



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

April 13, 2010 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tem Truett and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Martin, Childs and Samples were present. A quorum was present. Staff present: Clerk, Pinnell; Public Safety Director, Christenson, Police Captain Miller; Fire Chief, Packard and Parks and Recreation Supervisor Ellis. Attorney Mr. Smith was also present. Mr. Booth arrived late; he had attended a CTC meeting in Conway. He arrived during Business Item 7g.

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Pastor Scott Wachter from Surfside Methodist Church gave invocation and the Mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

3. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mr. Truett voted to approve the agenda. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **MINUTES APPROVAL** – Regular meeting minutes March 23, 2010. Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** Agenda items only, 3 minutes per speaker.

Randle Stevens, 412 1st Avenue North: “Talking about the skateboard park, I think, if we take the area that they’re talking about going to, 1st Avenue North, we’ve already got a walking park, we got two dog parks, we’ve got tennis courts, we’ve got Fuller Kids Park, we’ve got a library that’s going to be expanded to 18,000 square feet. Keep in mind, ladies and gentlemen, that 17-41, 17-43 talks about lessening congestion in the streets and also adhering to a quality of life. I think we need to possible look at an area where the kids can come up in an area where it’s commercially located as far as a skate park and that would be a lot better for the kids because they would be near the police and the fire department and all that and more likely to get help if they got injured, so I don’t think we don’t need any more congestion down there where we already have enough and I think you know that.”

Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Blvd: “I want to thank you first, all of you, for the initial skate park and I know you all worked really hard getting it done quickly and the kids appreciated it. I think that they’ve towed the line. There’s a few things that have happened but as far as I’m aware and I don’t know if maybe Andy knows more, Mr. Christianson knows more about that, if there were complaints made in reference to the skate park. I would just ask each of you maybe, before you make a decision, to sit down and maybe ask, look at the complaints, actually look at them and see where they’re coming from. I would think that the complaints might be more before the skate park from business owners and from residents with these kids out there in the street skating than there are now with the noise from the wheels, so I just ask that before any decisions are made that you really look at it and see if the complaints are valid or if those are fear of what might happen in the future and if there are

52 complaints, by all means, I think we need to address those complaints and again,
53 thank you very much.”

54
55 **Jim Franklin, 24 1st Avenue North:** “I’m bounded by 1st Avenue North, Oak Drive
56 and Willow Drive and I want to speak in reference to the skate park. I understand it’s
57 now located at 13th Avenue South and I can understand the people who live around
58 there having complaints about it and I’m in sympathy with them but I see no point in
59 moving it from one station to another station when you’re going to receive complaints
60 there too, so, why swap complaints from one place to complaints to another plus the
61 amount of funds that’s going to be invested in building a new one when you already
62 have one. No one wants a skate park in their backyard, I can understand that. I don’t
63 want it in my backyard and I’m sure neither of you would want it in your backyard
64 either. I’m in complete sympathy with the people around 13th Avenue South because
65 of it but don’t move it from their neighborhood to my neighborhood because you’re
66 going to get complaints wherever it’s going to be. Thank you.”

67
68 **Wes Sparkes, 1410 North Dogwood:** “I’m aware of the skate park issues, helped
69 councilman Truett, Councilman Childs on the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee
70 with Beth Kohlmann also to help get going what we got. As far as location, I’m in
71 agreement with the past two gentlemen that spoke, that you don’t want to move it
72 from one residential to another residential area because I don’t want it near my house
73 either as much as I’d like one. We have a couple of commercial areas here by the fire
74 station, over on Poplar and Surfside Drive was a good option but I know it’s being
75 used. I know it’s a positive thing. I take my son there quite often, we haven’t seen
76 any destruction or vandalism or anything of that nature so I think it’s serving the
77 community well and we would like to see it stay, like to see it eventually be improved
78 upon and expanded but we’re grateful for what we have right now and thank you all
79 for putting it there.

80
81 **MaryJo Barbage, 111 12th Avenue South:** “I thank you all for listening to me,
82 normally it’s my husband that takes this place but he’s running a business and can’t
83 come from Columbia. I’m definitely against it. It is loud; they are obnoxious; there
84 are obscenities and why do we even have to have one. We are a ‘family beach’ here
85 at Surfside and we ‘have a noise ordinance that’s posted’ and when you have a skate
86 board park there is certainly noise, there are certainly obscenities and it has really . . .
87 I came here and we call our house ‘beach therapy’. I come here to get away from
88 things and Surfside Beach was always the family beach. It’s different from Garden
89 City. Garden City is like . . . Myrtle Beach is like down here but Surfside was always
90 elevated above and I really think you’re dragging yourself down by having it, period.
91 Wham Bam thank you ma’am and I thank you for listening to me. I really hope that
92 we do not have it at all.”

93
94 **Mary Maruka, 7th Avenue South:** “I am here as a property manager from Oak
95 Colony Realty for Beachwalk Homeowner Association, they are the butters of the
96 skateboard park. I think you have four letters; I don’t know if you’ve had time to get
97 to your e-mails but I know that four separate homeowners of the 12 there expressed
98 their not wanting to have this skate park for various reasons. The noise is a huge
99 reason. Their pool is right out back there so you can’t sit at that pool and listen to the
100 skaters. They have not expressed problems with the skaters, it’s the noise. Sitting out

101 on the back balconies are terrible. It's going to hurt them for a lot of ways.
102 Homeowners that have them as second homes don't enjoy staying there anymore and
103 they're afraid that the rental season this summer will be killed. Not a good year as it
104 is. They're looking for all the compassion that they can possibly get. They're
105 opposed to the skate park staying there."

106
107 **Kim Raines 520 16th Avenue North:** "I'm also here on behalf of Surfside Realty as
108 Director of Rental Operations. While we support Parks and Recreation and we
109 support the skate park we just feel like it should not be in an R-3 zone; it should be in
110 a more commercial zone. I've had numerous homeowners that I know sent e-mails
111 and just a quick example, we had a snowbird that came down, moved into a house on
112 15th Avenue South, came in the next morning and demanded to be moved so I have an
113 owner that lost 3 months of income because of the skate park and it's simply the noise
114 and we just, while we support it, we just feel like it should be in a more commercial
115 location."

116
117 **Jake Sparkes, 14th Avenue North Dogwood Drive:** "I support the skate park and I
118 think it's a really great thing and I think we should move it right there because there
119 are some advantages to it like, Eternal Wave, the skate shop, they will, since it's a
120 skate park, they are a skate shop and people will start buying more skateboards and
121 also it's in not such of a, bunch of home place, it's more near where people aren't
122 living and so I just support the skate park and want to improve it."

123
124 **Shelby Smith, 911 Cedar Drive North:** "I'm here to talk about the skate park and I
125 don't know much about skateboarding, my grandson in Atlanta enjoys it, he's 22 and
126 has enjoyed it for years. Just this afternoon I had an occasion to spend 2 ½ hours
127 involved in this. I spent a half hour down there just before coming to the meeting.
128 Everybody I've heard come up here has talked about noise, well; let's deal with the
129 problem of noise. There's supposed to be no bikes in the park; there were two bikes
130 down there and they were doing wheelies and they were riding the bikes up on the
131 ramps, its noise. Loose bolts in most of the apparatus, it rattles, twice the noise if it
132 was tight. The surface, bumpy, not smooth, so the rollers make more noise, so,
133 there's some simple fixes to the noise. I think it's in a good location and I think we
134 should take advantage of the donated \$30,000 worth of equipment; a real fine thing
135 for the town and as far as the children, they are our families. I mean, we're a family
136 beach but the children make up a big part of our families so they should have
137 recreation, so, I went on the internet and there's a company that was involved with
138 the big dig in Boston, it's Sound Seal Corporation of Massachusetts, they're a noise
139 abatement company. They recommend a sand isolation company in Charlotte, North
140 Carolina that deals in outdoor vinyl back quilted system that can be installed inside of
141 a fence, so, a fence could be put up there and the noise could be reduced, they tell me,
142 by 60 percent; 50 to 60 percent lower noise. How much would this cost? There's
143 about 400 linear feet down there at that park. If we build a 7 and a half foot fence,
144 it's about two dollars a square foot, \$6,400. The lifespan is well over ten years, that's
145 six hundred dollars a month. Doesn't seem like a whole lot to solve the whole
146 problem. The fence has to be installed and there's some options there, if you could
147 put a wood fence in there it would be roughly \$7,200. You could put a chain link
148 fence in there that would withstand the wind a little better. The wind would go
149 through it. Picture the vinyl on the inside of it, so, in the threat of a storm maybe

150 somebody spends a half a day to take down the vinyl like they do in some other
151 locations and store it so then the fence stands up, withstands a hundred mile an hour
152 storm, up to one hundred and thirty mile an hour. As far as the other problem,
153 children are children, sometimes they're loud but they can control a little bit of that
154 just within themselves. If they know that this is the behavior expected and they have
155 to keep it down then we look to the whole group to try to do that. One last point that
156 was pointed out to me and this is just in 2 ½ hours of involvement this afternoon.
157 There's a dampening paint that can be painted underneath of these apparatuses that
158 kills the vibration, it kills the noise, so, that's another possibility to lower the noise,
159 so, I think these, this kind of recreation is real good. I wish we had the previous
160 committee that people, like myself, or others on the committee could get out there and
161 do a few hours of research and bring ideas to a form like a committee and then
162 convey them to you so you could make the decision as to what's the best for the town.
163 Thank you."

