

SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING DAY – MONDAY, BECAUSE TUESDAY IS ELECTION DAY REGULAR MEETING JULY 27, 2015 ◆ 6:30 P.M. TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Town Council Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Samples called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Samples, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, Magliette, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning Director Morris; Police Chief Keziah; Public Works Director Adair, and Supervisor Ellis.

Mayor Samples congratulated Mr. Johnson on his appointment to the Municipal Association of South Carolina Board of Directors and Mr. Childs on his appointment to the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors. He said it was an honor to have them appointed to the boards. Both agencies can help the town. We are all very proud of them.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

- A. Invocation: Reverend Oakie Landers of Pine Drive Gospel Church gave the invocation.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Samples lead the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Childs moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL

Regular Meeting July 14, 2015. Mr. Childs moved to adopt the July 14, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Stevens seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only.</u> (3-minutes per speaker)

Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North, said she was stopped beside two golf carts at the light at 5th Avenue North a few weeks ago. Highway 17 is a major 4-lane highway with a median and 45 miles per hour speed limit. She was in her Suburban truck wearing her seatbelt as required by law, and protected by front and side airbags. The golf cart passengers were of varying ages and sizes, none of whom had the benefit of a safety restraint. The youngest passenger was an infant that could not have been more than a few weeks old being carried on the shoulder of one of the ladies. If she had been pulled over with a child that young not in a car seat, she probably would have been written a ticket and charged with endangering a child. Ms. Wescott asked if anyone other than she thought something was wrong about this picture.

Ms. Janine Gorline, 16th Avenue South, said she has a rat issue that is addressed under Sanitation. She had sent email messages to all the councilmembers with her concerns. Ms. Mabry was the only one that responded, which she appreciated. Ms. Gorline had an in-depth discussion with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). She was directed to Ms. Vicki Blair, who is a town resident, with whom she had an in-depth conversation about the rat situation. Her next door neighbor rents. Saturday afternoon, a group of seven women arrived at the house to be welcomed by a bunch of rats running from her swimming pool to their swimming pool. It did not go well,

and was not a welcome sight. All the women were on their cell phones within seconds; they were "nuts." Ms. Gorline said the renters contacted the news media. The news came and did a report. The rat problem was brought to council's attention last summer. Nothing has been done. Now, the rats have moved from the dunes and the beach into our backyard. The rat [sic] would not get out of our pool, even though my sister was going nuts. The rats are not afraid of us. She realizes that part of this, according to Ms. Blair, is because of the garbage in the rental district. The biggest problem is the garbage on the beach. The beach cans are not being emptied. People that rent come on Saturday, empty their trash and it stays there. Rats will not be here if there is no food source. Ms. Blair told her that the town is considering feral cats. Ms. Gorline said, "That was the most ridiculous, disgusting thing I ever heard of." When she came down in March, she found a dead feral cat in her patio furniture where it hid from the cold. It was a huge mess and cost hundreds of dollars to replace the damage caused by that cat. She said there was a huge feral cat problem to start with, so why were these feral cats any different than regular cats? If those cats are not eating the rats, why would feral cats? According to her research, if feral or other cats do not have a food source, they will go wherever the food is. Cats carry parasites, and toxoplasmosis in addition to other diseases. She suggested changing the garbage; get the garbage picked up. If the garbage is not there, there is no food source for the rats and they will go someplace else. She hopes (time ended) that another year does not go by without this being addressed.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard, also wanted to talk about sanitation. He said a few years ago he brought up picking up trash on Saturday. The problem is overflowing garbage cans in the rental area where houses were rented for a week or two, not the second homeowners. Ninety-five percent of the rental homes check in and check out on Saturday, year around. Renters empty their refrigerators, pantries, and other storage and put into the recycle or garbage cans. They also throw away their floats, blow-up toys, broken beach chairs, sand toys, etc. Cleaners come in after the renters depart and add to the garbage and to the recycle cart. Then new renters check in later in the afternoon. The first thing they do is go shopping, which generates another round of garbage and recyclables. This causes the carts to be filled beyond capacity, so people place bags around the carts. The trash is not picked up until about 24-hours later. This gives rodents a food source for way too long. A possible solution is to change the pickup day from Sunday to Saturday year round with pickup beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m. or later. Put out carts a couple of hours earlier, add second carts, or have an additional pickup for recycling. The pros are no overflowing garbage carts, no trash bags around the garbage carts, no food source for rodents, and when renters check in they will have empty garbage carts. The town will look cleaner. There will be less recyclables in garbage carts, which cost the town money, because the town is charged to dump garbage, but it is not charged to dump recycling. No extra money for garbage pickup, because Sunday pickup would be dropped. At times the sanitation schedule might have to be adjusted and full time residents might have to learn a new schedule. Town workers would have to work later and on Saturday instead of Sunday. More money for additional recycle carts or pickups, if needed. Also, the condos do not have enough recycle carts or have none at all. All condos should be issued recycle carts for the number of units they have. He recently went to a condo that had one recycle cart that belonged to a year-round resident. The renters were trying to put their recyclables in that cart. When the recycle cart was filled; the recyclables were put into the garbage cart. Some bars have few or no recycle carts. Drinks were served in cans or bottles. Mr. Kohlmann asked why it was not mandatory for bars to have recycle carts. (Time ended.) The beach needs to be picked up that day, not 24-hours later.

Mr. Ott, 7th Avenue North, thanked Mr. Magliette for the fine report on WMBF News saying good things about the town. He asked how long the rat situation had been going on; he was embarrassed that it had been going on this long. This should have been taken care of immediately. If you had to bring in the "Pied Piper;" bring him in. Get the rats out of here now. This is the height of our tourist season. This is where our revenue comes from. Let us not have this problem back here next meeting.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

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Mayor Samples said this is the first meeting where all department directors would make their monthly reports at the same meeting.

A. Department Reports.

 i. Fire. Chief Otte presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and made a part hereof by reference.

 Mayor Samples thanked Chief Otte for the report, which was much more thorough with year-to-year comparisons. It had a lot of good information.

ii. **Finance.** Director King presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and made a part hereof by reference. Ms. King explained that the June report would not be finalized until the end of August so that any expenses or revenue for the fiscal year ending 2015 could be booked.

Mayor Samples said that Santee Cooper was scheduled to deliver its franchise check next Wednesday. He asked whether Ms. King projected revenue for the year would be over or under budget. Ms. King said revenue is currently \$72,000 ahead, and she expects around another \$100,000 to be received. She reminded council that \$300,000 was taken out of general fund and put into capital projects to fund the north end stormwater project, which is the reason expenses were higher than revenue. The project was completed, which was one of the goals. Mayor Samples said that was good news.

iii. Events and Recreation. Supervisor Ellis presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and made a part hereof by reference.

Mr. Childs said the Sunday Serenades have been very successful with between 50 and 60 people attending every week. Every year attendance grows.

Mayor Samples said it was a very nice event that is free and located in the Passive Park next to the library. Mayor Samples said he disliked that name, "Passive Park," and perhaps council would consider changing the name one day. There are quite a few people attending and the music was good.

Mr. Magliette asked if everything was ready for the South Strand Helping Hand Food Drive that begins August 1st. He had flyers to distribute; the event will be published on the town calendar and the website. Drop off locations will be at BI-LO, Piggly Wiggly, the fire station, and town hall. Ms. Ellis said collection bins would be put at each location.

iv. Planning, Building and Zoning. Director Morris presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and made a part hereof by reference. She introduced the new building official, Michael Farria, who came to the town from Horry County.

Mayor Samples said that the strip mall at 779-795 Highway 17 South being demolished was good news. That property was the most commented on "eyesore" on Highway 17 in the town. Mayor Samples asked councilmembers if he was correct in saying that staff had Town Council's full support. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.**

Mayor Samples asked what the next step was toward condemnation. Ms. Morris said a summons would be issued each day that the building was not removed. Chief Otte will be working with the process as he wrote the initial condemnation order. She understood that additional charges were made by the police department, which also requires new summons by her department. They were in contact with Mr. Lennon, the owner, who has an attorney.

