



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 ♦ 6:30 P.M.  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tempore Childs, and Councilmembers Blair, Dodge, Johnson, Samples, and Smith were in attendance; a quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Duckett; Deputy Administrator Fellner; Police Chief Frederick; Public Works Director Adair, and Recreation Supervisor Ellis. Others present: Town Attorney Moss, Town Engineer Wooten, and Town Clerk Herrmann.

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Pastor Brad Bellah, Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church, gave the invocation. Mayor Deaton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **WORKSHOP.** North End Traffic Signal & Other Traffic Issues; \*SCDOT Letter. Mayor Deaton declared the workshop open at 6:31 p.m. and asked how many in the audience opposed and then how many supported the traffic light at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Seven or eight opposed; three supported. Mayor Deaton explained that comments would be heard alternating between the groups, limiting the number of speakers in the interest of time. Ms. Fellner displayed a photograph of a proposed design for the light at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, a copy of which is on file. *\*Clerk's Note: SCDOT is the South Carolina Department of Transportation, also referred to herein as DOT.*

"My name is Ray Kawa. I live at 655 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, and I'm not necessarily opposed to a light, just kind of the location. To me it seems like we're doing all this frontage road work and stuff I've seen over here; people talking about to open Deerfield back up and make this light a convenience for the people at Deerfield. Personally, I believe we should stick this light over by 16<sup>th</sup>. It's a through road all the way down to the beach to the Holiday Inn. That's where you get your tourist traffic. The people that are in the middle of town there can come down to 5<sup>th</sup> or go five blocks up to the 16<sup>th</sup> light to get access to the highway. It's in front of the church. They closed that road at one time, because of the problem we had with people coming out of Deerfield. And as far as the frontage road, I don't understand why everybody thinks that's such a great problem. I've lived here for 38 years. I've never seen any really major wrecks there; I mean there are some fender-benders. I've seen more trouble in Deerfield when we took the access to 17 off people were running into the ditch for a while until they realized the road wasn't there anymore. If it's a problem because you think the people are not yielding or something and we're having a lot more wrecks, I guess you just need to put the police out there, make the signs bigger, put flashing lights out or something like. But to cut off some of the accesses and make, you know, just restricted areas, there's too much traffic on there to do that, and I really think that's just kind of a waste of money. But the traffic light right there on 13<sup>th</sup>, I don't see where that's benefiting us at that location. It's not a good road to get down to the beach. It is an access to the church, but they can do the same thing at 16<sup>th</sup>, just swing over that way."

"Tom Dodge, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. I think that this picture on the wall is a no-win at all for Surfside Beach. This is a win, win, win, win, win for Deerfield. However, if we have to have a stop light and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North is the only place we can get a stop light, put that sucker in. But make it a three-way light. Eliminate that barrier going out from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, and let the people from the church and the bank come out of there to make a left turn to go south. This picture that's here now makes the people from the bank, from the church, come back to Poplar Drive to go south, which means it's running them somewhere through town. If they, if the church and the bank could go straight across the street and make a left turn, the people in Deerfield coming out only have arrows, a north arrow, a south arrow, a sign that says no through traffic. Stop the through traffic coming out of Deerfield onto 13<sup>th</sup>, but let the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue people come out and go south. Living on 15<sup>th</sup>, the way this is set up it runs people out of the church have to go right, if they want to go south they have to go right to 15<sup>th</sup>, which would be the next crossover, turn onto the frontage road or make a U-turn and come back down south. In my opinion, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North is the worst traffic accident area in town. Our top cop isn't here to verify that, but I have always heard 15<sup>th</sup>

57 Avenue North is the worst section for traffic accidents. This is going to send more people to that area.  
58 This is going to stop the church people from going south. I'm all for the light, but make it a green light  
59 going across towards Deerfield. Make it arrows coming out of Deerfield north or south, and no through  
60 street sign and enforce it. Thank you. This will also kill Denny's if people cannot go in the frontage road  
61 north of Denny's this will kill Denny's. I don't have any Denny's stock. I don't know how people in  
62 Plantation Resort are going to get into Platt Boulevard. They are going to have to go south, come back  
63 up north, and go across. That does, this doesn't make sense to this cowboy. The bank is going to be  
64 harmed, Wells Fargo, you can't get to it. Those two road barriers should become stop signs, not closing  
65 the road. Thank you."

66  
67 "Michael Romano. Most of the people here do not know or do not remember or weren't living  
68 here 25- or 30-years ago when this issue really came up, raised by Wal-Mart. For your information, Wal-  
69 Mart came here, which is now the new pottery building, and the (\*\*\*) cry at that point was a light, a light, a  
70 light at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Now the politicians at that time and the vested interest group in Deerfield said no, 13<sup>th</sup>  
71 Avenue. The State sent its engineers in and the engineers, and you can get engineers to do any kind of  
72 figuring. I know because I've got two engineers, son and son-in-law. They said there's only one way you  
73 can straighten that thing out on 13<sup>th</sup>, and that's put a jug handle in. Now nobody is willing to go and pay  
74 for what it's going to cost to put a jug handle. You have to think that now Wells Fargo Bank out, and you  
75 have to take other buildings out. But at one time, the whole community wanted a light down on 16<sup>th</sup> and  
76 the engineers said no, you should go on 13<sup>th</sup>, being pushed by the politicians, which now again has  
77 Columbia telling us what is best for us, and everybody in this room I know (\*\*\*) Everybody in this room  
78 knows right now we are all sick and tired of government telling us how to live, whether it's the town  
79 council, it is Columbia, or it is Washington, DC. And here we have Columbia coming in and saying you  
80 take the light here or you get nothing. This is the way political people work. You either take the hand-out  
81 that is given to you, or forget it. Let me say something to you, y'all not [sic] going to like this, but on, in  
82 the area of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue you have something that is valuable, it's worthwhile, and it's something that is,  
83 what shall I say to this community, it, it's an asset. We have assets, what have we done with them?  
84 We're going to discuss another one of them tonight. We've made them to become liabilities. Now are  
85 you going to make the north end, keep it as an asset or are you going to do the same foolish thing that  
86 you've done recently, and I'll stand here and tell you that, these people may not, but you can hang me if  
87 you want. You want another liability then put the light there."

88  
89 "Harry Kohlmann, 1610 South Ocean Boulevard. I'm for the traffic light. DOT looked at it, and if  
90 anyone looks at it, you'll see why that's the most congested area, because I believe someone told me  
91 there was 6,800 people live in Deerfield. We have about, maybe 4,000 live here. People need a way to  
92 get in and out of that way and not on the frontage road. Now DOT said 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 16<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> sounds  
93 great for Surfside Beach, but for the rest of the community, the community at large, not just Surfside  
94 Beach proper, it isn't the best place. So that's why they told us 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Now we've gotten lost  
95 though. You've gotten so paranoid that people are going to use 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South [sic] that the reason  
96 why we wanted a light in the first place, you've totally forgotten it. If you look at the drawing, and I thought  
97 it was a great idea, if you look at it, there's no way for anyone in Surfside Beach to cross 17, and that was  
98 the whole idea of it, to have a light to get across 17, a safe way to get across 17 that, that picture, you  
99 cannot do it. There's no place to cross. You just eliminated one intersection you can get across, now you  
100 have to go to 15<sup>th</sup>, you have to go to 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, as one of the council people stated numerous times, that's  
101 mal-function junction. So, the idea of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue is good. This drawing, though I appreciate all the work  
102 that was done on it, it's not the right way to do it, because it has no benefit whatsoever for people in  
103 Surfside Beach, and the whole idea with the light is for people on the north end to be able to cross over  
104 17 or on the frontage road or head south on 17. You know, I'm sorry but that, it doesn't work. Tom  
105 Dodge earlier this afternoon, he came up and he said well, why don't we cut it out, have cars from  
106 Deerfield either go south or go north. That idea at first blush, too, is a great idea. But you cut a little bit  
107 out of that island people still going to go down 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. I don't believe, I think some people on 13<sup>th</sup>  
108 Avenue in that area believe that there's [sic] people actually sitting in Deerfield in their car with the keys in  
109 the ignition waiting for that median to be cut open and the seas to be parted and they're all going to rush  
110 to the beach. I don't believe it's going to happen. But, alright, I'll give you that. Maybe there's going to  
111 be more people coming down. So my idea is, the Tom Dodge idea plus, now it's going to inconvenience  
112 some people a little, but what it's going to do, you'll be able to cross 17, people in Deerfield, Deer Track,