164
165 ***Kathy Beck, 13th Avenue South, directly across from the skateboard park:*** "These
166 are the things that have occurred in the little bit of time that it's been there. Within
167 the very first month of it being there I had to make a call to the police at one o'clock
168 in the morning because there were three skateboarders out there, one o'clock in the
169 morning, skating. Then, it goes on, our trash can and our recycling bin were removed
170 from under our house, carried across the road to the skateboard park and they were
171 inside the gate being used as a ramp. We had to find them ourselves, that's just not
172 right. What I have seen happening, when that gate is locked and it's supposed to be
173 closed for the evening, they are climbing the fence and they are going in and they're
174 staying until whenever. It has gotten better, I have to say, you know as far as, they
175 haven't been there at one o'clock but they have been there as late as eleven. I know
176 that we have to have something for our young people, I realize that, but I think it
177 needs to be in a controlled environment. I'm from Aiken, we have a skateboard park,
178 it's at the recreational facility; it works fine. Finding the location I think is going to
179 be a problem, going to be the key to making it work. The other thing is the atrocious
180 language. Every four letter including the worst one ever that you can imagine is
181 being said and not loudly but very, very loudly, I mean, it's awful to hear young
182 people using those kind of words, you know, all the time and then, I cannot say this
183 positively but when we leave our home we have everything in place, when we come
184 back they're using our water. Our hose has been unwrapped so I know they're
185 coming over there using our water so that's a concern too, that they're coming on our
186 property when they should be in that skateboard park. That's a concern. Then Easter
187 weekend we were here and the parking lot was full with the exception of the
188 handicapped spaces. If that skateboard park had not been there the Town of Surfside
189 could be earning more money from the parking spaces and what was happening,
190 everybody was parking along the street on 13th Avenue where there are signs posted
191 saying 'do not park between signs' but guess what? That's where all the people were,
192 so, you know there are a lot of things that still need to be addressed, you know, and
193 like I say, I am not opposed, I've seen it; it works in our town. I know it can work,
194 we've just got to find where. Thank you."

195
196 ***Greg Szupillo, 344 Melody Land:*** "I've been by that park because I live on that end
197 of town and there's big signs; it has rules, a lot of whom are all being discussed here
198 about language, about equipment needed and all that stuff. Never seen a helmet in

199 that park. I've seen bicycles in that park; I've seen law enforcement drive by the park
200 and apparently not notice that there's people in there that are not using protective
201 equipment, now, when one of those kids falls and bust their head open, who's liable?
202 We're putting a park in there; we're saying 'hey, come use our park' we should be
203 enforcing the rules. Put it out here where law enforcement can't ignore it, you know,
204 and you get away from the noise, the residences and all that stuff, you know. All this
205 money on fences and all that stuff, spend more money, that's great, but what's the
206 problem? There is no enforcement down there. If we're not going to have somebody
207 down there, park's got to be closed. That's just plain and simple for me. Thank
208 you."

209
210 **Kaitlin Coulier, 515 2nd Avenue North:** "I'm here to support the skate park whether
211 it's on 13th or the one down here because last year, if you guys don't remember, right
212 across from the Sundown, the kids were spray painting on the walls and
213 skateboarding there and ruining that place, the skate park keeps them from doing that
214 and gets them off the couch. Another thing is people complain about the noise, most
215 of those people don't have kids and don't understand that that place is helping the
216 kids."

217
218 **Buck Ricks, 4th Avenue South:** "I haven't seen you all in quite some time. I just
219 want to come here tonight and tell you how much I appreciate what you all been
220 doing around town. A lot of things, the new fire department, of course, that's the big
221 shining example of a lot of work, hard work that's been put in over the years.
222 Understand the pier is getting a facelift here over the next several months. I wasn't
223 aware of this thing about 4th Avenue until I came here tonight but we've been paying
224 taxes here for 55 years so I kind of like to see some improvement there. I don't know
225 if there's room within these bids, I don't know if this has been considered because I
226 haven't looked at the drawings but I happen to know Mr. Moore, I graduated from
227 high school with his father, I know him well, but if you'll notice the one on 5th
228 Avenue South, small, very, very small, but they have a little bench where you can sit
229 in the evening, now we've got the drive over and they got the jet ski thing and all that
230 kind of stuff but it would be nice, you know, for mom to have a place to just sit and
231 watch the sunsets or whatever and I don't think we're talking about an awful lot of
232 materials and it may have already been considered but I'd just like to put my two
233 cents worth into that regard, but, also I want to rag on you all for re-electing a fine
234 councilmember, I can't recall his name but apparently 522 of you can so I guess that's
235 what matters to most but also there's a lady in the back, Miss Anna Dodge, I've
236 known her for the better part of a decade and she'll be a very good asset to council,
237 you know, she talks a lot like I do but she also has a set of ears and the other two
238 people running I've heard good reports on both of them. I don't think you'll go
239 wrong either way. I've heard from several people about Mr. Smith, he was an
240 electrical engineer among other things and my grandfather was a railroad engineer,
241 so, I guess we can reach some common ground there but last Friday and I've never
242 heard anything about Bill Rempfer, at all, I've just seen his signs, they're very kind
243 of, you know they kind of roll off your tongue 'Remember Rempfer' but I had the
244 misfortune to have my car break down last Friday after four o'clock and I don't know
245 if any of you all drive or not but you're not supposed to break down after four o'clock
246 on Friday, so, anyway, I called all my redneck buddies on the other side of the

247 waterway and they wouldn't take my call or didn't have time to do anything for me . .
248 .”

249
250 **Mayor Deaton:** “Sir, I hate to interrupt you but that’s not an agenda item. These are
251 on agenda items. If you’d like to speak again, we have a 5 minute session at the end.
252 I apologize for that. We have rules on that. You had it right on 4th Avenue and
253 everything, you were doing okay.”

254
255 **Mr. Ricks:** “I’m sorry. Unfortunately I got here late and I didn’t get an agenda. All I
256 got was the other little thing but I apologize and I’ll hit that later on but anyway I
257 thank you so much for the opportunity to speak and apologize for my mistake.”

258 **Jenny Gomel, 119 13th Avenue South:** “First, I teach school so I know what 7th
259 graders are like and I deal with hundreds of them a day, seems like. The noise is
260 unbearable. We like to sit on our front porch and watch TV and we have to have the
261 volume turned all the way up to even hear the TV over the noise in the skate park.
262 It’s the ramp, the kind of ramp that we have; if you had a cement ramp or something
263 the noise would be a lot better but that noise, this afternoon when I came home from
264 school I just went ‘I’m just going to listen’. Well, I heard the f bomb about twenty
265 times in about 20 minutes so, you know, the language there isn’t really good. When
266 they’re skating you can’t hear it as much because it’s covered up by all the noise, by
267 the ramp noise. I’ve had skaters out there, the neighbor just said one thirty; two thirty
268 in the morning, I didn’t get up to call the police but you know they should have been
269 called. They do go over the fence; they just bend the gate and go right in,
270 unfortunately, my neighbors Dee and Jack Anderson called the police just about
271 every night. I don’t do it but they do, to get them to close it; to get the kids out, so if
272 they were following the rules it would be a different thing. This place, location,
273 you’re talking about up here, to me, sounds great. I have a friend that also teaches
274 she lives on 14th Avenue South beyond lakeside and she can hear the noise so it goes
275 a long way; it’s bad. Thank you.”

276
277 **Jo Cribb “and my address is the skate park, it joins my backyard”:** “I agree with a
278 lot of what the people have said but unless you live there full time you haven’t a clue
279 how bad that skate park is. The profanity is terrible. They come through my yard;
280 they ride their bicycle under my house. My golf cart battery has been stolen since that
281 skate park and it just blows my mind because everywhere I walk in my house I can
282 hear that noise and they take the things and they pull them, you know, their props or
283 whatever you call them and then every dog in the neighborhood starts barking and it’s
284 terrible. I can’t sit on my sundeck; I can’t sit on my front porch; I can’t sit under my
285 house, you know, you just got to close up and just like the lady said it you go watch
286 television you have to have it so loud until it just . . . you know, it’s terrible and the
287 children just . . . I mean, you know, they just don’t behave when they’re there and like
288 I said unless you’re there all the time and see and hear what’s going on you just
289 haven’t a clue. Thank you.”

