we won't, and we started negotiations at \$97,000 and we're up to 5.6 million. So we've got some leverage; we have some money there. That money doesn't have to go away. That money could be used,

319 and I think that's what Ms. Samples and Mr. Johnson were talking about. This council may have to make  
320 a decision at some point. You know what, we don't want to wait any longer. Let's go back with what we  
321 can, which would be probably a wood pier for the \$5.6 million. So I think that's what they are talking  
322 about. We would be eligible for that amount of grant money, but we couldn't go ahead and start on a  
323 different project with a different scope of work. We'd have to say that were going to go with that initial  
324 program and just simply go with that, and that would be it. And then there would be nothing new. They  
325 would not consider additional funds funding or anything of that nature. So we've come a long way. We're  
326 just waiting. Again, this is FEMA Region 4, and I believe Region 4 is talking to Region 2, which is a  
327 wonderful thing that hasn't happened before. Mayor Childs asked for an explanation of the two regions.  
328 Ms. Fellner said Region 4r is based in Atlanta, and they handle the Southeast coastal areas. One of  
329 Region 2's biggest areas is in New Jersey and New York. They have the Rockaway Boardwalk. That was a  
330 200+ million dollar project that was done. It has the exact same qualifications as our pier. That was done  
331 through the 428 program. Right now that region has over 500+ million dollars obligated to 428 projects.  
332 We don't have any 428 projects in Region 4 that I'm aware of and I asked the question, and no one  
333 could tell me why. I'm just hopeful that now we'll find a way where Region 4 can understand what  
334 Region 2 is doing so successfully. Mayor Childs said we're using Region 2 as precedents that you done it  
335 for them, and we qualify to do it for us. Ms. Fellner said yes. We have all the same qualifications. We  
336 meet all of them. Mayor Childs said once they understand between the two regions, we feel that we are  
337 on a good road to having this done. You did it here, so do it for us. Ms. Fellner said we certainly hope so.  
338 Again, we have no control over their timetable. Mr. Courtney said the taxpayers hired Hagerty  
339 consultants, right? Ms. Fellner said yes. Mr. Courtney asked what the consultants advised at this point.  
340 Ms. Fellner said they think that everything is proceeding as normal. Hagerty has been great. Anytime we  
341 need information; anytime we need a special report; anytime we need anyone to talk 'FEMA speak' with  
342 the FEMA people, they are right there, and they are right on the money all the time. I mean anytime  
343 FEMA says something, they're able to come back and point to examples that no one who hadn't been in  
344 that business for decades would know. They're experts at what they do. Mr. Courtney asked if they  
345 suggested a time when they will give up on FEMA. Ms. Fellner I don't think anyone wants to go much  
346 beyond the winter. The reason is then you'd have to do an appeal. We all know what appeals for FEMA  
347 are like. You can win them, but in the end you're talking years and years and years. Some appeals take  
348 three years. I don't think this council is willing to do that. I think a lot of residents have spoken to  
349 councilmembers about that. Mr. Courtney complimented and thanked Ms. Fellner for working on the issue  
350 that we had on Dogwood Avenue North at Lift Station 171. This isn't one councilmember, all  
351 councilmembers try to do everything they can for this community. The wall had come down during  
352 Hurricane Matthew, and an odor was coming from that lift station. I spoke to Mr. Smith and I also  
353 contacted you. The Grand Strand Water Authority blamed the town, which I was instructed by you that  
354 you had no idea of this about permitting. But thank you very much for your help. Grand Strand Water has  
355 sent out the bid to have the wall put back up as it existed prior to the hurricane. I do thank you for  
356 helping on that. Ms. Fellner said you're welcome. Mr. Stevens asked if the information about the pier  
357 could be published on the town website. Ms. Fellner said all of that information is already on the website.  
358 Mr. Stevens suggested that anyone with questions about the pier visit [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org). If we  
359 build a wood pier, the next storm will destroy it.

## 361 7. BUSINESS.

### 362 363 A. Second Reading Ordinance #17-0858 to amend §2-113 Duties of the Town

364 **Administrator.** Mr. Johnson moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #17-0858 as presented. Mr.  
365 Stevens second. Ms. Samples said she would not vote in favor of this, because I think it is a massive  
366 mistake. Mr. Pellegrino said we're changing the administrator's duties to prevent lawsuits, but as the  
367 administrator mentioned during her report, the last two employee related lawsuits were decisions of  
368 Town Council. That's kind of interesting. Mr. Johnson said I would just like to read the changes:  
369 *Department Directors. The town administrator shall recommend department directors to Town Council*  
370 *and appoint the recommended director upon approval by Town Council. The town administrator shall*  
371 *terminate department directors for cause upon presenting cause to and receiving approval from Town*

372 *Council.* In the administrator's report tonight in a reply to public comments, not verbatim, but the two  
373 exceptions are Mr. Christenson's case in which Town Council eliminated the position of director of public  
374 safety, and the Ms. Donevant case in which Town Council authorized the administrator to release the  
375 employee. So, obviously, there was a change somewhere going on. I support the ordinance as stated.  
376 Mr. Stevens said I commend Mr. Johnson for bringing this ordinance forward. It is simply a checks and  
377 balance in government. This is a good move for the town. Mr. Courtney said when I came on council, this  
378 is the way it was prior, and council gave its opinion in hiring and firing department directors. The decision  
379 paper and ordinance copies are on file. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson  
380 and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Childs and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Samples voted against.  
381 **MOTION CARRIED.**

382  
383 **B. First Reading Ordinance #17-0861 to amend Chapter 17, Article 6, Signs, Deputy**  
384 **Administrator Harrah.** Mr. Ott moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance 17-0861 as presented. Mr.  
385 Stevens second. Mr. Harrah presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Ms.  
386 Samples said I appreciate the fact that you have incorporated state law into this ordinance and its  
387 changes. My question is as it relates to political signs, the ordinance is changed from allowing signs to be  
388 displayed for 30 days to 45 days. Was that a state law requirement or was that something brought  
389 forward from the planning commission? Mr. Harrah said the town attorney recommended that based on  
390 his findings. Ms. Samples said personally, I don't like 45 days. I prefer 30 days. I think having political  
391 signs out for 45 days is just way too long. Certainly, I would like to see that changed. But if it's  
392 something that this council feels strongly about pushing forward, then I will certainly not hold it up.  
393 Based on the ordinance as you presented it, I see it is mainly housekeeping. I have no issues except the  
394 45 days for political signs, which is a long time to have signs out. Mr. Harrah said yes, and this is also to  
395 make sure that it complies with the Supreme Court ruling on signs. Mr. Johnson said the document in his  
396 packet was different from the one presented. Mayor Childs explained that there were clerical errors. Mr.  
397 Harrah said the corrected ordinance was emailed earlier today and also placed on the dais this evening.  
398 Apologies were offered; the wrong document was sent because the document went through several  
399 different versions. The corrected version was also published on the website, and emailed to the  
400 subscription list. Mr. Johnson said I certainly hope that won't happen again. Mr. Harrah said yes, sir. All  
401 members voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