Mr. Stevens knows Mr. Farria. The town got an excellent employee. Mr. Farria was an asset to the county and he will be an asset to the town.

v. Police. Chief Keziah presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and made a part hereof by reference.

Ms. Mabry said the town seems to have many drug-related arrests, and asked how the department benefited from seizing drug paraphernalia. Chief Keziah said all of the paraphernalia was destroyed, but the department did receive cash seized through the court process. Ms. Mabry asked if a report was available at the end of the year. Chief Keziah said the Drug Enforcement Unit generally distributes the money in October; a report will be made once any funds were received.

Mr. Stevens was not surprised that Lieutenant Hofmann was recognized by the Optimist Club. He said that Lieutenant Hofmann was one of the main teachers in the Citizens Police Academy, and he was very good at his job. Mr. Stevens commended Chief Keziah, Captain Miller, and Lieutenant Hofmann for the work they did on the academy.

Mayor Samples said that Lieutenant Hofmann did a media spot recently that talked about how tough the town's police department is on "the bad guys who are drug offenders." A constituent misunderstood the report and concluded that the drug problem was bad in town. Mayor Samples said drugs are everywhere. The fact is that the town's police officers work to encourage those people carrying drugs to drive outside of the town's limits as they head north and south. The town has tools in place to take care of business.

Mr. Magliette had received several calls about public intoxication on the beach. He was on the beach at 4th Avenue North on July 4th where several people were intoxicated. He knew it was July 4th and many tourists were in town. He asked if Chief Keziah could comment. Chief Keziah said the data would not break out where intoxicated persons were ticketed. He suggested beach patrons contact the beach patrol officers or a lifeguard when there is a problem.

Mr. Childs said a beach patrol officer recently wrote a citation for drinking beer on the beach. They are aware of the problem.

vi. Public Works. Director Adair presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and made a part hereof by reference.

Mr. Childs asked since the fall season was approaching and parking was eliminated along Ocean Boulevard, if public works could start sodding where cars have destroyed the grass. Mr. Adair said absolutely. Staff has an opportunity now to improve those areas.

C. Administrator's Report. Ms. Fellner reported the following updates:

Special Clinic Arrangements.

Ms. Messall and she visited the Myrtle Beach clinic last week and met with Coleman Randle their Director of HR to discuss the logistics of their clinic. He could not answer a number of questions regarding the finances. A follow-up meeting with the chief financial official will be scheduled for additional information. They will also be meeting with the town's provider to see what discounts, if any, are available for special clinic arrangements. Ms. Fellner will, of course, be bringing this information forward to the finance focus group, if it is determined that any economies can be realized.

New Town Website.

The new town website was activated late Wednesday afternoon. This has been almost a year-long project. Ms. Fellner thanked Ms. Messall for her assistance with all the logistics. The new site renders on all devices and is far more interactive than the old site. The public can now report potholes online, signup for rollouts, etc. She encouraged the public to begin using the site and to email any input to the individual department directors as they now manage their own pages.

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<u>Traffic Safety Instructor Designation.</u>

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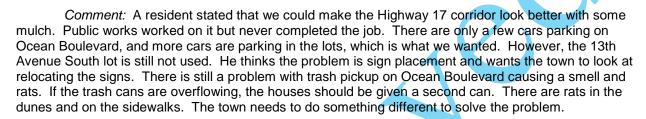
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Congratulations to Chief Keziah who was awarded the designation of a TSI (Traffic Safety Instructor) at the State Awards Ceremony for efforts in Traffic Safety last week. Out of over 12,000 certified law enforcement officers in the state. Chief Keziah is now one of only 50 officers who have received this award. The award recognizes state instructors who have been trained to instruct other officers specifically in the area of traffic safety. Those who receive this designation must have undergone numerous hours of specialized instructor and collision reconstruction training and be certified as a state collision reconstructionist.

Consensus Items.

There were no consensus items for this meeting.

Responses to Questions from Public.



Response: With regard to the mulch, the resident is correct, only one bed was completed. Unfortunately other projects were given a higher priority. Concerning the rats and garbage there are a number of strategies we are using to approach the problem. Currently we have authorized baiting and this is being done by Lane's. In addition, we are carefully watching the overflow of garbage in the R3 district and issuing an additional can after more than one instance. We have also sent a letter to all of the commercial customers in the R3 district specifically outlining their responsibilities and noting that, henceforth, enforcement will be zealous. We have looked at changing to a Saturday pickup and also at adding an additional pickup and are still awaiting pricing from a private hauler. We are also looking into other strategies to help combat the problem. The most promising of these to date is a program facilitated by DHEC involving the controlled introduction of feral, neutered, vaccinated and tagged felines into problem areas. This includes a cooperative maintenance and feeding program. Myrtle Beach and some of the islands around Charleston have successfully used this strategy within the last five years. After the introduction of approximately 20 program cats in Myrtle Beach, DHEC complaints regarding rats went from a 2-inch stack per year to being virtually nonexistent. Some benefits feral cats provide include the following: they can minimize rodent problems while being the "green" alternative to pest control. While they cannot hunt rats and mice into extinction, cats keep their populations in check and discourage new rodents from moving into the area. Most feral cats, however, cannot survive for long by hunting alone and without assistance from caretakers their lifespan is roughly two years as they would naturally succumb to starvation, disease, or be killed by predators. While some people feel that cats (feral or domestic) attract rodents because of uneaten cat food, the opposite is true. Rodents prefer to stay clear of cats and other predators. Rats and mice generally gravitate to fields containing smaller rodents, reptiles and insects, as well as dumpster areas with access to discarded food. Cat food is not the culprit in attracting rodents. In fact, many restaurants and businesses where dumpsters and other rodent food sources are available accommodate and manage feral colonies simply for rodent control. An established, vaccinated, and sterilized colony of feral cats will also deter other stray and feral cats from moving into the area. This actually decreases the chances that people will encounter an unvaccinated cat, and will virtually eliminate problem behaviors like fighting, yowling, spraying and roaming.

Comment: A resident stated that they were walking on Ocean Boulevard on Friday night, and it smelled like dirty diapers. A statement was also made that there were rats and that the situation is not good for tourists arriving on Saturday.

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Response: Ms. Fellner said the rat situation was addressed in the response to the prior question and it will be addressed sanitation, in general, tonight under discussion.

Comment: Another resident stated there are rats and that the problem is that we have department heads that do not live in town and leave Friday and don't return until Monday. The resident asked that we please not cut the residents short and listen to them as they know what is going on in town.

Response: Ms. Fellner said the response is the same as the prior question.

7. BUSINESS

A. First Second Reading Ordinance #15-0807 to amend §6-28, §12-23(b), §7-62(b), §7-91(e)(2), §7-99, §9-16(4), §12-62 to properly reflect responsible staff; to clarify long-standing codes, and to repeal §12-86 Registration of sailboats, Administrator Fellner.

Mayor Samples asked if Town Council wished to address the codes separately or as a whole.

Mr. Childs said the only section in question was 9-16-(4) *Beach access parking*. New language was submitted by the parking committee, which had a subsequent revision to clarify that those with parking decals on their golf carts may continue to park at pay station lots and metered spaces pursuant to other paragraphs in Section 9-16. Draft copies with the exceptions noted were placed on the dais for each member at the beginning of this meeting. In his opinion, the ordinance could be addressed as a whole.

Mr. Childs moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #15-0807. Mr. Stevens seconded. Mayor Samples asked if the updated ordinance would be published for the public. Ms. Herrmann said it would be added to the website. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Copies of the decision paper and ordinance are on file.

B. Parking Committee Recommendations, Councilmember Childs, Committee Liaison.

Mr. Childs said one of the issues the committee took up was the issue about beach access parking. He introduced Parking Committee Chairman Harry Kohlmann and asked him to present the decision paper, a copy of which is on file.

Mr. Childs moved suspend the rules to allow discussion. Mr. Stevens seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Kohlmann presented the following recommendations:

1. Establish one Ten (10) minute only parking space on Surfside Drive.

Members of council were approached by a store owner on Surfside Drive who requested a short term parking space with a maximum of 10 minutes parking allowed so that customers would be able to pick up and drop off merchandise on Surfside Drive. Presently there are a limited amount of parking spaces (26) along Surfside Drive including four handicap spaces. Parking is at a premium and sometimes it is hard to find a space to pick up merchandise since spaces are used for lengthy times because of people dining at the various restaurants and bars in the area. The parking committee spoke to 90-percent of the businesses on Surfside Drive. All of whom stated that they would not have a problem with one (1) designated space for short term parking. Some even stated that it could help them on pick up orders called in. There was not one negative reaction to the suggestion.

