



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION JANUARY 23, 2018 ♦ 5:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 23, 2018 ♦ 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, January 23, 2018 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss the receipt of legal advice with the town's labor attorney relating to pending, threatened, or potential claim; or other matters of attorney-client privilege. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Ms. Samples moved to enter executive session at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino second. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Samples voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, and Stevens voted against. **MOTION FAILED.** Mayor Childs said the motion failed to enter executive session and closed the session at 5:01 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; Deputy Administrator Harrah; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Police Chief Hofmann, and Public Works Director Adair.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Reverend Benji Simmons from Gathering Community Church gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

Mayor Childs welcomed the candidates for the upcoming election and asked them to introduce themselves. Mr. Bruce Dietrich, Ms. Carol Cook, Mr. Cabell Young, Mr. Tim Courtney, and Mr. David Pellegrino were present.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Ott moved to adopt the agenda with amendments to include in the business section discussions on the duties of the town administrator, duties of the deputy town administrator, and reinstatement of former planning, building and zoning director Morris. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Sample voted against. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Special Meeting November 28, 2017, Special Meeting December 22, 2017, and Regular Meeting January 9, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to approve the Special Meeting November 28, 2017, Special Meeting December 22, 2017, and Regular Meeting January 9, 2018 minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

Ms. Corrine Hilliard proceeded to read a statement from Robert D. Hilliard, 727 7th Avenue North. Mayor Childs called the reading out of order and welcomed Ms. Hilliard to make her own comments. Mr. Ott objected saying that it was allowed in the past. Mayor Childs reiterated that Ms. Hilliard could read her statement, but not someone else's statement. Ms. Hilliard continued: My parents have resided here since 2011. Several times they have done work on the house and contacted Sabrina Morris. My father did renovation on his house in order to make it better, and was quickly informed during inspection that is not in compliance with the setbacks, with documentation in hand, he went to see Ms. Morris who can hear the voice of reason. After approximately 45 minutes of arguing points, he was informed that it's against the town regulations and that could not be changed with a variance. Ms. Morris took the time to explain the appeal process and the elements needed to successfully meet the standards. I then quickly adjusted my construction to be in compliance. Sabrina Morris never wavered from her position, and she is there to protect the interests of the town by enforcing the ordinance, even to the point of being unpopular and disliked. She always performed her job even to the point where her own job in jeopardy. I urge the

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57 Council's reinstatement Ms. Morris for the director of planning, building and zoning. She's the type of person we
58 need to protect the interests of citizens here in Surfside Beach. Also, I would like to let you know that there are
59 business owners, including Lisa Settler of Jellie Bellie and Company that are very excited to hear about this bag ban
60 that are in support of it, and we look forward to seeing your voting this afternoon or this evening. Thank you very
61 much.
62

63 Mr. Ott: I would like to make a point of order. If this Mayor here wants to continue yelling tonight, then
64 it's gonna end up very badly. You do not speak for this entire council when were in session. Mayor Childs: I do
65 when I'm running the meeting, and you get out of order. I'm sorry. Mr. Ott: No, no, you can ask for a consensus
66 from this council. Mayor Childs: I don't need a consensus from council. Mr. Ott: Yes, you do. Ms. Samples: Mr.
67 Mayor, excuse me, could we ask the town clerk, if you'd be so inclined to share with us what Town Code is as it
68 relates to speaking on behalf of someone else at the meetings. Ms. Herrmann: I don't have the specific section with
69 me, but the Town Code (Section 2-54) does state that appearance of citizen, a person appearing before the council
70 may speak. It does not say anything about letters to be presented. Yes, the council has received letters in the past, but
71 they have not been read at the meeting for a very long time. Mayor Childs: I recall that.
72

73 Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North: I ride my tricycle around town almost every day. The Mayor has
74 seen me. Since Ms. Morris has been gone, I have seen nothing but clear-cut lots. I mean they come in and they take
75 them down. I want her back.
76

77 Mr. Neil Gilbert, 1150 Seaborne Way, Sunset Beach, North Carolina: I am the president of BEAT, the
78 Brunswick Environmental Action Team. BEAT is a recently formed environmental group that is standing up for all
79 parts of Brunswick County, and we are also standing up for all parts of the Carolina coast. As an environmental
80 resource, BEAT seeks to educate, elevate awareness, and help advocate. BEAT believes the stewardship of our
81 environment is everyone's responsibility, and that includes the Surfside Beach Town Council. I'm also speaking to
82 you as a marine biology teacher of 30 years in environmental science educator of more than 30 years. The reason I
83 made the drive down from Sunset Beach to Surfside Beach tonight is because I believe the Town of Surfside Beach
84 has the opportunity to do something really great. All eyes in both South Carolina and North Carolina are watching
85 what you do and how you vote. Surfside Beach can become the standard that all coastal Carolina towns, North and
86 South Carolina, will want to pattern themselves after. From numerous studies and surveys, we now know that plastic
87 bags are a convenience; they are not a necessity. Being married to a French teacher, I've had the great fortune to
88 visit France on several different occasions. When we go to France, we know that plastic bags are not even a
89 consideration. The ban on plastic bags has been so successful that in 2016, France became the first country to ban
90 plastic cups and plates. By 2020, two years from now, 50-percent of France's disposable dinnerware will be made
91 from biologically sourced materials that can be composted at home. To me that's very exciting. Everyone is looking
92 at France as a leader when it comes to plastics and protecting the environment. Wouldn't it be great if everyone here
93 on the East Coast were to look at Surfside Beach in the same way? The State of California in 2016 banned plastic
94 bags. Living without plastic bags makes people happy to know that they are truly doing something for the
95 environment. When California stopped using plastic bags, the world did not end. Shoppers did not revolt. They did
96 not launch recall campaigns against the people that proposed those laws and those bans. Food still got to peoples'
97 homes. Reusable bags did not cause food to become illness [sic], to bring about food borne illnesses as some
98 opponents claimed that they would. In the long run, the State of California has eliminated 13 billion, 13 billion
99 plastic bags in one year. That's material that you're not going to see hanging from the trees anymore. That's material
100 that you're not gonna be caught up in the storm drains (*time ended*). And it's also material that's not gonna be
101 littering our sides of our highways and floating in our ocean. So I'll conclude. I guess that was my sign? Ms.
102 Herrmann: Yes, sir. Mr. Gilbert: I made an hour trip, so give me an extra ten seconds. (*Laughter*) The Surfside
103 Beach Town Council has an excellent opportunity tonight to do the right thing. Stand with the people of Surfside
104 Beach and ban the use of plastic bags. Be the leaders that you are meant to be. You will be sending a loud message
105 up and down the coast, and the people of the Carolinas will be praising your vote as a vote for the environment and a
106 vote for Planet Earth. Thank you very much.
107

108 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: Of course, I want to speak about the entertainment district
109 again. I actually went down to that area with Mr. Pellegrino, and we counted the spots. There are actually 55 spots,
110 not 32, that would be eliminated. Ten at Scalise, the Hofmann Group building, there will be ten at the beach shop,
111 13 at Surfside Realty, 7 at Sophia's, Neal and Pam's 5, and Scotties is 10. That's 55, not 32. So, you're gonna lose
112 55. Another thing I want to talk about is the signs on Yaupon. I'd like to pass these out quickly. [Distributed copies

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113 to councilmembers.] In January 22, 2017 after many meetings, two or three meetings, the parking committee
114 decided this the issue of pier employee parking and places of business located at or near the pier are having a
115 difficult time finding parking when they report to work. The reason, since most free parking has been eliminated
116 along Ocean Boulevard in close proximity to the pier, the remaining free spaces are often taken early by all day
117 beach goers. This leaves these employees with two options. (A) Paying the hourly rate in the pier parking lot or the
118 Yaupon parking lots if space is available or (B) parking inland far away from the place of employment. The
119 proposal was make the right away located on the west side of North Yaupon Drive between Surfside Drive and 1st
120 Avenue North, which is presently a free parking area a special permit area for pier area businesses only. In this area
121 only vehicles with a special permit are allowed to park there. The permit sticker will have a distinctly different color
122 than any other permit sticker, and all signs in this area will have the sticker affixed to it and expressly state that only
123 vehicles with this sticker are allowed to park. So, basically is they needed parking. Surfside Drive, they would have
124 to walk by this [sic] free parking spaces, and park a block or two away. It didn't make sense. The only people using
125 those spaces are people who go all day beach goers. The whole idea was that free up those spaces. Now some might
126 argue, oh, jeeze [sic] that could be some old homeowners spot. We had that same worry on Ocean Boulevard, and
127 guess what, people still came. People figured out what to do, and that's the whole reason behind it. The parking
128 committee unanimously recommend that proposal, and that was year and one day ago. Thank you.

129
130 Ms. Donna Grimes, Palmetto Drive, Garden City: My husband and I are volunteer members for the
131 Surfside-Garden City SCUTE. SCUTE stands for South Carolina United Turtle Enthusiasts. Our group consists of
132 about 45 members. We have the area of Surfside Beach all the way down to the tip of Garden City, and this is just a
133 small section of beach being checked. The beaches up and down the east coast are being checked in the same
134 manner daily. Each of us has a section of the beach and a day of the beach to walk, to check. Our main interest is to
135 look for turtle tracks so we can get any nests found protected from predators, and, as we walk the beach, we pick up
136 trash. We always pick up lots of trash, and trash always has lots of plastics. We know that the turtles feed on jellies,
137 and the turtles do not know the difference between plastic bags in the ocean from the jellies. Their system cannot
138 digest the plastic so the turtles think they are full and that leads to emaciation and so on. When walking the beach,
139 people are curious as to what we're doing; why we're picking up the trash. I've often had it said to me. 'Why
140 bother? The high tide will just wash the trash out to the sea.' Beach sweeps are being done by organizations often,
141 but our trash collection is done daily during the turtle monitoring season, and so much of the trash is collected on a
142 daily basis on our beaches. Plastic pollution is not limited to the oceans. It's everywhere. Think about the landfills,
143 and I've not even mentioned the five gyres in our oceans where so much plastic collects, let alone beaches on other
144 continents. It would nice if the onus would fall upon the plastic industry to help change what is happening, but we
145 know that is not gonna happen. So, it is up to us to do our part. The plastic industry fights us by saying there is no
146 evidence that our steps will make a difference, and we all know that we have become a throw-away society. I like
147 doing my part in educating and want to do more to help save our planet. Initiating a bag ban is a small step in the
148 right direction, not only to save marine life, but eventually our planet for our grandchildren and their grandchildren,
149 their grandchildren, and so on and so on. When I say this is one small step, it reminds me of what [Astronaut] Neil
150 Armstrong said, 'One small step for man; one giant leap for mankind.' I know this sounds dramatic, but I'm not
151 kidding. I believe we're going in the right direction by enacting a bag ban ordinance. Thank you.

152
153 Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you for a fourth time. I sent
154 you, I took the liberty of sending you a letter earlier this week with my full text of the, what I need to speak. I knew I
155 couldn't finish it in three minutes, so I'll just give the highlights. This is an ordinance, with this ordinance 18-0863,
156 this is the beginning of a dialogue. I hope this will not be the beginning. I hope this will be the beginning of a
157 community dialogue and not the end. The public comments from the first reading included concerns about the
158 proliferation of plastic bags, toxic dangers of micro-plastics, the danger plastic creates on our beaches, and to our
159 wildlife, and a call to protect and preserve our beaches as you heard previously here. This ordinance does not
160 address these issues. It is like the council is giving the sleeves out of its vest. I propose that the Town Council delay
161 the second reading of this ordinance, for the reasons I included in the letter, and for the concerns voiced here. This
162 ordinance is directed only to businesses, and calls for no mandate for public action, commitment for public
163 education awareness. In fact, the exclusions ensure the residents will not have to embrace the intent of this ordinance
164 at all. It is all about the [Highway] 17 corridor and nothing to do with the beach. The word, I don't know if you're
165 aware that the word beach is not mentioned once in the ordinance except after Surfside. It is my understanding that
166 this ordinance was modeled after two South Carolina beach communities. Folly Beach Ordinance 3116, and the Isle
167 of Palms Ordinance 2015-18. Both of these ordinances include plastic bags, Styrofoam, plastic cups, plastic bottles,
168 and most importantly public education and awareness. Folly Beach actually had to modify their ordinance one year

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169 later to make the current regulations that they have now. My concern in passing this sub-standard ordinance is that
170 further delay and inaction [sic] can be afforded by the council with the response of we already have a law on the
171 books about that, and will object to the additional costs and time associated with revisiting the ordinance at a later
172 date. To delay the second reading of this ordinance is not a concession to the oil industry, big business, or to big box
173 stores, nor our concerns for better environment. It is an opportunity to amend the ordinance as suggested today, so it
174 is a comprehensive ordinance that will, in fact, make Surfside Beach the example to other communities, to protect
175 our beaches and its wildlife and make it a better place to live. I implore the council vote to delay the second reading
176 and send the ordinance back for rewrite to consider inclusion of the provisions of the Folly Beach and Isle of Palms
177 ordinance, the public education aware provision, as well as the concerns (*time ended*) of our residents. Please do not
178 plaster another PR (public relations) bumper sticker on our town welcome sign. Thank you.
179

180 Mr. Nick Delaplane, 13th Avenue North: I hoped not to take your time tonight, because I've already written
181 you. I hoped not to have to read this, but I need the public to at least hear what you all have read, and after the way
182 the agenda was just manipulated to the last second, I think it's even more important. I wrote to the councilmembers,
183 this is to inform you that if you rehire the previous director of planning and zoning I will work diligently to ensure
184 that the voters are made aware of how you are using your political positions to overturn decisions made by town
185 administrator, as well as many other poor decisions, and that I have considerable experience in that area. The
186 previous director was fired for cause by the town administrator after months of day-to-day observations of her
187 performance while the Town Council has no such exposure to her daily performance, and puts you in no position to
188 second-guess. This very fact was expressed by one of your Town Councilmembers, Mr. David Pellegrino. Town
189 administrator has filled the vacant position with a very competent, experienced acting director, Mr. John Harrah.
190 We're lucky to have him and he has years of experience as a certified building official, certified floodplain manager,
191 and has many other pertinent qualifications, as well as excellent recommendations from his previous jobs, which is
192 not always the case with some employees. One of the councilmembers has stated Mr. Harrah is not performing well
193 and should be replaced. This opinion may be influenced by an on-going issue regarding fill dirt. This issue has been
194 brought on by his interpretation of existing city ordinances that have conflicts within itself and South Carolina
195 Building Codes, and which he inherited from the previous planning and zoning director. Therefore, he is making the
196 most out of unclear situation and representing the best interests of our city. I personally feel that this councilmember
197 is on a witch hunt to show favoritism towards the previous director, which is a classic political of politicians [sic] in
198 general. I know from personal experience that the previous planning and zoning director performed very poorly and
199 unprofessionally while my house was being built in '16. Examples are, and this is crazy, many times she told her
200 administrative [assistant] to say she was not in her office, when she was. (*Time ended.*) I needed an important
201 decision, so I went to the mayor who immediately went to her office and found her three or four minutes later. She
202 told my stormwater engineer that I had to retain almost all of the stormwater on my lot. Mayor Childs: Time is up.
203 Mr. Delaplane: Is it up? Yeah, okay. That's good. Sorry for taking so long. You got the whole point. Mayor Childs:
204 Thank you, Mr. Delaplane.
205