402  
403 **C. First Reading Ordinance #17-0862 to amend Chapter 17, Article 3, Rezoning of a**  
404 **small portion of the pier area in the C3 Amusement District to Entertainment District, Deputy**  
405 **Administrator Harrah.** Ms. Samples moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #17-0862 as presented.  
406 Mr. Pellegrino second. Mr. Johnson asked what the maximum height is. Mr. Harrah said 55 feet is the  
407 correct height. Mr. Pellegrino said I'm all for the entertainment district. I think would be good to make a  
408 destination for people to come visit. However, we've heard many concerns from citizens about parking.  
409 The verbiage does not have much about it. Do we have any plans for parking plan or anything like that if  
410 we were to expand and bring in more businesses? Mr. Harrah said right now parking is a prime concern,  
411 and it also is a problem. Will it continue to be a problem? Absolutely. Until this body decides it wants to  
412 address the parking issues down on the boulevard area, whether it be acquisitions, construction. At some  
413 point time that is going to be a decision this body will have to consider. Ms. Samples said I too like the  
414 idea of an entertainment district, especially for those people who are your visiting our beach. I do have  
415 concerns about parking, as well. Mine question relates to the parking lots that we currently have. Is there  
416 any way in this ordinance that we could include that the existing parking lots stay parking lots? Mr.  
417 Harrah said you could actually incorporate language that parking lots that do not have existing structures  
418 on them currently shall remain parking lots, which would keep the current parking lots as they exist. Ms.  
419 Samples said I think that would certainly be helpful for us to take a look at that and be mindful of the  
420 fact that those existing parking areas need to remain parking areas. If council would be so inclined, it  
421 would be great to include that language. I'm not sure of the rules that would apply to that but I certainly  
422 would like to take a look at it. It would really create some problems if we did something at Yaupon that  
423 would eliminate any parking there or at that parking lot at River City. Mr. Harrah said that's correct. That  
424 can actually be incorporated within the ordinance at second reading. Ms. Samples asked Mayor Childs if



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425 he would ask for consensus from council that option to be brought back. Mayor Childs asked for  
426 consensus to include a restriction to ensure parking lots that do not have any buildings in the E district  
427 remain as they currently exist. **Council CONCURRED.**  
428

429 Mr. Pellegrino said I agree with that a hundred percent, but to me it should be stated that we  
430 keep the same [number of spaces]; we can't eliminate spots, if we do some sort of change or  
431 development, that we need to maintain the same number of spots, not necessarily the same space. If  
432 you have 20 spots, we need to end up with 20 spots, and not eliminate any spots for any other business  
433 next-door or that business. That would give more flexibility. I think the verbiage should be based on  
434 maintaining the same number of parking spots that exist, not eliminating any. Mr. Ott said I agree that  
435 we need to have clarification for parking, and if I vote for the first reading, if there's no total clarification,  
436 I will not for the second reading, even though I do want this to happen. The River City parking lot  
437 belongs to them. You can't tell them they can't take the parking away and build a building there. Mr.  
438 Harrah said in the Land Use Regulations under the Zoning Ordinance, it states that if it doesn't have an  
439 existing building, but used as a parking lot, you can you can keep that [parking] use. Mr. Ott said that did  
440 not sound right to him that they must make a parking lot out of their property. Mr. Harrah said not must,  
441 but retain. They can change it with the way the use as stated right now without having any language in  
442 here that keeps it from changing, because it's like to say, there's no restrictive use language in the  
443 current zoning laws. So as a business owner, they can come in tomorrow and pull a permit to build a  
444 structure on there with a set of plans, and there's no stopping it. With the language of no structure on it  
445 currently, it has to remain. That protects not only the town, but all those other parking lots. Mr. Ott said  
446 there were between 25 or 30 parking spaces that you could lose there. It is dedded to these people. That  
447 wouldn't be good for town to tell them that they must keep it is a parking lot. Mr. Pellegrino said I agree  
448 with Mr. Ott. I think if you tell them that that it has to stay parking lot; I mean that's their land. That's  
449 why think verbiage should explain expressly that you need to maintain the same number of spots for that  
450 businesses, and obviously for new businesses that come in there needs to be a standard for them to have  
451 spots also. But I really think it should be that you can't eliminate spots in existing businesses. If you build  
452 or sell off a piece of land for development, you need to figure out how to use the rest of your land to  
453 gain those spots back. Ms. Samples said if you are going to build a restaurant, you have to have a certain  
454 amount parking spots, anyway. Correct? Mr. Harrah said correct, the way it states right now. Ms.  
455 Samples said River City needs that parking lot for their patrons. Mr. Harrah said correct. Ms. Samples said  
456 the pier area is flat at the moment, because we don't have a pier. We know that the businesses down  
457 there have felt the burden of not having it, and I just would like for us to think about some ideas and  
458 opportunities that we can improve upon in that area, and make it more business friendly, and increase  
459 business space down there. So I'm glad you're having the conversation and I'm of the mind that  
460 whatever we can do within the law to encourage businesses in that area, and to expand, I think we need  
461 to do. Mr. Courtney said I'm concerned about the parking, too. Residents have spoken about this. It  
462 seems it's going to be a problem. We do need to accommodate people for parking. Are we going to see a  
463 parking garage next is my question? I'm all for an entertainment district. You have elderly people; you  
464 have handicapped people, you need parking. As a rule of thumb from what I know is you need a spot for  
465 a table, every four seats, if I'm correct. So this concerns me, as well. I will definitely move forward, but I  
466 will not come back on the second reading, if we don't resolve this parking issue. The last thing I want to  
467 do is see people start parking in people's driveways, and the right-of-way in front of their houses,  
468 because then we're defeating the parking; the whole idea of getting the revenue from the parking from  
469 the pier. The parking committee made recommendations with employee parking over a year ago that was  
470 never implemented. Then it was told to me that it was implemented, but they only sold two passes. Our  
471 parking committee made a recommendation to give those decals free, and that was supposed to be along  
472 Surfside Drive in that area where we have those parking spots with the one hour parking signs. This is a  
473 problem; we need to address it. Mr. Ott said I need to reiterate with the parking lots that belong to that  
474 restaurant, because we can look at the restaurant that's on the pier, they have no parking. They use the  
475 Town of Surfside Beach's parking lot. So why can't they use that parking lot, too? We can't demand that  
476 they establish a parking lot when nobody else has to do that. This is a serious problem. In my opinion,  
477 we need to see which way were going to go with parking. Mr. Harrah said it is, and it's an ongoing

