



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019**

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 Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Planning, and Building & Zoning Director Morris.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Dr. John Gambrell, First Baptist Church Surfside, gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the minutes of January 22, 2019 as presented. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only.

Mr. Larry McKeen, 6th Avenue South, suggested that council hold its elections in even numbered years, because there is better turn out during national elections, and that would extend the members' terms instead of shorten them.

6. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator Pieper reported:

- All permits and applications for the pier were submitted
- Pier plans are at 100 percent
- Staff completed filling in the holes at the 3rd Avenue & Willow Drive park; it is open for the public's use
- Staff attended a Safety Committee meeting on February 5th
- Staff met with Lanier Parking; parking lots are being restriped and pay stations are being prepared for the summer season
- The interior of town hall is being repainted, which was sorely needed
- Staff continues to work on the upcoming budget

Mr. Ott thanked Mr. Pieper for his work to get the park opened. There was a lot work to be done to accomplish that.

Mr. Johnson asked for an update on the historical signs. Mr. Pieper said he was told by Dr. Ben Burroughs today that the town may place the signs wherever Town Council deems appropriate. There was an erroneous email message distributed that stated the State decides where the signs are placed. However, the State only approves the sign's content. Sign placement will be on the next agenda for Town Council's consideration.

50 **7. BUSINESS.**

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52 **A. Second Reading of Ordinances.**

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54 **i. #19-0882 Chapter 13, Permits, Reviews & FOIA Disclosure, Director Morris.** Mr.
55 Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0882 as presented. Mr. Ott second. Ms. Morris
56 presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. After a brief discussion, all voted
57 in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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59 Town Council **CONCURRED to review this ordinance in six months with Ms. Morris**
60 **providing information.**

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62 **ii. #19-0884 to Prohibit Residential Use in C4, Director Morris.** Mr. Ott moved to adopt
63 second reading of Ordinance #19-0884 as presented. Mr. Johnson second. Ms. Morris presented the
64 decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Ms. Morris said for the record, "The existing
65 residential properties that are there may continue as non-conforming uses under §17-502 of the Town
66 Code, so they will be grandfathered." All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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68 Ms. Morris left at 6:45 p.m.

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70 **B. First Reading of Ordinances.**

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72 **i. #19-0886 to Transfer Elections to Horry County, Attorney Crosby.** Mr. Stevens moved
73 to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0886 as presented. Mr. Ott second. Ms. Crosby presented the
74 decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Johnson referred to Section 5.4 and asked
75 if electors were the voters. Ms. Crosby said yes, which is a Constitutional term. Before an individual can
76 run for office, he or she must be a qualified elector. Mr. Johnson said council adopted an ordinance
77 several years ago requiring three years residency. Ms. Crosby said that was not included in this
78 ordinance; the language presented is appropriate under the South Carolina Constitution. Mr. Ott wanted
79 elections to be held during even years. Ms. Crosby said even year election was the initial proposal, but in
80 late November 2018, we were informed that was not acceptable to the Horry County Municipal Election
81 Commission. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, Scoles and
82 Stevens voted in favor. Councilmember Johnson voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

83
84 **ii. #19-0887 to amend Section 9-9(a) Increase Oceanfront Parking Rate, Director**
85 **King.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0887 as presented. Ms. Scoles second.
86 Ms. King presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Ms. King noted that this
87 would not affect residents or second home owners, because they receive parking decals. A public hearing
88 will be held at the February 26th meeting, if first reading is adopted. After a brief discussion, Mayor
89 Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, Scoles and Stevens voted in
90 favor. Councilmember Johnson voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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92 **C. Surplus Parking Meters, Director King.** Mr. Ott moved to declare parking meters surplus
93 and authorize the town administrator to dispose of them. Mr. Stevens second. Ms. King presented the
94 decision paper, a copy of which is on file. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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96 **D. 3rd Avenue South Promenade Bid Award, Director Adair.** Mr. Ott moved to award the
97 bid to R. H. Moore in the amount of \$743,900. Mr. Stevens second. Ms. King presented the decision
98 paper and bid results, copies of which are on file. (Mr. Adair was attending the CTC Committee to ask for
99 additional road money.) All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

100

E. Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority Advisory Board Appointment (1 Vacancy)

101 **Mr. Cody Sluder.** Mr. Stevens moved to appoint Mr. Sluder to the advisory board. Mr. Ott second. All
102 voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
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105 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.** There was no discussion.

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107 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.**
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109 Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South; Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, Mr. Al Lauer,
110 Harbor Lights Drive, and Ms. Terri Lauer, Harbor Lights Drive all asked why the town administrator could
111 not answer questions asked during the public comment portion of the meeting. Mayor Childs explained
112 again that anyone with a questions should visit the town administrator.
113

114 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**
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116 Mr. Dietrich had no comments.
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118 Mr. Johnson understood the public's concerns, but didn't know the solution. We will try to figure
119 this out. I do not agree with a parking rate increase; the rate is good as it is. Our parking regulations and
120 lack of parking on Ocean Boulevard have caused people to go elsewhere. I bet you on the East Coast you
121 will find fewer towns regulating boulevard parking than not. God bless; see you next time.
122

123 Mr. Ott said most northern East Coast cities charge \$17 to \$20 for each person to go onto the
124 beach, and a parking fee. In New Jersey, the parking spaces are \$3.50 an hour. The extra quarter
125 doesn't hurt anybody. More people are coming here. It's harder to get on the beach. The parking lots and
126 beach walkovers require maintenance. We continue to try to make them better; new handicapped access
127 restrooms are replacing the old ones. Thank everybody for coming tonight, and for your questions. We'll
128 see if we can answer them.
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130 Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for coming. The administrator did answer questions in the past.
131 There are many different situations now, but I will ask some questions about that to see if we can offer a
132 good solution. I voted for the parking increase on the beach front spaces, but I am concerned with
133 parking enforcement, because many residents and visitors get a 'sour taste' over parking issues during
134 the summer. Staff is working on the budget for next year. My main concern is cash flow, because of all
135 the big projects being done, i.e. pier, engineering, road paving, underground wiring, Highway 17, and 3rd
136 Avenue South, all of which are partly funded through reimbursements. Ms. King is tracking all of that very
137 well, and that will be a big part of the budget discussion.
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139 Ms. Scoles thanked everyone for coming. I have been at the parking areas on the ocean front
140 during the summer and watched people circling the boulevard waiting for a spot to become available. I
141 don't really think a quarter an hour more will devastate a tourist. We have other lots with lower rates, if
142 they want to park there and walk over to the beach. So, I support the increase. Have a good evening.
143

144 Mr. Stevens said the town has thousands of neighbors nearby in the county. Those people are
145 going to come to Surfside Beach. The tourists staying in town have parking where they rent. Businesses
146 pay 85 percent of the taxes; residents pay 15 percent, so to increase the parking rate for the neighbors
147 who come to our beach doesn't hurt, because many of them don't even clean up their trash. As residents
148 and second homeowners you get to park free. Raising the rate is no big deal. People come here because
149 we're the third safest town in South Carolina and we are the Family Beach. We're not like Myrtle Beach
150 where there is a lot of crime. Surfside Beach doesn't have drug problems like other cities, because we
151 have the best police; we have the best fire and sanitation departments. We've got a great town.
152 Residents get the best deal for their money in this town. Thank you for coming out; have a good
153 evening.

Town Council Regular Meeting
February 12, 2019

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Mayor Childs thanked everyone for coming out.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Ott second.
All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: February 26, 2019

Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

Ron Ott, Town Council

Debbie Scoles, Town Council

Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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