



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Johnson and Scoles were absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann, and Finance Director King.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

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

3. PUBLIC HEARING – Due to a typo on the agenda notice, the public hearing was deferred until 6:30 p.m.

4. MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA. There were no motions.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL. September 24, 2019; October 1, 2019, and October 18, 2019. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the September 24, October 1, and October 18 minutes as presented. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, Ocean Boulevard South; Mr. Rod Schilling, Melody Lane, and owner of S2 Golf Cars, and Ms. Cindy Keating, Cherry Drive, spoke in opposition of Ordinance #19-0909 to amend Chapter 9, Motor Vehicles and Parking.

Mr. Bob Hellyer, 7th Avenue North spoke in opposition of Ordinance #19-0911 to lease the two parking lots.

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

Mayor Childs called a ten minute recess at 6:20 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., Mayor Childs ended recess and opened agenda item 3. PUBLIC HEARING at 6:30 p.m. for comments on Ordinance #19-0908.

Mr. Kohlmann, Ocean Boulevard South, opposed the administrator having sole authority to manage parking. Businesses on the pier should have to pay for parking. He supported working with the golf cart rental companies to negotiate parking. In his opinion, problems are created by out-of-town neighbors who use the town's beaches but don't contribute.

Ms. Cindy Keating, Cherry Drive, believed nonresident parking decals should allow parking at the pier, because they pay for the decals.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South, said the town is a golf-cart using town. He believed beach access parking should be available to town residents only. The residents pay taxes and the town takes care of them. He had complained about the two spaces at 6th Avenue South for years. People should not be allowed to lease a parking space from the town.

54 Mr. Larry McKeen, 6th Avenue South, appreciated Mr. Shilling's comments that offered solutions
55 to the problems for rental golf carts. His preference was that anyone staying in town would be allowed to
56 park free at the beach accesses. He supported charging out-of-town neighbors. He opposed too much
57 signage at the beach accesses. He supported citing those who did not permanently attach their parking
58 decals and suggested that the decals be confiscated and returned to the town. Any vehicle, including golf
59 cars, which use two parking spaces should be required to pay for both spaces.
60

61 Ms. Carol Holt, Yaupon Drive North, asked what brought about all these changes. She only could
62 find one meeting in which council agreed to have the administrator check into charging at the beach
63 accesses. She opposed the administrator having authority over the parking function.
64

65 Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North, suggested that council defer the ordinance since there will
66 be several new councilmembers after the November 5th election.
67

68 There were no other comments. Mayor Childs closed the public hearing at 6:41 p.m.
69

70 **8. BUSINESS.**

71 **A. Second Reading Ordinance #19-0908 Chapter 9, Motor Vehicles & Parking.**

72 **Administrator Pieper.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0908. Mr.
73 Dietrich second. Mr. Stevens moved to amend Section 9-9, Paragraph (i)(a) to remove the words "along
74 all town streets from Dogwood Drive to the Atlantic Ocean" so the paragraph now states "All vehicles
75 shall pay in areas designated for parking with signage within the town's corporate limits using ParkMobile
76 or other approved internet application, unless exempt from payment by decal permanently affixed to the
77 vehicle, or exempt pursuant §9-16(c) or (d)." Mayor Childs second. After discussion, all voted in favor.
78

79 **MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED.** After additional discussion, Mr. Pellegrino moved to table Ordinance
80 #19-0908. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED.**
81

82 **B. First Reading of Ordinances.**

83 **i. #19-0909 Budget Amendments Fiscal Year 2019-2020, Director King.** Mr. Stevens
84 moved to adopt first reading of #19-0909. Mr. Dietrich second. Ms. King presented the decision paper
85 and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Ott asked how much money was in the underground
86 wiring fund. Ms. King explained that Santee Cooper held those funds; a breakdown will be sent with the
87 next franchise fee payment. Mr. Ott urged council to complete the Ocean Boulevard underground wiring
88 project, which in his opinion was the number one project. Mr. Stevens asked if parking reserves paid for
89 the two lots on Surfside Drive. Ms. King said yes, and for the up-fit. Mr. Pellegrino moved to strike the
90 \$15,000 increase for the front end loader that was budgeted at \$100,000. Mr. Dietrich second. Mr.
91 Pellegrino said the loader should be bought with the amount budgeted. Mayor Childs, Mr. Ott, and Mr.
92 Stevens agreed that the front end loader was a necessity and the increase offset the value to the town's
93 drainage system and staff's safety during storms because the swashes could be cleaned 50-percent
94 faster. All voted in favor. **MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED.** Ms. Herrmann pointed out that even though
95 the majority spoke against the motion, it carried and asked if that was council's intention. Ms. Crosby
96 explained that anyone voting on the prevailing side could move to reconsider. Mr. Stevens moved to
97 reconsider the motion. Mr. Ott second. **MOTION TO RECONSIDER CARRIED.** Mayor Childs called for
98 a vote on the original motion to amend. Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino voted in favor. Mayor Childs, and
99 Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, and Stevens voted against. **MOTION TO AMEND FAILED.** All voted in
100 favor of first reading of Ordinance #19-0909. **MOTION CARRIED.**
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103 **ii. First Reading Ordinance #19-0910 Amend §2-39(b) Agenda (Executive Session),**
104 **Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0910. Mr.
105 Ott second. Mr. Pellegrino said this change would make it more convenient for the public. This is the way