113 Platt Boulevard, whatever it is, are not going to be able to come over. You're going to have 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
114 North. It's going to be one way from Poplar to 17 Business. It's going to be one way going westbound;  
115 do not enter signs, so as they come out of Deerfield, they'll have paver markings saying you have to go  
116 right, you have to go left, do not enter signs on that corner. The problem with that though is that people  
117 who are going to the church are either going to have to cut in at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, or come on Poplar or they're  
118 going to have to go down to 15<sup>th</sup> and come around the back of it. I think that is the best idea. You're  
119 going to eliminate the traffic coming straight across, you're going to deal with half the people in Surfside  
120 Beach, now they'll be able to cross safely in a controlled intersection, and they'll be able to use the  
121 frontage road, and blocking the frontage road, I think that's a big mistake too. It's just going to cause  
122 more problems. I don't know why DOT wanted that and I believe Ms. Fellner told me that last week. I  
123 don't understand what that's about. That should be stop signs. But I think that, maybe if it's tweaked a  
124 little bit more, I think that's the idea to do it, because you're got to remember what we wanted the light for  
125 to begin with and that was the safety to get people from Surfside over 17 and over to the frontage road."  
126

127 "Jim Rogers, 619 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, husband of Sally Hare. She's been here 30-years, and I've  
128 been here about 19, and I'm sure that when the medians were first developed between 544 and Glens  
129 Bay or Surfside that there was a real purpose for them, convenience probably, still convenient to some  
130 people, but very, very dangerous to most. What I'm, I'm not necessarily against the traffic light there, but I  
131 think it needs to be more than that traffic light, because that traffic light is about traffic movement and I  
132 think the real problem is more about traffic management and I think it can be managed better by  
133 eliminating most of the median crossovers. If we don't have a lot of space between 544 and the  
134 boulevard [sic], very short mile at the most, maybe, and there are like 16 crossovers between 544 and the  
135 boulevard [sic.] Many of those are nothing, are there for nothing but for the convenience of someone to  
136 save a few minutes or a minute or so and a life that perhaps be saved by going a little bit further down the  
137 road to a light or a marked crossover. I put my, I cross a lot, I used to cross a lot at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, which is  
138 a very dangerous crossover. Nobody ever knows what to do there. I went to the police department and  
139 said who has the right-of-way there and they told me the first person who gets there. So, that's  
140 dangerous. Nobody knows what to do. So I think that elimination of many of the medians, and I have a  
141 list if anybody cares, many of the medians would be, help the traffic flow. It might delay somebody 30  
142 seconds or a minute, a minute and a half at most, but if you go to a light or a marked crossover and there  
143 are plenty of good ones, at 15<sup>th</sup> for example there's a good crossover, well marked, and the other point I'd  
144 like to make is this lack of signage. A lot of the locals and certainly a lot of the tourists have no idea what  
145 to do with the frontage road; who has the right-of-way, who is supposed to cross where, so signage that  
146 would say, for example, traffic coming off the main highways have the right-of-way, you don't block that  
147 traffic from the frontage roads, so something that lets people know exactly what they're supposed to do,  
148 and if we close some of those medians and I vote for closing 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue median. I may have to go all the  
149 way to the light, oh, wow, and turn left and go back around to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North that's going to take, gosh,  
150 a minute and a half or two out of my life! But I have almost crashed four times trying to get across there  
151 with four and five cars in that median at the same time, nobody knowing what to do, and I think that's an  
152 example of what the traffic tie ups can be and that clogs up the traffic and I don't know that we need  
153 another traffic light, but if we do, and if it will help, don't let that be the only thing." Mayor Deaton asked  
154 Mr. Rogers to give a copy of his median information to Ms. Fellner, which he did.  
155

156 "Judy Tuttle, 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Surfside Beach. Just a little brief historical perspective. Earlier  
157 there was mention, I believe Mr. Ray Kawa mentioned there was at one time a crossover between 13<sup>th</sup>  
158 North and Deerfield in the 70s. The reason that was closed was because there was a young girl that was  
159 crossing over from Deerfield going to the beach that was hit and killed by an automobile, and so  
160 therefore, that was the reason that was closed at that time. It's my understanding there is a state statute  
161 that says that the highway department will not come into Surfside Beach and do anything unless Surfside  
162 Beach signs off on it. So, therefore, I think that kind of puts some understanding of the feelings that the  
163 state depart, the highway department is coming in and making demands on Surfside Beach. Also, it's  
164 almost like I feel like I'm here trying to reinvent the wheel. Two former mayors and their councils have  
165 written with the councils' vote to the highway department opposing this intersection at 13<sup>th</sup> North. Now,  
166 granted, there are some problems. I feel that if a light is one of the solutions that 16<sup>th</sup> North would be  
167 ideal. First of all, there is, it's surrounded by business. That's where your primary traffic is; the tourists  
168 and our residents going to those businesses. 16<sup>th</sup> North already has the sidewalk, which is a straight shot

169 also to the beach, that highway versus 13<sup>th</sup> North, you come down a winding, it just doesn't make sense  
170 from any perspective, engineering, of course, the quality of life would be affected, and we all know that  
171 we love our quality of life here in Surfside Beach. It's a very loveable community. The road is winding,  
172 and then you have two stops, one at Cedar and one at Dogwood. We have people now running those  
173 stop signs, and it's quite frightening when you're out on your bicycle, walking and you see that happening.  
174 I would not like to see the potential for increases there. Again, I would hope you would support Surfside  
175 Beach. That's what we're all about, and I thank you very much."

176  
177 "I'm Lorene Fairfax from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, and in looking at the route, the people that are coming  
178 out of Plantation Resort are going to have to go right. They can't go straight across to 13<sup>th</sup>. Ocean Lakes  
179 is the next light, if they go left. There's no way to get through there to the beach. The next light: 5<sup>th</sup>  
180 Avenue. Already we have trucks; we have motorcycles, we have Plantation Resorts with their busses. I  
181 sit on my front porch and I cannot even carry on a conversation for the traffic. This is going to cause  
182 more traffic because people are going to come from Plantation Resort, make a right, come to the light and  
183 take a left to get to the beach, and we are going to have more traffic than you can imagine. And, like I  
184 said, it is impossible to sit on my front porch and enjoy it right now. Thank you."

185  
186 Mr. Childs said in reference to Mr. Kohlmann's idea, that it was not really that bad of idea to make  
187 the road from Poplar to 17 was one way. There is a deceleration lane about 50 yards north of 13<sup>th</sup>  
188 Avenue on 17; part of the old 14<sup>th</sup> North still remains. That road could be used to access the church  
189 parking lot. Church patrons could come back out at 13<sup>th</sup> and would not have to go down to 15<sup>th</sup>.

190  
191 Ms. Blair asked Ms. Fellner whether this was the only plan DOT was willing to entertain at 13<sup>th</sup>.  
192 Ms. Fellner said there are about 50 iterations of this plan; this is the only design that satisfied DOT. DOT  
193 said traffic going south out of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue was a safety issue and would not sign off on that. The  
194 proposed design is a 3-way light on the southbound side of 17. Ms. Blair said that traffic coming out of  
195 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North going north is still subject to the same risks as before. Ms. Fellner said there is going  
196 to be a short acceleration lane. Ms. Blair asked if Mr. Child's idea of the 3-way light that only allows  
197 Deerfield to make the right turn coming out was considered. Ms. Fellner said DOT was not amenable to  
198 that. DOT is concerned about finding access both ways for Deerfield's 6,800 residents. Ms. Blair said  
199 she was unconcerned about what benefited Deerfield. She reiterated that she would not agree to a light  
200 that was more advantageous to Deerfield than to the town's residents. Ms. Blair said that her wish was to  
201 see that whatever improvements made were the best possible for the town and its residents who pay  
202 taxes and makes the community what it is. She respected DOT and understood that it had to consider  
203 the entire community, but council was elected to do what is best for the town. She just did not believe the  
204 answer was available yet.