290
291 **Denise Coulier, 515 2nd Avenue North:** “I bring my son to that skate park every
292 single day and I’ve met adults that go out there and teach the kids how to skate better;
293 how to do different ramps. Kids are going to be kids; there’s going to be profanity
294 here and there but compared to the fact that they were just skateboarding anywhere
295 and everywhere they could now they have someplace to go and I think it really made

296 a big difference for the kids and I think the kids really did appreciate it and I think
297 they honestly do need it, so, in regards to this is a family town, the lady said she
298 doesn't like Myrtle Beach; she doesn't like Garden City well I took my son to North
299 Myrtle Beach; I didn't like taking them there either. You want to talk about profanity
300 and older kids and drugs, that was North Myrtle Beach. These kids are . . . my son is
301 eleven, there's kids that are younger than him; they're not doing drugs, they're not
302 selling drugs at the skate park. They are skating; they are having a good time rather
303 it's in a bad location maybe that's the case but the kids do need that skate park.
304 Thank you.”
305

306 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

307 **a. American Heart Association: Presented by Ryan Hannan- Request to allow**
308 **horses on beach for one day between November 3 – 7, 2010**

309 Mr. Ryan Hannan was in attendance representing the American Heart
310 Association. Mr. Hannan stated that for several years the area has had a beach
311 ride event. Mr. Hannan reported that currently South Carolina is number one in
312 the country for stroke and number two in the country for heart disease. The
313 American Heart Association spends more money in South Carolina every year
314 than what it pulls in. The Association is looking for the opportunity to expand
315 the beach ride. They are looking to have the ride one day in the morning. The
316 majority of the week the riders stay within the camp ground but one day they
317 would like to take a longer ride down the beach. Mr. Hannan stated that the
318 Association would make sure that the ride is held during dead low tide and the
319 horses have to ride between the dead low tide mark and the high tide mark so
320 when the high tide comes in all of the hoof prints will be gone. Mr. Hannan
321 stated that Horry County and Myrtle Beach look forward to this ride every year;
322 the kids and families come out to watch the horses. The kids get photos taken
323 with the horses and they are allowed to pet them. Mr. Hannan stated that it is a
324 very low impact event adding that this year the Association is working with
325 Paul Whitten from Horry County Government and he informed them that there
326 is a possibility to use some of the free help from J. Reuben Long for horse waste
327 cleanup. Mr. Hannan stated that the horse ride is the only one of its kind in the
328 country for the American Heart Association. Mr. Hannan stated that he realizes
329 there are concerns and added that he would recommend for anyone with
330 concerns to talk to the City of Myrtle Beach or Horry County Government
331 regarding this event. Mr. Hannan stated that these governments look forward to
332 having it every year.
333

334 Mayor Deaton stated that the Town of Surfside Beach currently has a law
335 prohibiting horses on the beach and asked the attorney to address this for
336 council. Mr. Smith stated that the American Heart Association is certainly a
337 worthwhile endeavor. The town currently has an ordinance which was passed
338 in 1995. Mr. Smith stated that the council would either have to amend the
339 ordinance to allow horse riding on a specific day; the ordinance could also be
340 amended annually with a certain notice from the Heart Association or the law
341 could be repealed and a repealed law could be re-enacted; this would require
342 two readings. Mayor Deaton stated that what this council has done in the past
343 two years is that when a new issue comes up it comes under discussion and then
344 once it is discussed council decides whether the item should go further from that

345 point. Mayor Deaton asked if there was consensus of council for this item to be
 346 brought up at another meeting. Mr. Childs stated that there is an ordinance and
 347 he does not feel the council should change it at all adding that it was put in for a
 348 reason. Mr. Childs stated that the American Heart Association is a good charity
 349 and has worked with them in the past and has walked for them but added that he
 350 gets a number of calls regarding dogs on the beach. Mr. Childs asked if there
 351 would be between 1,000 to 1,500 horses. Mr. Hannan stated that last year they
 352 had a total of 900 horses but not all participated in the ride. It was confirmed
 353 that the event would take place one day on the beach and they are currently
 354 looking at Friday November 5th as being the day. Mr. Truett stated that he does
 355 not have a problem with allowing the horses for one day. Mr. Martin stated that
 356 he agrees with Mr. Childs and would not want to allow the horses. Mr. Johnson
 357 stated that he does not see a problem with allowing this. Ms. Blair stated that
 358 she did talk to Myrtle Beach regarding this ride. She was informed that the
 359 average was 900 riders not 900 horses. Mr. Hannan stated that there are
 360 families that come down and there is not usually a horse for each person. Ms.
 361 Blair stated that she is aware that this has been an event with quite a history in
 362 Myrtle Beach and addressed the clean up issue and did not get a lot of concern
 363 that this has been an issue with Myrtle Beach or the County and was also
 364 informed that Mr. Whitten had agreed to help out if needed with any clean up
 365 issues. Ms. Blair asked about day trippers and trailers. Mr. Hannan stated that
 366 the trailers for the horses must be off public ways; they will be located either on
 367 the air force base or in Lakewood so that they are not in the way. Anyone that
 368 participates must wear wristbands and they would not be using the Town of
 369 Surfside Beach accesses to the beach. Ms. Blair stated that she has no problem
 370 with this either. Mayor Deaton stated that this item is worthy to bring back and
 371 council would need to address other details to make a decision. Mayor Deaton
 372 thanked Mr. Hannan for his presentation and asked him if it was okay for
 373 council to bring this back on a future agenda. Mr. Hannan agreed. Mr. Samples
 374 asked if Mr. Hannan could provide something in writing from Paul Whitten
 375 regarding the cleanup. Mayor Deaton instructed Mr. Hannan to meet with the
 376 administrator so that he can give him a detailed description to present to council
 377 of what will occur during this event.

378
 379 **b. Building Report**

380 Director Christenson presented the report in the absence of the Building
 381 Director Ms. Donevant and the Town Administrator. Mr. Christenson
 382 reported for March 2010 that there were 87 inspections, 21 business license
 383 renewals, 32 office consultations, 357 phone calls fielded, and a total of 142
 384 inspections.

385
 386 **c. Public Safety Report**

387 **i. Police**

388 Mr. Christenson reported that two officers recently resigned, Officer
 389 Carcich and Officer Watford. Two new officers have been hired,
 390 Kenneth Hofmann and Alberto Sanabria. New Beach Service
 391 employees have also been hired, David Avant will return, Chuck
 392 Bassett, Sean Daly and Ron Levesque. The town also hired new
 393 parking enforcement staff. Jim Heavener and Bernard Murray were

394 hired. Beach Service employees started April 1st. Director
395 Christenson reported on recent training. Director Christenson stated
396 that several golf carts have recently been stolen and he wanted to let
397 the public know that they need to secure their golf carts and asked to
398 make sure that everyone registered their carts with the police
399 department. The newly created website is up and the public can
400 view the weekly reports on this site. This month they had 13
401 criminal cases open and 13 warrants done by the towns' one
402 detective. A news release was put out informing the public that there
403 were several burglaries since the 1st of the year; the police have
404 caught three of four different groups involving multiple suspects.
405 The month of March there were 175 parking violations and in 2009
406 there were 198. This year the town brought in \$2,560 for March and
407 last year it was \$3,000.

410
411 *ii. Fire*

412 Director Christenson reported that the fire department responded to
413 111 incidents; 36 medical assists, EMS crew assist, motor vehicle
414 accidents. There were 2 service calls and 3 false fire alarms. Total
415 incidents responded to was 52.

416
417 Mr. Martin asked if there was a planned open house for the new fire
418 station. Director Christenson stated that there would be an open
419 house but there was no definite date yet. Fire Chief Packard stated
420 that the original plan was for the open house to be held on April 24th
421 but due to some issue regarding construction Chief Packard does not
422 want to have the open house before the concrete floors are fixed.
423 Chief Packard stated he was not satisfied with the way the concrete
424 was poured or stained. Mr. Samples asked if Chief Packard could
425 have the administrator write a report on the resolution of this issue
426 and present it at the next meeting.

427
428 Mr. Christenson reported that 84 inspections were completed and
429 there are 27 pending inspections, 1 public education, 1 planning
430 review and 2 pre-fire plan reviews and closed or moved 3
431 businesses.

432
433 *d. Announcements*

- 434 *i.* Councilman Doug Samples has been re-elected to serve another 4
435 year term on council and Ann Dodge has been elected to fill in one
436 of the other two open council seats. The results were certified by the
437 Election Commission at a hearing held April 8th.
438 *ii.* There will be a run-off election held Tuesday, April 20th between
439 Rod Smith and Bill Rempfer. Polls will be open on that day from
440 7AM to 7PM.
441 *iii.* The town would like to thank all of the poll workers for their
442 assistance during this election and the upcoming run-off election.
443

444 Mayor Deaton asked the run-off candidates to please stand. Mr. Smith was in
445 attendance. Mayor Deaton also thanked the poll workers for their assistance
446 during the election.