106 executive sessions were scheduled years ago. Mr. Ott clarified that this moved executive sessions to the
107 end of the meeting after council comments. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
108

109 **iii. #19-0911 Lease Agreement for Two parking Spaces, Administrator Pieper.** Mr.
110 Stevens moved to adopt first reading of #19-0911. Mayor Childs second. Mr. Pieper presented the
111 decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Ott opposed leasing the spaces saying they
112 belong to the town's people. If these leases are allowed, all residents should be offered the same option.
113 Mr. Pellegrino agreed saying that this sets a precedent. The situation was created back in 2009 according
114 to Mr. Adair to correct a problem. He asked what the alternative is if the use is eliminated. Mr. Pieper
115 believed the use went 'way back,' that would be a legal question. All voted against. **MOTION FAILED.**
116

117 **C. Resolution #19-199 Work Place Safety, Administrator Pieper.** Mr. Stevens moved to
118 adopt Resolution #19-199. Mr. Pieper presented the resolution, a copy of which is on file. All voted in
119 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
120

121 **D. Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Appointments (2 vacancies.)** Mr. Stevens moved to
122 appoint Ms. Tabitha Mull and Ms. Amy Santagata to the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee. Mr.
123 Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
124

125 **E. Business Committee Recommendations, Administrator Pieper**
126

127 **i. Declare Seat Vacant.** Mr. Stevens moved to declare the seat held by Ms. Rigney vacant. Mr.
128 Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
129

130 **ii. Approve Façade Grant Applications.** Mr. Stevens moved to approve both grants. Mr. Ott
131 second. Mr. Pieper stated for the record that the grant amounts were \$5,000 for Benjamin's Bakery at
132 810 3rd Avenue South, and \$1,462.50 for Brian Lawless for the property at 411 Highway 17 South. Mr.
133 Pellegrino said the grant awards were the result of good work by the Surfside Beach Business Committee.
134 They simplified the application process. Benjamin's Bagels was the first project completed; go view the
135 property to see how nice it looks. Highway 17 Corridor has "opportunity for curb appeal", so this grant
136 program is a positive for the town. Up to ten businesses could be awarded maximum grants; there may
137 be more grants depending on the amounts awarded. This was a great idea and a great implementation
138 by the business committee members. Mr. Stevens said the business committee was formed many years
139 ago, and now it is having a positive effect on the town businesses. He was glad council supported the
140 grant program, because the improvements at Benjamin's are [exceptional,] and he looked forward to the
141 improvements at 411 Highway 17 South. Mr. Ott agreed saying this puts a little lipstick on the town. He
142 hoped other businesses would take advantage of the grant. Thank you to the business committee
143 members for developing the grant. Mayor Childs agreed, and believed once the improvements to
144 Highway 17 were completed many other businesses would apply for grants. All voted in favor. **MOTION**
145 **CARRIED.**
146

147 **F. Bid Award: Disaster Recovery Services, Administrator Pieper.** Mr. Stevens moved to
148 award the bid [to Hagerty Consulting.] Mr. Pieper presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on
149 file. Mr. Pellegrino said he supported the award, because Hagerty Consulting got almost \$10 million from
150 the Federal Government to rebuild the pier, when initially the town expected \$2 or \$3 million. Hagerty
151 also has the expertise to deal with the various government agencies. Mr. Ott agreed; he appreciated
152 Hagerty's work on behalf of the town. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
153

154 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Town Services or Business Conducted.
155

156 Mr. Steve McAvoy, 4th Avenue South, asked why he couldn't have Italian ice carts on the street
157 side of the beach accesses. Mayor Childs said council does not respond to questions.
158

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159 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, was surprised to learn that staff worked on the beach
160 during hurricanes, and appreciated council purchasing equipment to help keep staff safe by getting them
161 off the beach 50 percent faster, and help stop flooding in yards.

162
163 Mr. Bill Kinken, Dogwood Drive North, said there is a sink hole on the north side of Ocean
164 Boulevard that needs to be repaired. Until the repair is made, he suggested that warning signs be placed
165 there. Walkways along the boulevard are being covered by shrubbery that needs to be cleared. He
166 supported burying power lines on Highway 17 Business first, which would be the best value for the
167 town's businesses. His taxes went up 32 percent. Thank you.

168
169 Ms. Donna Kaloz, Seneca River Road, Myrtle Beach, spoke about the importance of I-73 and
170 encouraged council to continue its support of the corridor. She gave a packet title "Build I-73 in SC Now!"
171 to the clerk for distribution to councilmembers, a copy of which is on file.

172
173 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, Ocean Boulevard South, was almost sure the town always had a candidate
174 forum and didn't know why it wasn't being held this year and he was positive during election season
175 candidates were introduced at meetings. Mayor Childs said candidates would be recognized after public
176 comments.

