



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 23, 2016 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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, and Stevens were in attendance. One seat is vacant. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Police Chief Keziah; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Reverend Jeff Wood, Oasis of Hope Church, gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Samples lead the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to defer Item 7.F., Business Committee Appointments until the next regular meeting. Mr. Childs seconded. Mr. Stevens explained that another volunteer had come forward just today. The committee would like an opportunity to meet all the volunteers before appointments were made. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL

Regular Meeting February 9, 2016. Mr. Childs moved to adopt the February 9, 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Stevens seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

CANDIDATE INTRODUCTION

Mayor Samples invited the 2016 Town Council candidates to introduce themselves. Those present were:

General Election Mayor: Bob Childs, and Doug Samples

General Election Town Council: Mark Johnson, Mary Beth Mabry, Ron Ott, Wanda Spannuth, Randle Stevens, Holly Watson, and Stanley Wrobel

Special Election Town Council: Steve Shore, and Stanley Wrobel

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only. (3-minutes per speaker)

Ms. Holly Watson, North Oak Drive: Good evening. I understand in one of our reports that we have six new businesses, yay, coming in Surfside Beach or are already here. I was wondering if maybe we couldn't put some kind of email out to the community or whoever gets newsletters or notice of who these businesses are so that we can go shake their hand and then welcome them into our little town, and you know, see if there's anything we can do to help them, or steer them in the right direction to get help for whatever they need. I'd like to know the names of those six businesses. Maybe Mr. Stevens knows since he's the business liaison or whoever wrote the permits for their business license, whatever. But, I think that'd be a good way to show that we are business friendly and we welcome new businesses here. So, I'd like to do that. Maybe make 'em some muffins or take 'em over something. Thanks.

57 Mayor Samples said that was a good suggestion and told Ms. Watson she may want to speak with
58 Ms. Fellner after the meeting to find out who had the information.
59

60 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

61
62 **A. Employee Award – Chevis Ridgeway, 5 years.**

63
64 Mayor Samples presented Corporal Chevis Ridgeway who serves in the police department with a
65 5-year anniversary certificate, pin, and awards check. Corporal Ridgeway received a standing ovation.
66

67 **B. Department Reports.**

68
69 **i. Events and Recreation.** Supervisor Ellis presented the departmental report, a copy of which
70 is attached and made a part hereof by reference. Ms. Ellis updated statistics for the Taste of Surfside
71 Beach saying that as of today, 149 passports were sold and 56 businesses were participating, which were
72 listed at www.tasteofsurfside.com. She said 17 people attended the Clemson Garden 101 class sponsored
73 by the Ralph Magliette Senior Citizens Committee. Another class will be scheduled in March. There were
74 no questions or comments.
75

76 **ii. Finance.** Director King presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and
77 made a part hereof by reference. She explained that new businesses includes existing businesses that
78 change ownership, which requires a new license. The Department of Revenue (DOR) will hold the town's
79 accommodation tax revenue from this time on. Once the May BikeFest is over, an invoice will be
80 submitted for expenses to DOR for reimbursement, which is pursuant to the Proviso the town signed.
81 Parking reports will begin next month.
82

83 Mayor Samples said based on the report general fund total revenue exceeds last year;
84 expenditures for salaries and benefits are less than last year, and operating expenditures are less than last
85 year. But, the town had to buy radios, which was not budgeted. He asked if the project on Surfside Drive
86 was budgeted. Ms. King said yes, part in hospitality and part in capital projects. However, the bid was
87 slightly higher than the budget, but Town Council approved the bid. A budget amendment will be
88 presented at a later date. Mayor Samples said it appeared the pier fund was making money, and that
89 hospitality and accommodations revenue exceeded last year. Ms. King said it does, which was the reason
90 she believed beach renourishment could be funded. Of course, that all depends on the spring tourist
91 season. The town is doing well so far. Mayor Samples said this report was good, because beach
92 renourishment will occur a year earlier than expected, but we are glad to participate. There were no other
93 questions or comments.
94