478 problem. With a landlocked area you're confined, and that's one of the issues that the town has faced.  
479 Sometime back there was a proposal for a parking garage and a transit trolley going from one area to  
480 another, all part of the parking issues. You have to think about some aspects to really bring forth the  
481 potential transit availability within the community. So those are things that will be a factor in the  
482 upcoming years. Council has to determine how to make a make that availability, whether it's from a an  
483 existing parking place up on [Highway 17] and have a some sort of transportation shuttle going from  
484 there down to this district and back. This is not just a town of Surfside issue. Everybody has these issues.  
485 Go to Charlotte, they have these issues. Myrtle Beach has them. Everybody that has a tourist industry  
486 has a parking issue. You just have to come up with creative ways to tackle it. Mr. Ott said Mr. Harrah, I  
487 believe you will come up with creative way for us. *(Laughter)* Mr. Harrah said I will do my best. Mr.  
488 Johnson said as far as the businesses on the pier and the parking, the town owns the pier, so that never  
489 really came into play as far as the restaurant, the ice cream shop, and the bait and tackle shop. I will go  
490 another step further, I honestly, really do not want to see a three, four or five story resort going up on  
491 Surfside Drive. I just don't know that that's what we want to do as a town. I may be wrong, maybe some  
492 other councilmembers feel differently. But that's what I'm concerned about. If this ordinance goes  
493 through, obviously, it we'll pass it tonight or maybe not. We can look at it again. I just; that's my biggest  
494 concern. Mr. Harrah said if I try to understand where your concern is coming up Surfside Drive away  
495 from what this district would be is the potential of mixed units, live-work units and those kind of things?  
496 Mr. Johnson said no, I'm all for mixed use the way up and down Surfside Drive. I'm talking about hotels  
497 and motels. Mr. Stevens said I noticed that you've reduced the size of the lot from 5,000 to 3,000 and  
498 you've reduced the setback from front yard setback 20 feet to 0 feet, rear yard setback from 10 feet to  
499 zero feet, and side yard setback to zero feet. Are you saying that if the lot is 3,500 square feet that the  
500 building will fill that entire lot? Mr. Harrah said you technically could, but you've got the constraints of the  
501 building codes to be able to build that which is going be a structure that's will be more secure, more safe  
502 and more fire resistant than a typical wood frame structure. The setback requirements not only in zoning,  
503 but the building codes also have setbacks that defer to the type of construction that that building could  
504 be built by. The closer you get proximities, the more restrictive that code gets. Mr. Stevens said the  
505 height is 55 feet, which is the same as in the C3 district. The Surfside Beach Resort is well over 55 feet. If  
506 a storm came through and destroyed that building, could it be rebuilt? Mr. Harrah said no, the height  
507 restriction is 55 feet. Mr. Courtney said hypothetically could River Café put a parking garage there? Mr.  
508 Harrah said I would have to check the use chart in the code book, because there is such a long list. I  
509 would say there is a good possibility. Mr. Courtney asked if this ordinance was adopted, could they? Mr.  
510 Harrah said they could not. Mr. Courtney asked if the parking committee was consulted for  
511 recommendations when this was presented to the planning commission. Mr. Harrah said no, because this  
512 basically already came out of planning and zoning in 2016 with a parking that doesn't comply with the  
513 code. Mr. Courtney said the residents and some councilmembers are concerned about the parking issue.  
514 I think we do have a problem with this. I think it needs to be looked at again. Mr. Harrah said you can go  
515 any route council would like; it's entirely up to council. Mr. Pellegrino said I just want to make clear that I  
516 would like to see this come back for second reading with verbiage to maintain the same number of  
517 parking spots. Mayor Childs said that is what the consensus was. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

518  
519 **D. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Employee Insurance Plan Premium Increase, Administrator**  
520 **Fellner.** Mr. Ott moved to adopt the premium increase for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield program. Mr.  
521 Stevens second. Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. The finance  
522 subcommittee recommends approval of the new rates. Mr. Courtney asked who would absorb the cost.  
523 Ms. Fellner said the town would pay \$31,358; \$8,121 will be paid by the employees. Mr. Courtney said so  
524 that raise that we gave them... Ms. Fellner said is in effect going to pay their insurance. Mr. Johnson said  
525 I haven't done the math but can you give me an average of what an employee pays. Ms. Fellner referred  
526 to the attachment to the decision paper, which outlined the costs and who pays. Mr. Johnson asked if  
527 councilmembers are eligible to participate in the insurance. Ms. Fellner said yes, they are, but none  
528 participate at this time. Mr. Courtney said as we stand now we have problems retaining employees and I  
529 think is been a big impact. It's another problem we'll be facing the road. Ms. Fellner said I think we're  
530 going to be addressing that at the vision meeting. It's already on agenda, and we're already working on

531 it. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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**E. Committee Appointments: i. Zoning Board of Appeals (1 vacancy) Mr. Jon Dougherty, and ii. Stormwater Committee (1 vacancy) Mr. Ronald Mask.** Mr. Pellegrino moved to appoint Mr. Jon Dougherty to the zoning board of appeals and Mr. Ronald Mask to the stormwater committee. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**F. Motion and/or directions to the Town Administrator from Executive Session.** Mr. Pellegrino moved to give the administrator and the town attorney authority to attend the mediation on behalf of the town. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.**