206 Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: Just to clear up a few things that were just stated there, that
207 fill dirt is no longer an ongoing issue, because last night there was an appeal hearing with the Construction Board of
208 Appeals. I brought that forward. We won that appeal. So when people come up here and they want to say all kinds
209 of opinions, my case was based on facts. I guess it was enough facts to win the case. So, and that was based upon a
210 flood plain ordinance, which is a critical ordinance for the entire Town of Surfside Beach. That ordinance was
211 written and put together with the help of the CRS committee, the planning and zoning people, and with Ms. Morris,
212 and again I wasn't going to get up here tonight. But, I find it extremely hard to sit back there and see what's
213 happening, so you all have a big job to do, and I respect all of you, but you need to just vote your conscience and
214 then move along, because this is getting absolutely ridiculous, and don't come up here and tell us that our CRS rating
215 is smoke and mirrors, people, because you'll feel it in your pocketbooks, if anything changes in that flood ordinance,
216 and again, it is not an ongoing issue. We one that appeal. Thank you.
217

218 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: I'm speaking toward the rehiring of Ms. Morris. I didn't know Ms.
219 Morris until I started with the planning commission, and I was on planning commission for approximately seven
220 years. I found her to be authoritative, well experienced; she didn't pull punches. She speaks very frankly when she's
221 asked a question. She knows what she's talking about. If you ask her a question, she knows. She can just spit it out.
222 She can tell you, and she needs to be rehired. If you look at the agenda under department reports, every one of those
223 departments has a dedicated supervisor or director, except planning and zoning, and this is not a criticism of Mr.
224 Harrah. He was hired, as we were told, as a deputy administrator, and that's great when you don't have experience in

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225 that position, because then he has someone who he can ask questions of and guide him. I am under the impression he
226 was not hired to direct planning, building and zoning of which he has no experience. Ms. Morris brought Mr. Harrah
227 on board on I know at least one occasion to act as the building inspector when we didn't have one of our own. So, he
228 is not unintelligent. He is not incapable, but as far as I'm concerned, asking Mr. Harrah to be both the deputy town
229 administrator, and to head up planning, building and zoning is like inviting someone for free swimming lessons and
230 then dropping them in the blender and say paddle as hard as you can. I mean that's ridiculous. This is; this shouldn't
231 happen. She is honest. She is ethical. She doesn't play favorites. I've known her for those seven years. If I had to
232 have a tree cut down, I had to jump through the very same hoops that everybody did. When I purchased in addition
233 to my property, all it was just three more feet, I had to go through the same hoops as everybody else. The survey, all
234 of that stuff. She doesn't play favorites, and that may be part of what gets her in trouble. She is by the book. She
235 follows the code. I came to someone maybe a year ago and said there are some issues here and if they're not
236 straightened out were going to lose her. I was told that department had more complaints than any other department
237 in town. (*Time ended.*) Can I finish a comment on that? The reason I mentioned it? Mayor Childs: Okay. Ms.
238 Lowery: It's just that Detroit has more cars, maybe that's why they have more accidents.
239

240 Ms. Mary Mabry, 15th Avenue North: I would like to say that we have had a planner. Now we don't. When
241 you do something like entertainment district, or adding things to our community, a planner needs to see that. They
242 go to school for that. They know what you can and can't do, and why should and shouldn't do it. We haven't had a
243 planner look at the entertainment district. I wish we would. I think you would find, if you could defer that there
244 might be some new and better ways of doing things. It's always evolving. We also don't have a certified floodplain
245 manager that seems to understand our ordinance. I noticed last night they were reading the very minimum
246 requirements out of the book from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), which had little to do with
247 the ordinances of Surfside Beach. So we actually do need a qualified floodplain manager that knows our ordinances
248 and how to enforce 'em. I wish you the best. I know you have hard decisions up there. But, I'm telling you we need
249 to get back to where we were. I have been told no before in the planning and zoning department. Too bad, couldn't
250 do it. You know that we have laws to go by, and I know it makes some people angry. Nobody likes to hear the word
251 no, but you work for the overall good of the whole town, not for little, not for me as an individual, or others as an
252 individual. Trees are falling like I've never seen before. We're supposed to be a Tree City. What happened to that?
253 Our ordinances are just going out the window, and we cannot sustain a town that's gonna be beneficial to the
254 residents, if we continue along this path. Please reinstate [Ms.] Morris. Thank you.
255

256 Mr. Bill Kinken, Dogwood Drive North: I'm very much against reinstating [Ms. Morris.] I don't know her.
257 I've never had any direct content [sic.] What I know from contractors that I've had that she does place favorites.
258 They've had a hard time working with her. That's fine. I don't; they work for me. They don't work for her. What
259 you're getting ready to do is gonna be very morale busting for your employees, and I give it, example of 30 some
260 years I was either a supervisor or manager. I had three people that left under good standings, and they came back,
261 and I rehired them. They were never as good the second time as they were the first time. There was a reason she was
262 let go. I had an old guy tell me he said, 'You know, I don't hire people who don't have jobs. There's a reason they
263 don't have a job, and I don't need to find out what it is.' What you're getting ready to do is akin to going out and
264 finding a grizzly and taking a 2 x 4 and cracking him over the back. Can't tell you what's going to happen, but I don't
265 think it's going to be good. Thank you.
266

267 Mr. Steve Shore, 1st Avenue North: Good evening, Council. Council, I've heard you make the statement
268 you were elected by the people of Surfside and you represent them. That's a statement I've heard all of you make. In
269 a short period of time, I and another resident circulated a petition not to rehire our former director of P&Z (planning
270 and zoning), which you should have been given by the town clerk [Ms.] Herrmann. I don't think any one of you,
271 especially up for election, can afford to give up 100 votes. If the town needs a planner, hire one. Don't rehire
272 someone terminated for insubordination. Thank you.
273

274 Ms. Caroline Bradner, East Bay, Georgetown: I'd like to sincerely thank the council for their leadership in
275 the consideration of the plastic waste reduction ordinance to address the negative environmental, human health, and
276 wildlife impact by single use plastic bags. The Conservation League continues its wholehearted support in this
277 ordinance, and of the town of Surfside for taking this excellent step towards addressing a local problem with the
278 local solution. In the time that lapses between the passing of this ordinance and its implementation, education
279 outreach will be very important for success. It was just over a year ago that Folly Beach passed their ordinance, and
280 with time, education, and working with the community members, they've seen outstanding results. The Coastal

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281 Conversation League is very happy to assist in any way we can as you reach that step, but it's definitely an
282 important step as some other people have mentioned. Regardless, thank you guys so much, and great leadership.
283

284 Mr. Doug Bell, 4th Avenue North: Good evening. How are y'all doing today? Mayor, Councilmen, and
285 Ladies. I am a resident, but I'm also talking to you as a businessman. I'm also the area manager for Devine Dining
286 River City Café, Bubba's Fish Shack, and also Ultimate California Pizza here in Surfside. We have some questions
287 and concerns with the ban, but we also have a business plan that were slowly starting to work on for, in case this
288 does pass tonight. My main concern is that we have clarity. That is what I'm concerned about. I want to know
289 exactly when this ban, if it does take place, when it is gonna take place, and how we can as a community work
290 together to do what we can do to make it. Everybody in, on both sides of the ban, if you will, to appease both sides. I
291 think that I spent a lot of time the ocean. I'm a surfer. I see that the issues that are presented upon us, but I think a
292 good idea is to make sure that we have all of our facts before you move forward. That's basically really that's all I
293 really have to say about it is that and also we are tourist community. We have to make sure that our tourists that are
294 coming in are educated, and that our community and our residents are educated, also. It's not just the businesses. I do
295 believe that is a concern. I think we're ready to move forward. If anyone else is ready to move forward in this
296 situation, but I think as far as the Devine Dining goes, I speak for my bosses, too. We'll do whatever we need to do
297 to help move this forward. But I do appreciate everyone's time tonight and I do thank you.
298

299 Mr. Curt Kramer: I'm one of the owners of Pier Outfitters down at the city pier. I wanted to speak about
300 the E district zone a little bit. I pulled some admission numbers from for a couple years. One in 2010 for the month
301 of July. We had about 13,008 paid admissions. In 2016 in July we had 23,000 paid admissions. We did that with the
302 same amount parking spaces. I know there's a lot of controversy over the parking, but we seem to be managing the
303 business growth with the same amount parking spaces we always had. I think people that come to Surfside know it's
304 a walk-in community. It's a walk to the places they want to be. I don't think we're drawing a lot of outsiders to our
305 businesses there. I think it's mostly people that are vacationing here. So I think we're getting the rental homes, the,
306 you know, certainly the Plantation brings us a lot of people in. But at 23,000 people in a month that's 765 people a
307 day. Now we know all those people can't find a parking space there. Yet, they keep coming and our numbers keep
308 going up. So I don't know that the concern over parking is valid as maybe some people think it is. People are finding
309 us and they're gonna continue to come. With more businesses there, I think it helps us overall. I think more people
310 will come. I expect numbers to go up again, if we pass this. So, I'm all in favor of it. I would encourage you guys to
311 vote for it. Make it good for everybody. Thank you.
312

313 Ms. Mary Maruca, 7th Avenue South: Good evening. I, too, would like to discuss the E district. I have a
314 difference of opinion than our previous speaker. The parking is going to be an issue. There is no doubt the parking is
315 gonna be an issue, but I think maybe the landscape issue people should be looking at, also. The ordinance as it is
316 written you're going to be allowing somebody to build from corner to corner of the entire property, 55 feet high. I
317 know the workshop we were shown a very nice picture of people eating down on the street, so to speak. But, let's be
318 realistic here. This is in a flood zone, so it is going to have to be 16 or 18 feet above the street. So are you going to
319 be eating down on the street like you up on Surfside Drive? No. So, picture this going from 1st Avenue South all the
320 way to Ocean Boulevard. Potentially you could have one solid building 55 feet high all the way back to Yaupon,
321 because that's what you're approving, and from there you're also approving the lot behind to be able to build also 55
322 and then the Yaupon. I have asked several times why the Surfside Beach town parking lot is included on this
323 ordinance. Maybe it's because then we can put a parking garage there 55 feet high, so that we can park there. That's
324 the way the ordinance is written. That's what you are allowing, and coming down Surfside Drive, it is not going to
325 be pretty if it is potentially going to be built up that high. You're also looking at the pier parking lot. The same thing
326 can be done. The River City parking lot; same thing can be done, because you're including all this in the E district.
327 So, let's look at the total landscape. Let's look at the future. You know, Ms. Mabry talked about maybe we should
328 have a town planner looking at this. Maybe if a planner had looked at this, and actually shown you pictures of what
329 you could look like, we would know what could potentially happen in the next 10 or 15 years. Thank you.
330

331 Mr. Rick McKee: I've been a business owner in Surfside for over 20 years, and I don't have any idea why
332 you guys are doing what you're doing. I've seen council over the years; you guys have got a heck of a lot of things
333 going on. My thing is with a plastic bag issue. I'm all for saving the planet; saving the turtles. I'm all for the
334 businesses. I'm just hoping that you guys are doing your due diligence and talking to the businesses, if you're gonna
335 get rid of plastic bags, what is your alternative? It's gonna cost the businesses more money. Businesses are here.
336 They pay the taxes. They have no vote in what goes on in this town. So I hope you're really listening, and have

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337 talked to the businesses in this town because there's a lot of 'em. My other question is, and I don't know the
338 ordinance, all I know is what I hear from people, single-use plastic bag, it's bags from grocery stores, store, T-shirts
339 shops. As far as I know, a poop bag on the beach is a single use bag, which Surfside supplies. Trash bags, which
340 everybody puts their trash in is a single use bag. Are we getting rid of those? I don't know. I just hope everybody's
341 doing what they need to do from the businesses to you guys so everything works out the way they want, and good
342 luck.

343
344 Ms. Meg Perrino, Cedar Drive North: Hello, I just want to say thank you on behalf of the Keep Surfside
345 Beach Beautiful Committee and the Surfside Beach Police Department for all the support for the rock painting party
346 that we had. It was an awesome hit. We had a great turnout. It was a wonderful way to spread kindness, and so many
347 children came; so many adults came. It was such a great time. Thank you, especially to our public works department
348 who went above and beyond, as always, to help us on accommodate that and make that happen, and I just want to
349 say thank you to everyone who supported that effort. It was Officer Decker's idea. It was an amazing idea, and she
350 reached out to me. We made it happen, and thank you, guys. Thank you for making happen, also, Ms. Herrmann,
351 and I just want to say that and end on a positive note, okay. Thank you.

352
353 Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: Good evening, Mayor, Council, citizens. I would like to see the city
354 tumbleweeds gone, too. I mean the plastic bags don't serve a purpose anymore. They're just a hindrance. But, what I
355 really would like to talk about is the E district, again. I know a lot of you walked down through there frequently.
356 There's gonna come a time when you probably won't be able to walk, as well. And there are people in town that
357 can't. They need to drive or need to take their golf carts to that area. A 159 spaces short right now against our own
358 town ordinance. We are in violation of our own town ordinance by 159 parking spaces for the pier. If it was
359 reopened tomorrow, the town would be in violation for not having enough parking. Ordinances in this town are kind
360 of like, you've got a problem to enforce anyway. It's just not able to do it. Our police department, they go ballistic
361 trying to even think about keeping up with complaints. They do a great job, by the way. Think about it. Think about
362 it hard and long, because you're rushing. It would be great to with the plastic bags really cover the whole plastic bag
363 problem. I mean it needs to be addressed, but it needs to be addressed correctly. This can be your legacy, and I agree
364 with rehiring [Ms.] Morris. Thank you.