95 **iii. Fire.** Chief Otte presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached and made a
96 part hereof by reference.
97

98 Mr. Johnson asked if the AED (automated external defibrillators) units were being replaced
99 because of age. Chief Otte said new units were being placed on the fire apparatus. The older AED were
100 being placed in town hall, civic center, council chambers, and public works.
101

102 Mr. Childs asked if the whole command center was moved to the Hampton Inn during a storm
103 event. Chief Otte said 50 rooms are reserved if we need them.
104

105 **iv. Planning, Building and Zoning.** Ms. Fellner presented the departmental report, a copy of
106 which is attached and made a part hereof by reference. Horry County will hold one meeting for elected
107 officials and two public meetings regarding the new flood maps. Mayor Samples asked that the
108 information be published on the town's website and sent to the subscription list. Ms. Fellner said if you
109 received a postcard invitation for the meeting that you should take it with you, because it will identify
110 exactly where you are located on the map. There were no other questions or comments.
111

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

114
115 Mayor Samples was surprised to hear that heroin is such a problem today. Chief Keziah said
116 WMBF News recently did a story on heroin that was eye-opening for many people. Unfortunately, heroin
117 is so widespread throughout the county it does "rear its head" in town frequently, because of through
118 traffic on Highway 17 Business. Mayor Samples appreciated everything that the police department does
119 to ensure the town's safety.

120
121 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the departmental report, a copy of which is attached
122 and made a part hereof by reference.

123
124 Mr. Childs asked if one or two beach walkovers were completed every year. Mr. Adair said the
125 town has a 5-year permit with DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control) to construct.
126 After the first five walkovers were so successful, another permit was obtained to build ten more. This is
127 the first year of the second 5-year permit, but the work will probably be completed in three or four years.
128 The goal was to complete at least three this winter.

129
130 Mr. Stevens asked what areas would be included in the north side drainage project. Mayor
131 Samples said Mr. Adair was asked today to provide that information to all councilmembers. Mr. Adair
132 said the first phase of the north end drainage project, which is known as the upper Myrtle and Magnolia
133 drainage basin project was completed last year. That project included 3rd Avenue North, a part of 16th
134 Avenue North, a small part of Cedar Drive at 16th, which was identified as the highest priority phase. The
135 next necessary phase is 11th Avenue North from Highway 17 to Cedar Drive, another small part of Cedar
136 Drive, 2nd Avenue North, and a small part of 14th Avenue North. The study that was done in 2011 modeled
137 the entire drainage basin. There was hardly any development when the current drainage was installed.
138 The north end has developed extensively since then, which is why there are deficiencies now. The areas
139 are being addressed phase by phase. He hoped that completing two or three phases might eliminate the
140 problems, but there could be five phases or more. Mr. Stevens asked if any work would be done on Cherry
141 Drive. Mr. Adair said no; the water off Cherry heads north towards 13th Avenue. There were no other
142 questions or comments.

143
144 **C. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner reported:

145
146 Beach Renourishment. DHEC reported that the State will not participate in the design portion of
147 the next renourishment. Consequently, the Reach 3 municipal and county participants will have to fund
148 the entire amount. Invoices will be issued within the next few weeks. Horry County will pay \$98,000,
149 Georgetown County will pay \$37,692 and Surfside Beach will pay \$52,769 toward the design portion.

150
151 RIDE 3 Public Information Meeting. The county confirmed the date for the Surfside Beach venue
152 of the Ride 3 public information meeting. It is scheduled to be held in council chambers on Tuesday,
153 March 29th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

154
155 Flood Map Meetings. There will be a final open house meeting for local officials and the public on
156 Wednesday, March 2 at the Horry County Government and Justice Building at 1301, 2nd Avenue North on
157 the second floor. The local officials meeting will be from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the public outreach
158 meeting will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A second meeting will be held at Thursday, March 3, Horry
159 County Public Hearing re: FEMA Maps. 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Landmark Resort Grand Strand Ballroom,
160 4th Floor, 1501 South Ocean Boulevard, in Myrtle Beach. Community officials, FEMA representatives, the
161 engineering study contractor, and insurance representatives will be on hand to answer questions about
162 flood risk changes and the proposed new flood maps. Everyone who is interested is encouraged to attend.

