



**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020 • 6:30 pm.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Hellyer called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm Mayor Hellyer, Mayor Pro Tempore Scoles, Councilmembers Pellegrino, Drake, Dietrich, Holder, and Keating were in attendance. Others present Town Attorney Crosby, Town Administrator Pieper, and Town Clerk Sheri Medina.
2. **INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
  - A. Invocation: Councilmember Pellegrino gave the invocation.
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance: The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA** None
4. **MINUTES APPROVAL** January 28, 2020 – Regular meeting, February 12, 2020, Special Meeting, February 14, 2020, Special Meeting, and February 25, 2020, Regular Meeting. Councilmember Dietrich moved to adopt January 28, 2020 – Regular meeting, February 12, 2020, Special Meeting, February 14, 2020, Special Meeting, and February 25, 2020, Regular Meeting, as presented. Mrs. Keating stated she would like to make a suggestion regarding the minutes. She feels that the minutes are still too summarized. Some programs will transcribe the audio and would relieve Sheri from the duty of having to determine the content of the minutes. This program will save time. Councilmember Pellegrino stated it is a good suggestion; this would be a good start in streamlining the process. Councilmember Drake said he had mentioned it last week, and it will present a better reflection of the meeting. Councilmember Dietrich asked if there was a cost for this program. Mayor Hellyer asked Councilmember Keating if she would work with the town Clerk with the minutes. Councilmember Drake agreed. Councilmember Pellegrino asked if Council will give the Administrator direction to research the program. Councilmember Drake stated he feels the minutes should be tabled until further review. Councilmember Scoles said she reviewed the minutes and found the February 25 minutes to be precise, and Mr. Pieper stated he also reviewed the minutes and found them to be spot on. Councilmember Holder second the motion to approve. Ayes: Councilmembers Dietrich, Scoles, and Holder. Nays: Councilmembers Drake, Pellegrino, Keating, and Mayor Hellyer. **Motion denied.**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only** (5-minutes per speaker)
  - A. Judy Henion, 11th Ave. North. Mrs. Henion stated the Town previously purchased a program and should be in Town Hall. First, the Pier update. After reading the RFP, it indicates there is a timeline to use the funds. The deadline is fast approaching. The workshops need to be scheduled. Who is approving permits in the Town? There appears to be no one capable of approving permits. Businesses are applying and turned away. We do not need to drive away business. Who is Joseph Smith that is supposed to be receiving the bids that are out? No one can find him on the web. I hope you get the workshops scheduled soon.  
  
Mayor Hellyer close public comment.
6. **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - A. Surfside Area Rotary Club. No communication was presented.
7. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

*This agenda is published pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-80(A) and (E). The public is invited to attend all meetings and events.*

52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92

A. **Allow Free parking Easter Sunday Morning to accommodate Sunrise Services.** Councilmember Drake stated he thought this was approved many years ago. Councilmember Scoles said this had been done. Mr. Pieper stated the Police wanted direction to be able to allow the free parking. Councilmember Dietrich made a motion to approve free parking on Easter Sunday, Councilmember Drake second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Councilmember Scoles stated she had received calls from residents who listened to the audio said they could not tell who voted because the vote is done by a show of hands. She feels that for the record and everyone who listens, the vote needs to be verbal. Mayor Hellyer said he would, moving forward, call out the vote so as it will be on the record. Councilmember Dietrich asked Mr. Pieper to have signs put on the stations.