447
448 **7. BUSINESS**

449
450 a. *Decision Paper: Temporary Hire Rate Increase*

451 Mr. Childs made a motion to increase the pier funds by \$15,000. Mr. Martin
452 seconded the motion. Mr. Johnson asked someone to explain why this was
453 requested. Mr. Childs stated that this \$15,000 will go towards some money
454 that is needed to pay the individual currently working at the pier. He is
455 working on an hourly basis and he is currently laying 20 to 25 feet of flooring
456 and railing per day. This amount is to cover his salary. Mr. Samples stated
457 that he presumes that the money is being taken out of the general fund for the
458 pier fund adding that the pier enterprise fund which is an enterprise fund is not
459 making money. Mayor Deaton added that this fund is supposed to be self
460 sustained. Mr. Samples questioned whether the funds were coming from the
461 general fund or accommodations tax and questioned whether this was just for
462 salaries or are there also fringe benefits involved. Director Christenson stated
463 that according to the decision paper it refers to the replacement of some bolts
464 as well. Mr. Childs stated that the individual would also be putting in the
465 bolts. Mayor Deaton stated that his pay rate will be increased from the
466 unskilled labor rate of \$12 to a skilled rate of \$18 per hour without benefits.
467 This is an increase in hourly wage only and does not include benefits. Mr.
468 Truett stated that Carolina Marine had quoted the town \$110 per bolt to
469 replace and this gentleman is going to do them for \$25 per bolt. Ms. Blair
470 stated that the decision paper does say that the funds are available under
471 maintenance in the enterprise fund. Mr. Samples stated that if, in fact, the
472 general fund has been paid back then there is no money left in the enterprise
473 fund and added that he wished the finance director was available to answer the
474 question. Mr. Samples stated if the town made a \$190,000 repayment to the
475 general fund then where could the town have possibly generated \$190,000
476 from? Mayor Deaton stated that the issue at hand is whether to increase the
477 carpenters pay from \$12 per hour to \$18 per hour. Ms. Blair asked what the
478 option would be if this were denied; would it go out for bid? Mr. Childs
479 stated that he did ask Mr. Booth this question and he informed Mr. Childs that
480 if this was not approved he would just need to cut the project down; the
481 project would stop. It was confirmed that the project is currently half done.
482 Mr. Samples stated that he fully supports the worker at the pier and added that
483 he is worth every nickel but he wanted people to be aware that in two months
484 the town will be adopting a budget and given that "we're going to seek two
485 new council people that the current council people need to, and I'm sure you
486 will, take a little bit of time and consider exactly how much money we have
487 where we really have it."

488
489 Mayor Deaton stated that according to the town administrator the funds are
490 available in the pier enterprise fund and the request is to increase the salary
491 from \$12 per hour to \$18 per hour; this would be a budget increase of \$15,000
492 for the budget year 2009 and 2010. Mr. Johnson asked if council is assuming
493 that the entire \$15,000 will be paid out in salaries. Is he going to work until
494 the \$15,000 is done; is he going to "milk it, so to speak?" Mr. Childs stated
495 that watching this gentleman work every day he does not feel that this would
496 be an issue; the speed he has been working at the pier does not indicate that he
497 would do anything like this. Mr. Truett stated that he agreed with Mr. Childs;
498 he has been down at the pier and has seen this individual work, he is making
499 great progress. Ms. Blair stated that she has also been down at the pier and

500 agrees that it looks great and he is doing a great job but does the council have
501 the option of deferring this until the administrator is available to answer the
502 money questions and does the town have money to continue paying him for
503 the next two weeks until this is addressed again. Mayor Deaton stated that
504 council can deny the motion or the motion is withdrawn. Mr. Childs stated
505 that he was informed by Mr. Booth that if this is not approved tonight the
506 project will be closed down; he does not have the money to carry it on until
507 the next meeting. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

508
509 *b. Decision Paper: Surfside Drive Streetscape Project*

510 Mayor Deaton asked approval of council to combine items 7b and 7c. There
511 was consensus of council to combine the two items. Mr. Smith agreed to
512 combine. Mr. Smith stated that these items are two components of the
513 streetscape landscape project for Surfside Drive. The attorney provided
514 council with an opinion from the McGougan law firm regarding a
515 procurement issue that arose during this process. Mr. Smith explained that the
516 town's engineer, Earthworks, formulated and prepared the project bid packet
517 that went out for bid. The bids came in and a winner and secondary bidder
518 were selected. When the bidder was selected it was later discovered that there
519 was a business relationship between the bidder and the engineer for
520 Earthworks. Mr. Smith stated that "one would presume that the way you
521 would correct that would be that you simply would go to the second bidder
522 and that is an option that council has, however, if you read my opinion on this
523 I believe that the contract should be rebid entirely. I think that a secondary
524 engineering firm should be hired using some of the engineering data that was
525 previously paid for by the town that they set, that a new bid package should be
526 reformulated and it should go out for rebid. If the same bidders bid, even if
527 they bid their same amounts, even if they change their amounts, then council
528 could clearly choose without any . . . there would be no criticism of the way
529 that you had gone about it." Mr. Smith added that this is very unfortunate but
530 it is his firms' opinion that this should be rebid. Mr. Johnson made a motion
531 to rebid agenda items 7b and 7c the streetscape and landscape Surfside Drive
532 project. Ms. Blair seconded the motion.

533
534 Mr. Samples asked about the motion and timeframe to rebid this project
535 adding that it is getting late in the season and tearing up Surfside Drive at this
536 point is problematic for the businesses in that area. Mr. Childs suggested that
537 the town go out for rebid the 1st of July and let it run through July and August
538 then have the work begin the middle of September. Ms. Blair stated that as a
539 member of the subcommittee that worked hard on this expressed her
540 disappointment that this has happened. The committee had a goal with a
541 deadline set and since these goals are now unattainable she agreed on the
542 rebid and that it made more sense to move the project to the time element
543 being proposed. Mr. Martin stated that when he sees something like this
544 happen, his main interest is how the town can keep it from happening again.
545 Mr. Smith stated that the bids can be reviewed and the individuals who draw
546 the bids could be counseled to make sure that there are no conflicts of interest.
547 Mr. Smith stated that there are certain standards when one has a professional
548 license; the standard is that "you either know or you should have known."
549 Mr. Smith stated that in this case there was a business relationship. Mr.
550 Martin suggested the use of a questionnaire in the bid packet. Mr. Smith
551 stated that he thinks that a questionnaire would have been included in the bid
552 packet. Mr. Martin stated that he was surprised that something like this could
553 happen and wondered if a procedure change would be needed to make sure it
554 does not happen again. Mr. Smith stated that one of the staff members caught
555 this and Mr. Martin stated that this indicates a procedure problem. Mayor

556 Deaton asked the clerk to note for this issue to be brought back at a later time.
 557 Mr. Truett stated that he agrees with Ms. Blair in that they worked hard to
 558 hopefully see a new Surfside Drive by Memorial Day but now are,
 559 unfortunately, not going to see this happen this soon. Mr. Truett stated that
 560 the estimates that came in were about 30 percent higher than originally
 561 anticipated adding that there are some issues that need to be addressed to get
 562 the town back to a working budget. Mr. Truett suggested that prior to the bids
 563 going back out he would like to see council schedule a workshop to go over
 564 the preliminary plan with the engineer once more adding that this could save
 565 the town \$50,000. Mr. Samples stated that it may turn out that the town is
 566 lucky that it ran into this problem adding that he shares Mr. Martins' concern
 567 with the process. The town should not have to rely on extraordinary effort to
 568 identify a potential problem. Mr. Samples stated that the town is planning
 569 additional parking at the corner of Poplar and Surfside Drive and there is talk
 570 about additional use across from that area which is currently under
 571 negotiations. Mr. Samples stated that the larger the package the town can put
 572 together and bid the better the competition the town will get adding that he
 573 was very disappointed to see that the town only received three responses on
 574 this bid package. This is a time when construction is currently lagging and
 575 asked what the town could do to increase the competition that would result in
 576 savings to the town and getting a quality product. Mr. Samples stated that the
 577 town received 16 bidders on the fire station and everyone in town will reap the
 578 benefits of this and the town can do the same thing on the Surfside Drive
 579 improvement. Mr. Samples agreed that a workshop would be necessary and
 580 recommended asking Mr. Truett to assist.

581
 582 Mr. Smith stated that he would recommend reformulating the package and
 583 getting it out to bid as quickly as possible with a start date to be whenever
 584 council chooses even if it is in the early fall. **There was consensus of council**
 585 **to have a start date in the early fall.** Mr. Childs stated that he agreed with
 586 Mr. Samples in that council should set up a workshop to discuss some of the
 587 noted issues. Mr. Johnson included in his motion that the bid would go out as
 588 soon after a set workshop as possible. Mr. Smith suggested to council that
 589 staff should be instructed to reformulate the bid package; this package will be
 590 presented to council for review and that once this was done it would go out for
 591 bid sometime in late June and would come back sometime in early or mid July
 592 and would be awarded no later than mid-July and then construction would
 593 begin mid September and a different engineering firm would draw up the bid;
 594 the same engineering criteria could be used. Mr. Johnson agreed to frame his
 595 motion upon the recommendation from the attorney. **All voted in favor.**
 596 **MOTION CARRIED.**

597
 598 c. *Decision Paper: Surfside Drive Landscape Project*

599 This item was combined for discussion and voted with item 7b.

600
 601 d. *Decision Paper: 4th Avenue Crossover*

602 Mr. Johnson made a motion to defer this item until the town administrator is
 603 present to answer questions. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All voted in**
 604 **favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

605
 606 e. *Decision Paper: Skateboard Park*

607 Mr. Truett made a motion for staff to bring back a design plan for the
 608 skateboard park using the property located adjacent to the fire station. Mr.
 609 Samples seconded the motion. Mr. Childs stated that he feels that council has
 610 come up with an area for the skate park that everyone will be happy with; the
 611 area is over by the fire station. Mr. Childs stated that he is against putting