Mr. Johnson asked if the limited time space was for one or all the businesses. Mayor Samples said it would be for all business patrons' use, but it would be close to the dry cleaners. Mr. Kohlmann

said during business hours, the cleaners plan to monitor the space to report anyone parked there for a long time. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.**

2. Relocate Value Parking Signs.

Presently there are Value Parking directional signs located at 16th Avenue North and Ocean Boulevard, 5th Avenue North and Ocean Boulevard, and at Melody Lane and Ocean Boulevard. The parking committee agrees with using signs to help increase parkers at 13th Avenue North parking lot. The sign at 16th Avenue North and Ocean Boulevard is next to a parking lot which struggles to attract parkers. The sign at 5th Avenue North and Ocean Boulevard is a half a block from the new parking lot that the town just constructed at 4th Avenue North and Ocean Boulevard. The parking committee feels that this was not very well planned out and will adversely affect the amount of parkers utilizing these parking lots. The parking committee recommends that the Value Parking directional signs be repositioned to the southwest corner of Surfside Drive and Ocean Boulevard. A sign is already at 10th Avenue South and Ocean Boulevard, but he had not seen it even though he passes that intersection frequently.

Mayor Samples thought there were enough signs on Surfside Drive. He suggested placing the value parking sign in the Yaupon Drive parking lot. Mr. Pellegrino thought the pier is the first lot visitors checked, so overflow could be directed to 13th Avenue South. Mr. Childs supported the recommendation to remove the sign at 16th Avenue North. He agreed with the chairman's recommendation to place it at the pier lot. Mr. Kohlmann said near the southwest corner. Mayor Samples said since the council was involving itself in this level of details, i.e. micromanaging, council should do it right. Mr. Childs said the Yaupon lot was a good suggestion. **COUNCIL CONCURRED to move the value parking sign from 16th Avenue North and place it at the Yaupon Parking Lot.**

3. Establish three parking spaces on Floral Drive North.

Mr. Kohlmann said since a parking space was being limited to 10 minute parking on Surfside Drive, the committee unanimously recommended creating at least three (3) new parking spaces on the east side of Floral Drive North, which is 19-feet wide.

Mr. Childs said that Chief Otte opposes any parking on Floral Drive North, because it is not wide enough to accommodate parking and allow safe passage for the town's fire apparatus. Mayor Samples recalled that 20- or 21-feet was the minimum road width allowed. Mr. Adair said that Floral Drive North is actually 18-feet wide, but the town has a 25-foot right of way. Therefore, this recommendation was withdrawn.

4. <u>Directional Pavement Markings at 1st and 2nd Avenues North.</u>

Mr. Kohlmann said for some reason drivers are not obeying the directional signs. There was a unanimous recommendation to add directional pavement marking arrows at 1st and 2nd Avenues South.

Mr. Childs said one way arrows were discussed a short time ago. The police chief assured him that the area would be monitored for offenders before any additional arrows were placed on the street. This recommendation can be revisited at a later date, if necessary.

Ms. Mabry said she said she had done the same thing. After driving a road for so many years, even with the big sign, it was easy to go wrong way, because it was habit. She was sure if she received a ticket, she would remember. But, part of the problem is that we drive on automatic pilot, especially when you have lived here for any length of time. Over the years, it will change, but it will not change overnight.

Mr. Childs said if Mr. Kohlmann would agree, he would like for this issue to be revisited after the chief has time to monitor the area. Mr. Kohlmann said that was fine.

Mr. Childs moved to reconvene regular session. Mr. Johnson seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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Mr. Childs moved to adopt parking committee recommendations as concurred to during discussion, i.e. establish one ten (10) minute only parking space on Surfside Drive and move the value parking sign from 16th Avenue North and place it at the Yaupon Parking Lot. Mr. Pellegrino seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mayor Samples asked if these recommendations required a second reading. Ms. Fellner said no.

C. Town Tourism Brochure for Local Businesses, Councilmember Magliette.

Mr. Magliette said wanted to present a budget amendment for \$1,500 so the town could print additional brochures that focus on town businesses, and do a pilot program with brochures and place laminated maps at town hall, the pier, and the library to draw attention to the brochures. The plan is to deliver 25 copies to 62 town businesses. He and volunteers would deliver the brochures and follow-up after 10 days to see whether they were taken by the business patrons. The peak season is only 14 weeks, which is about 100 days. This is not a large amount of money, but would be an invaluable resource and value for the town's businesses. It is a wonderful way to promote the town's businesses and introduce our quests to the town's amenities.

Mr. Johnson moved to suspend the rules to allow discussion. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Childs said the town pays the Chamber of Commerce \$150,000 a year. He thought this type expenditure would be covered under that allocation. He asked who would deliver these maps and brochures.

Mr. Magliette said since it was a small experiment, he and a few volunteers would deliver them. There would be no cost to the town. Ms. Fellner advised him that the brochures were printed using accommodations tax funds, and there was a limit that could be utilized locally, because they are designed for out-of-market delivery. There are no resources to print additional copies.

Mr. Childs thought if the map were put in the visitors center in town hall, in the real estate packets, and delivered to the Chamber that was sufficient for distribution. Restaurants and businesses often do not have any counter space for additional brochures or maps. How would the brochures be monitored; do they need more? Printing is expensive and he would prefer to wait until the visioning meeting to discuss this.

Ms. Mabry said Ms. Creel from the Chamber said she would like to have some town brochures. The Chamber distributes information to the local areas and refills the racks. If handled through the Chamber, the brochures would be an accommodation tax expenditure, because they distribute to areas where they get the most out of town people. Ms. Mabry had no problem giving the brochures to the Chamber, because it knows where they were distributed and what the success rate is going to be. Ms. Mabry thought Mr. Magliette had a wonderful idea of making sure the brochures were distributed, but she thought the Chamber of Commerce should handle it.

Mayor Samples asked if two different things were being discussed. He remembers clearly a statement about laminating a map, and also brochures. He could understand where a laminated map would be beneficial for some businesses. The other brochures are already printed and there are thousands of them available. What would the \$1,500 pay for? Ms. Fellner said the brochures ran out last year. The brochures have to be distributed out-of-market to qualify for accommodations tax funding, because they are printed using accommodations tax money. There are no extra brochures. Ms. Fellner explained that when she first began there 100 thousand brochures printed, which did not make sense, because information changes every year. Now, only the number expected to be used are printed. Usually, the brochures run out about two weeks before the new brochures are delivered.

Mr. Magliette attended the business committee meeting for Mr. Stevens when he was at the Municipal Association Summer Meeting. The committee embraced the brochure distribution program.

Mr. Magliette visited 12 businesses and they all were interested in having brochures. One of them did not know the brochure existed even though his business was listed in it. The town does not do a good job promoting its local businesses. There is no welcome packet for new residents, day trippers, overnight guests, and others who would benefit from the brochures. Realty companies and the hotels could place them in their lobbies or rooms so people would know about the town's wonderful restaurants, amusements, and shopping venues. Mr. Magliette said, "If we can't spend \$1,500 to promote 62 businesses in this town, then there is something really wrong with the view. The view is our job is to promote local businesses and provide that information to our tourists, and our residents in town."

Mr. Pellegrino agreed with Mr. Magliette. He asked whether [\$1,500] was enough. Council continually discusses promoting town businesses, but really did not invest in that effort. The Chamber of Commerce is a great organization, but it promotes the Grand Strand, which does not necessarily promote our local businesses. He did not understand why it was being discussed; \$1,500 was a small amount of money. Mr. Pellegrino said council should just move forward.

Mr. Stevens concurred with Mr. Magliette and Mr. Pellegrino. The bigger picture was to promote Surfside Beach businesses. That was what brought in revenue for the town and keeps our taxes down. We need to be proactive and actively promote businesses so the businesses in town can be successful. Everything we do to help them make money is an added value. We have to get off this non-promotion of business and get on promoting businesses. It was time to "step up to the pump and do it."