205  
206 Mr. Johnson asked what the impact would be if the town chose not to allow the light at 13<sup>th</sup>,  
207 particularly the effect on the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South light. Ms. Fellner said in her opinion and based on  
208 previous history, that DOT wanted the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue light installed before it will do other projects. Mayor  
209 Deaton, who is a voting member of GSATS, said these projects are based on 15 year plans that are  
210 prioritized. The 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue project has more priority than 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, but 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue is in the  
211 order and will eventually be funded. The 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue light was recommended in 1999 and added to the  
212 15 year plan. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the plan. Ms. Fellner said 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue was on the 2011-2015 plan;  
213 she asked DOT if the rank could be changed, and the response was negative. Mayor Deaton said based  
214 on the complexity of project schedules, it would probably be easier for DOT to do nothing than to change  
215 the priorities.

216  
217 Ms. Dodge said the proposed drawing did very little to help Surfside Beach. Traffic can only go  
218 northbound on 17 from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and traffic can only turn onto 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue from the northbound lane.  
219 She supported the light, but expressed concern about the design.

220  
221 Mr. Smith opposed the light at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and said the configuration on the photograph  
222 created problems for the town's residents while relieving problems for Deerfield residents, and he  
223 believed that was the wrong approach for the town. Blocking the frontage road will impact Denny's,  
224 Wachovia, Surfside United Methodist Church, and the Bank of America, whom are all tax-paying

225 businesses or community-type activities. He believed the businesses should be supported before  
226 supporting Deerfield. He reiterated that the opposed the light and the opposed the proposed  
227 configuration.

228  
229 Mr. Samples appreciated staff's work in trying to arrive at an accommodation. In his opinion,  
230 without an accommodation, no matter what the ranking is, once 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South becomes a priority, he  
231 believed DOT would find reasons not to put the light in. He said the town had a very poor record in the 20  
232 years he has lived here in getting any kind of improvements done on Business 17, which is a State  
233 highway and it is controlled by SCDOT. He said there were three scenarios that might have occurred  
234 tonight: (1) council would approve conditionally that staff move forward to get DOT to make certain that  
235 we knew exactly what would be done; (2) there would be an unexpected out-cry for a regular four-way  
236 stop light, and (3) that nothing would be done. Doing nothing was perfectly acceptable to him, if it was  
237 the will of the residents. He said in his opinion, the process is very political and everyone should be  
238 cognizant that there are consequences to the town if nothing is done.

239  
240 Mr. Childs agreed totally with Mr. Samples, and said council was told that Platt Boulevard was  
241 closed because a young lady was killed there. On July 5, 2009 a gentleman was killed leaving 13<sup>th</sup>  
242 Avenue North crossing 17, so something has to be done. He believed there was a way to compromise  
243 that would be acceptable to DOT and the town.

244  
245 Mayor Deaton said he was first elected to town council in 2000; the first recommendation was  
246 made in 1999. Council decided at that time to decline the light. From 2004 to 2008, he served as a  
247 higher education commissioner. In 2008, he was elected mayor. This issue came up during the first two  
248 years of his tenure and it was declined again. He was surprised to see it before council again. Unless  
249 there is some dramatic change, the decline has been consistent for at least 12 years. At this point in  
250 time, unless there is some reason to change his opinion, he holds the same position he held in 2000, to  
251 oppose the light at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He believed a light would be installed at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; the town  
252 would lose the money designated for 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, but it isn't the first time nor last that this happens,  
253 because it is highly politically charged. Mayor Deaton said he saw no justification for council to spend its  
254 time on this topic.

255  
256 Mayor Deaton asked the clerk to read the proposed letter to SCDOT drafted by Mr. Smith, a copy  
257 of which is on file. Ms. Blair thanked Mr. Smith for working on the letter. She said local media had  
258 reported that council voted to add stop signs, and add a ground-level sign. The council only voted to ask  
259 permission from DOT; it is not within the town's power to make those changes. Mr. Childs thanked  
260 council for supporting the change from yield to stop signs. He worked on this for eight years; four years  
261 prior to and four years since being elected. Mr. Childs asked if administration would find out what DOT  
262 has against stop signs, as he believes they will not back up traffic. Traffic from 17 realizes the yield signs  
263 are meaningless, and would be more likely to move forward if traffic on frontage road is stopped. He  
264 didn't believe there is enough traffic to create congestion on the frontage road. He said this is a "must  
265 project," particularly when the town is offering to fund the changes. He reiterated his appreciation to  
266 council for getting to this point.

267  
268 Mr. Smith said there is one correction on the letter, the list of locations includes "10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
269 South" twice, and the duplicate should be removed. He thanked Ms. Fellner for helping edit the letter and  
270 providing him with correct wording. He said because the rumor is that DOT does not approve of changing  
271 yield to stop signs, he had prepared a list of names and addresses of politicians and DOT officials for the  
272 public, a copy of which is on file. He believed comments from citizens would be very beneficial in getting  
273 the yield signs changed. In his opinion, DOT would otherwise oppose the change.

274  
275 Mr. Smith moved to send the letter to the SCDOT requesting a change from yield signs to stop  
276 signs. Mr. Childs seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Deaton said he would sign  
277 the letter and send it to DOT.

278  
279 Mayor Deaton declared the workshop closed at 7:20 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

280 4. **AGENDA APPROVAL.** Mr. Childs moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Dodge  
281 seconded. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

282  
283 5. **MINUTES APPROVAL.** Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting  
284 held September 13, 2011 with two scrivener's error corrections: Line 10, "Smith" should be "Moss;" Line  
285 170 "have" should be "hard." Mr. Smith seconded. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

286  
287 6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS.**

288  
289 "Randle Stevens, 412 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. I notice you have a couple of things here. Committee  
290 appointments. I think I missed the advertisement, but I just wanted to let you know that my name, I'd like  
291 to throw it in the hat for either the board of zoning appeals board [sic], the building appeals, and the  
292 election commission, and the other thing I see on here is there is a discussion of, in your discussion  
293 section, council travel and pay adjustment for mayor. I'm just wonder in this economy if we need to  
294 actually be talking about spending more money now. It seems like we may be headed towards the Barak  
295 Obama type administration where we're spending more money than it's worth."

296  
297 "John Ard, Cypress Drive, Surfside. I noticed on here we have a discussion tonight supposedly  
298 about a pay raise for the mayor, and (\*\*\*) I read the articles in the paper and on the computer and  
299 everything else, and the mayor didn't ask for this that the staff did. During these times right now (\*\*\*)  
300 considering all the money this town has lost in the past year, I think we really ought to think this issue. I'm  
301 not saying the mayor's office doesn't deserve a raise, but it's going to have to be limited if there is one.  
302 And this seems to really come at a pretty opportune time for this to come up with an election coming up.  
303 Is there something going on again that the people again in this town and on this council is not aware of?  
304 It also stated an article I was reading about two years ago and think that's when Mr. Booth was the town  
305 administrator; it also stated that the mayor of this town had asked for a raise." Mayor Deaton, "Sir, please  
306 don't quote articles. If you have personal knowledge or fact, that will be fine, but please do not quote  
307 second hand information. Thank you." Mr. Ard, "How is that second hand information?" Mayor Deaton,  
308 "It's not necessarily accurate information, so please, if you have personal knowledge, that's fine, but  
309 please do not quote other sources that you can't mitigate, validate." Mr. Ard, "Okay, I understand what  
310 you say, okay. But, I still think this thing still needs be thought, and let's find out what's going on here,  
311 and find out if this is a deserved thing or whatever the case may be, because we have lost an extremely  
312 lot of money in this town, and it's got to be made up somewhere, and I understand the point, but you  
313 know what, you're just sitting up there whether you're the mayor, the council, or whoever you are, it's not  
314 only a matter of money, it's a matter of pride. It's a matter of serving this town in the best way that you  
315 can serve this town. Doing the things that are right for this town and the people in this town. Those are  
316 things in the past that we have not been getting. Those are things that we need to be getting. So, you  
317 know, y'all go forward in the discussion and all (\*\*\*) and have a vote on it and everything, so. All I'm  
318 asking is that you please think about it. And, if you do see fit to give a raise, let's limit it. Don't go with  
319 some figure that's off the wall or something like that. Something else that's going to kill us, and that's  
320 what I'm asking tonight of y'all. I have one more comment, I'll make it real quick." Mayor Deaton, "Make  
321 it real quick, because your time is up." Mr. Ard, "Alright, and that's on the pier down here, there's  
322 supposed to be a discussion on it tonight and everything. Mr., I hope I say this right, Mr. Wooten is  
323 supposed to give some kind of presentation or something about these other things on it. Since we have  
324 all the council here, the town administrator, the deputy administrator and Mr. Moss, the attorney, I think it  
325 would be a nice thing if the town could find out where this law suit kind of stands at right now before any  
326 decisions is made as to what can be done with that pier down there."