177
178 Mr. Mike Holt, Yaupon Drive, complained about nuisance Canadian Geese, and encouraged the
179 town to use 'Avian' spray, or to contact the USDA Wildlife Services to learn ways to abate the problem.
180 Natural migration patterns were altered by people feeding them; there are no natural predators; a pair of
181 geese will have 5 goslings every year; one goose will eat 2 to 3 pounds of grass per day, and drops 1 to
182 2 pounds of feces per day that processes through the stormwater system into the ocean contributing to
183 swimmer's advisories and pollution. He counted a gaggle of 50 at his house; do the math.

184
185 Mr. John Bonsignor, vice chair of Community Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee,
186 complimented the town's police department and the South Precinct for the cookout this past Saturday.
187 Over 500 people attended. The most important thing was the interaction between the officers, children
188 and the community. He thanked councilmembers for supporting the police, and the police department for
189 sponsoring the event, especially Lieutenant Williams from Surfside Beach and Lieutenant Ward from
190 Horry County both of whom put in innumerable hours. Mayor Childs thanked Mr. Bonsignor and the
191 Appreciation Committee for their work to support all the area police agencies.

192
193 **10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS.**

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195 Mr. Pellegrino suggested that Mr. McAvoy speak to the administrator about the Italian ice
196 business. He agreed with Ms. Magliette that it was important to clean the swashes faster, but his point
197 was that the equipment should be bought within the budgeted amount. Thank you to the police
198 department for the great event; many people volunteered to make that happen. The parking ordinance
199 came up a month ago. We realized it wasn't good for residents or second home owners. Thanks to the
200 public who spoke out, and he thought we are in a better position not moving forward, because there are
201 so many [questions.] He talked with many residents, and they came through in the end.

202
203 Mr. Dietrich said thank you for coming out tonight and sharing your thoughts, especially on the
204 parking issue. Your comments were well taken on this end; it should have been addressed a long time
205 ago. Let's look into that and get some resolution. If the front-end loader gets the beach clean quicker,
206 and safer, it is a worthwhile investment. Don't stop coming out and keep sharing.

207
208 Mr. Ott said the parking ordinance was tabled. Originally he only wanted one thing [the beach
209 accesses], and he didn't know how it became a monster. At one time the beach access areas were for
210 decal parking only, but the signs disappeared. Residents can't park there because so many people park
211 there, 50 to 60 carts during the summer at every access. We lost that, because all these other things

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212 were brought into it. He believed an ordinance should only have one or two elements. Mr. Ott said the
213 money taken from Ocean Boulevard was only to underground wire running east-west on Highway 17.
214 Since that project died, the money hasn't gone back to where it was originally designated. Thank
215 everybody for the comments and for coming out.
216

217 Mr. Stevens thanked everybody for coming out. Fourteen days from now is the town election. He
218 explained how in 30 days he worked the town's Horry County Council representative and the Solid Waste
219 Authority to solve the garbage situation on Ocean Boulevard; the cost was \$8,000 instead of \$125,000.
220 Candidates should get help from elected officials at every level of government. Please don't get the town
221 into another lawsuit. We have a contract and we may end up in another lawsuit bigger than Nibble's. A
222 report from Moody's states that the average middle-class American's income rose over \$7,000 in the past
223 two and a half years; 6 million new jobs, and we are no longer dependent on foreign oil. We probably
224 have the best economy we will ever have in years. Lowest unemployment for minorities in history; lowest
225 unemployment in 51 years. That comes from being a problem solver. Whoever wins needs to be a
226 problem solver. He did not seek reelection. If eight years is good enough for the President of the United
227 States, it's good enough for him. Whoever is elected should do the best job you can and make the
228 citizens happy. I know there are some very talented candidates; solve the town's problems. Thank you
229 for coming out.
230

231 Mayor Childs asked candidates to introduce themselves: Mayor: Bob Hellyer; David Pellegrino,
232 and Julie Samples. Town Council: Jenn Cribb; Michael Drake; Paul Holder; Cindy Keating; Laverne
233 Kreklau; Kathryn Martin, and Larry McKeen.
234

235 Mayor Childs said that Mr. Kinken was right about the sink hole, and asked the administrator to
236 have public works place signage until it can be repaired, which is the next stormwater issue. The town is
237 very supportive of I-73. We need many ways to evacuate during storms. Geese are another problem.
238 Federal employees turn a deaf ear when you mention geese. He experienced the same issues as Mr. Holt.
239 Geese over-run the town. Council is very aware of making sure people clean up behind their pets, but
240 geese are worse than dogs. He hoped somebody would do something. Public works has tried disrupting
241 sleep; it works a little. Nobody seems to know a solution. Somebody posted that the candidate forum
242 usually held in chambers by the Coastal Carolinas Realtors Association was cancelled. That had nothing to
243 do with him. The Realtors Association did not have funds budgeted since the elections were moved from
244 April to November. The Association teamed with the Chamber of Commerce to hold one event. Neither
245 event had anything to do with him.
246

247 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Mr. Dietrich
248 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
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250 Prepared and submitted by:

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253 _____
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

254 **Approved: November 26, 2019**

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256 *Signatures on page 6.*
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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

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Approved