612 anything else on 1st Avenue by the library. Mr. Johnson asked what the time
613 frame would be. Mr. Truett suggested next meeting. Mr. Johnson stated that
614 he feels that the skate park should be kept open until it could be moved to
615 another location. Mr. Samples stated that he agrees with Mr. Johnson. Ms.
616 Blair stated that she feels this is a great solution and an obvious answer to
617 both sides. Ms. Blair stated that this is a hard one being that she does not have
618 a skate park by her but she has had skateboarders skating in the church lot by
619 her home and understands the concern adding that she is also a proponent of
620 having a skate park in town. The new location should provide enough of a
621 buffer for those who live in the area and it will also be close to the police
622 station where the officers can keep an eye on the area. Ms. Blair stated that
623 she recalls the discussion when the skate park was being proposed that “it is
624 theirs to keep or it’s theirs to lose” and added that council does not want to see
625 the kids lose it but it is obvious that the kids need to “learn some lessons” and
626 commended Mr. Truett for coming up with the alternate area for the park. Mr.
627 Martin stated that he supported the skate park and supported trying it out on
628 13th South adding that he is disappointed in the performance of the children at
629 13th South after hearing comments from the homeowners in the area regarding
630 the profanity and wished there were more parental supervision. Mr. Martin
631 stated that he would like to see 13th Avenue South closed and agreed that the
632 area by the fire station would be a good alternative location and that staff
633 should look at the area and work on getting it open as quickly as possible. Mr.
634 Samples stated that he feels it is a great alternative to bring the park closer to
635 town hall where there will be adult supervision. Mr. Samples stated that “our
636 young people do need something to do besides go to the beach”. Mr. Samples
637 stated that he had not received complaints on the skate park other than the
638 recent ones e-mailed but he did get comments from mothers and grandmothers
639 who told him how much they appreciated having the skate park. Mayor
640 Deaton stated that the skate park is an amenity and the town does have
641 different age groups and feels that this council has been diverse and has tried
642 to pay attention to the towns’ seniors, juniors and in-betweeners. The town
643 has a great Recreation Department and feels that this solution will be viable; it
644 has been proven that there is a need for the skate park area with it being well
645 utilized. There have been some problems and it needs to be policed and
646 where better than having it in a location close to the police station. Mayor
647 Deaton stated that he feels that Mr. Smiths’ ideas are good. Mayor Deaton
648 stated that he looks forward to having a better skate park and asked Mr. Smith
649 if he could address some legal issues. Mr. Smith stated that as a matter of
650 procedure there is a way council will need to go about keeping it open. Mr.
651 Smith stated that the resolution created the skate park on September 15th and it
652 had a defined time limit to it which expired March 15th, 2010; the town is now
653 past that date. The council will need to renew the resolution through a defined
654 date. Mr. Truett stated that is may be difficult to set an exact date until staff
655 comes back with a recommendation. There are many issues to address with
656 this piece of property such as concrete needs to be poured and the project may
657 need to be bid out. It was determined that if a date was set it could be
658 extended or changed. Mr. Smith stated that if a new park is created it should
659 be done by ordinance as opposed to a resolution. **All voted in favor.**
660 **MOTION CARRIED.** Council agreed by majority vote to extend resolution
661 09-086 for the skate park to be open until June 1st, 2010. **All voted in favor**
662 **except for Mr. Martin who voted against.**

663
664 *f. Decision Paper: Public Works Director*

665 Mr. Truett made a motion to hire John Adair as the new Public Works
666 Director. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Johnson stated that despite
667 the fact that the town administrator voiced his approval to council he would

668 feel better if the town administrator were here to explain the reason he chose
669 Mr. Adair adding that this has nothing to do with the Public Works Director or
670 potential Public Works Director but just would like to postpone this decision
671 until Mr. Booth is present. Mr. Samples stated that he understand Mr.
672 Johnsons concern but noted that the last opportunity for this full council to
673 evaluate the town administrator would be at the next council meeting and
674 suggested that this council fulfills its responsibility and evaluates the
675 administrator otherwise two new councilmembers would be given the task.
676 **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

677
678 g. *Decision Paper: Separation of Police and Fire*

679 Director Christenson asked Fire Chief Packard to join him in the presentation.
680 Director Christenson stated that a proposal was provided to council in their
681 packets. Staff recommends the official separation of the police and fire
682 departments. There were four issues necessitating the need. Training
683 mandates are not able to be met; additional cost relating to certifying and
684 equipping individuals; operational staffing level is close to impossible to
685 provide; and the loss of potential fire grants, the town is currently disqualified
686 from receiving many grants due to Public Safety status. Mr. Samples made a
687 motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in**
688 **favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

689
690 Mr. Samples stated that the detailed package provided to council was very
691 helpful and added that he feels that there is a general consensus on separating
692 the police and fire but he has some questions. Mr. Samples stated that one of
693 the reasons that council went to a Public Safety Department was to reduce
694 turnover. There was a problem at the time with turnover; the town trained
695 individuals and then they left to make more money at other places. Mr.
696 Samples states that having a Public Safety Department enabled staff to have
697 Public Safety Officers that were dual certified and it made the town more
698 competitive in the salaries offered. It was confirmed that Director Christenson
699 will be with the Town of Surfside Beach for 3 years May 2010. Mr. Samples
700 stated that he does not see where the town has had a turnover problem recently
701 and added that the pay is better and a lot has to do with Director Christenson's
702 leadership and professionalism and that the town is a great place to work. Mr.
703 Samples stated that the package included a lot of cost avoidance and asked
704 how many current officers are dual certified. Director Christenson stated that
705 there are currently none adding that when he first arrived there were five
706 officers that had a previous certification but were no longer certified. Director
707 Christenson went on to explain that when he first arrived he brought this
708 concern to the Administrator; the department was calling itself Public Safety
709 but it was not operating as such. There was no overtime available in the
710 budget to sustain the certification requirements which included officers to
711 attend an additional 360 hours of training annually. Director Christenson
712 stated that in regards to retention, once you certify an employee for more than
713 one profession it makes them much more marketable to go out and find
714 employment in larger agencies where they can make more money.

715
716 Mayor Deaton stated that his concern is that this is a very detailed and
717 complicated issue and feels that this should be discussed in a different format.

718 There should be a future discussion on this item and then a decision could be
719 presented after a discussion and presentation. Mayor Deaton stated that he is
720 not comfortable for council to vote on this issue this evening. Director
721 Christenson stated that this was presented at the budget retreat and he was
722 asked to bring this as a decision paper for tonight's meeting. Mr. Johnson
723 agreed adding that it was brought forward to council and discussed at the
724 budget retreat fairly extensively but agreed that this needed to be discussed
725 further and suggested a workshop to discuss in more detail. Director
726 Christenson stated that even if the funds were available to train officers for
727 dual positions there is no way they could staff the needs for the town with the
728 amount of staff currently available. While the officers and fire fighters are out
729 training they need officers and fire fighters on the job. Director Christenson
730 stated that he just wanted to reiterate to council that the police and fire
731 departments are not currently working in a Public Safety capacity. Director
732 Christenson stated that the one entity they were asked to compare themselves
733 to, Folly Beach, is moving away from Public Safety; they just hired their first
734 three full time firefighters and North Myrtle Beach is also going away from
735 Public Safety. The professionals who work in these two different career fields
736 want to remain in those separate career fields. Mr. Martin stated that the town
737 is currently de facto operating as police and fire; this is how the town is
738 currently operating and he believes that the steps council needs to take are not
739 that many to correct this. Mr. Martin stated that one thing the town needs to
740 do is to make sure that the ordinances and staff descriptions are correct. Mr.
741 Martin stated that he would also like a very brief and specific recommendation
742 to council to make the change required so that the town can apply for grants
743 for the fire department. Staff should look at this and make sure it can qualify
744 for these grants. Mr. Martin stated that description of personnel and of the
745 organizations are correct for the town. Mayor Deaton "we're talking about an
746 ordinance here and we're talking about an opportunity . . . if we're actually
747 reorganizing departments then we have an opportunity to reorganize these
748 departments and streamline them to the state of the art conditions in both
749 areas. I don't know if the debate is Public Safety versus police/fire. From
750 what I've heard from council I don't believe that is the debate. I believe now
751 the issue switches or shifts to the organizational aspect of it in streamlining
752 departments." Ms. Blair stated that she agrees. There have been upcoming
753 debates in North Myrtle Beach about whether to split fire and police or not;
754 they have addressed many issues. Mr. Truett stated that the town currently
755 does not operate as Public Safety and when Mr. Booth arrived a few years ago
756 he realized this and separated the budgets realizing that it was a waste of time
757 since there was no way the town could afford to dual certify the town officers;
758 it would take hundreds of thousands of dollars to be Public Safety. The town
759 would just need to bring back an operational chart which moves Mr.
760 Christenson from Public Safety Director to Police Chief. The town has lost
761 potentially over five million dollars in fire grants from 2003 because fire
762 grants are not given to Public Safety Departments. Mr. Truett stated that he
763 would like to see the town get organized so that it can begin applying for these
764 grants. Mr. Samples stated that he agrees with Mr. Martin that the first step
765 would be for the town to get some of the three million in grants that it has
766 been losing. Mr. Samples stated that he wanted to clarify that this council has

767 never cut the Public Safety budget. Mr. Samples stated that in 2007 the Town
768 of Surfside Beach increased the salaries of staff across the board by about 20
769 percent. Mr. Samples stated that if the change is adopted he does not want to
770 see the town fall back into a retention problem. Mr. Samples asked if there
771 would be any costs incurred if council were to approve this split adding that
772 there must be some costs since the cars say Public Safety. Director
773 Christenson stated that the new cars rotated in read Police. Director
774 Christenson stated that when he stated that the budget had been decreased he
775 meant on the overtime line item.