327  
328 "My name is Ray Kawa. I live on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North. I've got a couple of questions for you. One  
329 on the pier; the first one, it was probably maybe a month and a half, two months ago we were supposed  
330 to be getting this briefing about the pier and I believe Jackie Donevant was supposed to do some  
331 inspection and provide everybody what the pier really needed in the restaurant area. She wasn't here  
332 that night. I don't believe that's ever been brought back up. It if has, I must have missed it. Did we just  
333 drop that or did that inspection ever get done, so we know from our point, building wise what the pier  
334 needs?" Mayor Deaton, "That's why our engineers are in charge of it. You will hear a presentation  
335 tonight." Mr. Kawa, "My question is we've got people that supposedly are, you know the building officials,

336 why are we spending \$50,000 for somebody when our staff should be able to tell us we need air  
337 conditioning, we need plumbing, we need electrical, we need handicapped ramps and bathrooms. What  
338 are we paying this other \$50,000 for?" Mayor Deaton, "We're not at this point in time, sir. You're getting  
339 ahead of yourself." Mr. Kawa, "It's just the way I seen [sic] it and it looks like we're going to spend  
340 another fifty to find out what's wrong with the pier. The second thing [is] on the mayor's pay raise. I was  
341 kind of surprised to see where Surfside, a one by two mile town, pays the mayor, I believe they quoted  
342 something like 7,200 bucks, and a town like Georgetown is \$7,500. It seems to be our little town is trying  
343 to become a big metropolis, and we got, now we got a, nothing against you personally, we got an  
344 administrator, we have an assistant administrator. When I came here we had a mayor and we had Fran  
345 (\*\*\*) that kind of took care of the town business. The town didn't grow in area wise, granted we've got a  
346 few more houses in here, but we need, do we need this big of a government? To me is just seems like  
347 it's kind of a waste of time. And the third thing I wanted to ask you, I don't know if it's considered agenda  
348 since we've got a public works discussion. DDC was doing a survey on the flood controls for the north  
349 end, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue area in Surfside, and did that go by the wayside. What  
350 happened to that? Is that still happening?" Mayor Deaton, "It's part of our stormwater project, sir." Mr.  
351 Kawa, "It's still going?" Mayor Deaton, "Yes."

352  
353 **7. COMMUNICATIONS.**

354  
355 a. Employee Appreciation – Tom Nophsker, 25 Years of Service. Mayor Deaton thanked Mr.  
356 Nophsker for his 25 years of service to the town and its citizens then presented him with a service plaque,  
357 anniversary pin, and service award check. He received a standing ovation. Mr. Nophsker thanked the  
358 town saying there were a "whole lot of good people in this town. It's been a pleasure."

359  
360 b. Department Reports

361  
362 i. Finance. Mr. Duckett presented the finance report, a copy of which is on file in the clerk's  
363 office, and is made a part hereof by reference as if fully set forth herein.

364  
365 ii. Recreation. Mr. Duckett presented the recreation report, a copy of which is on file in the  
366 clerk's office, and is made a part hereof by reference as if fully set forth herein. Mr. Samples asked how  
367 much it cost to rent the ball fields. Mr. Duckett said \$100 per field per day. Mr. Childs said the Family  
368 Festival is the town's premier event and thanked Ms. Ellis adding that it looked like the weather would be  
369 good.

370  
371 iii. Public Works. Mr. Duckett presented the public works report, a copy of which is on file in the  
372 clerk's office, and is made a part hereof by reference as if fully set forth herein. Mr. Smith thanked Public  
373 Works staff for their work cleaning the beach. On days that he walked, he would go on the pier and see  
374 them raking; it looked really good. He said, "Kudos to public works for doing such a good job this  
375 summer." Mr. Childs thanked Mr. Adair on behalf of the town's veterans, saying that a veteran had  
376 contacted him about the deteriorating conditions of the Veterans Memorial the day after he was elected.  
377 Mr. Adair had done an excellent job improving the site. Mr. Samples asked how much the street sweeper  
378 cost and how often it would operate. Mr. Duckett said \$119,000. Mr. Adair said sweeping would be done  
379 twice a week. He expected delivery around November 1<sup>st</sup> and sweeping would begin then. Ms. Dodge  
380 said the Veterans Memorial is beautiful and she was very proud of it.

381  
382 c. Administrator's Report – Update on Current Events. Mr. Duckett presented his report, which is  
383 on file in the clerk's office and is made a part hereof by reference as if fully set forth herein. Mr. Childs  
384 moved that town staff be directed to review the Comprehensive Parking Plan completed in January 2010  
385 and make recommendations to council at a workshop to be held at anytime within 45 days, as to which of  
386 the report recommendations can be most conveniently implemented and funded during the next nine  
387 months. Mr. Smith seconded. Mr. Childs said the administrator believed the information could be  
388 provided within the requested time. He believed council should make plans for the future budget. There  
389 are several citizens that would to have a committee on parking. He believed this motion would bring that  
390 about. DDC Engineering was paid in excess of \$40,000 for the study, and in his opinion, it should be

391 implemented. Council should stay on tasks and allocate funds during each budget year to continue the  
392 process. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

393  
394 Ms. Dodge asked if the striping had been repainted at the Holiday Inn parking area. Mr. Duckett  
395 said Mr. Adair recently reported to council that the fall plans include restriping that lot.

396  
397 **8. BUSINESS.**

398  
399 A. Surfside Pier Presentation – Mr. Wooten, DDC Engineers. Mr. Wooten presented a slide  
400 presentation, a copy of which is on file. He said the Surfside Pier is a wonderful asset; in which everyone  
401 in the community was a stakeholder. He explained this presentation included project management  
402 guidelines that were predicated on what council ultimately wanted to accomplish at the pier. There are  
403 two courses of action: (1) use the building as it currently exists without changing the footprint, and (2)  
404 expand the pier either horizontally or vertically.

405  
406 Mr. Wooten said if the pier is used as the buildings currently exists, it would take less than 100  
407 days, and recommends that the following be done: (1) insure that ocean front pilings are maintained and  
408 replaced as necessary. Shortly after hurricane season ends, he recommends that DHEC be notified that  
409 maintenance will be performed and that the pilings be replaced as need; (2) the landside connections that  
410 are rusted, deteriorated or missing be replaced and routine maintenance performed. Cost has not yet  
411 been quantified; (3) code compliance issues should be addressed, and the property brought up to current  
412 code. Staff could probably determine what needs to be done. Mr. Wooten suggested that proposed  
413 tenant negotiations include improvements to bring the property into code compliance. He did not believe  
414 the scope of this work would be excessively high.

415  
416 Mr. Wooten said should council determine that it prefers to expand the pier, the time schedule  
417 would be over one year, approximately 389 days. In this case, he recommended: (1) determine exactly  
418 what council wants to do with the structure: add an upper level; improve the restaurant; include the tackle  
419 shop; change the entire look of the pier, all of which would require the town to hire an architect. DDC  
420 Engineering does not perform architectural services, but would work closely with the architect on code  
421 issues, OCRM, and other regulatory agencies; (2) seek a tenant that could occupy the space as soon as  
422 it is completed. In his opinion, a tenant could contribute to the up-fit. He believed that it would be  
423 beneficial to improve the parking area to improve traffic flow as part of this process; (3) hear community  
424 comments; notification to DHEC, or if the footprint is changing requesting DHEC permits; bid the project,  
425 select the contractor, anticipate about 120 days for construction; (4) perform weight bearing load testing  
426 to determine whether additional load capacity exist. Based on Mr. Chao's presentation, the expected  
427 testing cost is \$50,000. Mr. Wooten said all the recommendations made to use the pier as it currently  
428 existed would be incorporated into the bid package, if council chose to move forward with an expansion.

429  
430 Mr. Samples asked if the tasks outlined for using the pier as it currently exists could be performed  
431 concurrently. Mr. Wooten said yes; if packaged properly one contractor might be able to do them all.  
432 Mayor Deaton said using the pier as it currently exists is a "no brainer," and that council should move  
433 forward. He felt very comfortable moving forward with the three recommendations to use the pier as it  
434 exists. Mr. Samples thanked Mr. Wooten for the presentation and agreed with Mayor Deaton. He  
435 believed performing maintenance and bringing the building up to code was probably the best course of  
436 action. Mr. Smith wanted to consider the information before deciding, and asked if any other inquiries  
437 were received about leasing the space during the past month or so. Mr. Duckett said there were no  
438 serious inquiries. Mr. Samples said internet marketing was customary today and asked if that approach  
439 had been used. He suggested that staff investigate that option.