365
366 Mr. Benton Blakely, Clarendon County, South Carolina: I'm on council. I've been on council about 20
367 years. I understand what y'all are going through and it kind of makes me feel at home when things get out of order.
368 What I'm here tonight for is planning and zoning. I've been trying to remodel my house for four years, and I've
369 never seen the chaos that y'all have down here. You can't get any builders to come in. Nobody wants to work in
370 Surfside. But, I finally got the plan together. Worked with [Ms. Morris] and we went through everything we needed
371 to do, and well, my first builder was lying to me. He was telling me he was taking care of business and he ripped me
372 off for about \$12,000 and hit the road. But, come to find out he was not doing what he was telling me. That had me a
373 little upset with Ms. [Morris]. We finally, I talked to Mr. Ott, and he told me to come down here, and we had a
374 meeting. [Ms. Morris] came out to my home. We looked at everything. She said everything you're trying to do with
375 one little stipulation, because I came before all that two years ago, and y'all, with an encroachment of only about 3
376 feet, and y'all made the stipulation if I take care that everything would be fine. We worked it out. Got the plan
377 together, and [Ms. Morris] came out there and says everything's fine. Y'all can move ahead with your plan. Just get
378 all these other things, you know, everything that you've gotta get to build. The elevation, and all that, the surveying,
379 and all that. So we put all that together, and had everything in order to move forward, and then she left. Then I came
380 down here about month or so ago and they said you got to raise your house 3 feet. You can't raise my house. It's on
381 414 North Ocean Boulevard. It's that little octagon house. It's like a mushroom. It can't be raise, and then they said
382 well, the only other option you've got is to get it appraised, and you can do 48-percent. But once you do that 48-
383 percent, if a storm comes along and blows your roof off, you can't do anything else. You've got to tear it down.
384 That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard in my life. You can't repair your house. But, I had everything
385 worked out, and finally got a builder to move on. But after we got into this new phase, and I can't do anything but
386 tear it down, and I don't plan to tear down a house that I just paid for and build another one. I've got a great location
387 there. Surfside is a wonderful place. I've got two homes at Surfside. I've been coming here since the 50s. Love it.
388 Mr. Ott said this is the family beach, and that's what I want to do. Increase the size of my home so my family can all
389 come at one time. But you also told me one time that you wanted to make it the friendly family beach. You've gotta
390 do some more work before you put friendly on it. (*Time ended.*) But, I love Surfside. It's the best beach on the coast,
391 and I just want to do my house. You're gonna get more tax dollars; it's not, everybody is gonna benefit. It's beautify
392 the area. I let it run down for four years because I was ready to remodel. But, I can't get it done. I've spent almost

393 \$20,000 on that and haven't driven a nail, because of all the stipulations and everything that you've got to do. Thank
394 you.
395

396 Mr. Lavern Kreklau, South Hollywood Drive: I just want to point out a little error on the report for the
397 planning and building commission or zoning. In the report there is a picture of a house that it says that town resident
398 wanted home condemned, and it gives an address of 612 4th Street. Well, 612 4th Street is not the house that the
399 picture is of. It's a picture of Miss Molly Owens' house, which if she knew that somebody wanted her house
400 condemned, she'd have a cow. I just want to point that out. Thank you.
401

402 **6. COMMUNICATIONS.**

403 **A. Department Reports.**

404 **i. Events.** Ms. Fellner presented the written report on behalf of Ms. Ellis who was ill. A copy is attached
405 hereto. There were no questions or comments.
406

407 **ii. Finance.** Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Ms.
408 Samples said Ms. King, you're managing this budget beautifully. Do we still have \$2.5 million in unassigned funds?
409 Ms. King said we should be. Ms. Samples said if anyone make any comments about the budget and indicates that
410 were in dire straits, or that we're behind or in the red, then they've not looked at the budget. You've done an
411 excellent job and I want to thank you for that. Mr. Pellegrino said the unassigned fund actually in the last year
412 increased \$700,000. That doesn't sound like a lot of money, but it's decreased every year but one over the last seven
413 or eight years. Along with that, we had the beach renourishment and some other major projects. We had storm
414 cleanup. We had a lot of different issues there. Still when you look at the budget, which we're getting ready for the
415 vision meeting in another month, beach renourishment is key, emergency fund and the unassigned fund. That's
416 basically the key points I look at to make sure going in right direction. To increase \$700,000 in a year with all those
417 huge expenses, I do appreciate your work on that and the entire staff. Mr. Johnson said I agree. Very good job. Will
418 Ms. Broach be replaced? Ms. King said yes, we have on decided to have a full-time employee that will work half-
419 time at reception and half-time in finance and doing other things that have been pushed back that have not been
420 done. Mr. Courtney said going back to the past vision meetings, we had a list of \$7.5 million in capital projects that
421 need to be done, correct. Ms. King did not recall and said that could be the number for the long planning stormwater
422 projects. Mr. Courtney said with the start of the current project the amount would be \$7 million for capital projects
423 that need to be done in stormwater, correct. Ms. King believed that was correct, but deferred to Mr. Adair for an
424 answer.
425
426
427

428 **iii. Fire.** Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. There were no
429 questions or comments.
430

431 **iv. Planning, Building & Zoning.** Deputy Director Harrah presented the written report, a copy of which is
432 attached hereto. Mr. Courtney said I asked you and the administrator about some oversized construction/for sale
433 signage measuring about 5 feet by 4 feet located in the rights-of-way at 13th Avenue South between Lakeside and
434 Ocean Boulevard. You told me it would be taken care of. Mr. Harrah said code enforcement investigated that. His
435 response was that the sign was legal. Mr. Courtney said it stands right on the edge of the roadway. This is just one of
436 a few problems. I've seen stump grinding signs tacked on poles. We have a sign ordinance in place, but now all of a
437 sudden we're becoming like outside in the county where we have signs going up on telephone poles. I've been here
438 since 2009 and we never had this before. Mr. Harrah said code enforcement officers and building officials are out
439 daily. They know that they're supposed to be pulling them off poles when they see them in the right-of-way or on
440 posts. If they're in the private property, they don't touch them. Mr. Courtney said please inspect the sign on 13th
441 Avenue South. Mr. Harrah said he would. Mr. Ott said thank you for the addresses even though they got you in
442 trouble. I don't know what happened with the construction board of appeals. I'd like to schedule another meeting we
443 can sit down later in the week. Mr. Harrah said my door is always open.
444

445 **v. Police.** Chief Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Courtney
446 said I've been asking for this report for about a year. My concern is retention of police officers. The difference in the
447 numbers is only a \$6,000 or \$7,000 difference for switching out an officer. Chief Hofmann said that difference is the
448 amount of equipment that are able to recover, i.e., new radios, guns, etc. are not purchased for every officer. There is

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449 a mix when leather and other equipment can be reissued. That is why the amount of \$32,000 was stated as average
450 cost of replacing a police officer. Mr. Courtney asked how much was reimbursed from other departments. Chief
451 Hofmann said it depends. If the town pays to get an officer certified, they have to work for two years. If they don't
452 meet that two-year requirement, we can bill the department that recruits the officer. Mr. Courtney said usually the
453 officer finishes the two years here, and then move on. Chief Hofmann said correct. Mr. Courtney asked on the
454 average how many officers are lost annually. Chief Hofmann said since January 2012 to January 2018 we've lost 28
455 police officers. To clarify, of those 28, nine left to enter the private sector; five retired; three were terminated or
456 resigned in lieu of termination; two went to federal law enforcement, and eight went to other law enforcement
457 agencies. It isn't always about pay, but with the recent 10-percent increase in Myrtle Beach, we have a game
458 changer. Mr. Courtney asked if they get take home cars if they live in the jurisdiction. Chief Hofmann said Horry
459 County does, but Myrtle Beach does not. Mr. Courtney said the only way we will retain our officers is to give them
460 a pay increase to bring them to parity with other departments. Is that a correct statement? Chief Hofmann said it
461 could be partially correct. Pay is a piece of retention, but I will never stand here in front of you and tell you that if
462 you pay a certain amount we will stop attrition. It's impossible to stop attrition. The problem is that the new pay
463 structure in Myrtle Beach puts and \$8,000 to \$9,000 difference in our ranks. Mr. Courtney said what I see is an
464 \$8,000 lower pay, and a glass ceiling that limit promotion opportunities. We have a very small detective unit. We
465 don't have emergency services, a highway division or other divisions. This makes it very hard for our town to retain
466 these officers. The get their training and work their two years and move on by lateral transfer to another agency
467 where they can get a take home car and higher pay. The solution is to come back at the vision meeting with a plan.
468 Chief Hofmann said I have submitted my plan and recommendations to the town administrator. I believe my
469 recommendations are reasonable taking into account that we don't have to match Myrtle Beach. I believe that we
470 need to make a recommendation look at parity percentage increases from where we are to what they've done and
471 continue to match. In 20 years that I know of, we've only lost two police officers to Myrtle Beach, and they've
472 always been the highest paid. We're not the only ones with this problem. Other agencies in the area are struggling
473 with this, as well. My request to council at the vision meeting will be to offer competitive salary in regards to other
474 agencies in the area, while also taking into account the fact that we have a pier that needs to be rebuilt and other
475 budgetary constraints. Public safety is paramount and our primary responsibility. Several residents heard that I was
476 not for police pay raises. That's certainly not true. I just think that we have to approach it considering all of the
477 factors that are involved in budgeting. Mr. Courtney said the pier should not be a factor in determining police pay;
478 one thing has nothing to do with the other. It should have no bearing on hiring and retaining police officers. There is
479 a reason why Surfside Beach is known. We have our own outstanding police and fire departments. In this
480 community a police car can respond in less than a minute. I think it's imperative that we bring up the parity with
481 other departments. By the time an officer assimilates into and learns the community, you just cannot let them go
482 after so many years. That seems to be what happens. Officers are leaving for the private sector because of the pay.
483 I've have spoken to a few of them, and it's unfortunate when Time Warner pays more than our police department. I
484 agree and I ask that you bring this to the vision meeting. I asked administrator to develop a solution for this. Ms.
485 Samples said I've been told as well that I don't necessarily support the police department. But you and I know that's
486 not true. We also know that even recently Conway, North Myrtle Beach, everyone is struggling with the fact that we
487 have police officers that leave constantly. It is a pervasive problem with all of the departments. My concern and my
488 challenge to you is this: we're a small town. How in the world can we compare ourselves to Myrtle Beach, Conway,
489 and North Myrtle Beach? Geographically, we do not have the acreage to patrol. I'm hoping and I support that we
490 take a look at increasing police officers pay. Surely, we can be mindful of the fact that what they do here and how
491 they do it is a little different than our neighbors. Do you agree? Chief Hofmann said I do agree. We do the same type
492 of work that they do. We may not do it in the same volume. I've mentioned this in the vision meeting last year that
493 that's not because crime is not here or that crimes is not coming here. I think that because you have an effective
494 police department that is very connected with the community and has policies and procedures in place that permit
495 police officers to do their job, which is primarily to protect the community and that means putting criminals in jail,
496 is an important part of that, because we do have a reputation that starts with people saying when I go through
497 Surfside, 'I slow down.' That continues on into other more serious crimes, as well. However, the volume is not
498 comparable, but work is the same type of work. I think you'll find that taking that into account in the
499 recommendation. Mr. Ott asked if there is a patrol car that doesn't have any markings. Chief Hofmann said yes, Mr.
500 Ott said we all know now that they are out there. Be careful. I hear all good things from this rock painting event that
501 the department hosted. This is part of what makes police officers stay. There's pay, and then there's time and
502 environment. These are all benefits. I know you guys can work and try to improve this. Mr. Stevens said I
503 understand your situation, because I attended a public safety forum with the Municipal Association. The cities of
504 Columbia, Hilton Head Island, Richland and Lexington all talked about same problem; turnover. Despite turnover,

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505 every criminal when they come town says 'I committed the crime in the wrong town.' I applaud you for that. Mr.
506 Courtney pointed out that just because we are a small town, these officers still have families to feed. To lose them
507 impacts us. You're losing good officers. For every officer you lose, we lose \$7,000 to \$10,000. That is money that
508 could have been allocated to the police department. We give raises 3-percent COLA (cost of living), and the next
509 year it is a 3-percent merit. That is not bring pay up to other departments, and they're going to leave. They have to
510 feed their families. We have a great police department here. It's only a 2 square mile town, but all it takes is one
511 traffic stop to change a life. Any police officer will tell you that. It's a great community to work with. Officers are
512 not handling 15 jobs a night, but again, to lose them we're actually losing money. I want council to be aware of that.
513 Instead of losing money, we can give them a raise and bring them up a little bit higher. Chief Hofmann wanted to
514 ensure that Town Council realizes that his recommendations are based on his understanding that there are other
515 budgetary constraints. Myrtle Beach may be the highest paid police department in the area, and to address its crime
516 problem that's gotten out of control, they're going to be drawing all the experienced police officers from area
517 agencies into their agency. Their crime may go down, but it could very well push that crime outside of the city of
518 Myrtle Beach we will be impacted by that. I get behind every single police officer in this department. They are the
519 best police officers that there can be. They are very dedicated to this town, and hopefully, that's demonstrated
520 through the things that they do in the community.

521
522 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Ott
523 asked if we have plans for the 13th Avenue South ramp, and when it would be completed. Mr. Adair said they are
524 being drawn up and should be completed within a week or so. The project should be finished within the next month.
525 Mr. Stevens asked how long it would be before the work at the big dog park would be finished. Mr. Adair said after
526 replacing the water fountain, concrete pad, and drain pipe the big dog park will be open tomorrow or the next day.
527 Mr. Courtney said about three months ago I spoke to Mr. Smith at Grand Strand Water and Sewer about Lift Station
528 171 on Dogwood. They put the chain-link fence there, because the Town of Surfside Beach told them that there
529 would be problems getting permits. I brought that to the administrator's attention and was assured that there would
530 be no problems with them getting permits and putting that wall back up. It is that going to be a problem. Mr. Adair
531 said it won't be a problem for public works. Their fence contractor will submit the plans for a permit to the planning,
532 building and zoning department for approval. Mr. Courtney said the wall came down during Hurricane Matthew,
533 which created a huge eye sore. The chemical tank was visible, and we had many complaints. We are glad that it's
534 being worked out because it does impact the tourist area. Mr. Courtney said during the past two years at the vision
535 meetings we were told that we had \$7.5 million in capital projects that need to be done on the swashes. How many
536 of those projects have been completed since then? Mr. Adair said six or seven projects were identified that were
537 high-priority infrastructure projects in our stormwater system. We didn't put a timeline to do them. The Myrtle
538 Swash Culvert Bridge project on Ocean Boulevard is the first one, and will start next week. Other projects include
539 the Dogwood Swash Bridge; the northern bulkhead of the Floral Swash, and diverting water in the Melody Lane
540 area to keep it out of Garden City and redirecting it into town. Council may or may not do all those projects. We
541 don't have an identified funding source. Most of the money for this current project is coming from a Rural
542 Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant for \$500,000. The town will pay the balance of \$100,000 and change. Mr.
543 Courtney said out of all those infrastructure projects, only one has been worked on so far. Mr. Adair said correct.
544 Once this is project is complete, we can apply for another RIA grant and other grants for large-scale projects like
545 hazard mitigation grants or community block grants. The grants have a time certain every year for applications, but
546 RIA will not allow another grant request to be submitted until the open grant is closed. Mr. Courtney said only one
547 project has been done in two years. Mr. Adair explained that the current grant was awarded this time last year as an
548 emergency. It took several months to get the grant. Project funds were budgeted in this fiscal year, so engineering
549 for the project could not begin and bids could not be let until after July 1st. Mr. Courtney said I want to bring this to
550 everyone's attention because three days before Christmas staff called an emergency meeting to fund this project. We
551 need to stay on top these projects sooner and not later. No criticism intended, but I just don't want to see them wait
552 so long. Mr. Adair said that was the reason for the special meeting. The bid was just opened two days before, and we
553 learned that the lowest bid was a little bit was higher than the budget. Town Council had to approve the overage
554 before the bid could be awarded. Mr. Courtney asked when the grant expired. Mr. Adair believed in June or July of
555 2018. RIA has contacted us several times asking why the project hadn't started since the grant was awarded on an
556 emergency basis. So, it was imperative that we move the process along without further delay. Mr. Courtney asked if
557 many of the swashes were falling apart. Mr. Adair said the ones mentioned require work right now. Stormwater is an
558 ongoing capital expense that has a huge cost that should be borne by everybody in an equitable manner throughout
559 town. I know there's a lot of controversy about funding mechanisms, but unless you have a source of the income that
560 you can count on to pay for these projects, it's hard to plan. Mr. Courtney asked what the future plan was to tackle