776
777 Mayor Deaton stated that there are issues here with organization and that
778 council needs to look seriously at this since it is a policy change adding that
779 this is what council does. Mayor Deaton stated that “if you railroad
780 something, you’re looking at a train wreck and if you rush something you’re
781 going to have problems in it and I hate to say that our downtown project is an
782 example but it is and we’re looking at \$120,000 more than we anticipated
783 before of non-budgeted funds; that’s just an example.” Mayor Deaton stated
784 that he would like to have a workshop on the Public Safety issue. Mr. Truett
785 stated that if the concern is a workshop he would suggest having one prior to
786 the next meeting. Mayor asked council which workshop would be considered
787 a higher priority the Public Safety or Surfside Drive. Mr. Childs stated that he
788 feels that there is some more time regarding the Surfside Drive project
789 considering the project will now not begin until mid September and stated that
790 if council agreed then he would suggest having the Public Safety workshop
791 first. **There was consensus of council to have a workshop at 6:00 PM on**
792 **April 27th.** Mr. Samples stated that if council does review the administrator
793 then it would be an Executive Session subsequent. Mayor Deaton asked if
794 council agreed to this. Mr. Samples stated that he just wanted to point out that
795 this would be the last opportunity for this sitting council to evaluate the
796 administrator. Mayor Deaton stated that he would like to see comparisons of
797 Isle of Palms. It was agreed that the attorney would include a draft of an
798 ordinance for discussion. Mr. Truett asked if a decision paper for the split of
799 police and fire could also be added to the agenda. Mayor Deaton stated that
800 he has no problem with this.

801
802 **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only – 5 minutes per speaker**

803 *Steve Strickland, Engineer for Earthworks:* “I want to publicly apologize for my
804 part in the streetscaping, I’ll call it a fiasco. It was purely poor communication on my
805 part, on the company that did submit a bid, had we known if they were even thinking,
806 we would have told them we could not because of the conflict. When it came in, we
807 saw it and knew that that bid could not be accepted but I’m going to do whatever I
808 can on my part to help correct the error at no cost to the town so, again, I apologize. I
809 know that everybody was looking forward to this project and it’s a great project. It
810 came in a little bit higher than we had anticipated but, again, I apologize and I’ll do
811 what I can to help fix it. Thank you.”

812
813 *Mary Maruka:* “Twice in one day, that’s something. I’m here tonight on another
814 homeowner association, it’s Colony Three, they’re located at 712 South Dogwood
815 Drive. Last year you dredged the lake behind . . . on Lakeside Drive there and they

816 have a walkway that goes completely along the lake. They have palm trees that's on
817 their property, that's all along the lake. They have a dock that's out on the lake and
818 one of the palm trees that's in front of the dock they have a deck built around it and
819 the palm tree grows in the middle of it. Well, the dredging company used the trees
820 along their property; that are on their property, they had to actually get up the walk
821 and go onto their balcony, their walkway there and attach the strapping that they use
822 to secure their barges out in the lake to do the dredging. They also did that to the
823 dock; the dock ended up in the middle of the lake. One of the palm trees is now like
824 this (demonstrated angle), the one that had the deck built around it. You can see the
825 deck has pulled up. This is over a year ago. Last February I wrote to Mr. Booth
826 expressing that they . . . the desire of Colony Three to have these problems taken care
827 of. I got a response back from Mr. Booth 'I'm in receipt of your letter dated February
828 18th, to date I am unaware of any damage that was done to local palms during
829 dredging. At your behalf I will have our acting Arborist look into the situation this
830 coming week. With regard to the dock damage caused by the dredging company, this
831 is the responsibility of the dredging company. They have assured us upon completion
832 they will make any necessary repairs.' Well they did repair the dock; the tree has
833 gone around in circles. A year later I have e-mailed Mr. Childs several times. I have
834 met with Mr. Childs. I have met with Brian Newell. I have gone back up to see Mr.
835 Booth. I have been given promises, not just myself now, the homeowners have been
836 involved and they want something done with their tree. I mean, they were trespassing
837 and they damaged property. I hate to have . . . at this point they're ready to do legal
838 action. That's not necessary, so I thought if I came here tonight and expressed
839 concerns one more time maybe somebody on council can help these people out and
840 fix that tree and fix their dock. Thank you."

841
842 **Martha Bullard, First Baptist Church Surfside Beach:** "We ask, for once again,
843 this year for permission to park our little 8 by 12 trailer down in the parking lot at the
844 Surfside Beach pier to provide pre-sunburn care, ice water, information, a kind word
845 to visitors to our area, constitutes permission from the council and I have a letter if
846 you would like it."

847
848 **Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North:** "I am not the candidate and I was not the person
849 elected for the job. This town administration ceases to amaze me. On 12/1 pier job
850 was supposed to start and be finished by the end of December; it's now April and
851 we're going to do it next winter. The pier decking was going to be done in-house,
852 according to the administrator, now you're asking for \$15,000 more to do it. Was this
853 job bid out? These are questions I'm asking myself. Was this job bid out? Was the
854 bid process subverted by temporarily hiring a person? We put a bid out on Surfside
855 Drive. The work was supposed to be finished by Memorial Day. Now it looks like
856 that will be next winter. The bocce courts, thank you very much for them, were going
857 to be done in- house. The second one was done by Wright Construction Company
858 who I understand is also doing the pier decking; who I understand is also now the
859 temporary employee. Takes forever to get anything done in town unless it's a dog
860 park or a walking path that is never used, now we're going to beautify Surfside Drive
861 and we want to put a skate park right there? I don't think the two are compatible as a
862 beautification project. No matter where you move a skate park it's going to make
863 noise. People are going to be unhappy regardless of where you put it so you're just
864 moving the problem. We've already spent a considerable amount of money on the

865 13th Avenue South parking lot. To put a skateboard park in there which is very nice,
866 which is used, keep it there, don't do away with it but don't put it in the middle of a
867 beautification project. I just can't believe how the administration of this town
868 operates. Thank you very much."

869
870 **Ken Harbin, 322 So. Willow Drive:** "I want to commend council. I want to
871 congratulate you as a sitting council, staff, the administration, our Director of Public
872 Safety possibly to be renamed later, our fire chief. If you look back at what this
873 sitting council has accomplished, it is amazing. We've acquired a pier that now is the
874 center point of our town. We brought in new festivals and started a tradition whether
875 it be the fireworks show, the car show, whatever. We constructed sidewalks with
876 plans to put more sidewalks. We've begun underground wiring with plans to
877 continue underground wiring. We've built a new fire station. We've dredged our
878 lakes. We have become, for many, the town to come and look at for our attempt to
879 improve our water quality throughout the town. We have plans for lake
880 enhancements so that we not only have them as functional bodies but also for
881 aesthetics as well. We discussed and will be moving forward, I have every
882 confidence for a revitalization of 17, a re-declaration of beautification, a remodeling
883 of 17; we adopted our façade grants for our commercial entities; we've looked at
884 plans for the beautification of Surfside Drive that will come. I think it's a
885 disappointment to you and all of us obviously, that it's delayed but none the less, it is.
886 We've begun several new innovative things from a stormwater standpoint whether it
887 be compost socks; whether it be pervious pavers. We've heard criticism and an
888 undertone in the community of misuse and not doing things properly and we have this
889 glorious parking lot there. It is pretty but it is functional; we need every parking lot
890 we build to be exactly like that one from here forward. It serves a stormwater
891 function and if we don't protect it we're not protecting our beach so we know we've
892 got to do that. We've gone through ordinances; we've retooled ordinances, you guys,
893 you ladies, you folks, you council and staff who spent countless hours looking at
894 ordinances retooling them, trying to get them to be functional. I don't remember my
895 taxes going up. I don't remember fees coming about. You have managed to do a
896 remarkable amount of progress for this town. We're understaffed, I think everyone
897 knows that. We can all Sunday morning quarterback and criticize; we can all look at
898 ways we should have done it, could have done, maybe it was a little bit better but we
899 did it. We can retool that as we go along. You sitting there are a product of our
900 committees. You are a product of our involvement in coming to these meetings and
901 then listening. We were fortunate enough in the recent election to now have the
902 continuation of that council; one returning and one new person who also is very
903 involved and very committed. Hopefully we will continue that in the runoff and we
904 will have a council to continue what this sitting body has started. I congratulate you,
905 I congratulate staff. I hope other townspeople feel the same. I hope other
906 townspeople are willing to say what I'm about to say and that is if you need me call
907 me."