Mr. Johnson was not against promoting businesses. As a small business owner, any publicity was good publicity. He was asked if there were any brochures on hand now that could be used. Ms. Fellner said yes, but they were paid for with accommodation money. Mr. Johnson asked if the brochures could be printed quickly enough for distribution. During the fall, many businesses close for the season. He was concerned that brochures printed now would be outdated before they were used in the spring. Ms. Fellner estimated three to four weeks to get the brochures printed; it would depend on the printer's schedule.

Ms. Mabry said \$1,500 was not an issue. She did not mind anytime the town promoted its businesses. She wanted to make sure that everyone understood that the town does promote its businesses. She cited these examples:

- Established the Business Committee and Town Council works closely to promote all its efforts;
- Established an Overlay District to ensure the town is well kept, and designed to attract businesses;
- Businesses that violate health codes and ordinances are summonsed to protect surrounding businesses:
- The town is more active in the Chamber than it has ever been before promoting our businesses and promoting the town;
- Each business that has a website has a link on the town website, if they so choose, to promote their business;
- Each business that is linked to the town is also linked to the Chamber of Commerce. The web links are free to anyone that has a town business license;
- The Fire Department achieved an ISO 1 rating, which directly affects businesses insurance premiums with a substantial reduction;
- A crime prevention and landscape program was adopted (CPTED Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) in which both the police chief and planning director are certified. Either of them will go to any business free of charge to help them prevent crime through landscape design. Very few towns in the State of South Carolina offer this service;
- The town has a response time of less than 5-minutes for any business, as a general rule;
 The town police regularly performs "keep check" for all businesses;
- There is an "Open for Business" booklet that will walk every new business through the steps necessary to start a business;

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- The town performs as many free on-site visits as it takes to make sure a new business is successful and opens with as few headaches as possible;
- The town has a mapping department that ensures town businesses can be found on Google Earth; you can also view surrounding buildings, and the empty buildings have a red line around them.

Ms. Mabry said the town is proactive. She cannot think of another town that offers as much as Surfside Beach. The town's planner spends a great deal of time trying to entice new businesses to come into town. To say that the town has not done anything or that the town has not "stepped up to the pump" is not so. The town goes out of its way every single day to promote our businesses in every way that we can. We do big things, not small things; big things. Ms. Mabry said she would take exception when somebody said we did not promote businesses in Surfside Beach.

Mr. Childs moved to reconvene regular session. Mr. Johnson seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

- Mr. Magliette moved to amend the budget to fund \$1,500 to print brochures and laminate tour guide maps. Mr. Stevens seconded.
- Mr. Pellegrino thanked Ms. Mabry for the information about the town's efforts to promote businesses. This discussion was all about marketing, because the public just does not know about the services. Mr. Pellegrino said that information needs to be publicized, because they are great services. Any effort the town can take to market itself is positive.

Mayor Samples explained that the town was prohibited from using accommodations tax money for this proposal, because the brochures and maps will be distributed locally, which was why it requires a budget amendment.

- Mr. Childs asked if they would be out-of-market if the Chamber distributed them. Mayor Samples said not necessarily, his only knowledge was that he, Mr. Childs, and Mr. Ott attended a Durham Bulls ballgame in North Carolina for "Surfside Beach Day," where they distributed boxes and boxes of literature at the gate. That is how the state law works with accommodations tax money.
- Mr. Stevens said Surfside Beach is a year-round resort now. People come during all months of the year; some stay for as many as two months at the time. Any money the town can spend to promote its businesses will potentially add to the town's bottom line through hospitality and accommodations taxes paid, because the business makes more money.

All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Motion or Direction to Town Administrator regarding Executive Session held July 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss the proposed sale or purchase of property.

Ms. Mabry moved to direct the town administrator to execute the closing documents to purchase Lots A, B, and C, Block 5, Ocean Terrace Section. These lots are identified as TMS #195-03-041-031; #195-03-041-032, and #195-03-041-018. The cost to the town for the three lots for the purchase of these lots total \$330,000 to be paid for using a portion of the existing land fund that is generated by parking revenues. The property is commonly known as the corner of 3rd Avenue South and Willow Drive South, and is associated with the Ark Plantation, which is of historic importance and beauty to the community. Mr. Childs seconded.

Mayor Samples asked if everybody knew where the old oak trees are. The town has talked about purchasing this property for years and years. We are going to buy it.

Ms. Mabry was so proud to purchase this property. This is the homestead for the Ark Plantation that was established in the 1700's. The town is very proud to own this historical site. There are many plans for improving the land, including historical markers, and creating spaces that the public will enjoy. She hoped that everyone appreciates and enjoys the purchase. Funds to purchase the lots came from the land acquisition fund which is funded by a portion of the meter revenue.

Mr. Pellegrino thought the lots were great, and the trees were beautiful. But, he thought the agreed upon price was too much.

Mr. Magliette suggested that the town seek grants from Horry County to help improve the property since it was formerly a plantation and slave cemetery. The town wants to honor those people. It does not hurt to request help.

Mayor Samples thought once the county officials saw that the town purchased the property, they would be willing to participate. Applications will also be submitted to other agencies for assistance where there are grant opportunities.

Mr. Stevens hoped this proves to be a piece of history that Surfside Beach can hold on to and that will benefit every citizen. He called for the vote.

Mayor Samples, and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, Magliette, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. Sanitation, Mayor Samples.

Mayor Samples said any time there is what is perceived to be a public health issue, this town is very concerned. Town Council needs the facts. He believed there were two issues: one is an aesthetic issue created by trash cans along Ocean Boulevard; the second relates to vermin. He knows staff has discussed the issue with DHEC staff, because DHEC is responsible for keeping people in the State of South Carolina safe. They have encountered this problem before. The alternatives and solutions that DHEC proposes may not be what people expect, but they are the experts. Mayor Samples asked councilmembers for any introductory comments, and cautioned members against "beating up on public works."

Mr. Stevens asked which days summer service was done. Mr. Adair responding by asking him to be allowed to give the general schedule sanitation service:

- Monday north side of town is picked up
- Tuesday south side of town is picked up
- Wednesday, Friday and Sunday Beach route, summer service in the R-3 District
- Thursday recycling town wide
- Saturday no pickups, except for commercial service

Mr. Adair said discussions have been held for years about adding service, but staff cannot pick up trash on Saturday and Sunday, because the Horry County Landfill closes at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. There is nowhere to dump the garbage picked up on Saturday so another load can be collected on Sunday. On Monday mornings, the trucks are taken to the landfill to dump before Monday collections begin. Switching from Sunday to Saturday is a possibility. The challenge is to determine when to collect trash: after cans are loaded by departing guests, after the cleaning crews have discarded cleaning debris, but before visitors check in. There are times certain ranging between nine o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon. It was important to set the collection time to ensure everyone had an empty can when they arrived. Rollout service begins as many as four hours before the collection begins. Rollback takes about the same amount of time after the collection is finished. It takes about 12 hours to complete the collection. Mayor Samples had asked Mr. Adair to contact Waste Industries for a quote to

perform a Saturday pickup. He had done so, but it had not arrived. Staff would continue the Sunday collection. The beach is collected seven days a week during the summer. Sanitation tonnages for commercial and residential are up about 20-percent over last year. He realizes that dumpster were an important factor. Letters were sent today to all condominiums on Ocean Boulevard that have dumpster service advising them of their responsibility to clean the dumpster areas. The letter cited the ordinances that state it is the property owners' responsibility. Summonses will be issued to those who do not comply. Mr. Adair said the town cannot be lenient when public health is concerned.

Mr. Adair said several complaints about rats were received last year. This year, complaints began early. Some exterminating companies were contacted, and six beach accesses were baited for rats: Melody Lane and 16th Avenue South, where most of the sightings occurred; 13th Avenue South; 6th Avenue South; 3rd Avenue North, and 6th Avenue North. Based on staffs' observations, rodents are usually at the busier parking lots, which accounts for the baiting locations and more baiting traps may be necessary. The exterminator recommended year-round maintenance, because rodents do not hibernate and they are rapid breeders. A one-year agreement was signed with Lanes Pest Control to bait the six locations.