561 these projects. Mr. Adair said in the absence of a stormwater utility fee, my only option is to go after grants. Mr.
562 Courtney asked if he suggested having a grant writer. Mr. Adair said I don't know if we have enough grants to write
563 that would require a full-time grant writer, but certainly a part-time grant writer would be welcomed. These are long
564 processes. They are very arduous. There is a lot of detail involved; a lot of follow-up, and quarterly reports with
565 voluminous paperwork. If it is the desire of Town Council moving forward into the future, I certainly would say that
566 a part-time grant writer would be a huge asset to the town in lieu of a dedicated funding source. Mr. Courtney
567 recalled during a past meeting council asked what would it take to get these projects done. The answer was a 25-
568 percent tax increase. That's the last thing that we want to do this. I think a grant writer is something that council
569 should consider. Mr. Adair said the estimate for the stormwater utility fee were around \$50 a year on your water bill
570 in lieu of the 2 mils that you pay now. Mr. Courtney said it was imperative that we look for a grant writer. Mr.
571 Pellegrino said there is a list of projects for \$7.5 million, but by no means is it Mr. Adair's fault that we only did one
572 project this year. Town Council is responsible. At last year's visioning meeting council identified one that we were
573 going to focus on. We gave Mr. Adair direction to pursue the grant. Mr. Adair did a great job; he got the grant. I'm
574 sure in the vision meeting on February 22 will probably pick the next project and do the same thing. Mr. Adair can
575 only go by our direction on these projects, because they have to be included in the budget. So he's at the mercy of
576 our speed, not his speed. I just wanted to clear that up. So we will talk about that at the vision meeting. I'm sure Mr.
577 Adair's going to bring that same list. Mr. Adair said I am. I can budget \$600,000 for next year for another project,
578 but if we don't get a grant to cover it, it's a competitive process, then the \$600,000 sits in the budget and the job isn't
579 done. Ms. Samples said it is a visioning meeting. We sit and talk about those things we'd like to have done. It is by
580 no means, Mr. Courtney, a list of things that will be done. We do have to find funding resources. That's why it's
581 called visioning. It's just a vision. It's not a plan. Mr. Ott said I agree with Ms. Samples, but these projects must be
582 done. As Mr. Pellegrino says these are a need. We must stay up on top of our infrastructure. I know we go there as a
583 visioning meeting, but these need to be on our future generations of improvements. Mr. Adair said we have to stay
584 resilient. Infrastructure that is 50- to 60-years old will be a pay now or pay later project. Mayor Childs asked if the
585 north end stormwater project still needed to be finished. Mr. Adair said yes, the second phase of project is also on
586 the list. Mr. Courtney reiterated that he was not attacking staff. He just wanted to bring attention to council that these
587 projects need to be done. Only one project was done in two years when there are seven. I'd like to see us get more
588 grants and go in that direction. Mr. Adair said yes, sir.

589
590 **C. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.
591 Mr. Stevens referred to the lack of a decision by FEMA for the pier restoration. We've been talking about this for
592 some time. Many numbers have been thrown out. How much money has FEMA at this point in time said we can
593 have? Ms. Fellner said \$5.6 million. Mr. Stevens asked if that is that a written commitment or a verbal commitment.
594 Ms. Fellner said written. Mr. Stevens asked if that was distributed to the council. Ms. Fellner said no. Mr. Stevens
595 said I ask because an elected official asked me whether the amount was written or verbal, and if I had seen a written
596 letter. So, I'm asking you to provide council with a written letter from FEMA showing exactly how much they have
597 said. Ms. Fellner said it doesn't come from FEMA. It comes from SCEMD (South Carolina Emergency
598 Management Division.) Mr. Stevens asked what the last status update from FEMA was. Ms. Fellner said they have
599 not responded. The last update was given to you at the last meeting, which was that the Region 4 has kicked it up to
600 Washington, DC to the headquarters. Traditionally, they're not fast in making decisions. Mr. Johnson said I know we
601 contacted Senator Tim Scott, and Congressman Tom Rice. Did we contacted Senator Lindsey Graham? Ms. Fellner
602 said yes, we did. He was included from the beginning. Craig Able is his point person. They've spoken with FEMA
603 on a number of occasions. Mr. Able is very good with FEMA legalese, and he really speaks their language. He is
604 very savvy. Every one of them is copied along with our state representatives whenever I send out one of these
605 letters. There have been numerous communiqués again outlining both the initiatives of FEMA themselves, which
606 they are not complying with, and what we are requesting. They've had this for a long time. Mr. Courtney asked what
607 was being requested that they are not responding to. Ms. Fellner said we wanted hazard mitigation included, and we
608 wanted the conversion of the project to a 428 alternate project. Those are the two primary things to which they are
609 not responding. We also asked them to look at the costs that were incorrect, for instance, as I mentioned before, piles
610 in general need to be 40 or 50 feet, especially as you get out into the water. In their specification, the piles are all 14
611 feet. That just will not work and piles are expensive. So there are a number of deficiencies and that number would be
612 more like \$6.5 or \$6.6 million. Mr. Courtney asked if she was talking about a wood structure. Ms. Fellner said at this
613 cost it is for a wood pier. Mr. Courtney said this has been dragging on for how long, and now we're coming down to
614 it and will end up with a wooden pier. Ms. Fellner said Hurricane Matthew was in October 2016. Mr. Pellegrino said
615 this was going to be discussed during business, and get some more information on that. Mayor Childs said I attended
616 that ceremony at the Surfside Area Rotary Club. I, too, would like to congratulate Kim Decker who was honored as

617 Police Officer the Year, and Arnold Spain who was honored as Firefighter of the year, and Willie Myers who was
618 honored as Employee of the Year. I would like to congratulate them. The picks were well-deserved.
619

620 **7. BUSINESS.**

621
622 **Added to agenda (see #3 above.)**
623

624 **Duties of the town administrator.** Mr. Ott moved to review the duties and the responsibilities of the town
625 administrator. Mr. Courtney second. Mr. Ott said at this point, I believe that we're having a huge struggle with
626 communication, and the problem is I should've know more about what was going on with this pier with FEMA; the
627 monies, and what we're asking for. We had a meeting, but the whole thing has not been covered. Why they're
628 refusing us; why there is a delay, and we should as a council know these points. Mr. Courtney said I'd like to make a
629 motion at this time to relieve Ms. Micki Fellner of all duties and responsibilities as the Town of Surfside Beach town
630 administrator effective immediately. Ms. Herrmann said there is an unrelated motion on the floor that must be
631 disposed. Mr. Courtney said no problem. Mr. Ott said we can speak on what I just spoke about. Ms. Samples said as
632 it relates to reviewing the duties and responsibilities of the administrator, that's been on the agenda, I think, five
633 times. It's beyond me that we're still having that discussion, my opinion. I don't know if anybody else is not getting
634 their emails, but I've been getting lots of emails about updates on the pier consistently. So I'm not sure why I'm the
635 only one getting emails about the pier and the status of the pier. Mr. Pellegrino said I hear this communication thing
636 all the time. And that's fine if you're gonna go after the administrator, but pick something that's real. We have been
637 getting emails. I was confused about some information and I called administrator three times since last meeting
638 talking solely about the pier. That's why it's on the agenda with my name today. We need to make some decisions.
639 So I don't get this. She doesn't hide information. Sometimes there's information that is in an email that has just one
640 point and sometimes you have to call and ask for more details. That's just the way it is. Mr. Courtney said Mr.
641 Pellegrino's discussion is under a business item and should have never that put on as a decision item. It should've
642 been under discussion. So there is a communication problem. Mr. Ott said I can say I get the communication; I get
643 the emails, but they don't tell me the whole truth. I don't know the whole truth of what's going on. I have no idea.
644 That's why, Mr. Pellegrino, you had to call to talk to her three times this week to get the information that I'm saying
645 that we're not getting. Mr. Pellegrino said I talked to her three times, because I didn't ask the right questions the first
646 or second time. Mr. Courtney said or you didn't get the right answers. Mr. Pellegrino said no, I always got the right
647 answers, but I didn't ask the right questions, and wanted to be prepared for tonight so I kept calling back until I had
648 all the right information. Mayor Childs said I think we all have been getting quite a few emails on the pier. I think in
649 order to make sure that she does keep everybody informed Ms. Fellner put everything that she put out to FEMA and
650 the names of people she's talked to, the amount of time she's talked to them. I don't know what more she could have
651 done to inform council. Mr. Johnson called *point of order*, and said we're having a discussion when there's a motion
652 on the floor. I would ask that the motion be withdrawn as well as the second. Mr. Ott withdrew his motion. Mr.
653 Courtney withdrew the second.
654

655 Mr. Courtney moved to relieve Ms. Micki Fellner of all duties and responsibilities as the Town of Surfside
656 Beach Town Administrator effective immediately, the administrator will receive her pay to the end of her contract.
657 Mr. Stevens second. Mr. Courtney said at this time I believe we need to move in a different direction. Mr. Pellegrino
658 said you know this is why council shouldn't be involved with Ms. Morris. With Ms. Fellner's hiring or firing we
659 would be involved. This just came out of the blue tonight. We just voted on this just a few months ago. This is why
660 we should only be involved in hiring administrator and no one else, because we can't make the right decision,
661 because we don't know the day to day activities. Obviously, they don't know what administrator of this town has to
662 deal with day-to-day. I probably talk to her more than most people up here, but there is crap every day, every minute
663 of every day that has to be taken care of. There are decisions that have to be made all the time. Whether people agree
664 with all decisions of disagree or whatever, it has to be managed day-to-day. I'm stunned that months before the end
665 of her contract were talking about this when we have a budget coming. We have the pier in a crisis timeline
666 situation, and we're talking about eliminating the person who knows what's going on. So that's pretty smart for the
667 town. Ms. Samples said I have an opinion, as well. It is just surprising to me that this council would put forth such a
668 motion. We were supposed to go into executive session tonight and four members of this council opted not to. The
669 intent of that executive session was to get some legal advice from a labor attorney, because we seem to be a little out
670 of control, in my opinion. These four councilmembers opted not to go into executive session, so we couldn't even go
671 in and get advice from the labor attorney that drove down here from Columbia. That intent was to protect the town
672 from lawsuits, because you are right, Mr. Reed, we should not be having this discussion about personnel in public.

673 That's why we go into executive session to protect those individuals, and to keep the town out of the lawsuit. So, it's
674 beyond me that four councilmembers up hear would even attempt such a move, when what's best for the town, get
675 this, we're gonna pay this administrator through the end of her contract, but you don't want her to be here to take
676 care of the most critical time in the Town of Surfside Beach in years when we're trying to rebuild pier. When we
677 have beach renourishment. We have a whole slew of important decisions that need to be made, and the person who
678 is been on the forefront in all of this information is sitting right over there is our administrator. So, in my opinion, let
679 me say that this move is in detriment to the Town of Surfside Beach. To make this kind of a move right now when
680 we need her as much as we do. Mayor Childs said everybody on council has been advised by an attorney that you
681 should not discuss personnel matters in public. So everybody is aware that. We were made aware of it a few
682 Saturdays ago when we had a meeting. Mr. Ott said there's no personal information being given out, and if all this
683 information is being given out, then Mr. Pellegrino shouldn't be having to call her all the time for all this. Are we at
684 a critical point? We've been at a critical point for year and half. We're still sitting on that critical point. There is
685 absolutely nothing being done. Was there a beach renourishment? Yes, which was another failure. Mr. Johnson
686 called for the vote. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, and Stevens voted in favor.
687 Mayor Childs and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Samples voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ms. Fellner said
688 Mr. Mayor, I would like to excuse myself. Mayor Childs said thank you, Ms. Fellner. Mr. Ott said I would like to
689 have Mrs. Fellner taken off that computer system so no data is remove. Ms. Samples asked who Mr. Ott suggest do
690 that. Mr. Ott said Captain Miller. (**) Ms. Fellner said Captain Miller doesn't have rights to the network, but Mr.
691 David Hostetler can certainly do that.

692
693 **Duties of the deputy town administrator.** Mr. Stevens moved to relieve Mr. Jon Harrah of all duties and
694 responsibilities as the Town of Surfside Beach deputy administrator effective immediately. Mr. Courtney second.
695 Mr. Pellegrino said we've already done a disservice to the town, because you know a ship without a rudder just goes
696 all over the place. This is ridiculous. So I mean why don't we just get rid of everyone, and you guys can run it.
697 Obviously, you know what you're doing. This is ridiculous! (*Speaker's emphasis.*) Mayor Childs said thank you,
698 Mr. Pellegrino. This is gonna be a train wreck. Ms. Samples said Mr. Harrah, you've done a brilliant job. I just want
699 to go on record that I do not support this, so when the lawsuit ensue, you know exactly who's going to be personally
700 involved. Mayor Childs said I might add it's inevitable. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney,
701 Johnson, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Childs and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Samples voted against.
702 **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Harrah said Mr. Mayor, may I be excused. Mayor Childs said unfortunately, yes.

703
704 **Reinstatement of former Planning, Building and Zoning Director Morris.** Mr. Stevens moved to
705 reinstate Sabrina Morris as the Town of Surfside Beach director of planning, building and zoning effective
706 immediately. Mr. Courtney second. Ms. Samples said I just would like to say that the, just for the record, that the
707 labor attorney from Columbia strongly urged us not to do this, or some of this, and I just want that to go on the
708 record. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Childs
709 and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Samples voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

710
711 **A. Second Reading Ordinance #18-0862 to Establish the E Entertainment District.** Ms. Samples
712 moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #18-0862. Mr. Pellegrino second. The decision paper and ordinance
713 copies are on file. Mr. Courtney moved to amend the motion to deferred second reading for further information. Mr.
714 Johnson second. Mr. Ott said the E district is something that I sincerely want, but I believe one more workshop
715 should be held so we can see what the possibilities are for future construction. Mr. Johnson supported delaying
716 second reading so councilmembers can digest it a little more. I feel like it was pushed on council rather suddenly.
717 Ms. Samples said there is no one here to help, but we've had many workshops; a public hearing, and it was
718 recommended by the planning commission. I respect that you want more information, but the decision paper gives
719 you all the information. Unless council can be specific about the needed information, I'm not sure what a delay will
720 accomplish. Mr. Ott agreed with Ms. Samples, and said there are things we don't see. There is conflicting
721 information about the parking. After additional debate, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney,
722 Johnson, and Stevens voted in favor to defer. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Samples voted
723 against deferring. **MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. Primary motion negated by deferral of second reading.**

724
725 Mr. Ott began stating why a workshop should be held. Mr. Johnson called *point of order*, saying that the
726 motion was disposed and discussion is out of order. Mayor Childs said Mr. Johnson's point was well taken.