908
909 **Whitney Smith, Surfside Realty:** "I just wanted to come up and thank all of you,
910 individually, for listening to what we said about the skate park. I'm going to be
911 happy to go back and tell some of our owners that couldn't be here tonight, that are
912 out of town, what a great job you all did with a compromise. I think it's going to be a
913 great thing and I appreciate it."

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Gene Maruka, 7th Avenue South: “22 years ago I came into Surfside. One of the things that caught my eye and really, really took me by surprise was one Saturday morning as I stood on the crest of the beach, I thought the Clydesdales from Budweiser commercial was going by. What an awesome sight. Those riders actually stopped and let the young people in and around them pet the animal, fool with the animals. Over the years it was apparent to me it was quite a tourist draw to come and it was very limited in the town of Surfside. I believe it was only a month that they were allowed to ride horses in Surfside but it was a month that gave the tourists something different, to see that other than seeing it on TV or in beer commercials was quite a sight. Since then, the council did away with it as they did away with smoking; we’re left now with plastic spoons, plastic cups, plastic bottles and God knows what else. The gentleman from the Heart Fund was asking something very simple; he wanted to come to into our town for one day. He offered clean-up. I would like to think we would not only help him, I’m assuming we all have hearts and because we’re young we may someday need that Heart Fund. I would certainly volunteer as a taxpayer to help in the clean-up but to turn them down for one day, I think would be unconscionable. Thank you.”

Randle Stevens, 412 1st Avenue North: “I listened awhile ago to a fellow praise you all and you all have done some good stuff but obviously he doesn’t live where I live. For four years I spent every morning, watched the town come in and out of my backyard with dump trucks and backhoes as early as 6:45 in the morning to as late as 5 o’clock in the afternoon. Everybody on council knew it was going on, the former mayor, some of you weren’t on council then so I can’t put it on you all but the fact of the matter is you done some good work but you’ve also screwed up a lot of things and I’m not trying to hammer down on you but the fact is when I had to take the town to court to get them to stop breaking their own ordinances just makes me wonder what kind of ideas that our administrator and some of the other people who were on council at that time, what they were thinking? Our parking lot down there is beautiful, 214,000 dollar parking lot, I got a problem with that but the fact of the matter is if you take a couple of, a family, husband and wife and two kids, the last thing they’re looking for is how well the parking lot is made. What they’re looking to get is a parking space and get down to that beach with their beach chairs and lounge chairs and the children and whatever toys. Are we wasting money? You know we are. 48,000 dollars for a parking plan, didn’t even build anything, we spent 4,800 dollars a couple years before. The nice thing about this country is we have freedom of speech and we can sit and look you in the eye and we can criticize you, you might not like it, I hate to do it, sometimes, like I said, when I was sitting there running for council I said it to get your attention. There is one thing I can say about one person on the council, Doug Samples, I’m glad he got re-elected because he spoke out for us and I hope this town council will take a good look, he got 500 and some votes and believe me, if you don’t think I was out there talking, I was running against the whole town council and I put Doug right in the midst of it but he got 522 votes any damn way. That was pretty dad gum good. We need to be responsible as public servants and we need to watch out what we do. The only thing I’m going to ask council to do and I know a couple of you are leaving and good luck to you and I think you all did a good job while you were here, I didn’t agree with everything you did but I think you did a good job. Hopefully, we’ll have an 18,000 square foot library across the street

963 from me, it's a plus and it's a minus. It will be good if I sell my house to a couple of,
964 a nice attorney with a couple of kids and everything. Bob Childs, I think you've got a
965 lot of great ideas and I'd like to share some of my ideas with you. I've got something
966 I'd like to e-mail to you. I've already shared it with a couple of people; they thought
967 it was a good idea. Mark Johnson, I'd like to do the same thing for you. I would like
968 to help this town get better, that's why I ran for office. I appreciate everything you all
969 have done. I don't appreciate the dog park; it ain't the best thing in and around my
970 house but, again, I can live with it better than a lighted parking lot which that was the
971 original plan for the original library expansion, a lighted parking lot all around my
972 house, so, if you haven't stood in my shoes, Mr. Harbin, you don't know what it's
973 like. You live over there where there's nothing around you and a lot of people do.
974 You all have done great in some places but in some places you haven't so thank you
975 for your time. Appreciate and glad I've got freedom of speech in this country and
976 this is a great country. God bless the USA."

977
978 **Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Blvd:** "Last year right around this time for the
979 Easter season I brought up a bunch of pictures about the parking on Ocean Blvd and
980 the parking lots and not only did I complains about it but I gave solutions, well, we're
981 here a year later, nothing has been done. We did something, we paid for a 48,000
982 traffic study, wasn't worth the paper it was written on but to get past that we have to
983 do something about it. The first issue is we don't need really any more parking. You
984 have 48 parking spots on 16th Avenue North, nobody uses, why, because you don't
985 have to pay to park on Ocean Blvd. There should be no parking on Ocean Blvd. I
986 showed you pictures where people were almost getting hit by cars and you told me
987 'oh, that's a State road, we can't really do anything about it', it's no longer a State
988 road, it's ours. The big season's coming now. Looking for more parking spaces for
989 day trippers is not what we should be thinking about. These people from Caropines,
990 Deerfield, Sacostee, Murrells Inlet with their little gated communities who don't pay
991 one nickel to come here to park on Ocean Blvd., no good, start thinking about the
992 residents here, the tourists here. If you're going to let everybody come here and park
993 for free the tourists will not come here anymore. The beaches will be packed, the
994 beaches will be dirty. Why are we having to pay for people from west of 17 to come
995 here and use our beaches. We have to get together and there's got to be a solution to
996 this and not just keep putting it off. When I brought this up last year, 'oh yeah, we've
997 been talking about this for 10 years, 15 years'. Why? Enough with the elephants, I
998 mean, you just had an issue about the police and the fire department; public safety
999 and basically it's only in name only. You have a police department, you have a fire
1000 department but we're going to prolong it? It's in name only. It's a joke. Call it what
1001 it is and let's go on with something more important. A workshop on something that's
1002 already, in name only, I mean, it's crazy. We're wasting time gentlemen and lady.
1003 Let's get on the ball. Thank you."

1004
1005 **Buck Ricks, 4th Avenue So.:** "I apologize for my earlier faux pas. There were no
1006 agendas in the back and to a covenant of disconnect I forgot there's a list out there on
1007 that glass box right outside. I apologize earlier about that and also about the election.
1008 Someone helped me when I was in need and I just wanted to recognize that. In
1009 reference to what the last man said, I can personally attest, having a house for 55
1010 years at 4th Avenue South when I walked up there and saw those new parking signs I
1011 wiped them off with a rag but I kissed them because I fought it for years and years

1012 and years. We were doing weekly rentals a few years ago and I came and approached
1013 this council about people that were parking there with minivans and everything else,
1014 you know, you have your family come down there and rent it but it was blocking the
1015 view; then it wasn't much of a parking issue because we weren't filling up the beach
1016 that much but I've seen ones in my neighborhood particularly when you add the little
1017 small ones from the bottoms up here at the corner point the other way, that covers that
1018 issue. On the skateboard park, I don't know where you'll do that. The man said to
1019 think about paint if he thinks that helps on sound I have access to some that puts a soy
1020 based insulation; has excellent sound deadening qualities, actually add that to the
1021 structural integrity of the structure or whatever it's applied to so I'd be glad to give
1022 that to Mr. Booth for his consideration if you all decide to go further with that,
1023 anyway, I guess that's all. I appreciate, like I said earlier, I appreciate what you all
1024 have been doing and I apologize for my faux pas earlier. You all have a good
1025 evening and I appreciate it."

1026
1027 **9. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

1028 *Mr. Childs:* "As far as, Mr. Mayor, you made a comment, maybe things done in
1029 haste. Surfside Drive had been talked about for so many years; long before I got here
1030 on council and that committee did do a good job and the reason for it being put off
1031 until the fall has nothing to do with the committee that came up with the ideas, that's
1032 something we had no control of, whatsoever, and I must say the administrator had no
1033 control of that, whatsoever, it's an unfortunate incident, we are going to go ahead
1034 with that and as far as the skateboard park and the place that Mr. Truett has
1035 designated, you cannot see from Surfside Drive. You just can't see it unless you can
1036 see through walls and as far as the parking goes, to the gentleman; I'm in lock with,
1037 in step with you on the parking, I have talked about parking since I've got on council
1038 and I've talked and I know our mayor's against subcommittees, I'd like to see a
1039 subcommittee of three members on that; I guarantee you that parking study could be
1040 done before the next council meeting. It's not rocket science, we know what the
1041 problems are and I don't know why we're putting it off and I'm sitting right up here.
1042 I don't know why we're putting it off and it could be done and it should be done. We
1043 do have those problems and everybody knows what they are. Thank you Mr. Mayor."