Mr. Adair said when the trash was rolled out, staff makes notes of locations where overflow is found. Overflow is not when the can lid is up and things are showing at the top. Overflow is when there are bags of trash that will not fit into the cans. Their reports are brought to the sanitation office. If it was the first overflow incident, nothing was done. If it was a second event, then immediately an additional rollout can was issued to that address. Saturday two weeks ago, there were 21 addresses recorded. Mr. Adair said this past Saturday, there were 45 cases of overflow. Clearly, the town is very, very busy. Of those 45 noted last Saturday, any that had a second incident will receive another cart. This year there are 59 doubles, which is more than double the amount issued last year.

Mayor Samples said there are over 1,000 customers in the R-3 rental district; 559 of those customers have three times a week rollout service. Of that group, between 10- and 15-percent have multiple carts. The reason they all do not have multiple carts is we charge them for the additional service.

Mr. Childs said years ago he asked that two cans be placed at many locations. In the town's ordinance states that it is at the discretion of the sanitation supervisor where he sees a need. Mr. Adair said that was exactly what staff was doing; adding carts when it was a second event of overflowing trash.

Mayor Samples said Town Council could make a policy decision that one event requires a second cart, if it chose to do so. Mr. Adair said each cart is about \$77 per month.

Ms. Mabry talked with two rental agents and both agreed that each house in the R-3 rental district needs two trash cans. Clearly, it was unfair to charge two trash cans in the winter months or shoulder season. The town could negotiate that so the cans were paid for four months of the year, and not the others. It does not matter whether you rent the home or not. If you have a six bedroom house, it is about how much trash is generated. Quite frankly, if she had a beach house and her immediate family came, there would be 22 people there. One trash can would not be enough. There has to be a cost effective way that would not punish the rental district, but they need two trash cans. You do not know if that family of four will turn into 22 people. There is no way to predict how many people will be in the houses.

Mr. Adair said the second cans were collected at the end of the summer. He said a possible strategy could be comparing historical records to determine who needs a second can at the beginning of the summer. There is just no way to predict overflow. A house with 10 or 12 guests this week might have 20 guests next week.

Mr. Pellegrino asked if the overflow problem was generally on Saturdays when people clean out the houses. Mr. Adair counted eight or nine cans with overflow last Tuesday night after the stormwater meeting. It depends on the habits of the tenants.

Mayor Samples said the problem needed to be solved. He asked how much 500 more carts would cost. Mr. Adair said if carts were issued to everyone, 300 to 400 more carts would be needed. The cost would be about \$30,000. Mayor Samples asked how long a cart lasted. Mr. Adair said easily up to ten years, which helps offset the cost. Staff time would increase for the additional rollout service and the collection service. Some staff is working six days a week; four hours one day, and four hours another day to avoid overtime. Mayor Samples asked if it was time to increase sanitation. Mr. Adair said if a Saturday service in-house is added, then another person would be necessary. With the current schedules, he believe staff could manage.

Mr. Pellegrino said it was good that Lanes was contracted to bait the rats. He believed council needed to leave the meeting with a consensus that the trash collection in the R-3 would be changed from Sunday to Saturday later in the day but still allow collection to be completed, or contract with a private firm to perform the Saturday trash collection, for which council needs the price. Something needs to be done quickly, if there is an infestation the rats need to have their food source eliminated.

Mayor Samples thought Mr. Pellegrino summed up the consensus items very well.

Mr. Johnson agreed. Action needs to be taken now. He would like to have the costs from the private contractor. That would change the whole mindset. Mr. Adair said those numbers would be available in a few days. If the collection is changed to Saturday, then both of the other collection days have to be changed. Instead of Wednesday-Friday-Sunday, the collection days would be Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday schedule. That would also change the south end trash collection from Tuesday to Wednesday, and town-wide recycling would change from Thursday to Friday. Mr. Adair said cost would be incurred for new can stickers and notification to residents.

Mayor Samples said they did not want to turn the town upside down, but they did want to solve the problem. He agreed, for the reasons that were stated earlier, the dump is not open on Sunday and closes at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, we do not want the garbage sitting in the town trucks, because that would create complaints from Caropines neighbors and also attract vermin to their neighborhood.

Ms. Mabry said people are saying that Town Council will receive many phone calls, because four months out of the year these will have to have two trash cans. That is \$308 for four months. She hated it, but somebody had to pay the cost. She said, "We are certainly able to do that also, but we can't, I can guarantee you it's gonna cost a fortune to have these people come in every single week." They start cleaning the house after ten; they do not have to leave before ten. Check in is not until four o'clock, unless they get special permission. She spoke with two cleaning companies that work on the beach. Sometimes they are still cleaning at four in the afternoon; not often, but they do. When would the trash be picked up? Now, trash would have to be picked up after four o'clock, because it could not be rolled out until after all the people leave. Two trash cans could do the same thing. Mr. Adair said that point was made earlier; spending \$30,000 on additional cans may in the long run actually be cheaper than contracting out the service. He just need to get the quotes.

Mr. Magliette asked if there was any to negotiate with Horry County to keep the landfill open later on Saturdays. Mr. Adair did not think they wanted to pay staff for one municipality to dump two trucks. Mr. Magliette could not believe that the town was the only municipality with this problem. Mr. Adair said he would inquire about it. Mr. Magliette asked if the blue trash cans at the beach could have lids attached that would automatically close, which would deprive access by rats. He asked if larger containers for trash and recycling could be purchased with auto-closing lids. Mr. Adair said those would good points, and he would check the options. The cans cost about \$65 each, so there would be cost involved. Mr. Magliette said it was also a quality of life issue. The town wants to give excellent customer service to our tourists. If money had to be spent to provide quality service, then that was what had to be done.

Mr. Stevens asked how other towns handle trash overflow. Mr. Adair said all the coastal towns were busy during the summer. The Cities of Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach had their own transfer stations. The private hauling companies run into the same problems that the town does with Saturday and Sunday dumping. Mr. Stevens was concerned with the primary season, the 100 days from Memorial

Day to Labor Day, when the most revenue was made. He wanted to be sure the town did not have trash piled up that would cause visitors to go other places. In his opinion, the most important issue was how to take care of the trash collection during this period of time. Mayor Samples asked what Mr. Stevens suggested specifically related to sanitation. He wanted to focus on that, because everyone had grandstanded. Mr. Stevens said the council had to do something.

Mr. Childs was sure some vendor had trash cans with spring loaded lids that could be used on the beach. Mayor Samples said that was a good idea and would be good for the beach. Mr. Adair said research would be done.

Mr. Pellegrino asked how many spare cans were on hand. Mr. Adair said 100 to 200. Mr. Pellegrino asked how long delivery would take if more cans were ordered. Mr. Adair said three to four months. Mr. Pellegrino said ordering cans was not an option for this summer, but the cans on hand should be delivered to the worst cases.

Mayor Samples currently there are 59 houses with two cans. Another 100 cans would make a big dent. He said this issue would have to be revisited at the vision meeting.

Mayor Samples asked if Town Council was prepared to change the town's collection schedule, which would impact every collection day except Monday. The change would not occur quickly, because a plan had to be developed and notices would have to be given.

Mr. Pellegrino agreed with Mayor Samples, but said something needed to be done quickly, which was why a contractor was reasonable. Mayor Samples said that was why he asked Ms. Fellner and Mr. Adair two weeks ago to contact a private hauler. Mr. Pellegrino said that last summer there was the same problem with rats. This was the excuse last summer; it changes the "whole world" if you have to reschedule everything. The town has a problem, and it has to do something.

Mr. Johnson asked if some of the extra carts could be put in service immediately. He did not know whether the resident would have to be charged at this point, because it did seem to be an emergency situation. Mr. Johnson asked what would do to staff. Mr. Adair said it would take longer to do the rollouts, and roll in. He was concerned about the ordinance that requires a charge for additional carts.

Mr. Stevens asked if any there was any other site, other than the county landfill, where the trucks could be dumped. Mr. Adair said no. Mayor Samples said that the Flow Control question was decided years ago by the people of Horry by vote.