440  
441 Mayor Deaton asked if any members opposed moving forward with the recommendations for  
442 maintenance if the pier is used as it exists. Mr. Johnson had no problem with the maintenance, but was  
443 concerned that council might decide to go another route. In the short term, he wholeheartedly agreed to  
444 perform the repairs. Mayor Deaton said the pilings absolutely had to be replaced. Mr. Wooten agreed,  
445 reiterating that the recommended is to being that work immediately after hurricane season ends. Mr.  
446 Johnson asked for clarification if these were pilings in the ocean. Mr. Wooten said yes; he understood



447 that one pile had been replaced and that five others needed to be replaced. Mr. Smith asked what the  
448 cost was to replace the pilings. Mr. Duckett said \$10,000-\$12,000 per piling. Mr. Smith moved to replace  
449 the pilings on the pier as identified by the administrator. Mr. Samples seconded. All voted in favor.

450 **MOTION APPROVED.**

451  
452 Mayor Deaton said the other recommendations, i.e., maintenance on the landside connections,  
453 and retrofitting to code were still pending. Mr. Smith said those items should be discussed at the next  
454 meeting so staff would have time to prepare cost estimates. Mr. Samples asked if the suggestion was to  
455 make a horizontal expansion, because a vertical expansion requires weight bearing testing. Mr. Smith  
456 wanted input about the costs. Mr. Samples said staff had already inspected the existing structure, and  
457 asked if the administrator had a presentation. Mr. Duckett believed they were discussing different things.  
458 Mr. Samples said if council decides not to add another level to the pier, then council could go ahead and  
459 proceed with the other two recommendations for using the pier as it now exist, that were not included in  
460 the motion. Mr. Wooten clarified that fittings, bolts, a sagging beam, bringing the structure up to code and  
461 that type maintenance were the type things Mr. Chao discussed, and were his second recommendation to  
462 be done if council wants to use the existing structure. Mr. Samples asked whether Mr. Smith anticipated  
463 adding a level to the structure. Mr. Smith said no, horizontally. Mr. Samples asked if anyone on council  
464 anticipated adding a level. Mr. Johnson said he needed to consider it.

465  
466 Mayor Deaton said it appeared there was consensus to use the structures as they currently exist  
467 without changing the footprint. Mr. Johnson said council should decide whether these repairs would be a  
468 short- or long-term fix. Ms. Dodge believed adding a level would make the property more valuable, but  
469 ultimately council should move forward so that revenue could be realized. She suggested adding a level  
470 be scrapped, and council move forward with plans such as adding additional decking, etc. Mr. Childs  
471 would like to see the structure sound so that future levels could be added, should a future council decide  
472 to do so. Mr. Wooten said that would involve the weight bearing load testing that Mr. Chao discussed.  
473 Mayor Deaton said he was very comfortable moving forward with the recommendations for repairs to use  
474 the pier as it currently exists. He did not want to spend taxpayer dollars for a \$50,000 test when there  
475 was no plan. The pier is an enterprise fund and should not cost any tax dollars.

476  
477 Mr. Samples moved to implement the recommendations proposed for using the pier as it currently  
478 exists, which includes maintenance and up-grade to current standards. Ms. Dodge and Mr. Childs  
479 seconded. Ms. Blair asked whether the town could move forward without creating problems. Mayor  
480 Deaton said Mr. Moss indicated yes by nodding his head. Mr. Wooten said these are maintenance  
481 issues; the structure is not being expanded, nothing is being done beyond the critical line that is  
482 prohibited under the regulations. OCRM will be notified as a courtesy; a permit is not required for  
483 maintenance. Mr. Smith asked if prices were available. Mr. Wooten said a more thorough inspection has  
484 to be performed by Mr. Chao, who will formulate cost estimates for bid letting. Mr. Smith preferred to see  
485 costs before he voted. Mr. Samples understood Mr. Smith's concern, and clarified that his motion was to  
486 have the administrator to prepare the spec package and engineering brought back to town council so that  
487 it can let bids. Mayor Deaton said that is the proper procedure; council has final approval on the costs.  
488 Mr. Samples asked if the estimates could be grouped. Mr. Wooten said now that it appears the council  
489 will move forward to use the building as it currently exist, the package could be written to allow  
490 contractors to bid on all or part of the work to be performed. That will allow the town to get the best  
491 possible bids. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tempore Childs, and Councilmembers Blair, Dodge, Johnson,  
492 and Samples voted in favor. Councilmember Smith voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

493  
494 B. Accommodations Tax Fund Request Recommendation: Guy Daniels Foundation, 24-hour  
495 Beach Web Camera. Mayor Deaton recused from this discussion as he serves on its board of directors.  
496 Mr. Duckett presented the issue paper, which is on file. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the recommend-  
497 ation as presented. Mr. Childs seconded. Mr. Samples asked if there was any reason to be concerned  
498 about the expenditure. Mr. Duckett said no, any questions were satisfied. Mr. Johnson said the camera  
499 is well used by residents and non-residents, including many whom are his family members. He believed  
500 this was a good opportunity to provide live feeds of the ocean surf to area surfers and potential  
501 vacationers. Mayor Pro Tempore Childs and Councilmembers Blair, Dodge, Johnson, Samples and

502 Smith voted in favor. Mayor Deaton recused by written statement, which is attached hereto. **MOTION**  
503 **CARRIED.**

504  
505 C. Committee Appointments. Mr. Childs moved to defer business item C to the next council  
506 meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> to be discussed in an executive session. Mr. Smith seconded. Mr. Childs said  
507 based on past actions that committee appointments were considered a personnel item that was always  
508 discussed in executive session, but because of certain wording in the recently adopted ordinance that  
509 was changed. He believed that other members would agree that committee appointments should be  
510 discussed in executive session. Mr. Duckett explained the ordinance previously stated that when  
511 considering committee appointments that council "shall" go into executive session to discuss the  
512 appointments. That ordinance was amended in February of this year, and the word "may" was used.  
513 Council may always go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter, which committee  
514 appointments become a personnel matter as volunteers are being appointed. It may not always be  
515 necessary to enter executive session, because there may be only one opening for a committee and only  
516 one volunteer, and in his opinion, there would be no need to enter executive session to discuss the  
517 appointment of one person to one committee. The new ordinance gives council an option to do so.  
518 Mayor Deaton believed in regards to the Freedom of Information Act, it was more appropriate to give the  
519 media advance notice of an executive session. He supported the motion to defer. Mr. Samples asked  
520 how many openings there were. Ms. Herrmann said five positions on the Building Board of Appeals; one  
521 position on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and one position on the Municipal Election Commission. Mr.  
522 Samples asked how many applications were received. Ms. Herrmann said two, and Mr. Stevens stated  
523 interest during his comments during this meeting. Mr. Childs said there were others interested, too. He  
524 understood council could enter executive session, but he agreed with Mayor Deaton in that advance  
525 notice was preferable. Even if there is only one applicant, he believed it should be handled as a  
526 personnel matter. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tempore Childs and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, and  
527 Smith voted in favor. Councilmembers Dodge and Samples voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

528  
529 **9. DISCUSSION.**

530  
531 A. Pay Adjustment for the Position of Mayor. Mr. Duckett said no materials were provided to  
532 council regarding this matter. The mayor's salary has not been adjusted in almost 20 years. If it is  
533 council's desire to make an adjustment to the mayor's salary, it would not be effective until after the next  
534 election, which happens to include the mayor's seat. Under State law, a seated council cannot adopt a  
535 change to its own pay. This is a good time to consider this. Effective April 1992, \$7,200 was adopted as  
536 the mayor's salary. Councilmembers salaries were increased in May 2006 to \$6,000, representing a  
537 \$200 per month increase. He sought direction from council. In his opinion, the mayor's salary should be  
538 about 150-percent of the councilmembers, i.e. \$9,000. Mr. Samples said that everybody was cutting back  
539 and learning to do with less. Members do not seek office for the money; it is public service. Of the  
540 current members, he is the only one that served when the last increase was implemented. He voted  
541 against increases then, and will not support an increase now. Ms. Dodge agreed with Mr. Samples. She  
542 believes the compensation is adequate for both mayor and council, and sees no need for an increase.  
543 Ms. Blair asked what the proposed increase was in 2006. Mr. Childs said \$9,600. Ms. Blair said it was  
544 difficult to justify paying that much more than Georgetown, which is a much larger city. Mr. Smith  
545 opposed the increase, saying that \$7,200 is sufficient for the size of the town. Mr. Childs said since it had  
546 been so many years since the last mayoral increase, he believed the office deserved an increase. The  
547 increase is not for the individual; it is for the office, which has become complicated enough to warrant an  
548 increase. He added that the change would not be given to anyone seated on this council; it would be  
549 implemented after the election. The next mayor would receive the increase. Mr. Childs said the former  
550 mayor turned down the increase, and except for a 'little political quirk,' the increase would have been  
551 adopted at that time.