**A. Plastic Waste Reduction, Councilmember Samples.** I appreciate the opportunity to have a discussion about plastic waste reduction. Plastic bag pollution has become an epidemic. Solving the issues, in my opinion, begins at the local level. I think this discussion is way overdue. I would like to begin a dialogue about what the Town of Surfside Beach can do as it relates to the plastic bags. There are towns that have already enacted a plastic bag ban, Folly Beach and Isle of Palms. There many towns all over the United States that are enacting these bans, but in South Carolina those two areas have certainly come out on the forefront. I feel that in the Town of Surfside Beach we need to have the vision and long-term commitment in protecting our beach and our ocean. Interestingly enough, both the plastic industry and the fossil fuel industry are opposed to us discussing any bans. As a matter of fact, some state legislators have already been calling councilmembers, because we have it on discussion only. It's amazing. They've already begun to lobby and influence selected leaders so that we don't begin the dialogue. Back in March, these groups, and these are the same groups that like offshore drilling, but these groups have spent vast amounts of money to block a Home Rule initiative back in March. It's called H3529. That initiative is to prevent local officials such as Town Council here in Surfside of discussing or enacting such bans. As you are aware, Home Rule is what allows us to make decisions in town for our town and our residents. Our state legislators in Columbia don't want to allow us to do that. We are a coastal community. This is very important to us. It certainly should be important to us. A study was commissioned by Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA), and those of you who attend council meetings often, hear Mr. Adair stand before us and tell us that come this spring, the SWA is not going to accept any plastic bags with leaves or debris in them. Therefore, the town's not going to be able to pick them up. A study was commissioned by the SWA in 2016 that provided the composition of garbage from various parts of the county; plastic bags, specifically grocery and shopping bags. The data shows the Town of Surfside Beach, which we do recycle, as a matter fact we were one of the first towns to recycle in the State of South Carolina, and certainly we recycle on our beach. A lot of beaches do not recycle. Everything that is recycled in our town is diverted from the landfill leaving more space in the landfill. However, single use plastic bags are not recyclable through the Horry County SWA. A sampling of Surfside Beach residential trash was taken. Based on that sampling, each Surfside Beach trash truck has an average of 1308 bags headed to the county landfill during anyone run. That's significant. I'm not an expert on plastic bag reduction or waste. I'm certainly an advocate for my beach and our ocean. I think it's important that we take the time and do the research and become educated on our environment on our beach and as it relates to our oceans. We can experience cleaner streets, parks, the beach, and the ocean. We can stop plastic bags from getting into our stormwater drains, and clearly, we're going to reduce the threat to wildlife. I just think that, again, the discussion has been long overdue. I think I would love for this Town Council to consider directing staff to look at or mirror what Folly Beach has done and what Isle of Palms has done. They've already done all the hard work for us. It's in place. It's working for them. They've been a success. Businesses have not complained. It's all been positive a move and for us as a council to have a vision and plan for the future of this town, not just about what's happening today or tomorrow, but what can happen two years from now and four years from now and 10 years from now. I just think that we need to start talking about it, I would like to ask the mayor if he would ask this council if they would be willing to put this on an agenda as a business item in hopes that town staff

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584 can bring forth a draft ordinance that they will have received from, hopefully, Folly Beach or Isle of Palms  
585 and provide us with some details and specifics on how the town can go about reducing plastic waste.  
586 Mayor Childs called for consensus to add this to the January 9 business agenda. **Council CONCURRED.**  
587

588 Mr. Stevens said as a hunter and fisherman, nothing irritates me more to be down in the river  
589 fishing and see Styrofoam cups, and plastic bags. Sometimes when I cast my cricket, I pull up a plastic  
590 bag. I talked to Mr. Lorenz. When we go to Sandy Island I see people littering and I wonder if they do  
591 that at home. The environment, whether you're a naturalist or the environmentalist or a hunter or  
592 fisherman, you love the outdoors. There's nothing I love more than seeing clear, clean water when I'm in  
593 my boat. I see trash when I fish in the inlet. This is a good thing. He said none of the legislators called  
594 him, but he would have said they were stupid to oppose this. My only question is what we do about the  
595 big stores like Walmart, and the other big companies all over the world? Somebody needs to start  
596 working on them. I reckon you have to start somewhere. I reckon we have to take that first step. I think  
597 this is a good idea. Ms. Samples brought up a good idea. I know that a lot of you support that. I think  
598 this council would be taking a bold step in doing this. Mr. Ott said I agree with both of my  
599 councilmembers and I'd like to make a motion to make ... Mr. Johnson reminded Mr. Ott that council was  
600 in discussion. Mayor Childs said the consensus was already made. Mr. Johnson said I was on my way to  
601 the Municipal Association meeting this morning. I heard on the radio our local House District #106  
602 Representative Russell Fry talk about this same issue. He doesn't have an issue with plastic bags. He has  
603 an issue about imploring the local businesses to not have them. He feels like that's an overreach. I don't  
604 disagree with. There was a Bill in 2017 to bring it to council. The guy who presented didn't get reelected,  
605 but it's coming back in January to the House, where they will take it up. I think we need to sit back and  
606 see what the House does, and the State does, because it's all about education, not regulation. (\*\*Gavel;  
607 several speaking at once.) I'm a naturalist. I hunt and fish. I with you guys, but I just have a concern  
608 about regulating plastic bags. Mr. Ott said to answer the questions that were asked, Walmart has a  
609 procedure, because this is not a new thing that just happened in the Town of Surfside Beach. This is  
610 going all over, in fact, all over the world. This is going to stop these bags from being used, if we like it or  
611 not, and you need to investigate, because Walmart has a procedure to deal with it, and you can see what  
612 Publix gave me; they give you these for free. You can go to Cost-Co; they don't have any bags. There is  
613 another food store on 17, Aldi, you have to bring your own bags. So it's a process that is going to be part  
614 of our lives, if we like it or not.  
615

616 Mr. Johnson suggested a survey all the businesses to see what they have to say. Ms. Samples  
617 said first, let me remind you that many councils ago were pretty bold and out front on a smoking ban  
618 that nobody wanted passed. We had a very educated, informed council who said, you know what, we  
619 think it's a bad thing and we're going to step out and we're going to do it. They had a lot of businesses  
620 that came before council and said no; you're going to hurt our businesses. The very same businesses  
621 came back six months later, a year later, and said no, guess what? It was a good thing. They liked it. We  
622 are the elected leaders. Let's don't push this off on somebody else. We were elected to make the tough  
623 decisions. Let's make the tough decisions. If you don't want to support it. That's cool. You don't have to  
624 support it. But let's don't delay. Let's don't push it off on somebody else. Let's do it ourselves. We were  
625 elected to make the tough decisions. Let's make them. Mr. Johnson said that's fine. I have no problem  
626 with that. Let us ask the businesses to see what they have to say. We are pro-business, allegedly. Mayor  
627 Childs said Ms. Samples was quite right. This town for those who spoke earlier has been very proactive in  
628 issues like this. She was right about the smoking [ban]. I was one of [that council that adopted that ban.]  
629 They were ready to tar and feather us on the smoking ban, and now it's gone through and everybody's  
630 happy. The businesses actually have done better than they did before, so this is something that I agree  
631 with Ms. Samples that we certainly have to look into. There are a lot of places other than this town that  
632 have gone to other than plastic bags. Mr. Courtney said I like to hear everyone. I like to be fair. I like to  
633 hear both sides. I'm in favor of cleaning up pollution. It's not just only the bags, it's the Styrofoam and  
634 the other stuff that goes with it. I looked in this year ago, and I really did a lot of work on it and what I  
635 saw was, I'll be fair with you, the big stores had no problem. I reached out to Dollar General. They came  
636 out and said we have no problem with it. If you implement the ordinance, we'll obey it. The consumer