Ms. Mabry said the town does not have a rat infested beach. She wanted to make sure that everyone understood that there is a colony that lives between 15th and probably north Garden City. Perhaps if the extra 100 trash cans were distributed on the south end, because there is an issue there, [it would help.] There is also education, there is monitoring, and there is a working cat program. There were 20 cats put in Myrtle Beach, but only four cats would be put in Surfside Beach. The cats were neutered, spayed, tagged, and live the life. Houses would be provided for them, in addition to food and water. Ms. Mabry was concerned about using any type poison, because it would also kill birds and could be a libelous situation. The mayor tasked councilmembers to come up with ideas. After looking at programs all over Florida and South Carolina, Ms. Mabry said tips on keeping the beach clean would be an education effort that is low cost. There were many programs that could be implemented that are very cost effective. Please, no one in this room should think that the town's beach is not absolutely pristine. Yes, there is a colony, and the town would take care of it.

Mr. Childs said a DHEC employee called him, because a resident complained that there was a rat. She told him that at one time Myrtle Beach had a problem, and did not want to use poison because of the birds, squirrels, and other wildlife. Using box traps was a logistic problem, because of collecting the rats from the traps. An article was written by a mayor's wife on one of the islands off Charleston about how they used feral cats to solve their problem. Myrtle Beach's problem has gone down to almost zero. He knew personally about its rat problem, because he used to stay in Myrtle Beach when he visited.

DHEC will not bring in a truck and let 100 cats jump out; it is a controlled program that has worked in other places. Mr. Childs asked why the town would reinvent the wheel and spend a fortune with an exterminator when this is a proven option. DHEC can provide all the details, and he thought the town should try it. Mayor Samples agreed with Mr. Childs.

Mr. Magliette said a stop-gap is needed. Something needs to be done for the remainder of the season. He believed someone suggested a contractor for a Saturday pickup. If that was what needed to be do, he supported moving forward. He agreed with Mr. Pellegrino, that an action plan had to be made tonight.

Mr. Pellegrino also agreed with Mr. Magliette.

Mayor Samples agreed and said the cost was unknown. Generally Waste Industries would do whatever they were paid to do. He thought there were two issues, but they were related. One was the aesthetics of Ocean Boulevard. Just hire someone to pick up trash an extra day. The other issue was the rodents. Nature would addressed that. He liked the suggestion to use DHEC.

Mr. Pellegrino asked if council would concur to move forward with an extra collection day on Saturday for the remainder of this rental season, even though costs was not yet available. Ms. Fellner estimated cost would be 500 cans at \$80 each. Mr. Adair said the contractor would charge less if staff performed roll out and roll in service, but that would incur some staff overtime.

Mayor Samples said temporary staff might be needed, and called for concurrence. Ms. Mabry said she objected, because the price was not available. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.**

Mr. Adair noted that the town is the only entity authorized to pick up trash in the town's corporate limits. That would need to be overcome in some fashion. Mayor Samples said a special meeting could be held to adopt a resolution. Mr. Adair said sometimes there is an emergency health order that can be issued. Ms. Fellner said it was an ordinance, and a resolution would not override the ordinance. Mayor Samples said a resolution was adopted to allow horses on the beach. Ms. Fellner said another issue was the fee structure. If the fees are changed to the customers that is a "big deal," and requires public notice. Mayor Samples said the fees were not being changed. No one has discussed changing fees. The discussion was about adding a contract. Ms. Fellner said if an extra service day was added, the customers would be billed for that, unless the town pays the costs.

Mr. Magliette said the town was going to pay for the extra pickup for six weeks. Mayor Samples said using the same logic that this was an emergency, he said, "As a public health issue, and if we're going to use the same logic that it is an emergency, for six weeks we are going to have [the trash] picked up to mitigate that emergency." That is only one piece of this consensus.

Ms. Mabry said Ms. Fellner was trying to determine a price. Mayor Samples said it would be \$45,000. Ms. Fellner said it might be as much as \$55,000. Mayor Samples said the town would try it. This year the extra service would be gratis. If the people like it, great; they can pay for it.

Mayor Samples asked Ms. Fellner to discuss bringing in DHEC regarding the rats. Ms. Fellner had a number of conversations with DHEC. Today she spoke with Ms. Blair and she was given the go-ahead should the town want to engage DHEC as the facilitator for a feral program. Mayor Samples said that was all the town needed to do then. That is the item for consensus. **COUNCIL CONCURRED TO HAVE MS. BLAIR FROM DHEC ACT AS THE FERAL CAT PROGRAM FACILITATOR.**

Mayor Samples asked if there were any other solutions or items to be discussed to address this sanitation "emergency."

Ms. Mabry said she and Mr. Adair had discussed education. Without education, all the efforts taken will be worthless. Education and monitoring are really, really important. She hoped that a plan would be developed. There are several plans on the Internet. One was "Please just leave your

footprints," and there are dozens of other plans. We have to get the word out that we will not tolerate [trashing the beach] and we will educate you at the same time. Mr. Adair said education is a component of this that had not been discussed. Most people were here to have a good time, and were not thinking about what they were leaving on the ground. He suggested sending letters to the R-3 district customers advising on keeping a clean environment in and around their property. Mayor Samples agreed and asked whether all members supported providing education. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.** Ms. Fellner said brochures could be developed for the guests, since they are the ones that leave trash all over.

Mayor Samples said Town Council was taking steps; gathering information, and would learn from this. DHEC will be involved, the baiting will continue. Ms. Fellner said baiting may have to cease once the cats arrive.

Mr. Childs said in regard to the education discussion one of the realty companies in town decided to put a map in their tourists' package. Perhaps they would also add a flyer about cleaning up behind themselves. Mr. Adair definitely believed there was a component that needed to be addressed in that fashion.

Mayor Samples said that they have been successful increasing the level of town's business; it was not just the economy coming back. The town looks better. He thought that staff was doing an outstanding job keeping it clean. Some beautification has been done. We are trying to maintain the property that we have in town. The fact is that council has been working together. We are not in the paper or on the television news as an embarrassment. Town Council takes what it does very seriously. Mayor Samples said there were no perfect answers. Council and staff would learn together. If anyone comes up with a better idea, please bring it to council.

Mr. Johnson asked if the sanitation enterprise fund would pay for the extra sanitation service. Mayor Samples said definitely the sanitation enterprise fund.

B. Proposed Golf Cart Operation Ordinance, Chief Keziah

Chief Keziah presented the discussion paper and proposed ordinance, copies of which are on file. South Carolina Code §56-2-105 addresses golf cart operations. When the code was amended last time by the South Carolina Legislature a penalty phase was not adopted. Therefore, he requested that Town Council allow staff to bring an ordinance to mirror state law and add a penalty phase for offenses occurring in the town limits to enable the police officer to effectively control golf cart operations in town.

Mr. Childs asked what codes apply to low speed vehicles. Chief Keziah said there were distinct differences between a low speed vehicles (LSV) and golf carts. Golf carts are commonly referred to as slow speed vehicles. But an LSV has the same rights as a motor vehicle and is required to have a Department of Motor Vehicles LV license plate attached. It must have all the safety features, seat belts, a horn, etc. The proposed ordinance is to address slow speed vehicles and golf carts. Mr. Childs asked if the LSV could travel at nighttime. Chief Keziah said yes. Mr. Johnson believed the LSV code mirrored the golf cart code. Chief Keziah said it that were the case, the LSV had to travel on roads that were 35 miles per hour or less; Highway 17 could be crossed to access other roads, but an LSV cannot drive on Highway 17. Mr. Childs said the proposal was basically what had been done in the past. Chief Keziah said there were no changes other than adding the penalty phase. The proposed penalty phase is less than the original penalty phase in the state law. The ordinance proposes a \$50 fine, plus court costs, which would total \$132 and change.