552  
553 Mayor Deaton said to make it very clear, the discussion was about the office. Twenty years ago  
554 there were no regional alliances that exist today. There are 271 municipalities in South Carolina with  
555 populations of less than 5,000. Surfside Beach is the fourth largest municipality in Horry County, and it  
556 grows because there are transients, snow birds, and tourism rental occupants which create a large  
557 community. Mayor Deaton said that he had spent four hours today in other meetings, before attending

558 this council meeting. He chairs the League of Cities for Horry County, and the Coastal Alliance of  
559 Mayors. He also serves on the board of directors for the South Carolina Coalition of Mayors.  
560 Responsibilities for the mayor's position have changed dramatically over the last 20 years. Mayor Deaton  
561 is also a voting member on GSATS, and he attends many community events, etc. This discussion is  
562 about just compensation. Mayor Deaton said he had certainly spent more money than he has earned  
563 during his tenure. He hopes that the next mayor would be justly compensated. Mayor Deaton said within  
564 a 50-mile radius there is no compensation; 75-percent of the meetings he attends are within that radius.  
565 As mayor, he attends these various meetings to represent the town. Future mayors will do the same.  
566 Building relationships with other communities is very important, which is accomplished by participation in  
567 these meetings. This was not a merit raise, nor a performance raise; the issue is that council received a  
568 raise, and the mayor's position has not received one in almost 20 years. This discussion is about future  
569 mayors, not him personally.

570  
571 Ms. Blair asked Mayor Deaton whether he attended the various meetings by choice or because  
572 they were requirements of the mayor's office. Mayor Deaton said as mayor he is required to represent  
573 the town; the chairman positions are elected by the respective bodies. The League of Cities is composed  
574 of all municipalities; the mayor is the designated representative. The Coalition of Mayors is at the State  
575 level. All municipalities in the coastal area belong to the Coastal Alliance and the mayors are the  
576 representatives. Ms. Blair asked again if it was by choice or by ordinance; by definition of the  
577 responsibilities of the mayor. Mayor Deaton said it was an obligation to represent the town; it was not a  
578 choice. Elected mayors represent the town. Ms. Blair asked if Mayor Deaton received compensation for  
579 mileage. Mayor Deaton said no, not within a 50-mile radius. Ms. Blair asked if a town-owned vehicle was  
580 available for his use. Mayor Deaton said he was unsure; he had never asked for one. Mr. Duckett did  
581 not know either.

582  
583 B. Consideration of Changes to Council Travel Per Diem. Mr. Duckett said the current ordinance  
584 is complex and refers to Federal regulations that are based on geographic locations. Councilmembers  
585 generally travel to the Municipal Association annual meeting, winter meeting, and some training classes.  
586 Most often those meetings are held in Hilton Head Island, Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston. His  
587 wish was to eliminate the need for councilmembers to keep up with receipts, and adopt a simple method  
588 of reimbursement. If council wishes to move forward, an ordinance would be drafted to establish a daily  
589 flat rate per diem for overnight travel on official business that would eliminate itemizations of tolls, meals,  
590 parking, tips, snacks, etc. This method is easier for the auditors as there are no questions about  
591 allowable expenses, and will simplify record keeping for councilmembers and finance staff. Mr. Duckett  
592 suggested a flat rate of \$100 per day to cover all incidentals; the amount could be whatever council  
593 deems appropriate. The employee policy requires submission of receipts, and then the administrator  
594 must approve a reasonable sum, which in his opinion, is unfair to the administrator to tell a  
595 councilmember what amount is reasonable. Usually when this type change is made, it isn't changed  
596 again for seven to ten years, so he cautioned against setting the rate too low. He asked council to  
597 consider the suggestion and let him know how to handle it. Mr. Samples asked what the current policy  
598 states. Mr. Duckett said it is based on Federal reimbursement based on the geography. Mr. Samples  
599 said there is a per diem rate; it just varies, and asked if mileage reimbursement was paid in addition to the  
600 per diem. Mr. Duckett said yes, the current policy is that the hotel charges and mileage are reimbursed.  
601 This discussion is about the other expenses. Mayor Deaton asked whether council wished to consider an  
602 ordinance.

603  
604 Mr. Childs moved to have the administrator draft an ordinance to change the per diem method.  
605 Mr. Smith seconded. Mr. Samples said he had no idea what the per diem rate was for Hilton Head, which  
606 is probably the most expensive city. Mr. Smith asked if this would save the finance department time if this  
607 change was implemented. Mr. Duckett said it would save the finance department time, it would  
608 uncomplicated the clerk's responsibility for tracking down receipts, and would eliminate any questions  
609 from an auditor. Mr. Johnson said when council travels it tries to be conservative, but in some of the  
610 areas, a simple breakfast will cost a minimum of \$15. He personally has taken cereal and milk with him to  
611 keep costs down, but sometimes that is not possible. Parking is crazy! The town doesn't need a parking  
612 garage, but they certainly bring in a lot of money. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

613

614 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

615  
616 "Allen Beck, 626 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. I thought I heard a wonderful idea tonight. A lot of time we  
617 struggle with issues, and we get people that favor one thing; people who favor another thing; you're going  
618 to make some people unhappy no matter what the resolution was, and I think maybe Bob Childs  
619 mentioned it; what I'm referring to was the solution to the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection that Harry Kohlmann  
620 presented, which was to take the section from the road one block back next to the church and make it  
621 one way out, and have a light straight through. When I came in tonight I was wondering how many  
622 people come out of Deerfield that want to come into Surfside anyway? I don't think it's a lot, you know,  
623 and I thought just a regular four-way light that would be fine and would solve the problem. But, I  
624 understand that there are a lot of residents that are really concerned about 13<sup>th</sup> and think that everybody's  
625 going to come across. That one block of one way solves the whole issue of people coming across. It lets  
626 people coming out on 13<sup>th</sup> make their left turn. I was there at the church that morning. I know the  
627 gentleman that came out and pulled out in the middle and got killed and that troubles me. I sat at, I go to  
628 California Pizza a fair amount; go to St. Angelo's sometimes, bank at Wachovia, go to Denny's frequently,  
629 and I'm back and forth on that access road, and I see the people coming out, turning down that access  
630 road and then trying to get across, and it is a mess, and we've had a lot of record of that, and everybody  
631 in here, I think, knows, but I sat at California Pizza and watched major accidents with people coming out  
632 and trying to get across and turn, and if they can just come out on a light and be able to turn one way or  
633 the other, I think it would resolve a lot of that traffic for us on the access road, and it's tough getting off the  
634 access road, because of the traffic on 17. You get some gaps in the traffic sometimes you can get in.  
635 Other times it takes a while for the gap to get clear. That's the one reason I like the yields there, signs,  
636 because if I come out of Denny's and come down toward the yield and there's nobody coming ahead or  
637 whatever, I'll look back over my shoulder, and if there's a big gap in the traffic coming down 17, I don't go  
638 to slow down and stop at the yield sign. I put in second gear and go on so that I can merge and get into  
639 that merging lane and get out into the road. If there's a stop sign there and I have to come to a complete  
640 stop, that could be one of those times that opening in the road runs back and I'm either tempted to pull  
641 out too short and cut in front of somebody, which could be hazardous or I'm going to sit there and wait  
642 and wait and wait while the traffic goes through. So, there is some benefit to having up the yield signs, I  
643 think, if people are merging. But, if you put the light in at 13<sup>th</sup> the way Harry Kohlmann suggested with the  
644 one way street one way, it solves the problem for the people that don't want the traffic light at the end of  
645 13<sup>th</sup> down into Surfside. It solves the problem of letting the people of Surfside get out and make their left  
646 turn safely. It solves the problem of the Deerfield people all getting on our access road and blocking the  
647 access to Denny's and Wachovia now Wells Fargo, and California Pizza and St. Angelo's and the  
648 shopping center that's in behind there where a lot of those professional offices are, because you get that  
649 traffic out. I think most of them probably get (\*\*\*) out on 17 and get down towards the center of town or  
650 Murrells Inlet or something or head up to Myrtle Beach or go shopping somewhere, but the one way thing  
651 absolutely would stop it and I thought that was a brilliant idea, and I hope that rather than let this die, and  
652 push it down the road, and say well we won't have anything there, that you'll think of the solution there  
653 and put that light in with a one block of one way. I think it makes everybody happy and solves a lot of our  
654 access road problems. Thank you."