1044
1045 *Mr. Samples:* "First I want to say thank you to everybody who voted or didn't vote
1046 but thanks for coming out tonight and I would remind you that there's another
1047 election a week from today and to be sure to turn out and vote. It's readily apparent
1048 to me and I hope to some other members that we do have a number of items on our
1049 'to do' list that perhaps we need to put in the time necessary to address them. I will
1050 remind members, we have five meetings and two of those will be, I assume, we're
1051 going to be dealing with the budget and I assume that we're going to want to discuss
1052 publicly, in more detail, than we did at the budget retreat because we certainly have
1053 more information than we had at the budget retreat, I mean, if we have nothing else
1054 we have later expenditure data. We have better data on revenue projections and Mr.
1055 Ken Harbin I appreciate the kind words and I would agree with you that the last
1056 couple of years have been very good but I will also state that, to some extent, we have
1057 had the benefit; this council had the benefit of previous councils' fiscal discipline and
1058 previous decision making and so we do have a new fire station, we did dredge the
1059 ponds, we did acquire a pier but that was really done with money that had been built
1060 up over a long period of time and so, there are items, there are issues, we talked about

1061 a couple of them earlier and I'll just raise it again, I think it's unfair to see new
1062 council people and ask them to evaluate the administrator. The fact of the matter is,
1063 well I do, I mean it's an annual evaluation, I mean, we know when we did it last time,
1064 we know that we, frankly we're late in evaluating him. We expect the administrator
1065 to evaluate his staff on an annual basis, we should do the same. We should play by
1066 the same rules that we expect others to play by. Thanks for coming out."

1067
1068 **Mr. Truett:** "First thing I would like to do is to introduce to you guys, John Adair,
1069 our new Public Works Director. John, stand up where everybody can see you. We're
1070 going to have to teach him a new language, he's from Manhattan, New York, so, if
1071 you need any help just come to me; I'll help you. I wanted to thank Debbie; we had
1072 another successful opening day for our baseball on Saturday. We actually had to add
1073 two more teams this year because of the participation. As far as the skateboard park,
1074 I want to apologize to the homeowners who live nearby. When we first opened this
1075 we laid it in the laps of the kids. They were responsible for their actions and if they
1076 got out of line, I'm sorry and if you guys would just be a little more patient with us;
1077 give us some time to get this alternate site done. We've been looking probably for a
1078 week or two; we knew we needed to move the park to a, closer to 17, that was my
1079 thought; you had to get it out of the residential area, you could be it up by 17, muffle
1080 the sound, get it away from the homeowners. Well, as I was taking a tour of the fire
1081 station today and thank Butch for this, I was standing upstairs and he said 'God look
1082 at this' and he unrolls the blinds and he says 'look how far down it is' and I looked
1083 down and I saw that piece of property and it just, it's 2,700 square feet, there's
1084 nothing there. Every side of it is covered with commercial, you know, we have a fire
1085 station, police station, like you say I think the foul language will disseminate quite a
1086 bit when we see it right here, I do believe that, at least I hope it will, right chief? But
1087 it was, the kids loved it, they used it. We had more kids there than cars so I think it
1088 was very important that we found another location for them and make sure it was on
1089 the east side of 17 and hopefully we've done that, but I just want to thank everybody,
1090 again, for coming, too, and I want to congratulate not only Mr. Samples and Ms.
1091 Dodge and Mr. Smith in the runoff and Mr. Rempfer but there were eleven people
1092 who signed up for election and I, like everybody up here, understands how tough it is
1093 to put yourself out there in an election. It is hard. It's a lot of hard work and you get
1094 beat up, so, I want to congratulate even the ones who did not win just for trying to
1095 provide a service for this town and I would encourage the other seven that, if you
1096 want to get involved, we have plenty of positions open in some of our committees, so
1097 please step up and help us with those. Thank you and good night."

1098
1099 **Mr. Martin:** "I would like to second what Mr. Truett said, all of it."

1100
1101 **Mr. Johnson:** "Good evening ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming out. I will
1102 keep it very, very short. In regards to what Mr. Samples stated earlier, I would not
1103 have a problem with keeping the next agenda to a bare minimum with the workshop
1104 and go ahead and put that evaluation on the agenda. I would like to make that
1105 request."

1106
1107 **Ms. Blair:** "Thank you all that stuck with us tonight. I'd like to say a quick thank you
1108 to Mr. Maruka for his comments on the Heart Association and I totally agree with you
1109 on that and trying to leave on a positive note, because we've had a lot of business

1110 going on today and it's warm and everyone's anxious to get home but I always try to
1111 end on something positive and so I do understand Councilman Samples, it's not the
1112 first time that he's pointed out that many of the things that have been accomplished
1113 were due to the efforts of past councils and we certainly understand that but part of
1114 the process of elections and councilmembers changing out is that new
1115 councilmembers sometimes get credit for things that wasn't maybe earned by any
1116 effort on their part but by that same token we also suffer some residual criticism from
1117 things past councils have done as well, so, that being the case I will just leave and end
1118 with thanking Mr. Harbin for including us in the efforts that have taken place over the
1119 last two years and hoping that even though we were not here, Councilman Childs, and
1120 Johnson and myself when many of the plans were laid for some of the things that
1121 have come to fruition, as a resident and taxpayer and people that have been involved
1122 in committees, we were there in spirit, although not in the exact decision making and
1123 now take or relish being part of seeing it happen even though the ground work was,
1124 we admit, was laid before, so, thank you for standing up and doing what many others
1125 won't do and at least thanking us for some of the good things while we fully take
1126 responsibility for some of our bad decisions as are going to happen. One more thank
1127 you to Councilman Childs for; I've expressed those same comments on the committee
1128 before when the comment was made about rushing through a project and possibly
1129 putting it ahead of other projects that were more important; it has been discussed for
1130 years and you all know that, so I don't see it as rushing ahead of anything at all but
1131 we'll get there and, once again, be patient with us. We regret this happened and
1132 thank you Mr. Strickland for standing up and taking responsibility for part of it and I
1133 know he'll be by our side as we try to make this right for you. Thanks to Debbie it
1134 was a great day at the ballpark. The Mayor threw out the first baseball; I got to throw
1135 out the first softball and I'll be glad to report that neither of us beamed anybody so it
1136 was a lot of fun and it was a beautiful day and all the uniform colors were beautiful
1137 and I know it's going to be an excellent year and maybe we'll have another return
1138 World Series Champion. You guys have a great week and thank you for staying with
1139 us."

1140
1141 **Mayor Deaton:** "Normally I don't usually say too many comments but you know I
1142 put this council up against any other council anywhere as far as decision making. We
1143 have tough decisions to make. As far as money goes there's different pots of money,
1144 if you want to sit here for a couple of days we can explain it to you but there's money
1145 designated for different, specific reasons, that you have to use it for and we've done a
1146 very good job of that in making decisions on where it should be allocated and when it
1147 should be allocated. I never said anything about a committee, I don't know how that
1148 got brought up, what I said was an example of a project, part of our job is setting
1149 priorities, there's a lot on our plate, there's a lot on our town's plate and we have a lot
1150 of passionate councilmembers sitting up here and we have a lot of passionate
1151 townspeople. There's a lot to be done but we have to organize it; we have to manage
1152 it; we have to prioritize. That's our job. Tonight we had a stacked agenda and the
1153 comment I made on a discussion item versus a business item is probably why we ran
1154 so long. We need to be able to manage our agendas; we need to take things in
1155 priority so that we can give them due diligence. There was nothing said about any
1156 individuals or committee members or anything like that. It's a process and we have
1157 to prioritize; we have to move these things forward; they can't get dropped along the
1158 wayside and their right things have been talked about for a long period of time in a lot

1159 of areas but we can only do so much at a time and we need to prioritize those; set
1160 those priorities and move forward as we click them off and then modify them as
1161 we've been through . . . the last two years we've been through, surely all of our
1162 ordinances, and we're still facing some tremendous obstacles as far as signage.
1163 That's coming, that's not going to be an easy one so we've approached a lot of hard
1164 decisions; the skate park was not an easy solution tonight. I commend Mr. Truett for
1165 coming up with an idea in the thirteenth hours because we've all really, really worked
1166 hard to try to make decisions on what to do, modify it and I think we came up with a
1167 viable idea but it's not easy, it's not easy. I challenge, I appreciate everybody running
1168 for council that did run for council, anyone who did not get elected please sign up for
1169 P&Z or other committees and things of that nature. We need all the support we can
1170 get and I would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight. It's been long; it's
1171 been hot and I entertain a motion."

1172
1173 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

1174 Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All present**
1175 **voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.
1176

1177 Approved: April 27, 2010

1178 _____
1179 Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

1180 _____
1181 K. Allen Deaton, Mayor

1182 _____
1183 Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

1184 _____
1185 Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

1186 _____
1187 James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

1188 _____
1189 Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

1190 _____
1191 Mark L Johnson, Town Council

1192 _____
1193 Robert F. Childs, III, Town Council

1200 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. This meeting was transcribed by Clerk Pinnell
1201 . In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete
1202 list is on file in the clerk's office. The agenda was posted on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception
1203 area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee. When *** is used a section of the transcription is inaudible.
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1208