Mr. Stevens asked if adopting this ordinance would remove a liability that the town has by minors and unlicensed drivers operating golf carts. Chief Keziah said it would help with that. Pawleys Island, Folly Beach, and several other municipalities have reverted to local codes to manage golf cart operations, since the legislature has failed to add a penalty phase in the state code. Mr. Stevens said citizens have complained numerous times during council meetings about minors and unlicensed drivers operating golf carts all over town. In his opinion, adopting this code would keep parents from letting their young, unlicensed minors from driving golf carts, possibly causing accidents with severe injuries. Chief Keziah

said that was correct; it was a safety issue. Officers were currently trying to educate and warn those operating the golf carts illegally, but there was no enforcement mechanism if the operators failed to comply. Mr. Stevens said proof of liability insurance was necessary just as when a car was driving, and without that insurance, a fine could be imposed. Chief Keziah said that was correct.

Chief Keziah was directed to bring the proposed ordinance for first reading.

C. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

There were no other matters to be discussed.

9. <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.</u> (5-minutes per speaker)

Mr. Ron Ott, 7th Avenue North, said the sanitation debate was very good. It was to the point and showed that our council can do that very well. He enjoyed it. There were many choices made; good job on that. After watching Mr. Magliette's WMBF television report, he saw a marketing [opportunity] like when you enter a mall and see the information boards that state "you are here" and lists all the stores. The town's brochures would enable the tourists to go find the stores in town. We want to target the tourists so they know where to go buy a t-shirt. He was very proud that Town Council purchased the historical lots. He suggested turning it over to the beautification committee to develop plans for benches so it becomes a point of interest that would bring people into town. Thank you for your good job tonight.

Mayor Samples thanked Mr. Ott saying he did not believe that Town Council had ever been complimented like that. Thank you.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard, said he was not going to compliment the council. He honestly did not understand; Saturday is the big day, but the director said he cannot pick up on Saturday. But, if an outside agency is hired, it can do it, and our staff might have to be brought in to roll out the carts. That would cost the town more money. What are they going to pick up on Sunday? Empty carts? This is crazy. The issue about sticking the garbage truck at Sandy Lane and it might have to sit a day before it can be dumped...are you kidding me? We have dumpsters all along Ocean Boulevard. The garbage sits in there between three and five days. He said, "I honestly did not think you got it; but, you did get it. I didn't get it, but now I got it. The only reason why you're not gonna change the schedule to Saturday, and that's all you have to do, it doesn't cost us any extra money, is because some full time resident might have to change his day to get his garbage picked up." There is no other reason, because if private sanitation can do it, the town can do it. If the town cannot do it, forget our sanitation people, let us get Waste Management in here to do the job. We need people here who are "can do" kind of people. We do not need employees who say excuse, excuse, excuse. This is ridiculous. Mr. Kohlmann said he was glad the town bought the property, but he asked, who would maintain it? Somebody wanted to donate a bench for the pier. Oh, no, do not get it, because who would maintain it. That was from the director. We have the state donated trees on the highway islands in five different places. They started putting mulch in the island, but there were other things that had to be done. Who is going to maintain the property? Why are there always excuses? He knows there are great employees in town, but let us not get crazy. Everyone is not a fantastic employee. Mr. Kohlmann said he was sorry, that was just the way the world is. This is crazy. We are going to spend x-amount of dollars, because someone might get inconvenienced for a week or two to change their pickup day. It is crazy.

Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard, said she was upset, because she was the one that brought [the rat problem] last year. This year when she emailed the councilmembers, no one even bothered to respond. She could not believe it. Total disrespect for a citizen in town. But, coming from council, she thought that spoke volumes. She sent pictures to the councilmembers and tried to be civil about the rat situation, but when you say 'lock up your children,' you know what? She had to do that. Her two year old grandson was visiting. They were standing at the end of her driveway, and rats were running three feet away from her grandson. That was disgusting. It was embarrassing, and she had a very clean house. She actually cleaned out her recycle and trash cans every week. Ms. Kohlmann appreciated what council did at this meeting, but she did not understand why a department director

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cannot make his own schedule. Ms. Kohlmann had never heard of that as a supervisor. Micromanaging, yeah, that was at its ultimate level. If the police department has an issue, he should be able to change his scheduling to make his job work. That is what she thought the director should be able to do. But, council was not allowing him to do that, and she did not understand why. She did not get it. If you really want to see something on your way home tonight, 10th Avenue South, the recycle bins are full. She has hundreds of pictures of the garbage. She did not share them with the media, but she has them. Councilmembers were welcome to call to see them. She also has video of the rats. She did not go to the beach today, because there were rats in the crossover. She knows the council is saying it is a small area, but that was where she lives, and where her children go surfing. She was proud of where she lived. She knew it was in the rental zone, and she knew that when she bought the house. It did not say rats come with it, and it is an issue, and it is a serious one. She did not want to see Surfside Beach blown up about it either, because she also has a rental property. What are these guys going to do on Sunday, sit around? Because there is not going to be any garbage on [Sunday] if you pick it up on [Saturday,] which is when you should pick it up. And again, on 10th Avenue South, the recycle bins are all full and they will sit there until Thursday. She thought it was time this council started to consider some things about mandatory recycling, because it was a really good thing. We pay for garbage to be tipped, but recycling has no tipping fee. People like recycling and it really makes a difference. Those cans out there are not just full of recycling, they also are full of garbage, too, because there is no place else to put it. Thank you.

Mr. Mil Servant, Surfside Realty, South Ocean Boulevard, said he appreciated the time spent and the job done by the council. He cautioned council about raising fees in the R-3 properties any more than already had been done. The R-3 zone already pays the vast majority fees for trash collection in the town, and that actually keeps the residents' fees artificially low. Mr. Servant thought it would be an unfair tax on those owners to raise the fee more. It was his experience that 10:00 a.m. was the checkout time for the vast majority of rental companies in Horry and Georgetown Counties. His company, Dunes Realty, and Garden City Realty, and other have instructions for their tenants to take out the trash. Departure maid service is provided for rental properties, but tenants generally remove most of the trash Friday night or early Saturday morning. In his opinion, Saturday was the most appropriate day to collect trash. After that, Monday was also an excellent day. As Mr. Kohlmann stated, people check in, buy their groceries and generate more trash. After that a mid-week pickup was needed, so he suggested Wednesday or Thursday. This schedule works well in Georgetown County and he has seen it work in Horry County, and seriously recommended that the town consider a Saturday, Monday, and either Wednesday or Thursday collection schedule. Mr. Servant said rats were everywhere. They were not just on the south end of town. They were throughout Ocean Boulevard, Horry County, and Georgetown County. It takes a multifaceted approach to address the problem. Poison is the quickest and most effective way. His company deals with rats all the time. He thought Mayor Samples' comments were appropriate, while you can deal with rats with trash pickup, and it does help, rats will find food, and propagate. It is a year round problem. Mr. Servant said he would be interested to see how the feral cat program worked. Regarding the brochure and Mr. Magliette's efforts, he thought that was great. He said as an accommodations tax committee member, 25-percent of the town's collections, well over \$100,000 a year, is paid to the Chamber of Commerce. Five-percent of that amount money can be redirected by the accommodations tax committee to be funded in any way the committee desires. The Chamber will work with the town to produce brochures with that money. They will also help in other ways. The funds do not have to be appropriated entirely from other funds. He thought it would be appropriate for council to direct the accommodations tax committee to consider the 5-percent to produce brochures. He knew that rental companies in town would be happy to place them in the packets. There were ways to redesign the brochure to make it more appealing and easier to use. Chamber staff would be glad to help with that design. There were printings in the past that were wasted, but he thought the Chamber was involved in printing some of those. The election is tomorrow. He has a favorite son running. The question was asked of both he and his son on numerous occasions why is he running again so quickly after an arduous race for County Council. A group of business men on the south end approached numerous people about running. They were unsuccessful securing a candidate they thought was capable of running and met the requirements of living along the coast, specifically Surfside Beach and Garden City. (Time ended.) I'll quit. Thank you.