655  
656 "Yes, Joe Zoltak, 414 Pine Drive. I tried to pay attention very closely to Mr. Wooten's position  
657 here and I'm just going to speak to everything above the dotted line, as he spoke about three lines above  
658 the dotted line [*Clerk's Note: "above the dotted line" is the pier is used without expanding*] and you  
659 authorized him to go and repair the, replace the necessary columns out in the water, but the other two  
660 lines and one of the specifically concerns the results, requires another engineering study to determine if  
661 you could support a second story. Is it worth considering adding a fourth line, which would say how much  
662 is it going to cost if you wipe out what you've got there now, because how much is that building worth on  
663 top? It appears that the columns that you have there right now have a limited lifetime, and if you're going  
664 to pay more money for more engineering, at least get an estimate of what it would cost to just wipe out  
665 what you got there with that restaurant and put in new columns that you know would support two stories.  
666 So, you might want to have the engineer look at that possibility, and naturally the engineer isn't going to  
667 have that much work, he's going to have a quote, but maybe that would still be better for the town in the  
668 long run. Thank you."

669

670 "Tom Dodge, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. I went down on the sidewalk in the newly beautified section on  
671 Surfside Drive and walked on both sides of that sidewalk. There are cracks everywhere in that cement.  
672 They have them marked off in grids and I counted 40 squares that have cracks in them in that concrete.  
673 We paid over \$400,000 for that job. Is somebody on council, somebody in public works, at town hall  
674 looking at that? They dropped the ball on that cement job down there. Concrete end pieces still have not  
675 been put up. They still have amacite there. That was going to be taken care of; hasn't yet been done. A  
676 couple of months ago, somebody came to the podium here, a citizen, and they asked about striping  
677 Ocean Boulevard between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Not striping the parking lots, but striping the middle of the road  
678 and the edges of the road. When you come down from 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue North into that parking area, you  
679 don't know where you're going. There's [sic] no stripes. I'm not talking about stripes for cars to park. I'm  
680 talking about stripes in the road. This was going to be done; has not yet been done. Is town hall aware  
681 that this stuff isn't being done? We're still paying meter men to police our parking lots. There's nobody  
682 here folks. It seems like a waste of money. I have talked to a meter man; he says this is a waste of  
683 money. Between now and October 31<sup>st</sup>, I can't believe we're going to collect nearly enough money to pay  
684 their salaries. Every week the *Myrtle Beach Herald* has entire page devoted to events going on in our  
685 area. I have never seen an article about Surfside Beach. Being the kid that I am, I took my two-and-a-  
686 half year old cousin to the All Children's Park on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. This place is beautiful. It's a  
687 tremendous asset to our town. It is clean, practically new, and just is a great place to go. I would  
688 recommend that all of you children go down to that park. It's beautiful."

689  
690 "I'm Ray Kawa, again, at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. This is my night to participate, I guess. I've got two  
691 suggestions I'd like to offer to the council. The with deal you were saying, you've got to do a lot of  
692 travelling within 50-miles, you don't get no [sic] per diem for mileage and stuff, and the councilmen are  
693 worried about traveling and stuff. Why don't they give you guys a car to take with a credit card for gas.  
694 Paying for somebody's gas is a whole lot cheaper than paying mileage. I spent 21½ years in the military  
695 and I'm very familiar with the per diem thing and the mileage. When you're driving your own car, you  
696 make a ton of money on mileage. If town loans you a car with a logo on there, you're going someplace  
697 representing us now people can see you came from Surfside when you drive around. I think that'd be a  
698 lot more cost effective, and the second thing about the pier, this gentleman was saying you know we've  
699 got an old building. Maybe we should think about knocking it down and building up. Has anybody ever  
700 considered knocking them [sic] two buildings down, bringing them out over the parking lot like they did  
701 down in Garden City that gets you out of all the coastal rules and regulations and know you're building  
702 something under the codes of Surfside Beach; a place to park on the beach, something to think about.  
703 Thank you."

704  
705 "John Ard, Cypress Drive, Surfside. Heard a couple of things tonight and I'm glad Mr. Dodge  
706 brought up about the sidewalks just down here. I talked to somebody earlier and they found an answer  
707 out for me, so I do appreciate that very much, and I think it's understandable now, and I look forward to it  
708 working out. But, as for the cracks on the sidewalk, this afternoon thing, and in the curbing and stuff like  
709 that, anybody that has any knowledge of construction whatsoever, and I have about 50 years of it, would  
710 know that when that sidewalk was put in there was no polyethylene put on the that dirt for a moisture  
711 barrier and there was no foundation wire put in to help with the cracking of that cement that's there.  
712 That's where I think, personally, this is my personal opinion, that the problem came in on it, but there is  
713 twenty something thousand dollars spent on it and all the cracks and stuff is do is continually get worse.  
714 The stuff is continually going to break. You can go in there and put what they call a patch on it. That ain't  
715 going to last long at all. If the job would have been done right, if it'd been inspections and the inspections  
716 drawn [sic] up on it that problem could've been eliminated, but it wasn't and I'm having quite a time  
717 trying to understand as to why in the specs on that thing there wasn't no foundation wire in it [sic]. I ain't  
718 never poured a driveway; I ain't never poured a sidewalk that did not have foundation wire in it. You put  
719 expansion joints in it. Okay, expansion joints is [sic] fine. That's good, but if you look at that expansion  
720 joints (\*\*\*). Clerk interrupted to change tape. Mr. Ard, "Okay, I'll get off the sidewalk thing right now, but  
721 that's what happened on that sidewalk, I'm most sure of it, which as far as trying to correct that situation  
722 there, about the only thing you could do to correct it is take it every dog gone bit up, get a reputable  
723 builder in there and redo your whole project. That's the only way to straighten it up now; it's all you can  
724 do with it. And, I'd also like to say something about the street festival we're having Saturday, which that  
725 has been a great and a huge success every year we've been having it. Debbie Ellis, Mary Lynn

726 Stalnaker and the rest of the crew that they have helping them set up for this thing and all, and the  
727 amount of people that we have involved in with it and all, that has always been a huge success here in  
728 Surfside, and to hear somebody say 'we'll see,' that is a slap in the face for everybody involved, and I  
729 think there's an apology due on that one statement. Thank you."

730  
731 "Joyce O'Brien, 613 South Myrtle Drive. Just three things quickly. One, I think we all know what  
732 happened at Surfside Drive and not to rehash old things, but the bidding process was faulty and I hope  
733 that when we do the pier that we won't make the same kind of mistake that we made prior with bidding  
734 and who gets jobs and who knows about it and who opens the bidding behind closed doors, et cetera, et  
735 cetera, and that's all I'm going to say about that, and, about the festival. The festival is the pride of  
736 Surfside. It's wonderful. It's always been a success, I can't say enough about it. The people who run it  
737 are awesome. The only thing I will say, which reminded me, I couldn't get a spot this year, and paying  
738 money, I couldn't get a, I want to give money to my town, have a spot. There was no advertising. I even  
739 went on line and printed out information about the festival, but it said nothing about a registration  
740 deadline. It had nothing about fees. I couldn't find it. I looked in the newspaper every Sunday. I could  
741 not find any advertisement for Surfside's day. I mean, maybe I missed it, but I, I think that that's a valid  
742 point. That's a big, big money maker, big, big advertisement for Surfside, and I think we need to splash it  
743 out there. You know, we get a lot of negative press. Let's get something positive out there. We've got  
744 something positive. Let's shine. You know, put it out there. And one last thing, I want to commend our  
745 police department. I've heard about that big bust they made, and I want to thank them for keeping us  
746 safe, and I think they do a wonderful job, and I'm just so proud of them, and that's all I'm going to say.  
747 Thank you."