727
728 **B. Second Reading Ordinance #18-0863 to establish a ban on Single Use Plastic Bags.** Mr. Stevens

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729 moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #18-0863. Ms. Samples second. Ms. Samples said a survey was sent
730 to all businesses, and over 70-percent of the respondents to the survey regarding plastic bags was in favor of banning
731 plastic bags. It's important to note that H3529 is being pushed this week in Columbia. The legislation, if passed,
732 would deny our town the right to enact a plastic bag ban. Our representative, Mr. Russell Fry, states in his email
733 responses to constituents, although he acknowledges that plastics in our oceans is a problem, bans do not work, and
734 plastic bans do not reduce plastics in our oceans. So, if he really believes this, why is Columbia attempting to pass
735 legislation that will not all the Town of Surfside Beach to implement a plastic bag ban. I'll tell you why; the plastic
736 industry is getting bigger or more opportunistic. This industry is investing \$180 trillion dollars into building new
737 facilities to produce more plastic, and thus, reaching out to our elected officials to pass H3529. It's important to note
738 that Mr. Lee Hewitt, the representative for our neighbors in Garden City and Murrells Inlet, does not support this
739 proposed legislation. This is important to all of us who live on the coast. This plastic bag ban is more than just a ban
740 on plastic. It sends a message to our neighbors and visitors that we care about our beach and the ocean enough not
741 only begin the conversation, but to put words into action. I'm strongly in support of this second reading. Mr.
742 Pellegrino said I agree that the town should have the right to vote 100-percent. I did some more research, and talked
743 to people. In every instance this was implemented, the default was to use paper, which causes different problems.
744 Obviously, pulp production causes byproducts and pollution that goes into the rivers. There is a plant in
745 Georgetown, and uses more fossil fuels. You are correct about plastic bags are produced in the US, but all the
746 reasonable cloth bags and plastic heavy duty bags are all produced in China with lead paint. When they reach the
747 land fill, that's another toxin. Again, there's two sides. This is another one of the hard decisions we have to make
748 tonight. I just want everyone to understand that there are two sides to the story. Mr. Johnson said I was just looking
749 at the ordinance, and I don't disagree with Mr. Pellegrino. Under 3.i., 'reusable carry out bag means a carryout bag
750 that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse, and meets the following criteria, displays in a
751 highly visible manner on the bag exterior language describing the bags ability to be reused and recycled.' So are we
752 indicating or dictating that all the bags have to have some wording or lettering on the exterior saying that 'I'm
753 reusable bag.' I don't know. I also have some concerns that thing is going to be highly contentious, especially when
754 it comes to enforcement at the farmers market, so on and so forth. We have small business owners sitting in this
755 room. Are you are you dictating to them that they can't use plastic bags? I understand that plastic bags generally are
756 not good, but it's not about using. It's about education, and the residents and the people being responsible for their
757 disposal. Mr. Ott said there's other countries that are banning them, like Kenya, and in Europe, because they do not
758 deteriorate, and they go out into our oceans. They are all over the roads; all over the place. If you get a chance look
759 up the fines in Kenya. They are from [\$19,000 to \$38,000 or 4 years in jail for bringing plastic bags into the country
760 or for manufacturing them.] That is how serious they are. Mr. Courtney said I agree with banning plastic bags. As I
761 said from the beginning, unless the county implements it, it's going to be an issue, because a lot of on people that
762 live here go shopping at Kroger, Target and other business [outside of town] that have these plastic bags. I'll repeat
763 myself, I wish the county or the state would implement it. My hometown, Long Beach, New York implemented a
764 plastic bag ban and it was very successful, because the county also did it. So that's my opinion. Is this going to
765 work? How can it be enforced? Are there penalties or fines? What are you gonna do when our huge tourist
766 population comes in with plastic bags? Ms. Samples said that that I appreciate those comments. We cannot legislate
767 what happens outside of our town. All we can do is talk about what happens inside our town. Enforcing a plastic bag
768 ban is going to be no different and no more troublesome than we have enforcing smoking and a hundred other
769 things. So if it's just going to be too tough for us to do, then that's gonna apply to a lot of things. Effective dates and
770 waivers, the ordinance reads, and I'm sure every single one of you have read this ordinance in great detail, all of the
771 requirements set forth in this chapter shall take effect June 1, 2018. In the event that compliance with the effective
772 date of this article is not feasible for a business establishment because of either unavailability or alternative checkout
773 bags, or economic hardship, Town Council may grant a waiver not more than 12 months upon application of the
774 business owner or owner's representatives. We're not going in and dictating. We're asking them to work with us.
775 Let's do something good. Something positive. Let's spend this time to educate. This is really simple. Why in the
776 world are we trying to make this so complicated. Mr. Stevens said to run a marathon, you've got take one step.
777 We're a small town two miles long, a half-mile wide, and we can be an example for other towns. We've already got
778 two places, Isle of Palms and [Folly Beach] that are examples. So what's the problem taking this step forward? You
779 don't take a step forward, you have to take a step backwards. If you going backwards not get anywhere. So for this
780 fisherman and hunter, I'm tired of going to the river and to Murrells Inlet where plastic bags are floating in the
781 water. It irks me when I think I've caught a fish and it's a plastic bag on the hook. There is nothing wrong with this,
782 and as Ms. Samples pointed out, we will work with the people to try to make this something that can be done. We
783 need to protect this environment one way or another for our children, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. If
784 we start here, maybe will get other people and other municipalities to ban plastic bags. Eventually, maybe we can

785 get the big stores to say it's a good idea to get rid of the plastic bags. It helps the environment. The oil companies
786 can make something outside the oil. Let's take a step forward and go forward from now on. Mr. Stevens called for
787 the vote. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Samples and Stevens
788 voted in favor. Councilmember Pellegrino voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

789
790 **C. Pier Construction, Councilmember Pellegrino.** Mr. Pellegrino asked for consensus to discuss some
791 information on the pier. Mayor Childs asked if this was in order. Ms. Herrmann said council has discussed the pier
792 numerous times, and it was proper to be placed under business as Mr. Pellegrino is requesting a decision from
793 council. Mr. Pellegrino said the current timeline for the pier puts the town up against a hard wall right now. We have
794 three months of engineering; six weeks bid; one month for planning and construction mobilization, and nine months
795 of construction. So that's 14 months. That takes us right to May 2019. If we don't make a decision to move forward
796 tonight, we won't have a pier for the summer of 2019 either. Currently, we have approved \$5.6 million. In my
797 opinion, we're not ever getting an answer for the additional \$2 to \$3 million from FEMA. So I'm asking for
798 consensus that we move forward with the wood pier in that price range. The pier would be paid for through the
799 grant. However, the town would be responsible for the buildings that would not be covered in the new pier
800 construction with this option. The pier would be paid for, but the town would have to pay for the new buildings
801 construction. I am asking for consensus to move forward with this option, although it won't mean anything, because
802 we just fired the only two people who talk to or even have the phone numbers for Haggerty, which is our consultant
803 and for the engineering firm. We can get consensus... Oh, Mr. Adair can do it. Beautiful. So I'm asking for
804 consensus to move forward with that option. If everything goes to plan, we can have the pier for the summer of
805 2019. Mr. Ott said this is your opinion. We still don't know if we're going to get the money. That's the problem. We
806 don't know where we are. Mr. Pellegrino said I don't know anything for sure, but I know if we don't make a
807 decision today, we will not have a pier for the summer 2019. We will not. [We are dealing with] the US government.
808 There were two other huge storms after our storm, so the odds of us getting a quick answer are very, very small. The
809 fact is, if we don't make a decision today, we will not have the pier for the summer 2019. We won't even have a
810 chance for a pier. Mr. Courtney asked Mr. Adair if he was aware of all of this. Mr. Adair said yes. I was included in
811 most of the meetings and most of these email conversations with FEMA, Haggerty, etc. Mr. Courtney asked how
812 much the consulting fees would cost the town if we take the \$5.6 million. Mr. Adair said the contract with Haggerty
813 was well over \$100 thousand dollars, which Town Council approved. The \$5.6 million being referred to is the
814 FEMA initial cost estimate to replace the pier in wood. Because it was over 50-percent damaged, it is eligible for
815 replacement in wood. Their cost estimate is deficient according Haggerty. Its cost estimator feels to replace the
816 wood pier would be closer to \$6.5 million dollars. The FEMA estimate didn't include enough hardware; piles were
817 too short, and connections weren't right. Haggerty challenged FEMA's estimate and we we've also asked for
818 additional hazard mitigation money. Section 428 of the FEMA program allows for an approved project to have
819 hazard mitigation to build from more resilient materials. Mr. Courtney asked Mr. Adair if he had been handling this
820 all along. Mr. Adair said he had been involved with it all along, but not exclusively. The issue is even if we get \$5.6
821 or \$6.5 million, depending on what they approve, the federal government pays 75-percent. It is not a 100-percent
822 funded. Sometime the state will pay the rest when these disasters occur. The question has been kicked up to
823 Washington, DC to the FEMA headquarters as Ms. Fellner said. The Region 4 people don't want to make the
824 decision. I assume it has to do with the amount of money and the number of disasters. I can make some inquiries
825 tomorrow, and try to determine a status to let Council know. Mayor Child said I was on a conference call yesterday
826 on this very subject. Ms. Fellner was going to report to council that the engineers are waiting for the go-ahead, if
827 council has instructed them to proceed. They also had some very bad report on account of the disasters around the
828 country this last year. Construction price has gone up from 20- to 40-percent on all these projects. Mr. Pellegrino's
829 thoughts on the wood pier seemed to be; we all wanted concrete, that is just going to be out of the question with the
830 engineers approximate cost of the 40-percent more. Doing the wood pier is probably the only thing that were going
831 to able to afford. Concrete is going to be out of the question at this point in time. They're waiting for consensus from
832 council tonight so the engineers will know which direction to proceed. That was the last update as of yesterday. Mr.
833 Adair reminded council that when the consultants came last year, their estimate already included 15-percent above
834 Charleston area construction cost. I don't that was taken consideration with estimate we have. Mayor Childs said the
835 exact comment yesterday was to notify the council that the cost for construction of the pier has gone up anywhere
836 from 15- to 40-percent, and they were waiting for instructions from Ms. Fellner tomorrow about how to proceed
837 before they start doing any drawings or anything else, because they need to know which direction the council wants
838 to go. Mr. Courtney said it is 9:30 at night. This information comes to me, and you want me to make a decision for
839 the residents of this town whether or not to spend this money, and to make a decision this exact minute. I don't think
840 is right. This is information that was given to us tonight. [Mr. Adair,] this is not your fault. Trust me. We are being

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841 put in a position where; we have to listen to the people. What do the people want? I've even heard people say we
842 shouldn't even have the pier. I believe the pier should be put back. I love the pier. I go up to it. It's great for tourism.
843 But, to put a wooden pier back up and then there's a good chance it will come back down [at the next storm,] I hate
844 to say, I wish I was wrong. Mr. Adair concurred with Mr. Pellegrino who said that we will be responsible for the
845 buildings, because they will need to meet the height requirement of the flood zone. Ms. Samples said Mr. Courtney,
846 you are not being put in any position. You're on council. We've heard all this information about the pier. The one
847 fact that we do know is that we don't know when FEMA is or is not going to fund any more money. We as the
848 elected officials have to make a decision whether to sit and wait as we have been or make a decision to move
849 forward to get our pier built back. I support Mr. Pellegrino's position, because I don't want to see our town go
850 another summer without a pier. So it's a tough decision, but let's make it. We are as equipped as anybody else at the
851 moment, scary thought, to make that decision. Either we're gonna say yes, we're not gonna wait. Let's do it. Or,
852 we're gonna sit back and wait and see how much longer it's gonna take, if ever, FEMA actually does fund us with
853 more money. Mr. Ott said this is what I've been saying. There was a conference call yesterday. Was it in the
854 administrator's report tonight? No. She didn't tell us that. How can I make a decision when she didn't even bring it
855 up tonight? Mayor Childs said Ms. Fellner's intention was to report this during this discussion. Mr. Stevens said it
856 seems to me like the some of the people on council have been enlightened, and some of the people on council been
857 left in the dark. Just tonight, I ask how money was actually guaranteed. She told me \$5.6 million. If she had that
858 written guarantee for a long time. Why wasn't that given to the council? At least we know where we're standing. It
859 infuriates me that we are still here talking about building a pier. I haven't heard anybody say anything about whether
860 it will be insured. That was the problem with the last pier. It was not insured. I don't want to build a wood pier that
861 is not insured. If we had insurance, the pier would have already been built back. The pier is a destination. There's
862 been three or four pier wood piers been demolished [since it was built in 1952.] We have to protect our taxpayers in
863 the event of catastrophic storm. We've got to make sure we've got every 't' crossed and every 'i' dotted. The
864 taxpayers are owed that. Mr. Stevens continued at length describing previously given estimate and other pier related
865 costs and stories. Please give councilmembers all the information. Mayor Child said council was told the reason
866 there was no insurance on the pier was that it would cost about \$106,000 per year. (**) Mr. Johnson said I am not in
867 the commercial insurance business, but I'm pretty sure that the price of insurance [on the pier] would be cost
868 prohibitive. No one has mentioned bonds. We briefly touched on issuing bonds during some of our meetings. Mr.
869 Pellegrino said part of the problem with communication is you guys don't listen. We already talked about self-
870 insuring the pier for \$150,000 a year in a fund to begin after the pier construction is done. The reason we didn't
871 insure before was a \$106,000 a year over 20 years is \$2.3 million. He asked if the federal government agreed to pay
872 75-percent, and the state would pay the final 25-percent. Mr. Adair said so far, the state has covered 25-percent of
873 the non-federal share of the Hurricane Matthew cost. We assume that they would cover the 25-percent in this case,
874 also. Mr. Pellegrino said the cost of the pier would be covered. We just would be responsible for the buildings. Mr.
875 Adair said I'm pretty sure it will, but I can't say for certain. Mr. Pellegrino said I just wanted to bring up that point
876 about the insurance, and \$5.6 million that number has been out there. I don't know how many times that's been
877 bouncing back and forth. Mr. Ott said you're right, the \$5.6 million was out and I do pay attention, and I do listen. I
878 remember that \$156,000 a year was for concrete pier, and they said that the wooden chair would be twice as much.
879 Now, none of these things are being brought out to us. Where is our fact sheet that we need? We're gonna be asked
880 to make a major decision like that tonight to change from what we were shown by the engineering team on a
881 concrete pier. Now were gonna flip-flop to over to a wooden one with no information. No bond costs, nothing.
882 That's a major problem. That's a major lack of communication. We don't know what the price of the insurance is.
883 And God forbid you try to build a wooden pier out there and you don't insure it. That would be devastating. The
884 problem was we had that meeting with the engineers they did say it was really cost prohibitive for a wood pier (**).
885 Now we need to debate that and look at it. Get me all the figures. But, no, they're not there. Mr. Courtney said now I
886 know why the E district was being shoved down my throat. Now I got it. I'm listening. I've been listening, and you
887 know what? I wasn't given this information until just now. I'm not gonna spend the taxpayers money within 12 hours
888 notice. We're gonna make a sound decision on this, and you know what, you can trash me all you want, but you
889 know what, this is the problem we have a dysfunctional council as one of our residents said. I've been listening to
890 him, and some of us are getting more information than others, because it seems that you have a lot more than I have
891 in front of me, and this is put on a business item, and not brought under discussion, and you want us to make a vote
892 on it now. Poor choice. I'm sorry. I've got to represent these people out here. Mr. Pellegrino said unless we give the
893 engineering firm direction to move forward, we'll never have the price. I'm asking to pick a look here, and then the
894 engineering firm can finish the plans so we can get a price. So basically, if we never make a decision to do that we'll
895 never have the full price, never have the full timeline. We'll never have anything, because they can't finish doing
896 their job. I said self-insurance; we already agreed to self-insure for \$150,000 a year. That means we're just putting