637 will pick up the price. I reached out to other stores; one hung up on me. The small shops that we have  
638 had a problem with it. It was a problem with them putting their wings where they put them [sic.] (\*\*) I  
639 am very big with the cleaning up the beach. I think it's a small step. We had reached out to the county,  
640 the problem is the SWA. They don't even know how to process it. Plastics get caught up in the machines,  
641 so it is a problem. I wish Horry County would pass it, because the problem we have here is we have a  
642 few grocery stores here. A lot of people go right into Kroger's to Garden City to pick up the groceries and  
643 bring them home in those bags that still end up on a beach. I am for the ban on the plastic bags. I hope  
644 it works. I hope it doesn't put the pressure on the small guys, and I hope we can find a solution for  
645 them. I am all for hearing what Mr. Johnson said. I want to hear what our state legislators are doing  
646 about it. I'd like to hear what the Horry County is doing about it. I know the problem at the SWA is  
647 plastic bags get caught up in the machinery.  
648

649 **B. Live Streaming Council Meetings, Councilmember Samples.** Ms. Samples said I want to  
650 thank Mr. Ott for his support on this initiative. We have an opportunity to reach a lot of residents. This is  
651 a small chamber, and few residents can attend. Most of our town residents have no idea what happens in  
652 council meetings. They get the recording after the meeting and they get the minutes shortly after that,  
653 but wouldn't it be great if we could do what other municipalities and cities and towns do, and that's live  
654 stream our meetings. That way everyone could see what's happening up here, and not just the people  
655 who live here, but those people who have homes here and have vested interest here. They can watch  
656 what's happening in their town. We get the local media that show up and do a fine job. They get 30  
657 seconds and a soundbite. With the fact that we have no pier and that we're in discussions about that; the  
658 fact that we are going to be reviewing all of our ordinances, which I think it's a great idea, and we're  
659 going to be making changes that most residents are not gonna know we're making, or they're not gonna  
660 know what's happening, or they don't know what the rules are, and they wait till the weekend to do  
661 something, and there is the town hall to answer their questions, so they could have seen what was going  
662 on in the meeting and something being discussed they're going to be much more informed. So many  
663 people rely on social media, and we all know that social media it's not always factual or its half-truths or  
664 innuendos and sometimes just downright false. That information gets around and people have a  
665 tendency to believe it. I think it would be great if we could, and I'm not talking about a big expense, film  
666 these meetings so they could immediately be uploaded on our website or on YouTube. We don't have to  
667 spend a fortune having a lot of multimedia come in. We could certainly start off not is expensively, not as  
668 expensive as what Horry County's doing. I talked Horry County and they spend a fortune. But then again,  
669 they have a huge geographical area where they're trying to get the information out to. I just think  
670 information, real time information, is important. I think we need to be a little more progressive in how we  
671 disseminate information. I think it would go a long way for our residents to know what we're talking  
672 about and how were talking about it. So, I would like to start having our meetings taped, filmed and at a  
673 minimum having them uploaded to the website and/or YouTube or any anything else that staff thinks  
674 could be done to better disseminate information. I wanted to know how council felt about that. Mr.  
675 Stevens said three months ago, I didn't know what live streaming was. I had a particular set of  
676 circumstances where I'm got with the group and we sponsored a debate for the city of Myrtle Beach. It  
677 was live streamed and went out to 5,400 people during the event and before was over, 7,000 or 8,000  
678 people received it. A second live stream went to several thousand people. A website hosted the live  
679 stream and 16,000 people saw that website. Obviously, live streaming is pretty neat. I don't have any  
680 problem with live streaming. As a matter fact, if you want real transparency, live stream everything we  
681 do. I like live streaming after my experience with it. We just have to figure out how to pay for it. Mr.  
682 Courtney asked if a cost was available. Ms. Samples said no. That's why we're discussing it tonight to see  
683 if we can get consensus and have staff bring back ideas on costs. Mr. Courtney asked if live streaming  
684 would include department reports and ... Ms. Samples said absolutely, the whole meeting. Mr. Courtney  
685 said good. I have no problem with that. I'm all about transparency. Mr. Pellegrino said I agree 100-  
686 percent. Mr. Courtney asked a great questions, though. It's and unbudgeted expensive. We need to know  
687 how much it will cost. Mr. Johnson had no comments. Mr. Ott said I'm a go. Mayor Childs said okay, we  
688 have a consensus of council to have staff look into this and report back to council about the expenditures  
689 and what is involved. **Council CONCURRED.**

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**C. Flood Damage Prevention, Deputy Administrator Harrah.** Mr. Harrah presented the discussion paper, a copy of which is on file. There were no comments or questions. **Council CONCURRED** to bring an ordinance at the next meeting.

**D. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.** There was no other discussion.

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

Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: Before I do my thing, I just wanted to suggest you will have a Facebook page; go Facebook live. Maybe? I don't know. It's just a suggestion, because it's free. You were saying YouTube; it is just a suggestion. I wasn't going to do this publicly, however, I just have to do it, because I'm really, really upset about it. I'm going to do my best not to step over the bounds. But, I think it's important for the public to understand some things. When it comes to building in the flood area. in the flood zone, I think we all have to be extremely aware of what's happening around us, and I'm not saying that our staff isn't doing their job, but when things are brought to their attention they need to communicate better with each other, and with the public. I have, let me just read my first paragraph and then I'll tell you what's happening to me. I live at 1610 South Ocean Boulevard and they're building a lot homes around us, and I welcome that. I think it's wonderful. But there are rules and there are rules for reason. It's in the VE zone, which is flood, and very specific details. Right next to me adjacent to my house there was a demo permit, and the house was removed. So that permit is null and void now. The flood damage prevention ordinance and the stormwater ordinance requires a development permit be issued prior to any development beginning. Development is defined to include fill being added to a lot. I've requested a copy of the permits for 1514 South Ocean Boulevard. I was first told they had a permit, and I'm assuming they meant the demo permit. When I went down to town hall to say I want to see them, because I'm starting not to believe anything anymore. They said that there is no permit. Not to mention, not even a stormwater plan, which is something that you have to have in the VE zone. Section 14-10 of the flood ordinance states violations or failures to comply with this ordinance is a misdemeanor. I would like the administrator or the [deputy] administrator to tell me if a summons has been issued and if not, why? Is this selective enforcement? It specifically states in these sections and these are the violations I found that a stop work order has to be issued and a summons, and then further down in the penalties and violations I can read the whole thing to you because you can read it yourselves that for each day after such violation continues it shall be considered a separate offense. That dirt's been there since December 1. This is the 12<sup>th</sup>, and I don't want to be that person in town. I'm gonna tell you what's happening to me, before I say that I want to y'all to remember Jammin' Leather. What the town did to Jammin' Leather and that was a business. Not enough you will remember what they did, but they fined the man every single day until he left town. So, we're gonna do it for one, please do it for all. You know how I feel about that equality thing. You know, don't let me cut down a tree, but tell the guy next door that he can't. Not good. What's happening now is that, for whatever reason, contractors are calling me. Other builders are calling me, and come in my house. They call my cell phone. Residents are telling me to be careful. Be careful, Beth, you're gonna get up there and tick them all off, and you're gonna make the wrong person mad, and they're gonna come after you. Well, have at it. The pension fairy flies into my bank account every month. There's nothing really nothing you can take from me. I'm sorry if the people have big money to build big that's all well and good. But don't forget the people that live here 375 days a year. We matter, especially in a flood zone. They build 'em up and then the neighbors around flood. We have ordinances for a reason. I appreciate the fact that you're gonna grant me an audience tomorrow with you. I will bring all these violations with me and I'm hoping tomorrow to get some answers, because if I don't, I'm not that contractor that's gonna sit back and say I can't say anything because then they're gonna come after me. He's got a job to do to make money, and he doesn't need people coming after him. I volunteer seven days a week. You can't fire a volunteer. So, all I can say to anybody in town or anybody else, you want to come after me, come after me. But please, please, communication is key. Answer people. Let them know that they are important in your lives, because we are; we all should be. We all should be as important to you as you are to us. You make the rules. Now make sure they're