62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92

B. **Dogwood Swash Culvert Bridge- John Adair.** Director Adair stated he would like to budget the first significant capital project to be paid by the stormwater utility fee money for next year. We will be applying for a rural infrastructure authority grant, which would be the maximum of \$500,000. The first step is to commit to funding the project; then, the Town would be reimbursed the grant money. Director Adair asked the Council to authorize the Administrator to sign the letter of commitment. The last project was 620 thousand for the Myrtle Bridge and 550 thousand for engineering; we have to fund all no construction costs, but in the end, we would receive 25 percent back. There are over 400 thousand in the fund at this time, and by the time this project this winter, there will be next year's money in the fund. Councilmember Holder asked when this project would commence. Director Adair stated next winter. The grant request is due next week. The grants are open only twice a year. The funds need to be appropriated in the budget. Councilmember Keating clarified that the Town would have to pay approximately 200,000 dollars for the non-construction cost. Director Adair stated, yes. Councilmember Keating asked if the Town would be reimbursed that amount by the grant. Director Adair said we would pay the entire amount upfront to the contractor. The engineering fees would be the responsibility of the Town. The reimbursed funds will go back into the fund. Councilmember Scoles stated she had concerns with all the building going on and all the water that is filtering into Horry County over to us especially Dogwood, do we need to take a hard look and see what is causing the problems? Director Adair stated this project is a failing bridge. This bridge is on old wooden piles. The bridge requires replacement. At some point, the lakes do need to be dredged, but that is not part of this project. Councilmember Pellegrino stated he spoke with Mr. Adair yesterday, and he seems to have a good plan with a list of stormwater projects for the next 5 to 10 years. We should get together with Mr. Adair and go over the list. Director Adair stated that when the Council approved the stormwater utility fee last year, the top tier projects were enumerated in that discussion. Indeed the Town's two large lakes need to be dredged. The County hopefully will help with that. Councilmember Scoles asked the status of the Melody project. The County hired a contractor for that project. The project needs to be redesigned and is currently being engineered. Hopefully, this project will be done this year. Mayor Hellyer asked Mr. Adair has he spoke to the Director of Finance and Mr. Pieper about the funds that will be needed. Or are we just doing the letter of intent at this time? Director Adair stated the money is already in the fund. If the project should run over, there are places in the budget, such as the hospitality fund, that funds can be pulled from. Councilmember Holder made a motion to approve the funds and authorize the Administrator to do the paperwork for the Dogwood Swash Culvert, Councilmember Dietrich second. Ayes: Councilmembers Scoles, Pellegrino, Drake, Dietrich, Holder, Keating, and Mayor Hellyer. **MOTION CARRIED**

93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108

C. **Pier Update-** Mayor Hellyer stated as of February 29th the bid packages were ready to go out. There were questions about possibly holding the bids so that the negotiations could be done. Mayor Hellyer made a motion to send out the bids, Councilmember Drake seconded. Councilmember Scoles stated that she does not agree with the motion. There is a time limit with the bids. If an agreement is not reached, the Town cannot honor any of those bids. Then the job has to be rebid, and also the bids will become public and could do more harm to the Town. Hopefully, there will be some good news in the executive session telling us that an agreement will soon be met. Councilmember Keating stated she disagrees with Councilmember Scoles. She said there were many conversations with the Lessee and does not understand why the bids cannot be put out. An agreement has to be signed at some point and will be conditional. Councilmember Keating stated she is not sure if the Pier can be built as designed anyway. The Lessee knows that he will be losing his restaurant. The Council should be confident and move forward with the bids. Councilmember Pellegrino stated he agrees with putting out the bids tomorrow. The three of us are working with the Atlantic Restaurant group and will have an update for the executive session. We need to get the bid out. Councilmember Drake said the negotiations are going well. The bids should go out. There should be a weekly update from the Administrator. He also stated there should be more pictures on the website so the residents can see what is going on with the Pier. The bids should be posted on the website when received. Councilmember Drake stated he feels after tonight I believe we can get a contract signed or amended

109 agreement with them so we can continue to move forward. Mayor Hellyer asked for a vote on putting out the  
110 bids tomorrow (3/11/2020) Ayes: Councilmembers Drake, Pellegrino, Keating, Holder, and Mayor Hellyer. Nays:  
111 Councilmember Scoles, and Dietrich. **MOTION CARRIED.**

112 **D. Set workshop date for Chapters 2 and 17.** Councilmember Holder stated he reviewed Chapter 17 and  
113 found that it is 147 pages long. This chapter will probably take a few days to go over. Councilmember Pellegrino  
114 said that it is a long chapter. Going line by line would not be productive. He also stated Councilmembers should  
115 review the entire section, write down their points of concern; it will make the process easier at the meeting.  
116 Councilmember Keating stated this should be two separate meetings. Mrs. Keating agreed with Mr. Pellegrino that  
117 Council should write down their concerns before the meeting. She feels that it might take three to five sessions.  
118 Planning commission should be involved and bring their concerns. This should be open to the residents.  
119 Councilmember Scoles agrees with Councilmember Pellegrino about reviewing before the meeting. She also feels  
120 the attorney should be present and the Planning Commission. Councilmember Scoles stated that workshops are  
121 not for the public. Councilmember Keating said that workshops are to work with the residents and to get their  
122 input. She recommended reaching out to planning commission to work out their availability for the workshop  
123 concerning Chapter 17. Wednesday, March 17, at 10:00 am was recommended for the discussion of Chapter two.  
124 Everyone agreed.