Ms. Wanda Burgess, 15th Avenue South, thought Mr. Magliette's brochure idea was good. She asked if parks were listed on the brochure. (Mr. Magliette indicated yes.) Ms. Burgess said good, just asking. She had an issue with the drainage canal between 14th and 15th Avenues South. Mr. Adair tells her it is cleaned every year. It certainly does not look it has been cleaned this year, and it stinks. It needs to be on a regular maintenance schedule. The slope is so great at the lower end of that canal that people's back yards are literally falling into the canal. The town needs to consider getting an engineer to inspect the canal. One neighbor built a seawall a few years ago, but the town made him remove it. Some type of seawall is needed to protect her neighbors' back yards. The ditch is smelly; full of garbage; has dirt piled in it, and has vegetation growing in it. It is horrible. The ditch needs to be addressed and it needs to be addressed regularly.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for attending. He thanked the parking committee for its recommendations. That helps Town Council make decisions to move in the right direction. There were many different issues discussed today. Surfside Beach is still a great place to live, which is why he lives here and why others came to town. He believed Mr. Kohlmann made some valid closing comments about the trash service, and he appreciated those. He was just pushing to do something different so the town could move forward to begin addressing the problem. Obviously, if the food source is addressed, that would help, and then a move to eliminate the population would be next. Hopefully, prices will be provided in the next few days and the town can move forward quickly. Have a great night. Thank you for coming.

Mr. Magliette thanked everyone for coming. He though it was council's responsibility to do something quickly about the garbage for the remaining six weeks of summer. He agreed that the pickup dates should be reviewed. The town cannot just make those changes overnight; there is a process for notification that takes time. He heard people say they wanted a quick fix now. This is a quick fix. Mr. Servant said that Saturday, Monday, Wednesday is a good time based on his experience, and the Kohlmann family has experience in rentals, they are the key stakeholders and should be involved in the process when the schedule is evaluated. Council was trying to collect data to solve the immediate problem. Town Council addressed this issue as an emergency and is going to spend money to try to fix the problem. The long term problem also needs to be addressed with all the stakeholders at the table based on data and what was good for the whole town. The council cares about the town's people. He cared about everyone in town. Have faith that the Town Council will do what was right. It was okay if residents were upset with council. Residents were supposed to let council know whether they were doing a good job. Mr. Magliette said if Mr. Ott was still present, thank you. If council was doing a horrible job. citizens have the right to say that. This was democracy at work in a small town. He valued everyone's opinion. If you were unhappy with him, that was okay. But, he always tried to help people. Mr. Magliette said the August South Strand Helping Hand Food drive begins Saturday. Flyers were available for the food drive, and brochures from South Strand Helping Hand. He asked the public to please help distribute them. Bless you for coming tonight and participating in our efforts to do what was best for the town and its businesses. God bless you, and thanks for coming.

Mr. Johnson said thank you for coming out. He was in 100-percent agreement with all the comments on the trash and the rats. If the town tried to change the schedule this week or next week, it would be total chaos. They were trying to do a quick fix. Town Council will sit down and look at the scheduling, but right now it was a matter of alleviating as much as possible. He had served on council for seven years. Prior to that he was on the planning commission. The Ark Plantation property was always in the conversation. It is one of Surfside Beach's gems. It is a wonderful piece of property and has a lot of history. It is the town's heritage and he was really proud that the town was able to purchase it to preserve it, and to give it the publicity that it deserves. It will take many agencies on the federal, state, county and town level to accomplish what they want to have done.

Mr. Stevens thanked everyone for coming out. He jotted down notes about all the comments. Ms. Wescott spoke about golf carts on 5th Avenue North and Highway 17. He believed the proposed golf cart ordinance from Chief Keziah would alleviate that problem. He agreed that the rats and the garbage

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were problems that had existed for two or three years. It was time that council do something about it. He agreed with Mr. Kohlmann and Mr. Servant, that Saturday, Monday and Wednesday are the better pickup days. If the pickup days were changed, residents just take their carts roadside on the new day. It was no big deal. The town has to get rid of the rats, because it must present a good image. The town does not need to be in the media. It was bad, and he knew about critters. He had raccoons between his floors chewing up his insulating and making a mess. The town should do everything it can do to eliminate the problem. Ms. Burgess mentioned the canal at 14th Avenue South. It has been messed up for years. He saw it several years ago. Why has it not been fixed? He did not know. Mr. Servant cautioned council not to raise fees. Mr. Stevens agreed with him 100-percent. R-3 district is the town's money maker. It brings in revenue for the town. We do not need to nickel and dime the businesses that makes the town accommodations tax money, and it is a "heck of a lot" of money. Thank you to Mr. Ott for his comments. He agreed with Mr. Kohlmann's comments. Thank you about the proposal for brochures for the town. Anytime we can promote our local businesses, it was good. The town was trying to polish its reputation and make the town better for businesses. Anything the town can do to help its businesses be successful produces more revenue, more hospitality tax, more accommodations tax, and higher license fees based on their revenue. Again, thank you for coming out. He was glad they were there. Have a good week.

Ms. Mabry thanked everyone for being at the meeting. She wanted to talk about the wonderful acquisition of the property. That corner is the whole history of Surfside Beach. It was just full of rich history. Most people do not know that George Washington came through here. It goes back to the 1700's. It is an amazing piece of property. We do want to make sure that we utilize that property for a lot of things. We are going to immediately start after the closing, because you cannot apply for a grant without the deed, applying for grants everywhere we can. We will get in touch with universities. We hope to be able to do that to see if there is any interest in doing an archeological dig. Ms. Mabry said there are many ideas that can be generated around this property that would actually bring a lot of people to town, because they want to see it. It was that historically valuable and meaningful. She also said she voted no to the sanitation contract, because she simply never voted yes when a price was not stated, especially when they were discussing \$45 or \$50 thousand. Her conscious would not allow her to do that. The town's director came out with a wonderful plan. He did mention Saturday pickup. We heard that we do not need Saturday and Sunday, so it was redundant to collect two days in a row and it was expensive. Hopefully, council will listen to the director who came up with a plan that seemed to be working. It mirrored someone that has a rental company on the beach and is very, very familiar. She hoped that this Saturday pickup with another company is extremely short-lived, while council hopefully adopts Mr. Adair's ideas and get everybody notified. She understood that some time was necessary to notify people of change. Thank you.

Mr. Childs said many people might say the price was too much for the property at 3rd Avenue South and Willow Drive. It was a lot of money, but he remembered not too many years ago that council was offered that same property for \$150,000. Maybe in ten years, people will say that was good buy at \$300,000. He was glad the town was going to participate in the feral cat program. From his research, he found it to be a successful endeavor. He thought residents would be happy after it was in operation for a couple of months. If anyone wanted more details, Ms. Fellner has information. Thank you.

Mayor Sample said you can please some of the people some of the time; you can please some of the people all of the time, but you cannot please all of the people all the time. He believed that everyone learned that in elementary school; especially the councilmembers. They are trying something to resolve a problem. You can make suggestions on how to improve problems, but please do not criticize council for addressing an issue that was brought to them. He thought it was probably a good idea to have a private hauler in town for one day. The town brings in \$1.1 to \$1.3 million in sanitation every year, and that money is spent. He had no problem considering alternatives to save money for people, regardless of the zoning district, because they were all taxpayers in town. The town is the way it is because of the people who live here. The people who live here elected officials who ensured that the building heights are where they are. Mayor Samples said he did not move to Myrtle Beach or North Myrtle Beach. He moved to Surfside Beach, because it is a family beach, where the neighborhoods are neighborhoods. Yes, if you bought in the R-3 district, you deserve all the respect and rights of the residents, but you did know what

1113 1114 1115	you were buying into. Mayor Samples said he would close with this, cleanliness is next to Godliness. maybe people need to clean up. We would not have as many rats in this town. 11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m. Mr. Childs seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.	
1116 1117 1118		
1119 1120 1121		Prepared and submitted by,
1122 1123 1124 1125 1126	Approved: August 10, 2015	Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk
1127 1128 1129	Douglas F. Samples, Mayor	
1130 1131 1132	David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore	Robert F. Childs, Town Council
1133 1134 1135	Mark L. Johnson, Town Council	Mary Beth Mabry, Town Council
1136 1137 1138 1139 1140 1141	Ralph J. Magliette, Town Council Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded. Contact the town clerk for appointments to hear recordings. Bring a flash drive to obtain a free copy. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80, meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and subscribers on the town's Email Public Notices Subscription list. The agenda was posted on the town	
1142 1143	website and the entry door at Town Council Chamarquee.	mbers. Meeting notice was also posted on the Town