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743 enforced. Please, because staff is doing stuff, but I don't know unless I hunt them down and talk to  
744 them. That shouldn't be the way it is. Thank you.

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746 Ms. Liz Bradley, Juniper Drive: I have a lot of things that I was gonna say, but there's no need  
747 because all of you have addressed them along with the guests that are here. But I do want to  
748 congratulate you on stepping forward to help to reduce the plastic waste in the ocean and to make a little  
749 bit easier. I've got a book filled with over 400 signatures that we've collected here in Surfside Beach  
750 during our Family Fun Day, during the Christmas parade; they are from people that live here; they are  
751 from visitors that come here and spend their money. They all agree with you. They all agree with us.  
752 They think it's a good idea. Many of them came from places that did not use plastic bags. They were  
753 surprised that we did. So, we're all on the right track, and we've got lots of people backing you. So, good  
754 job and keep up the good work.

755  
756 Ms. Mary Maruca, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South: I've been coming to a lot of meetings. A lot of things have  
757 been brought forth, but I have to say I am very impressed with the people who have come and asked  
758 you to ban the plastic bags. I think almost every one of them that came to enlighten you and to ask you  
759 for this is still here. That's a first. Usually people come here and speak in public comments about  
760 something and out the door they go. So I think the compassion and their coming here and saying this to  
761 you; I'm big on recycling, always have been. I have lived; I have gone; visited family that; these bags  
762 have been banned for a long time or you go to the grocery store. You go to Wegman's in DC and  
763 Maryland area, you're either buying a bag or you're bringing your own. This is not new. You will not be  
764 liked for a while, but you will be liked afterwards and I really appreciate all of you coming out for this. So,  
765 thank you.

766  
767 Ms. Gottlieb McClaran, Pawleys Island: Good evening. It's very nice of you to hear me speak. I  
768 have lived in Pawleys Island since 2006 when I came here with my husband to retire. On the very first  
769 day that I was walking on the beach, I find a plastic bag. That was the beginning and the end of my  
770 retirement. I came as a brunette and I am now white. When I found this plastic bag on the beach,  
771 something resonated with me and the chill went down my spine, because I knew that balloons choke  
772 birds and marine life. I just felt that the plastic bags and other plastic products would be doing exactly  
773 the same thing to the birds and the marine life that balloons did. So I Googled plastic in the ocean and I  
774 discovered Capt. Charles Moore, who is the sea captain who discovered the Great Pacific garbage patch  
775 in 1997. He was so intrigued by what he found out there in the North Pacific Ocean that he gathered  
776 scientists together and he went back to this particular area in the North Pacific Ocean to measure the  
777 amount of plastic compared to plankton. In 1999, he finds six times more plastic than plankton by  
778 weight. He went back again in 2009, and he finds 36 times more plastic to plankton by weight. In 2015  
779 he made his last trip to the garbage patch. The measurement at that time was 63 times more plastic to  
780 plankton. Every single organism in the ocean has plastic in it. The plastic once it is produced, is on this  
781 planet forever. At this point in time, from 1972 until 2015, we manufactured 650 million tons of plastic,  
782 and unless it's been incinerated that plastic is still on our planet somewhere. It distresses me to the point  
783 where I can't sleep at night thinking about the animals that are ingesting this plastic and there is so much  
784 it is a crisis. There is so much plastic in the ocean that in the Mariana trench which is 7 miles below sea  
785 level every single organism out of 100 samples had plastic in it. So, I applaud you. I think is the most  
786 wonderful thing I have heard all year that you proposed to go ahead with this. I thank Ms. Samples for  
787 bringing this issue up. I thank Mr. Ott for supporting it, and the Mayor for supporting it. With regards to  
788 HD5329 that issued for the plastic industry to ban plastic bag. Bans has been created in practically every  
789 state in the country. Some states have given into it. Some states have not. California was one that did.  
790 When California proposed statewide plastic bag ban, the industry did everything in its power to reverse  
791 that ban and did not succeed. The plastic industry said that California would fall apart if they banned  
792 plastic bags California still standing. It's maybe a little bit burnt, but it's still standing. So I thank you with  
793 all my heart for listening to us and I congratulate you for taking this issue on. I do think that as leaders  
794 of the North Coast you will be very proud of what you're doing. I thank you so much.