748  
749 "Randle Stevens, 412 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. As far as the stop lights that y'all talked about earlier,  
750 just, when I looked at this picture, and maybe I didn't get this till I got here, but when I looked at it, I  
751 thought who in the world designed this? This looks like the biggest mess I've ever seen, this picture that  
752 y'all have that's posted over here. When I think about right down the street at the intersection of 544 and  
753 17 we have one of the largest campgrounds in America, and we have no problem there. I don't know  
754 who designed this, but it is a mess. I wouldn't vote for this thing if you paid me. You look at intersection  
755 of 544 and 17, and I agree, why should we make a road like Ms. Blair said for the citizens of Deerfield.  
756 They don't pay one tax dollar in this town. This is, as they say, a cluster. I ain't going to repeat the rest of  
757 it. But, I agree that a red light is needed somewhere in this area. Blocking frontage roads that goes back  
758 to the old 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue blocking the frontage road. You got Plantation Resort there they've got to check in  
759 their people. You got the Wachovia bank you're going to have a lot of flack from those people. I don't  
760 see why we can't have something like that at 544 and Business 17 in front of Ocean Lakes. That seems  
761 to work very well. The only time I've heard of a wreck there was when a drunk ran through the red light  
762 and ran into somebody else. And about your no turn on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, let me just make a suggestion to you  
763 there. If you're going to put a no turn on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, make sure you put it in those bright neon yellow  
764 signs, because I go up there to the corner of 544 to turn on Business 17 and nine out of every twenty cars  
765 runs that thing and it has two signs that says no turn on red. I stop every time and I get somebody  
766 blowing their horn at me behind me wanting me to go when it says no turn on red. So I suggest you do  
767 something there. As far as the pier, I think you're probably heading in the right direction to try to make it  
768 code compliant. That's the first thing you have to do in any structure, is make sure it meets code. I've  
769 been a builder. I built my own house here. I built other houses. You got to make things code compliant,  
770 and that place is not up to code. It hasn't been up to code in, Nibil's was grandfathered in, so they didn't  
771 have to do anything to it. So it behooves you to do that, and then the other side of the coin is like Joe  
772 Zoltak said, you may even consider tearing the whole (expletive) down and consider putting it, rebuilding  
773 the place. What is that going to cost you? I don't know, but those old pilings are they going to fall in the  
774 ground or are they going to wear out eventually? When I saw Mr. Chao's presentation on the bolts and  
775 everything, the first thing I thought, that's common sense. Anybody with construction experience could've  
776 told you the same thing. Your building inspector should've been able to walk down there and say, hey,  
777 you got bolts and nuts and everything that need to be replaced. Anybody knows that if you're on the  
778 ocean things corrode and they wear out. And last, but not least, I will be sending you my name for  
779 considering for a committee, whether you vote for me or not, I don't care. But, I will put my name in the  
780 hat again. I've put it in there probably 15 times. So, there is [sic] still people out here willing to serve.  
781 Thank you."

782 10. COUNCIL COMMENTS.  
783

784 Ms. Blair, "Thank you all for staying. It's been a long evening. We've discussed a lot of things,  
785 and made some progress on some items. It should be a beautiful weekend for the festival, and those  
786 who have attended know that it is a huge event for us and always a lot of fun. I hope to see you there.  
787 Thank you for coming and drive safely on your way home."  
788

789 Mr. Johnson, "Thank you for coming. God bless you."  
790

791 Ms. Dodge, "I'm going to talk a little bit longer than that. I always like to hold up great examples  
792 of citizens who continually do good things for the town and who by the way are often not recognized for  
793 what they do. There's Mrs. Beth Kohlmann who carries her big plastic bag and pick up wand as she  
794 walks ups and down the beach every day picking up litter. It also includes a lot of those cigarette butts  
795 that people toss away so carelessly. I often wondered why somebody who smokes thinks that everybody  
796 else enjoys having their cigarette butts thrown around. Then there's Mrs. Kathy Andreas who picks up  
797 litter all over town every day. We thank her, too. These people take pride in making our town look good,  
798 and that makes me feel good. Then there are the bocce boys who play on the bocce court at Floral Park  
799 on Mondays and Thursdays. Those guys see so much. One of their days that they were playing, Mr. Ed  
800 Hunt and Mr. Buzz Englehart saw one of the nice signs we have posted at our lake, I know you've seen  
801 them, they're very attractive. It had been ripped up by vandals and tossed into the lake. It was covered  
802 with mud and muck. So Mr. Ron Saunders volunteered to take it home and clean it up, and he then  
803 called town hall for someone to pick up the sign. Those signs, by the way, cost around \$40 or \$50 a  
804 piece, so that was a really good deed by those people. I don't think good deeds like that should go  
805 unnoticed. Also, I'm sure there are other instances that I don't know about. I want to thank each one of  
806 them for taking their time to do something worthwhile for our town. It is appreciated whether somebody  
807 comes up and claps you on the back. It is appreciated by those of us who walk around town and see our  
808 nice town and our nice beach. [I] also wanted to thank people who have volunteered to serve on  
809 committees. Often it's hard to get people to do that, but people who are retired have time. I think that's a  
810 really good way to use your time. Thank you all so much. "  
811

812 Mr. Smith, "If you support changing the yield signs to stop signs on the frontage road, I think it's  
813 important that you contact your state representatives and some of the folks at DOT. I've got a list of  
814 names, if you're interested. It might help, but without citizen support we will not be able to change those  
815 yield signs to stop signs. Thank you."  
816

817 Mr. Samples, "Well, I hope everybody had a good time tonight. I know we did. You know  
818 sometimes it, I thought this was a good experience, because some of the issues have been very  
819 controversial, and they do come back, you know, and over time I'm sure whether we do anything or not, it  
820 will come back. But I appreciate everybody's input and the comments, and the community. Look, we all  
821 know we live in a great place, and we're lucky to be here, and so all of us working together and even  
822 occasionally disagreeing strongly make us what we are. So, we live in a great place, and I just appreciate  
823 everybody's interest and staying on top of us. Thanks."  
824

825 Mr. Childs, "Mr. Mayor, just a couple of small things. [Ms. Fellner] I was, on the stop sign issue, I  
826 was curious if you could find out if SCDOT turns down the stop signs, find out why, why would  
827 they...(\*\*)...could you share that?" Mayor Deaton: "No, not right now, this is comments." Mr. Childs,  
828 "Mr. Beck, I tell you, you're probably the only one that I think really enjoys those yields signs, because I  
829 think anybody that's been on that frontage road more than once, I'd rather wait for a little bit of traffic to  
830 come by in case I had to wait for four or five more cars, because I personally almost got hit here a month  
831 ago. A guy had to run up on the grass that was coming down the service road he was going so fast to  
832 avoid hitting us, and I've seen there was a broad-side up here by McDonalds, although it was right out of  
833 town, was still the frontage road and it was still a yield sign. The guy went through the yield sign and T-  
834 boned a guy. I mean, and I think the reason we don't have more accidents there, I think everybody's so  
835 gun shy about those yield signs that everybody goes extra mile to stop, with the exception of the people  
836 running the yield signs. Coming off 17, if you don't stop, you've got a pretty good chance of getting hit.  
837 Okay, thank you, Mr. Mayor."

838 Mayor Deaton, "Thank everyone for coming."  
839

840 11. **ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Mr. Childs  
841 seconded. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**  
842

843  
844 Respectfully submitted,  
845

846 \_\_\_\_\_  
847 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk  
848

849 Approved: October 11, 2011  
850

851 \_\_\_\_\_  
852 K. Allen Deaton, Mayor  
853

854 \_\_\_\_\_  
855 Vicki W. Blair, Town Council Robert J. Childs, III, Mayor Pro Tempore  
856

857 \_\_\_\_\_  
858 Ann Dodge, Town Council Mark L Johnson, Town Council  
859

860 \_\_\_\_\_  
861 Douglas F. Samples, Town Council Roderick E. Smith, Town Council  
862

863 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. This meeting was transcribed by Town Clerk Herrmann. In  
864 accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on file in the clerk's  
865 office. The agenda was posted on bulletin boards outside Council Chambers and in the Town Hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on  
866 the Town marquee. When (\*\*\*) is used a section of the transcription is inaudible.  
867

Approved