897 money in the reserve fund so 20 years from now we have \$3 million. That's basically what it is. But, if we don't give
898 the engineering firm some direction, we will never know how much this is going to cost. Ms. Samples said since
899 everyone has spoken twice, at least, could we go ahead for the record, and have on the record, which council people
900 support moving forward tonight and which council people want to wait? Could we actually have that count? Mayor
901 Childs called for consensus to forward with this so Mr. Adair can get with the engineers. Ms. Samples said I support
902 that. Mr. Ott said I can't support something when I don't know what it cost. Mayor Childs explained that the
903 engineers have to finalize plans before a cost can be estimated. Mr. Courtney asked why the engineer company
904 didn't come here and tell us. Ms. Samples said they already did. Mr. Ott asked why the conference call wasn't
905 recorded so they could all listen to it. Mayor Childs suggested directing Mr. Adair to get with the engineers
906 tomorrow and then get back with council. We have to start somewhere. Mr. Adair said yes, and I believe it would be
907 very productive. Mr. Ott said I agree. Mr. Johnson asked if it would be possible to get cost estimate for both wood
908 and concrete. Mayor Childs said I think that's probably possible, but we won't get it by tomorrow. **Council**
909 **CONCURRED.**

910
911 Mr. Stevens suggested the bond issue be presented to the people as a referendum as we have election
912 coming up. Ms. Samples said it too late for that question to be added to the ballot. Mr. Adair believe the original
913 presentation included issuance of a general bond for the difference. Mayor Childs suggested once the information
914 was obtain, a workshop could be scheduled. Mr. Stevens said if we've got people out there with money, why don't
915 we let them build the buildings. Then it will become a town asset once they build it. Mr. Johnson said not on our
916 property. Ms. Samples said you can't do that. Mayor Childs said before we jump to buildings, we need to get Mr.
917 Adair in touch with the engineer, and Haggerty, and then we can possibly call council for meeting. **Council**
918 **CONCURRED.**

919
920 **D. Infrastructure Committee Recommendations, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott.** Mr. Ott said I was looking
921 at trying to save \$27,000 and put it into that bridge at Myrtle Swash. But, it's not even a poke in the bucket. After
922 looking at all this other stuff that I didn't know before I got here, adding it, putting another \$20,000 at it doesn't
923 make much difference. He asked Ms. King if she said we got other money for that bridge in you report tonight. Ms.
924 King said some is coming from grant funds, and some is coming from hospitality funds, which was part of the
925 budget. Mr. Ott said that was already that part of it and we're still a little short. Ms. King said no, there was a second
926 meeting with Mr. Adair, and Town Council agreed to take the rest of the money out of hospitality. Mr. Ott said
927 okay. I'll withdraw this matter.

928
929 **E. Sign Removal on North Yaupon Drive, Councilmember Courtney.** Mr. Courtney said I brought this
930 to council before. After listening to Mr. Kohlmann's comments, I'd like to defer this at this point and have a meeting
931 with the parking committee right away to discuss this, because I'm a little confused. This a why I get clarity from the
932 parking committee on the signs on Yaupon Drive. I wasn't clear about signage, but I was clear that we were going to
933 issue green decals to employees so they would be able to park on the Yaupon lot and the side streets with the decals.
934 Originally it was said that they were going be charged. When we found out from the administration that was never
935 implemented, we went back and said that we would not charge the \$25 on the second meeting. That's after Mr.
936 Kohlmann left that committee. So we were going to give them free parking at that point. But nowhere did I hear
937 about signage being put up on these streets where it said C3 permit parking only. I had numerous phone calls from
938 the homeowners of that area. One told me that that their pool company had couldn't park there, even though the
939 whole block was empty. They were afraid of getting a summons while they cleaned the pool. I'm trying to be fair
940 across the board here, and I think the whole of the objective was to get the employees by their locations. We have a
941 lot of side streets there and I would like to provide them parking. But to restrict parking to C3 employee parking
942 only, and then a resident can't park there when it's empty or if it's off-hours to me is a little absurd. It's like I can't
943 park there if nobody is working or it's the off-season. I'd like to defer this and then go back to the parking
944 committee so I can hear their recommendations and bring it forward to council at the next Town Council meeting.
945 Mayor Childs asked if anybody objected to hearing from former chairman Kohlmann address these issues. There
946 were no objections.

947
948 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, former parking committee chairman said I wrote the decision paper. To start off, Ms.
949 Fellner came to us and restaurant owners wanted some place for their employees to park. They would pay for a
950 parking permit in the area of the pier. Their employees were having a hard time finding someplace to park. Ms.
951 Fellner asked why they don't park on Surfside Drive, which was fine, but when you walk to Surfside Drive parking
952 area, you walk right past Yaupon Drive on the north side between Surfside and 1st Avenue North. On that strip early

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953 in the morning the beach goers park here. What happened is they didn't put the signs up for that area last year, so it
954 was only I think two parking permits were paid for, because it kind of silly for them to pay for a parking permit
955 when they could park for free if they find a spot on Yaupon. They're not gonna walk two or three blocks to do that.
956 So that's why that didn't work. That's why only two people bought 'em. Now on that block is mostly rental houses.
957 Some of 'em might be private residences. I'm not sure. The back of the house is on Yaupon; not the front of the
958 house. It's just like on Ocean Boulevard. There's very few parking spaces on Ocean Boulevard. In fact, there's no
959 parking on the east side. Those residents worked it out. On the web side there's very few parking spaces. The
960 residents and the tourists, they work it out. The parking committee recommend a nominal fee. We didn't want to get
961 into fees. We thought either the administrator or the council would decide how much. I believe Ms. Fellner wanted
962 \$20 or \$25 a month. I believe the Surf Diner was actually going to pay for their people. When they saw it was kind
963 of silly to pay for parking permit when you could park for free at a closer spot. That's why it didn't work. It was
964 never for Yaupon parking lot. They weren't allowed to park in Yaupon parking lot. If you want to let the residents
965 park there, I don't think any residents are gonna park there, because if you're going to the pier, you'd park in the pier
966 parking lot first, Yaupon parking lot second, and then you might park on Yaupon Drive, maybe. It's not like a lot of
967 residents are gonna pay, I mean are gonna park there. There is only 10 to 12 parking spaces. It's the back of
968 everyone's house. The people park on the other side, the people who live there or people who come to stay there
969 park on the other side. I believe that's Dogwood. When I go pass there at three o'clock in the morning, there is
970 nobody there. So it's not like resident are parking on that street, and now they're getting kicked out of their spots.
971 During the season there is no one parked there in the middle of night, which means that everyone's gone home from
972 the beach and the restaurants. Mr. Courtney said so what worries me is this entertainment district that's being
973 pushed. Whether or not those signs were put there for that reason. Mr. Kohlmann said it was put there, because we
974 initially told 'em to put them there, but Ms. Fellner, I guess it was lost in communication, because actually at a
975 meeting I was here and saying you told a half-truth because you only put up half of the signs. You put them up on
976 Surfside Drive, and then she said oh, I'll check on that. Then she's finally admitted, yeah, we made a mistake. We
977 forgot to put up the signs, and then Mr. Adair put them up. Mr. Courtney said we agreed to the green decals, correct.
978 Mr. Kohlmann said they would be a different color. I think they were yellow; the old fisherman decals we were
979 gonna use. Mr. Courtney said right, which would never implemented. (***) Mr. Kohlmann said they tried to
980 implement it. I think they sold two permits. Mr. Courtney said I was sold when I asked about a year ago that it
981 wasn't implemented when the ordinance first went through. Then they implemented it, and then came back, and I
982 was told that only a few sold, and I went back to the parking committee. Mr. Dodge is here. The parking committee
983 made the suggestion to bring to council that they would be free, the green decals. Mr. Kohlmann said I don't know
984 about the free. (***) Mr. Ott said I looked at [the parking area] and my question is if people are parking there are the
985 blocking the gates that open [out from the yard.] The cars have to be close to those fences so they're not into the
986 street. Maybe our police or fire chiefs can tell us if there is a problem there. Mr. Kohlmann said parking permit or no
987 parking permit signs or no signs, people been doing this for 20 years. But, no one has ever complained about it. Mr.
988 Ott said here's the problem at this point, now it's permission to do. Before it wasn't permission. Mr. Kohlmann said
989 no, we're telling you only certain people can do it. Before anybody could do it. Mr. Ott said before you didn't have a
990 sign that said you can. Now you're giving them permission. Then the question is this a safety problem. I would ask
991 the fire chief or the police chief. Say if they are in the back in the pool and the house catches on fire they can't go
992 through that way and they can't get out. Chief Hofmann said if I understand correctly, this is area on Yaupon
993 between Surfside Drive and 1st Avenue North. I believe all those lots are solid fenced, anyway. I don't know if there
994 are gates. Mr. Ott said there are gates. Everybody has a gate that opens out. Chief Hofmann said that area is town
995 right-of-way. So there's nothing that restricts people from parking there anyway, unless you put up a sign that
996 restricts who parks there. Cars are going to be there regardless. But ultimately it may be a zoning question that I'm
997 not able to answer. As far as safety, I don't know that there is going to be any difference, if you say only pier
998 employees can park there versus 20 cars that are gonna be there if you don't do this. Mr. Ott said there is still an
999 issue of it is a safety factor that this person; I just want to protect the town. Chief Hofmann said I will be happy to go
1000 down and take a look to see if the gates open up; are cars gonna block the gates or will they open. Mr. Ott said I
1001 would be happy with that.
1002

1003 Ms. Samples said I support the proposal. As a matter of fact, I think it's been very well thought out and
1004 we're being mindful of our businesses down there, and trying to accommodate their employees. I think it's quite
1005 clear. I think the discussion paper is quite clear. Sorry, we just can't push that forward, because I think it's a great
1006 idea. Mr. Courtney said I'm just asking for two weeks to go back to the parking committee and have meet to go
1007 down there and just take a look at it to clarify it. If you don't want to do that; fine. If you want to push it through,
1008 that's the way you want to do things. I'd rather people take a look at it, let's be clear. Let's make sure. The signs are

1009 already up. The damage is already done. So you don't need consensus. The signs is there. It's already been put in. I
1010 didn't know about it until afterwards; after the fact. The residents that live there; I do have people that are calling me
1011 about it, and they're surprised about it. I don't think I'm asking anything unreasonable to just have the parking
1012 committee take a look at it, and then I will come back to this council. If that's what they want to do, they want to
1013 move it forward, I have no problem with it. Mr. Pellegrino said I support this. This is a good idea. Mr. Kohlmann
1014 said we had two or three meetings on this. You all voted, you came up here twice to vote on. You already voted on
1015 it. It seems like we're going three steps forward and two steps back, in my opinion. Mayor Childs asked if council
1016 concurred to leave it as it is, since the parking committee recommended this and council voted on this a year ago.
1017 **Council CONCURRED.**
1018

1019 Ms. Samples said based on the termination of the administrator and the deputy administrator, we need to
1020 make a decision about who department directors should report. We can't leave here tonight, leaving our employees
1021 hanging. Mr. said I'm sure the directors can report to themselves. They know what to do, and don't need any
1022 direction immediately, as we're gonna ask for help from the Municipal Association. Mayor Childs asked if there was
1023 any objection if Ms. King acted until the Municipal Association sent somebody. Ms. King declined serving as acting
1024 administrator. Mr. Courtney said our directors at capable of directing themselves. As a now, you will continue on
1025 with your duties as you have been doing all along. Nothing will change at this point. Mr. Johnson will notify the
1026 Municipal Association, correct. Mr. Johnson said yes. Mr. Stevens said I agree with Mr. Courtney. Looking over
1027 there I see four people sitting over there and every one of those four can do the job. They don't need to be handled a
1028 couple of days. Mr. Stevens cited each department directors' expertise and saw no problem. Mr. Stevens moved to
1029 contact the Municipal Association to get names to serve as interim administrator. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in
1030 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ms. Samples moved that an advertisement be placed for a town administrator as soon
1031 as possible. Mr. Stevens second. Ms. Samples said it usually takes at least six months to find an administrator, so we
1032 need to start soon. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
1033

1034 **F. Motions and/or directions to Town Administrator from Executive Session.** This item removed,
1035 because there was no executive session. (See page 1.)
1036

1037 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.**

1038 **A. Plastic Movie Presentation by Ms. Gottlieb McLaran, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott.** Mr. Ott removed
1039 this discussion item.
1040

1041 **B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.**

1042 Mr. Pellegrino said I just have one thing. It seems inconsequential, now. Last week there were allegations
1043 that my business in Surfside did not follow the sign ordinance. According to Section 17-501 in the sign ordinance, I
1044 did fully comply with the sign ordinance. I still go through the same process everyone else goes through. We're
1045 doing a major renovation. I'm getting my stormwater plan. My engineering; spending thousands of dollars, and
1046 months before I can get a permit. So all this stuff about people saying I'm getting favors, and this and that, and so
1047 on, that's totally inaccurate. Thank you.
1048
1049

1050 Mr. Samples said I also have something to share for the record, if I may. Mr. Johnson made a number of
1051 accusations at the last council meeting regarding some town actions. In researching these accusations and asking
1052 staff to respond, I offer the following facts: Mr. Johnson suggested that ordinances have not been enforced. He
1053 stated one example the sign at the businesses 16th Avenue North and Highway 17 was nonconforming and shall not
1054 be allowed after change of ownership. Chapter 17 Article 6 states existing nonconforming permanent signs that were
1055 in existence prior to this chapter, which do not conform and are therefore declared nonconforming shall not be
1056 structurally altered so to extend their usual life, but allowed to remain after a change in ownership of the property.
1057 Article 5 contradicts Article 6 saying any use or other property feature like signs that legally exist prior to adoption
1058 of this ordinance may be continued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and maintenance of these
1059 nonconformities shall be permitted. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent structures from being
1060 structurally strengthened or restored to a safe condition. The status of nonconformity is not affected by changes of
1061 tenancy, ownership or management. This inconsistency falls on council, not staff. The car lot on the corner of 4th
1062 Avenue South and Highway 17, Mr. Johnson stated that landscaping does not meet the overlay, and he stated the
1063 owner of the business allegedly presented a plan that met the overlay requirements, but later complained and was
1064