125 **E. Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful,** Ashley Hine, Vice Chairman for Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful. The  
126 committee wanted to recap. "It's a Wonderful Life" Christmas theme. The trolley was a success. The first night  
127 200 people were waiting to ride the trolley. Channing Delaplane was dressed as the Grinch. IWL had two news  
128 appearances. You have been socked made the news. We had an appearance on the Cecil Chandler show. There  
129 were 100; it's a wonderful life ornament sold. All that money went back into the budget. Devine Dining was a  
130 large part of the success. River City and Bubba's. The Mayor attended a ceremony presenting them an award for  
131 their participation. Both restaurants gave child discounts. Awards were given to businesses and residents for their  
132 assistance. Ms. Hine suggested that town employees be aware of their events in case residents call for  
133 information. I would like to thank all members for all their help. As everyone knows, there will no longer be  
134 Sunday Serenades. We would like to talk to Debbie Ellis to coordinate more events. One event a week would be  
135 great. The committee would like the Council to consider giving \$500.00 to help with their budget. The Mayor  
136 stated the Administrator would speak to the Finance director to see if funds are available.

137 **F. Discussion of P&Z organization,** Councilmember Holder, motioned to table this discussion until after the  
138 executive session. Councilmember Dietrich second. Councilmember Keating stated it had been a month since  
139 losing the Planning Director, and people want to know some specifics of the organization. Several of us have  
140 heard complaints. Councilmember Scoles stated when an item is tabled and seconded; there is no discussion.  
141 Councilmember Drake asked if a vote needed to be taken. Mayor Hellyer said even people on Council do not  
142 know what is going on. There has not been a person in Planning in over a month. Mr. Pieper indicated someone  
143 from the Waccamaw COG would be helping out. Upon the resignation of Ms. Morris, the position has been  
144 advertised. Mitch Combs is a provisional CBO, directed by Chief Otte. Mayor Hellyer asked who is making the  
145 planning decisions. Mr. Pieper stated the COG is in the office daily.

146 **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Town Services or Business Conducted** (5 minutes per speaker)

147 **A. Janet Gambino, 310 S Hollywood Blvd.** Ms. Gambino referenced the meeting on February 25. Courtesy and  
148 kindness. These are operational procedures. Example: A person on the dais spoke out of turn. A council person  
149 who gave praise to our Chief and Administrator yet threatened a news person. An employee interjected while a  
150 resident was speaking. To all of the mayor and town council, do you have the same operational procedures as  
151 the residents?

152 **B. Beth Kohlmann, S Ocean Blvd.** The COG was brought up. The COG is located in Georgetown County. This  
153 organization is expensive. They have a board of Directors. Mr. Bob Childs sits on the COG. This is a problem. The  
154 COG is in our Town every day. The Council should have a problem with that. Something is not right. When Mayor  
155 leaves office, they leave their seat on the COG, and the new Mayor occupies that seat. Hopefully, the Council can  
156 talk to the COG so our current Mayor can have that seat.

157 **C. Judy Henion, 11<sup>th</sup> Ave North,** Why was Surfside Beach's most significant contract, Beach Services only was  
158 put out for three weeks? This involves public safety. The contract has been given to the same contractor over  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164

165 and over. Has this contract been engineered to be able to give it to the same contractor? The Council needs to  
166 look at this contract. KSBB, some businesses have offered to sponsor events.

167  
168 D. Casey Brown, Poplar Drive, Vice-Chair of Planning Commission. The meeting this month was canceled but did  
169 nor not received any notice. The members are all volunteers, and we rearrange our schedules to be available for  
170 the meetings. There needs to be better communication. We want to work for Surfside.