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796 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I think it's a great idea about the live streaming  
797 council meetings. Before I lived here, I was a second home owner. I used to read every single minute of  
798 every single meeting, and then when I got into town, I like to come to meetings. But, sometimes, I'm  
799 working. So, sometimes I listen to the meeting. Sometimes, I read about them. But I think it's a great  
800 idea to have it. Thank you to Ms. Samples for bringing that up. Thank you, also, don't fall off your chair,  
801 I'm going to thank you twice tonight, Ms. Samples, for the plastic waste. I think it's a great idea. It's time  
802 has come. We're one of the biggest recyclers in the area, and plastic needs to go. Now, I'm just a little  
803 disappointed that none of you thought of this. We are probably the biggest, not the biggest, but we are a  
804 perpetrator of plastic bags in this town. Do you know what is? It's dog waste bags. We've got over 30  
805 beach accesses. We're talking about the beach; the ocean. We've got these canisters with plastic bags.  
806 Does that make sense, folks? I wish we could go back about 15 minutes and one of you could make a  
807 consensus next week we're done with plastic. This is been brought up two years ago; biodegradable bags  
808 for dog waste. This is where we should be going. So don't ask the stores and everyone to do their part  
809 doing plastic bags and meanwhile you're letting people use plastic bags on the beach. You're promoting  
810 it. It doesn't makes sense. Also, I want to thank you for slowing down is E district. This was discussed by  
811 the parking commission committee, and also planning commission a year and half ago. It was approved.  
812 Over 50-percent of the building is knocked down because of a storm, it has to be raised up and  
813 underneath there you put the same amount of parking spaces that were there originally. Make sense.  
814 The planning commission agreed. The building director at the time; that was her idea. She actually made  
815 up drawings to show that this could be done. Why didn't it go anywhere? Why did it stop? I'm just  
816 curious. Anyone figure that out? Somebody didn't like it. Somebody maybe has property on Ocean  
817 Boulevard; they didn't like that idea. Maybe you can't get as much money for a property, if that had to be  
818 done, or it would be harder to build. I'd be interested; I looked. I know who owns all those properties.  
819 There's a big guy that owns two of 'em. Who are we working for? Are you guys working for us? Or are  
820 you working for special people? I really, really thank you for slowing it down a little bit. Parking is at a  
821 premium. Believe me, I live parking. If you want to bring a bigger pier in, you're gonna put more  
822 restaurants up there, and then you're gonna make an entertainment district, and you're gonna eliminate  
823 that parking, you just said you're gonna try to stop it. But where are these people gonna park? I don't  
824 want a three-story parking garage with a McDonald's and a Taco Bell. That's what's gonna happen,  
825 because you're gonna have to do it. You putting all the stores in there; all restaurants in there and then  
826 you're gonna say, the businesses, they can't work. We gotta put a parking garage in there. This is a nice  
827 quiet little town. This is a great place to live. I don't want to live in Myrtle Beach. I don't want to live on  
828 the Marshwalk. I don't want to live in Garden City on Atlantic Avenue where every store is next to each  
829 other. Arcades, drugs, kids getting in trouble. Drugs, cars broken into, drugs. You get where I'm coming  
830 from? The more you bring in, the more transients you bring in, even though those people are good, what  
831 comes is like when you see the shark going around and they've got the fish underneath, and they're  
832 eating off the shark. Well, think of the tourists coming in to eat. They're the shark and you have the  
833 other people to eating off them. They're gonna break into people's cars. They're gonna come here and  
834 break into people's homes. So, slow it down a little bit. Great idea. I like the entertainment district, don't  
835 get me wrong. But you have to plan this out. This shouldn't be like 'let's just do it!' Because, obviously,  
836 most of you didn't know anything about the parking conditions (*time ended*) before I said it tonight. A  
837 couple of you I said it to you yesterday. Thank you.

838  
839 Ms. Corrine Hilliard, Burgess: Since, you've had, first off, I want to thank you all for coming to a  
840 consensus about the plastic waste reduction ordinance. I know the Chirping Birds have done a lot of work  
841 to back that up, and try to do the best to inform the Council, as well as the residents in doing the petition  
842 signing. There's been a lot; we have done within the last year a lot of events within the community to try  
843 to provide education to the residents. Mr. Johnson, in reference to small businesses, I understand the  
844 cost absolutely 100-percent. Also, realizing that with this plastic bag ban there is no requirement for  
845 businesses to provide bags at all. That's entirely up to the business to make that decision on whether or  
846 not they want to charge a fee for them or provide anything, if they want to repurpose bags like Costco  
847 does with the boxes at checked out that's their choice to run their business the way they want to do it in  
848 reference to this ordinance. The other thing is that there are a lot of community organizations such as



849 Surfrider that does a lot of work with the local surf shops to provide them with bags. If there's somebody  
850 in the area that has an issue with that we want to support them. We do want to support business. We  
851 like living here. We like the businesses that are here and want them to continue. So there is a social  
852 aspect to it that we do want to engage and promote this moving forward. Again, I appreciate your time  
853 and I'm looking forward to seeing this move forward,

854  
855 Ms. Carrie Johnson, Harbor Lights Drive. I think that the people talking about the parking in the E  
856 district is missing the whole point. The whole point of this is to make walking area so people can walk. I  
857 know when I go on vacation, I like to park my car and if at all possible, I don't want to get back in it until  
858 the day I leave. I walk to places and that's the whole point. We're such a small town with the rental  
859 district down there that I'm sure a lot of people, if we had an area down there that you could walk  
860 around in, would be walking rather than driving. I think that a lot of people are missing the whole point  
861 in the entertainment district. It's that we're trying to create a walking area that people can walk around  
862 and don't have to get in their cars and not have to have a place to park. Just a point there that I wanted  
863 to make. Thank you.

864  
865 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

866  
867 Mr. Ott: I wanted to thank everybody for being here and telling us what they think, and what  
868 they say, and I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, because we're not  
869 gonna be back until after that. I think the council worked very well together tonight, and if there is a  
870 problem within our construction as Mrs. Kohlmann explained, if I could be privileged, I'd like, if there's  
871 going to be a discussion, I'd like to be invited to sit back and just listen, if I could. That would be totally  
872 up to Mrs. Kohlmann, but I would like to understand and see what's going on if there's a problem.  
873 Besides that thank you very much for a great year. See you next year.

874  
875 Mr. Courtney: I would like to thank all of you for coming out. I do support cleaning up the  
876 beaches. Before I got old, well older, not older, old enough, but I used to surf. I used to go to Puerto  
877 Rico, the Dominican Republic. We used to jump on a boat to get back over to the US. If you ever been in  
878 the Dominican Republic, you'll see and this is back 20 years ago, in the ports before you leave, the  
879 channel was all cluttered up with Styrofoam and plastic bottles. It's all over the place; a disaster as we  
880 have down here at this beach. It's a long battle we have. In New York there is mandatory recycling. We  
881 don't have mandatory recycling here. Most of all of our residents recycle. My family and my kids do it. I  
882 believe everybody on this council does it. Pro for recycling. I think the residents really push this and I  
883 think it's a great thing. I'd like to see the county push it, as well. I think that's where the big impact is.  
884 [Ms. Hilliard] and I spent some time together. She really opened my eyes. It was a good lesson learned.  
885 Going at something else, ordinances. We have ordinances. Some are being enforced; some aren't. Some  
886 aren't even being enacted, as we saw in the past and this Council we had parking ordinances put into  
887 place that were never enacted, implemented. Going back to flooding on Ms. Kohlmann's complaint, I  
888 know. I feel your pain. It happened by me between 15<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Poplar. Builders created a fishbowl;  
889 created flooding, and this does not just impact the homeowners. It impacts the residents, because why?  
890 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue was under water, and the roadway was under water. It sat like that. When that happens the  
891 road buckles. So the impact is huge. So the topo, the ordinance that was passed by this council is to  
892 make sure that would never happen again. Committees are very important. I had my doubts at times,  
893 but there are committees and everyone in this community has these intelligent people out here. A lot of  
894 you have important stuff that you can add as you did tonight with this entertainment district. The E  
895 district, I don't have a problem with light entertainment district. But you know the parking does concern  
896 me. Do I want to see these people parking on your driveways? Where I come from, Long Beach, New  
897 York, they'll park right in the driveway, walk away and take the keys. It's a nightmare, and so parking is  
898 going to be a problem. I hope that the administrator will get together with some of these committees and  
899 try to work out this problem. I don't want to see a parking garage go up. Don't want to see a Starbucks  
900 there. I don't want to see nothing against North Myrtle Beach. I love it, but I don't want see McDonald's  
901 there, as well. After all, you know I have to say something. Merry Christmas and God bless you.