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1065 given approval by a town employee to proceed with less landscaping. Section 17-911 Landscaping Ordinance says
1066 the following circumstances existing properties will be required to meet the landscaping regulations of the design
1067 overlay district as closely as possible. No staff member granted a variance as suggested by Mr. Johnson. Only the
1068 BZA (board of zoning appeals) can do that. The lack of specificity of this ordinance falls on this council and not
1069 staff. Regarding a home located on the south end, Mr. Johnson stated the owner or a renter severely topped trees on
1070 the property and they did that without a permit. A permit is not required for removal of trees under 8 inches in
1071 diameter or for pruning limbs under 8 inches in diameter. Topping is defined as a severe cutting back of limbs to the
1072 stubs larger than 8 inches in diameter. The pruning of the trees on the subject property was allowed, and permissible
1073 under our current ordinance. The current tree ordinance does have some inconsistencies regarding the measurement
1074 location. This falls on council to fix. A side note: the town's code enforcement officer did receive a complaint and
1075 followed up the very same day. He found the owner did not have to pull a permit under Section 17-723.2. This was
1076 shared with all of council back in October 2017, and no one seemed to have an issue with it back then. Lastly Mr.
1077 Johnson states the building official is required to take decisions to the assistant [sic] administrator, and that the
1078 assistant [sic] administrator has quote, overridden most decisions. The assistant [sic] administrator says that's just
1079 not true, or at least he did. I believe I'm accurate when I say the assistant [sic] administrator is qualified and licensed
1080 as a certified building inspector, and so his qualifications spoke for themselves. However, Mr. Johnson feels as if
1081 there is conflict between these two experienced certified building officials, I suggest that our new town administrator
1082 get in writing an official complaint with details outlining the concerns of the building official that Mr. Johnson is
1083 referring to. The town administrator can determine as to the accuracy of the statement, and provide the facts in
1084 writing back to council. There are always two sides to every story. The bottom line is our town code of ordinances
1085 are messed up. This did not happen on Mr. Harrah's watch. The inconsistencies were caused by the town patching
1086 ordinances under their purview without regard to how the patch may conflict elsewhere. Council failed to consider
1087 the larger picture, and has failed to appropriate funds for an A-Z review of the ordinances. Mr. Ott, to his credit, has
1088 discussed this many times. Some on council were party to many of those chewing gum and bailing wire amendments
1089 over the past few years on council. In less than five months, Mr. Harrah has done an outstanding job of identifying
1090 and correcting some of the inconsistencies. Some of this council has chosen to shoot the messenger rather than
1091 support these efforts.

1092
1093 Mr. Johnson said I'll call Ms. Samples out of order, because she attacked a fellow councilmember, which
1094 should not ever be done. But I stand all my comments that I spoke of last meeting. Thank you.

1095
1096 Mr. Ott said I do believe, and I didn't break this egg, Mr. Pellegrino, you did. If I look at that sign, you
1097 changed ownership and that sign is in the right-of-way, which is illegal. I can show you the board of zoning appeals
1098 hearings on this particular where those people had to move those signs back.

1099
1100 Mr. Pellegrino said that's fine, then you need to change Section 17-501 or read it. Mr. Ott said why don't
1101 you tell me, Mr. Pellegrino, come on. Mayor Childs called for order and asked that the discussion not get out of
1102 hand. Mr. Ott said it is out of order; there is a nonconforming sign out there.

1103
1104 Mr. Stevens said I'm sure Ms. Samples is really trying to state things and protect the staff. But then again, I
1105 will point out why did Mr. Harrah lose his appeal yesterday, because he was wrong. He tried to change the flood
1106 ordinance, and he did the wrong thing. When a building inspector told him he couldn't do something, Mr. Harrah
1107 changed it and it went to the construction board of appeals and they voted 3:1 in favor of Ms. Kohlmann. I was
1108 there.

1109
1110 Ms. Samples said to follow up, this was not a personal attack on Mr. Johnson. I'm trying to make a point
1111 that our ordinances are messed up. Mr. Ott has mentioned before that we need to review these ordinances, because
1112 they are inconsistent. It's no one blame except for this council, and we're gonna continue to have problems until this
1113 council makes sure that review of these ordinances are done, and that when we make a change on one, be mindful
1114 that it affects a number of others, or we're gonna continue to have problems with people giving out, putting out
1115 misinformation.

1116
1117 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker)**

1118
1119 Ms. Janet Gambino, South Hollywood Drive: I just want to share with you guys that when you receive the
1120 information from planning and zoning it's not always what we voted on, and that's the truth. Since Mr. Harrah's

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1121 been here, we have noticed it. And while I'm up here, this isn't on the subject, but we also need for council meetings
1122 and P&Z meetings, we need valid minutes. We are not receiving valid minutes for our meetings, and nor are y'all, if
1123 you've noticed closely. Thank you.
1124

1125 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: Several different topics, but honestly, one of 'em I can't make right
1126 away. I'm sorry. Is this any better? First of all, dealing with the meeting last night, I was also there, and after the
1127 meeting, I spoke to the gentleman who voted no, because out of curiosity I wanted to know why. He said that the
1128 reason he voted no was because of the conflicting ordinances, and after having sat on planning and zoning, you
1129 know, my ears went up, and I asked him are you saying that we need to review these ordinances and bring them
1130 more inline, and he said no, not necessarily so. It's been stated several times there are some rulings that are given by
1131 FEMA, there are other rulings more restrictive that belong to the town. And because you got a workshop coming up,
1132 or at least announced, he said that the town of Surfside is doing a much better job than any of the other
1133 municipalities in this area, and I don't know what area he works out of, and I don't even know his name. I'm horrible
1134 with names. But that was his quote. If it was a matter of conflicting ordinances, but it wasn't conflict that necessarily
1135 needed to be changed, you know, ordinances changed, and there are some things that were said tonight that I think
1136 need to be clarified. First of all, when I was approached about signing the petition that you all got, I said no. I was
1137 told that council is trying to run the day-to-day operations of the town, which is not what you voted to do. All you
1138 were interested in doing was having input in the hiring and firing of directors of departments, and that I explained,
1139 and I really believe that you need to have that input when someone is hired or fired. The only person who should
1140 have complete control over employment should be the person who owns the company. Anybody else should have to
1141 approach the owner, or in this case council, when they have a problem with someone and say this is what's going on,
1142 and give council the opportunity to then say or maybe let's try this. Something else I have a concern about, I've
1143 noticed when you go into executive session, and someone's employment is being discussed that person is not allowed
1144 in the executive session, and that concerns me, because if you're going to be discussing their salary, their
1145 employment, their life essentially, they should be able to speak to you. They should be able to come in and at least
1146 confront the accusations and defend themselves in some way. I've seen three people who had issues with perhaps
1147 termination, and the only one I ever saw go into executive session was Ms. Fellner, and of course that was just
1148 completely thrown out, and I wanted my that was, and then I realized she's always part of the executive session. She
1149 was there by right, but it concerned me. That maybe something that you need to address as far as policy. If
1150 someone's employment is being considered, they should have an opportunity to address you in the executive session
1151 to defend themselves, and then they may be asked to leave make a final decision or have discussion or whatever.
1152 But, that does concerned me. Secondly, as part of policy, I don't know whether it is already or not, if a department
1153 head wants to fire an employee, I think that's something that should come to town administrator. Again, I don't think
1154 one person should have that authority to hire or fire someone, unless, of course, there is a potential for violence.
1155 Now, I don't know if that's in the policy or not, but if director heads want to fire somebody, speak to the
1156 administrator. If the administrator wants to fire somebody, have them speak to council, and I don't, I don't see why
1157 there is an issue with that. It only makes common sense. As far as I know, nobody owns the town, so nobody should
1158 have sole authority to control that. (*Time ended.*) Sorry about that. Okay. I'm glad I didn't say the other thing first. I
1159 would've cried.
1160

1161 Mr. Auburn Hooker, Grand Strand Surfrider Foundation: Formally of 16th Avenue South for about 12
1162 years. Don't hold against me. I just moved to Salters Cove right over the border. I wanted to also before we talk
1163 about anti-plastic ban, thank Mr. Courtney and Mr. Ott for proceeding with the handicapped accessible ramp that we
1164 proposed, and you guys approved on 13th Avenue South. Thank you very much for green lighting Mr. Adair to get
1165 the engineers to get the project underway, and hopefully, we will be doing that here shortly. Thank you Ms. Samples
1166 for championing the plastic bag ban. Surfrider is all over the world. We're in Georgetown, Little River, here we
1167 have a Grand Strand Chapter. Ms. Hilliard and I are the Surfside people. We have education in place already. We
1168 have the anti-plastics program. There are materials available through the national website that we can steer you to.
1169 We do training sessions at Coastal [Carolina University] and Horry-Georgetown Tech. We have members going to
1170 the public schools next week and Horry County. We have a wealth of cloth bags already that were purchased with
1171 the funds raised at our fundraising events. Over the years, we've done a number of free bag handouts at Piggly
1172 Wiggly, and BI-LO, and other places. We want to do that again. We usually do it with the Boy Scouts and Girl
1173 Scouts during cooking season. We would welcome [the opportunity] to do that. We do own a copy of the plastic
1174 ocean film that we showed last year at the town library. We had over a hundred people show up. It was an awesome
1175 turnout. We will do that again multiple times in different locations, if you want us to. We also have the Surfrider
1176 Ocean Friendly Restaurant program that we've been pushing. The Grand Strand is awful with plastics, not just bags.

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1177 We tend to notice the bags, because they blow out open windows. You don't even know that they're in your
1178 backseat. They tend to litter the highways, but really in the oceans, straws, plastic lids... I bar tend and the number
1179 of people that request our Styrofoam cups with lids and straws is obscene. When you do something about not just
1180 plastic bags, but single use plastics in general, they're the worst offender, when it comes to floating debris in our
1181 oceans and also the death of marine life as well documented in the film and on our website. So when it comes to
1182 education and helping ease the transition into the non-plastic ban era in Surfside, Grand Strand Surfrider is 100-
1183 percent behind you, and we are so grateful that you have brought this cause back, and we have been focusing on
1184 Surfside, because we are a small town, and you guys can get things done, and it is our strong belief that other towns
1185 on the Grand Strand will see that it can work in Surfside, and they will do it, too. So thank you again, and Ms.
1186 Hilliard has stepped up and is taking on the leadership of our anti-plastic program, so you can defer to her or me if
1187 you have any questions. You guys know how to get hold of me, and the thank you so much; very much. We have a
1188 whole box of reusable bags, if anyone wants one.
1189

1190 Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: I know it's getting late, but I just have a couple comments. You said
1191 you want to take the first step. You did it. Congratulations. Where are you; what direction is that step going? I think
1192 that gentleman just told you what step you need to go. I was very disappointed that we voted; that you voted on the
1193 substandard ordinance. The man that spoke from North Carolina, he shouldn't come here for an example. Folly
1194 Beach and Isle of Palms have a much better ordinance and they're in South Carolina, if you did not know. The lady
1195 that was the Garden City lady for the turtles, she, we, your ordinance did not help her organization out at all. Your
1196 law, this law now needs to go to the next step. Get it off the seventh, 17th Corridor, and get it onto the beaches. Get
1197 into the community, and you need to educate, and probably have public awareness, as Mr. Johnson said. That's the
1198 problem. Not getting the bags. The problem is what do people do with those bags. We need to go to the next step.
1199 You said you want to go to next step. It's time to go, and don't sit back and pat yourself on the back and say look
1200 good job we did. You just started, and you got us all tempted that we want to go to the next step. So please,
1201 whatever needs to do, follow the lead of this man. We need to do public education. If you want to see one thing that
1202 you can do, is if you just go to the Folly Beach, or the Isle of Palms' website the education and information they
1203 distribute about the dangers on the beaches for everyone to see is very important. I bet none of you even thought of
1204 doing that, or even think about what you're going to do about getting the people on the street to stop using these
1205 plastic bags. Just a few other comments. On the police problem. It looks like there is a problem. Only 30-percent of
1206 what you lost because of going to some other things, so that's only 30-percent at \$26,000 that's \$360,000. You have
1207 an advantage here in this town. Some people like to be the big fish in a small town. Not everyone wants to go to be
1208 the small fish in the big town. So you need to put this; approach people and hire people that are happy with that. The
1209 other thing is people are looking to put food on the table for their families. Some people want to come home every
1210 night, and would like to serve their community, but not necessarily be in the dangers of being killed every day.
1211 That's an advantage for us to sell as a community. If we reduced the attrition, which is only five, five policemen, we
1212 reduce that over the next two years, you save \$360,000, and you also got one year of served training out of them,
1213 one year of service. If you took half of that \$180,000 and use that for salaries or whatever it is, you're not losing any
1214 money. You're not finding, needing any new money. It's already there, and you're already losing it. Just a thought.
1215 Also, Mr. Stevens, as a, I've only been in town two years. I've been down here for 15, but only in Surfside two years.
1216 Garden City pier is privately owned, and if it wasn't insured that your guys' fault. Now, I'm not sure that this
1217 ordinance has change the mindset of the people. I don't use Mr. Courtney's example, only because it was an example
1218 giving; I'm not making any judgment, but has this law changed the fact that you can drive past the telephone pole
1219 two years in a row see a plastic bag and never think well, I'll just let it go and let the wind blow it someplace else, or
1220 did I think oh it's missing now. Maybe somebody cared and actually picked up and moved it. Or even yet, maybe I
1221 should've done it. That's the kind of education we need to give our people. I don't think you guys thought about it.
1222 My final comment, just as an observation, my five minutes isn't up yet, Mr. Mayor, everyone in this, in this room
1223 here was extremely upset and brought back that you didn't follow and listen to what the invocation asked for some
1224 civil discussion, sir. That was very, very disturbing to me to see our mayor yelling and screaming. I am an old man.
1225 I'm not pointing fingers. I'm just an old man thinking people should be held accountable. That goes for everyone on
1226 the council, and my last comment, and you probably (*time ended*) won't ever want me, but the fact is you boys, you
1227 good ole boys need to do your homework. You don't know what the (*expletive*) is going on. Thank you.
1228

1229 Ms. Mary Mabry, 15th Avenue North: Mr. Pellegrino brought up a great point, you're gonna have to do
1230 something soon, or you're not gonna have a pier anytime soon. You may not hear from FEMA for three to five
1231 years, and that's just a fact. They will tell you that if you read the, any information that they are giving out some
1232 people wait three to five years. So you have to do something. You do need to do it now. Make a decision. Have your

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1233 workshop, get, and be thankful. Please be thankful that Mr. Adair had been going to the meetings. Waving papers in
1234 his face, and demanding to know why he didn't give you something, or why doesn't he have all the facts and figures,
1235 if I were him, I would have said I'd never been to a meeting. I don't know anything, because I think you were all
1236 very rude. I mean he was nice enough to say I'm part of this. I can help you. You're giving him a big project to do,
1237 and instead of being grateful, I thought you all were kind of rude to him. Every one of you. I would've said thank
1238 you so much for standing up here and helping us with this. Our staff is second to none in every single department.
1239 They need a support system. You get much more out of your employees when you recognize the good things they do
1240 and you don't need to come to a council meeting to recognize all of the bad things they do. Now, if you have an
1241 issue, ask 'em for the information. If you're not getting the information, ask him again, and if you don't get it the
1242 third time, you might want to head it back in there in executive session and find out why. But as far as I know, the
1243 ones that I see out here now, I don't think you're going to go to another city and find anybody any better. I've worked
1244 with them. I've enjoyed them. I've learned from them, and given the chance, you will, too, because there's always
1245 something to learn. But, please when somebody volunteers to take on a project as big as the pier, which is still
1246 floating out there, I might add, at least be gracious and be humble, and say thank you. How hard is that? Be nice,
1247 you'll get more. Get a good administrator in here. Take your time in finding somebody, but make sure you know
1248 exactly what you want before you start that process. Don't start a process with seven different people going in seven
1249 different directions. You never gonna like whoever you get. I know you; this was a difficult night. But we'll get
1250 through it. We always do. So congratulations for all the hard work that you do, but remember to thank your staff for
1251 all the hard work that they do.