171  
172 E. Terry Lauer, Harbor Lights Drive, What I hear tonight is very scary. It seems the Mayor does not have  
173 information. There is no communication with the Planning Commission. Meetings are being held with no one to  
174 guide you. You need a person who knows all the Ordinances. Who is the leader? I feel sorry for the Mayor; I am  
175 sorry this is happening to you. This is not the same Town that we had years ago. We all need your help to get  
176 this Town back in order. We are better than what happened in other towns. We are Surfside Beach.

177  
178 F. Al Lauer, Harbor Lights Drive, One of the significant parts of this Town is the Planning Commission. The  
179 Planning Commission is the body that should review and revise Ordinances, submit them to Council, then  
180 decisions are made. This burden should not fall on you. Mr. Lauer stated there had been comments that the  
181 Council should run as smoothly as the Planning Commission meetings.

182  
183 **9. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS (5 minutes per speaker)**

184  
185 A. Councilmember Scoles thanked everyone for coming out and for all the comments. There may be a  
186 misunderstanding about the responsibility of the Board of Directors of the COG. They have nothing to do with the  
187 employees that are hired for the COG, which is sent out to the Municipalities. If someone has a concern, they  
188 need to reach out to the Executive Director of the COG. That is a legislative position, and the Council has nothing  
189 to do with who sits on that Board. Thank you.

190  
191 B. Councilmember Holder stated I would like to start by saying tonight's meeting started differently than usual.  
192 Sadly, it has to be this way. It is not fair that our families and we feel threatened because we sit on the Council.  
193 Thank you to the Chief and the whole department. There are a lot of things put on the internet that is hard to  
194 believe. I would like everyone to know that I am against anything being built in Surfside over 55 feet. I said that  
195 in my campaigning and still feel that way. We are going through somethings right now, but some great things are  
196 going to happen. HTC is installing fiberroctive cables on the Northside. Thank you for your support, and have a  
197 great evening.

198  
199 C. Councilmember Keating stated she appreciated everyone coming out, all the support, comments, and  
200 expertise and Council. I am at a loss as to what to say. I intended to remind everyone as to public service. I am  
201 not sure that it is effective. Three new members have been here over a couple of months. I have never been as  
202 frustrated with a process and with a group of people as I am today. At this point, I can share no more.

203  
204 D. Councilmember Dietrich, Thank you to the Police Chief and the gentlemen in the back. Councilmember  
205 Dietrich encouraged everyone to continue to come to the meetings. It is just a matter of getting things fixed.

206  
207 E. Councilmember Pellegrino thanked everyone for coming. A nice big crowd of concerned citizens.  
208 Councilmember Pellegrino agreed with a resident concerning mutual respect. That's important. Mr. Holder  
209 mentioned social media. I have never been on social media until a short time ago. I have a Facebook page and  
210 maintain that page. I appreciate the residents who reach out that do not agree with me because that makes me  
211 think of other options. But they are respectful. But then others are not respectful. It's not just the Council or  
212 employees; It is the whole Town. Some of the comments are pretty vile. I encourage everyone to challenge us  
213 only in a respectful way.

214  
215 F. Councilmember Drake stated he felt the frustration visiting the Planning and Zoning office trying to get  
216 answers while running in the election. I want to thank everyone for coming out and trying to get our Town  
217 straightened out. In the executive session, I did receive useful information but have not received any since. I  
218 would like to get information ahead of time. A plan from A-Z, what is the intent. I will ask the Administrator to  
219 please get us that information. Thank you to everyone for coming out tonight.

222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241

- 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to the Freedom of Information §30-4-70-(a) (2) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property. § 30-4-70(a) (3) Discussion regarding the development of security personnel devices, §30-4-70-(a) (2) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements with Atlantic Restaurant Group. Sections 30-4-70 (a) (1) and (2) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body and or organization of existing employees and receive related legal advice.

Councilmember Drake made a motion to enter into Executive session at 7:42 pm, Dietrich second. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. **MOTION CARRIED**

Councilmember Drake made a motion to resume regular session at 8:57 pm, Councilmember Holder second. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. **MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Hellyer stated there was no action taken in executive session.

Motions and/or directions from Executive Session, None

- 11. ADJOURNMENT-** Councilmember Keating moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm, Councilmember Dietrich second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**