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Mr. Johnson: Thank you all for coming out. Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. Just let me set the record straight, I am not against banning plastic bags. I would just like to get some more input from the businesses. That's all I ask. And in another note, I just want to announce that Ms. Miriam Haire, the executive director of the Municipal Association is retiring at the end of the year, and today, this morning we met, the board of directors met, and we have hired Mr. Wayne George as her placement. And that's a good thing for the Town of Surfside Beach, because he is a native Mullins, and so he's got our strength at hear. So he's a good guy. I've known him professionally for several years. Just want to let you know that. Other than that that's all I have. Thank you again.

Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you very much for coming. We had plenty of discussion during this meeting, so I don't have much more say. I do wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Enjoy the time with your family. Try to slow down from our hectic lives, and enjoy it. Just be thankful for all God gave us. He gave us this great town. He gave us our families. He gave us the situations we're in today. So take time to think about that and thank God for everything we have. Have a great night.

Ms. Samples: First, I'd like to thank council for being so proactive tonight on our discussion items. I appreciate your encouragement and the support for the effort. I also want to thank the advocates out there who are much more knowledgeable than I am about plastic bags and their harm on our environment. Mr. Campbell from Dead Dog, thank you for showing up and giving us your business perspective. Hopefully that resonated with Mr. Johnson. I would also like to say congratulations to Mr. Jon Doherty and Mr. Ronald Mask. Thank you for your willingness to serve; Mr. Mask on the stormwater committee, and Mr. Doherty, I don't know if he's here, but on the zoning board of appeals. Participation from our residents is key to the success of this town. We really appreciate you so much. Our next meeting of Town Council is January 9<sup>th</sup>, but more importantly, on January 8<sup>th</sup>, filing for town elections begins. There are three Town Council seats up. Anyone who lives in the Town of Surfside Beach is encouraged to pay your \$25 and file. Is it still \$25? It's \$25 and you have to be 18 and a registered voter. But we encourage you. If you'd like to participate in what's happening up here, we encourage you to remember January 8<sup>th</sup>. Filing will be open all week until Friday. If you need a nighttime appointment when Ms. Herrmann is not in the office, she'll meet with you. She's that good. I want everyone to have a happy and safe holiday, and I look forward to seeing everybody in the New Year. Thank you.

Mr. Stevens: I'm glad we took the bold step and did something on plastic bags. As a fisherman and hunter, [Mr.] Fred Nash said this best, when we were out there fishing in the inlet one time and a plastic bag comes floating by, I reached down and grabbed it, he said 'somebody is dumb as a box of rocks to throw it in the water.' But, anyway, we took a bold move. I'd like to know what the alternatives are though. I don't know really what the alternatives [are] and I ask the fellow from Black Mingo Outfitters to please explain the alternatives, because businesses, we can use; (\*\*) The town will have to go to paper bag for leaves, so we're already on that way, and [Mr.] Harry Kohlmann to make good point we need to get them off the beach and out of the dog park. Reckon the dog park people would have to get a super duper pooper scooper. Ms. Maruca mentioned about music till midnight. I agree with you hundred percent. We don't have to have music till midnight outdoors. Put it inside after ten o'clock. No use to keep everybody up. People down on vacation maybe want to relax not party the whole time they're here. As far as the four piles of dirt on the lot down on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, I watched the town pile a tractor trailer load of mulch; all kinds of stuff for four years in a residential lot. The town of Surfside. It broke their own laws. They finally quit after somebody went after 'em. Thank you for quitting that. Other things, the E district. That's a great idea. We've got a lot of things that we can do there, but we need to make sure we do it right. And that's the most important thing. We only have a limited amount of parking and as [Ms.] Carrie Johnson said, she wants to create a walking district, but I'll remind you if you go to Marsh Walk, you've got to drive there, and there is more parking down there than you can shake a stick at. But you do get to walk on the Marsh Walk, and hopefully, you don't see any plastic bags. In closing, I wish all of y'all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope Santa brings you everything that you've got on your wish list, and that your families and all are happy and everything. God bless you.

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Mayor Childs: I just have a couple of things to say. I do totally agree with Ms. Samples. I think we ought to ban plastic of every kind and Styrofoam, because this world we're get buried in our own trash. If we don't really start having biodegradable material; us in this room here probably will not see it, but your kids and grandkids they're the ones that are going to suffer. They're going to find out; wonder what we did, why we didn't do something. So I'm 100-percent behind that. In the next subject area, Mr. Kohlmann and I worked closely on parking for some time. I was the liaison to the parking committee at one time. And I agree with Mrs. Johnson. I don't think it's so much were trying to get the people from Myrtle Beach to come here, we're are trying to get the people that are here to stay here in this entertainment district. We're not so much advertising come on out; I do agree parking is an issue. Parking is an issue everywhere. I came from Washington, DC. No bigger problem than in Washington, DC. But we're trying to encourage the renters we have, and we have a lot of renters to walk. They're looking for a destination so they don't have to go to Myrtle Beach. They'd like to stay here. So I'm 100-percent behind this E district. I think it's great. In particular, if we can work out where you can't build on existing parking, I think that's going to be a monumental help to this community with the tax base. I mean we all enjoy the low tax rate here. We just have to do as much as we can to keep ahead of it and bringing businesses in here to bring our taxes up so we don't have to raise 'em and upset everybody. Let's try to get those tax dollars in here and try to encourage people that are here to walk to this entertainment district. I think it would be a great thing, and Mr. Harrah will work out some issues on the parking that I think will be satisfactory to everybody, and I do encourage that. And lastly, I would wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for attending tonight.

**11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Prepared and submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: January 9, 2018

**Surfside Beach Town Council**

VOTE:

Yes

No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

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Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

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Julie M. Samples, Town Council

Town Council Regular Meeting  
December 12, 2017

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Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at [www.Surfside Beach.org](http://www.SurfsideBeach.org) and the marquee.

Approved