1252
1253 Ms. Corrine Hilliard, Burgess Community: I'm from Surfrider. First of all, I want to apologize for the
1254 reading in the beginning. I didn't mean to start a rough start to this meeting. I want to thank all the councilmembers
1255 for their vote, even if it wasn't in agreement with it. I understand that there's always room to build upon it. I
1256 appreciate the contradictory comments. If you have anything that you would like to be a part of us so that we can do
1257 more education, Surfrider, and being part of the anti-plastics, there's a lot of great stuff that's coming up. Mr. Hooker
1258 mentioned the movie screenings. We're also working with a young lady at CCU (Coastal Carolina University)
1259 starting Surfrider CCU Chapter, so you're gonna be seeing a lot more young faces, and a lot of education is going to
1260 be coming with it. Know that a lot of people, you saw the whole flood of people that left here today, were behind
1261 this and not only in Surfside, but the Coastal Carolina Conservation League out of Charleston. Last time at the
1262 meeting we had Ms. Kelly Thorvalson from the South Carolina Aquarium. We had Neil Gilbert from Brunswick
1263 County, [North Carolina.] We have a lot of people; a lot of resources above and beyond our little two mile town that
1264 want to see some good stuff happen, and have a lot of invested [sic] interest in seeing the success and providing the
1265 information for our residents to make that educated transition into going plastic free, and with it starts with just the
1266 plastic bags, and move into the straws and Styrofoam. Another enlightening conversation, Mr. Courtney, we had
1267 about mandatory recycling. Not saying we're doing that today. We've made a lot of tough decisions today, but if
1268 these are conversations that we need to have, I'd love to have them, and providing the education and information
1269 that goes into making those decisions moving forward. So I want to thank the council for having a tough meeting,
1270 but making a great decision. We look forward to working together with Surfrider and the Chirping Bird Society
1271 moving forward.

1272
1273 Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South: In this old man's opinion, the solution to the pier to get it back up
1274 working is sell it. Sell it to somebody who will get out there and fix it quickly. We've played around with it now for
1275 year and a half. It's a money drain. When you walk past that pier, you hear this big sucking noise, and we've heard
1276 that noise from day one. The pier was never inspected. We have spent a ton of money on it already. Sell it. Sell it to
1277 somebody who will make something of it. This town hasn't owned that pier for even 10 years. Believe it or not, we
1278 stayed in existence. I don't think anybody comes to this town just to go to the pier. I may be wrong there, but I sort
1279 of doubt it. Fishermen maybe, but this town doesn't exist because of that pier. The town may not exist, because of
1280 the pier. It's sucking our pockets dry. That's enough of that. Please do something with these microphones. I'm old. I
1281 don't hear like I used to, but these microphones are horrible. I sat here for two hours last night right in that seat right
1282 in the front row. I couldn't hear what was going on. Please get some new microphones. Thank you.

1283
1284 Ms. Lynn Livesay, 10th Avenue South: I know y'all are so tired, because I'm really tired. It's been kind of
1285 an emotional roller coaster tonight. But I think before we finish with this E district, and thank you for deferring it,
1286 there are planners out there. The Council on Government. I was on planning and zoning for six years. They will help
1287 you rewrite it. As a matter of fact, when I was on that committee, we wrote the whole ordinances over and all these;
1288 we got all of that straightened out and then we started over again writing an ordinance; writing an ordinance that we

1289 didn't cross, okay, but anyway, a planner really needs to write that ordinance, and that's what you need to pass, and
1290 make sure that its crossed sections into other [codes] like parking, landscaping, yada, yada. So thank you all, and I
1291 hope you can sleep tonight.

1292
1293 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: Thank you. I think that the town has a lot of work cut out for
1294 it. We need to keep writing those ordinances, and straighten out the ones we've got, and I don't think the town has
1295 any spare time to own a business. Therefore, in my humble opinion, and it might only be me that thinks like this, I
1296 think if we sold the pier to a businessman, and then took the money from selling the pier we could buy us two more
1297 full-time firemen. We can give the police a raise. We could do a whole lot of other things with that money. But, if
1298 we keep the pier, it's a liability. We still don't know how much money we're gonna get to build it. We don't know
1299 when the next hurricane is common to knock it over. We can definitely have a pier in town without owning the pier.
1300 That might be a step forward, because like I say, policemen get a raise, firemen get more firemen and we'll have
1301 more money to spend on all the rest of us, including buying new microphones. Just my opinion. Thank you.

1302
1303 Mr. Bill Kinken, Dogwood Drive North: This is been quite a night. I'm almost in shock at what has taken
1304 place. I hope the gang of four comes up with a plan so they can hire somebody, but I'm not sure you don't find
1305 somebody wants to work here. I wouldn't work for you. I wouldn't have anything to do with you. I'm just in shock.
1306 I've never seen things like this happen that you get rid of all your leadership and let the ship go or it may. Granted
1307 these guys (department directors) over here run great departments. But, somebody's got to tie it all together. I am
1308 glad you passed the ordinance on the plastic. I think it's a good first step. I think that's all it is; is a good first step.
1309 You do some good things, but what's taken place tonight is beyond me. So you've slapped the bear. We'll see what
1310 happens.

1311
1312 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**
1313

1314 Mr. Ott: Thank you for everybody's comments. One of the things that this Council has done that was never
1315 done in the 50 years that we've been in existence is bring back an ordinance automatically to see how it affects the
1316 resident and the people. This council has changed that. Will we be looking at that ordinance? Yes, we will. We have
1317 no recourse, but to look at that ordinance. It's a first step, and we had a session that was scheduled for training, but
1318 look at the time. We can't do it tonight, but will be doing those, and we'll be helping everybody. Yes, there is a lot of
1319 things that happen tonight. Maybe if we, we'd had the information, and you've seen how the information does not
1320 get to us. All of a sudden we had to make a major decision. We got no numbers, no figures, nothing. That hurts us.
1321 You can't make decisions on that. Would you buy, would you go out and buy a car and we've said well, we're not
1322 gonna tell you how much it is. But, this is the best thing to buy. There are so many issues around that pier. Insurance
1323 is huge. Maybe we need to sell it. Maybe we need to really take a look at all alternatives and what we haven't done is
1324 do that, because we actually didn't have every bit of info information that we needed. It's late. Thank you for
1325 coming.

1326
1327 Mr. Courtney: I want to thank you all for coming out. I'll make this real quick, because I'm tired and I
1328 have to use the restroom. When I walked in this door, I was told if I voted in a certain way that I would lose 100
1329 votes. I'm not for sale. You can take those hundred votes. I had a councilmember up here tell someone that they
1330 would get them 500 votes and give 'em some good advice. You can have those 500 votes, because I didn't get any of
1331 those when I ran for council. I'm not gonna be tolerated [sic.] I'm not gonna be bullied by anyone. I'm gonna vote
1332 with my conscience as Ms. Kohlmann said. I'm gonna do what's right for the people of this town, because I'm one
1333 of them. I sit here for my wife and my two children, and I'm gonna be here for a long time. When I walk down the
1334 street, I want to be able to look at each and every one you with respect. Thank you for coming. God bless you.

1335
1336 Mr. Johnson: Thank you for coming out. I'll keep it short and sweet. I was on planning and zoning years
1337 before I was on Town Council and I was always under the impression that if there were conflicting ordinances that
1338 the more stringent ordinance takes precedent over the other ordinance. Just wanted to put that out there. That's what
1339 I was taught and told for many years. Thank you all for coming out. Thank you for all the councilmembers serving,
1340 and y'all have a good evening. Y'all have a good evening.

1341
1342 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming, and as far as the pier, I was just, we weren't committing to
1343 anything. I was trying to get direction to move forward with a wood pier. That was the only thing we committing
1344 for. We don't need insurance for at least 14 months. So, I don't even know why that's an issue. We will never have

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1345 all the information, because until we commit to one direction we're not gonna know what the prices is gonna be and
1346 we're not gonna know what the timeline, final time. We're not gonna know any of that. They are all estimates. So all
1347 I wanted to do is to commit to wood, because we're not gonna get the money from FEMA most likely for the
1348 concrete, so we can move forward and get all the information, but we're gonna keep saying we want all the
1349 information and never get the information, because we won't commit and move forward. So I'm not sure, I'm pretty
1350 sure we're not gonna have a pier in the summer 2019. But anyways, that's one thing. As far as the; I think we made
1351 some decisions tonight that were pretty terrible for the Town of Surfside Beach. Luckily, we have good directors. I
1352 don't have a bit of doubt in any of those directors sitting against the wall there, but there's a ton of projects and
1353 activities and tasks that those two (administrator and deputy administrator) were doing that now that these directors
1354 are gonna have to absorb, and so obviously, some things that were going on are gonna stop, and there's gonna be a
1355 gap. I mean it's; the administrator pulled a lot information together; shuffled a lot of resources. That's not gonna be
1356 happening. We're gonna basically have silos between departments now, and that's a big hit for the Town of Surfside
1357 Beach. I know you guys probably don't believe that, but there's gonna be a lot of things that don't, don't (***) that
1358 don't move properly, because of this. I'll just stop at that. Thank you very much for coming. Thank you for all your
1359 input and I do appreciate it and I do follow-up. I mean last week; there is a reason I get accused of having more
1360 information, but Mr. Kohlmann brought up some points at the last meeting. I made it a point to call him and luckily,
1361 he was nice enough to meet me at the parking lot, so we could go through that and I could see, because I was
1362 confused about some stuff. When I get information and I don't have the full story or I'm confused, I go get it. I don't,
1363 I don't wait for it to come to me. I go get it so we can make a decision to move forward on something instead of
1364 continuing with the first stuff. So I will probably always get accused of having more information, because if I'm
1365 confused, I'm gonna go ask a question. I'm not gonna wait. Thank you for your feedback, which it always makes me
1366 think. It always gives me a different perspective. I may not agree with you. But, trust me, I consider all of it. Thank
1367 you.
1368

1369 Ms. Samples: To staff, I heard from a lot of you the past few days concerned over what may occur tonight,
1370 and all I can say is that I'm sorry, you know, that it turned out the way it did, and I'm hopeful that you will get some
1371 comfort and well, I don't know what you're gonna get comfort in, but I'm hopeful. I do want to say congrats to the
1372 candidates who are desirous to serve the town. I do respect your willingness to serve genuinely. I'm glad that you
1373 signed up. I wish you all a lot of luck. If I can be of any assistance, don't hesitate to ask, and get, get, get, get out and
1374 talk to people, and you're gonna hear what we've been hearing. So I think it'll be good. So I do wish you luck.
1375 Thank you all. Mr. Mayor, good meeting tonight. Thank you.
1376

1377 Mr. Stevens: Thank you everybody for coming out, and to the candidates out there, you probably got a
1378 long time that you've got some education of what you're looking at. This ain't no easy job. As far as the pier and
1379 they talk about insurance, you know, if we had had insurance on the pier, we wouldn't be talking about a pier. It'd
1380 already be built back. The insurance company would've paid for it. So that's one of things we have to think about.
1381 We made a mistake by not putting the insurance on the pier. I was for putting it on there; nobody else wanted it.
1382 Anyway, Ms. Lowery mentioned checks and balances. That's what I call it; checks and balances, and you made a
1383 good point. Every person should be able to say, have a decision on that something, and I can tell you is far as I'm
1384 concerned there's four people (department directors) over there, they could probably run this town 10 months, a
1385 year, two years without having any problem. There's your garbage. There's your police protection. There's your fire
1386 protection. There's your finances. What else do you need? (***) We've got the best police department. Best fire
1387 department. We've got the best garbage pickup. I ain't never been at my house when my garbage is out there, I go
1388 out there that garbage thing is empty. So, they're doing a great job. I applaud them. That's what, that's what we pay
1389 for. That's what you pay taxes for. You want those things done. Remember, this is the town that no crook wants to
1390 come to. So, thank you all for coming out. God bless you all, and have a great week.
1391

1392 Mayor Childs: Well, I'll wind up. And to the gentleman there, I do apologize for raising my voice.
1393 Sometimes things get to the boiling point here, and it's very unlike me, as most everybody here will tell you, to raise
1394 my voice. Sometimes you just get to a boiling point just comes out, and I do apologize. I'd like to say it's very; it's
1395 not my makeup to do that, and I hardly ever lose my temper. But, I'm sorry it happened, and I'm sure that others out
1396 there have maybe lost it once in a while. You can't help it; we try to be perfect all the time. Thank everybody for
1397 coming out. I don't know what's going to happen with what took place tonight. I don't think it's going be pretty. I
1398 think this is just the tip of the iceberg. We have a lot of things going on. A lot of meetings coming up. A lot of big
1399 decisions coming up. To bring a new administrator here cold to catch up with been going on for a long period of
1400 time, it's just gonna be impossible. I don't know how they're gonna do it. The council is certainly gonna have to

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1401 work with whoever the new administrator is. They're gonna have to be in high gear when they get here. There is no
1402 way in the world they can be in low gear. But, enough said. Once again, I'm sorry. I wish everybody a good evening
1403 and thank you so much for coming out. We're looking forward to having a short session one of these days. I keep
1404 praying for that.

1405
1406 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 p.m. Mr. Stevens
1407 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

1408 Prepared and submitted by:

1409 _____
1410 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

1411
1412
1413
1414 Approved: February 13, 2018

Surfside Beach Town Council

1417 VOTE: Yes No

1418

1419 _____
1420 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

1421

1422 _____
1423 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

1424

1425 _____
1426 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

1427

1428 _____
1429 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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1431 _____
1432 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

1433

1434 _____
1435 Julie M. Samples, Town Council

1436

1437 _____
1438 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

1439
1440
1441 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not intended to be
1442 a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free copy of the audio
1443 will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and
1444 (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the town's email
1445 subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also
1446 posted on the town website at www.Surfside Beach.org and the marquee.
1447