163
164 Consensus Items. There were no consensus items.

165
166 Responses to Public Comments.

167
168 *Comment:* Something should be done with the poles on the beach before the tourist season.

169 *Response:* Public Works crews have been working to remove any dangerous appurtenances from
170 both the poles and the remaining sand fence. The existing poles serve to show where the forward toe of

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171 the dune line should be and the current plan is for signage to be placed on these poles requesting everyone
172 to stay out of these areas. Horry County and the surrounding unincorporated areas are following the same
173 procedure.

174
175 *Comment:* There is no beach on the south end at high tide and if we have no available beach,
176 nobody will come. Can we ban tents on the south end so that there would be more space available during
177 the summer season?

178 *Response:* Town Council can take any action it wishes with regard to tent bans, but as of this date
179 no action is pending.

180
181 *Comment:* A recent negative mailing was hurting the town and asked who sent it.

182 *Response:* A FOIA request was sent to the United States Postal Service requesting this
183 information as the statements included were, indeed, slanderous.

184
185 *Comment:* The safety of seniors entering the Senior Center is very important. Would the town
186 consider purchasing the adjacent property for Senior Center parking?

187 *Response:* Town Council can certainly consider this expenditure along with other land purchases,
188 but these matters are generally discussed in executive session.

189
190 Mayor Samples asked where Reach 3 began. Mr. Adair said just south of the State Park. Ms.
191 Fellner said the beach begins at the town limit for the City of Myrtle Beach and goes all the way through
192 Garden City to the tip of Georgetown County. Mayor Samples said South Waccamaw Drive in Garden City
193 is in Georgetown County, which is why it is involved. Ms. Fellner explained that was why Horry County
194 paid a bigger share; it has beach front both north and south of the town. There were no other questions or
195 comments.

196
197 **7. BUSINESS**

198
199 **A. Second Reading Ordinances.**

200
201 **i. #16-0818 to amend §7-12 and §7-25, Summer Sanitation, Administrator Fellner.**

202 Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file.

203
204 Mr. Johnson moved to suspend the rules to allow discussion of Ordinance #16-0818. Ms. Mabry
205 seconded. Mayor Samples, and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, and Stevens voted in favor.
206 Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

207
208 Mayor Samples said there seemed to be consensus among councilmembers at the sanitation
209 workshop on February 15th to consider the ordinance to change the R3 rental district to Saturday, Monday
210 and Thursday trash pickup days. The rationale was that check-in/check-out was Saturday. Saturday
211 pickup would eliminate trash sitting over the weekend. Visitors arriving on Saturday would shop, and fill
212 cans late Saturday or on Sunday, which supported a Monday pickup day. The plan was to change town-
213 wide recycling to Friday, and to change the north end Monday residential pickup day to Wednesday. The
214 town wants the tourist district, its business district, to be attractive. Last year, the town added a pickup
215 on Sundays during the height of the season. The cost to the town for that service was around \$20,000.
216 There was not agreement amongst councilmembers as to who would bear that cost. Business is good in
217 town in terms of the tourism trade, which helps support the high quality police and fire departments that
218 the town has. It also helps fund keeping our streets clean. Mayor Samples asked if we really wanted to
219 change the days, and said not really. But, was it time to change the days? At the workshop, he felt there
220 might be agreement.

221
222 Mr. Johnson agreed with the Saturday, Monday, Thursday schedule. He thought council needed
223 to discuss whether there would be fees in relation to the garbage pickup. He did not know whether fees
224 were needed simply because tourism in the town's "cash cow." He asked if some of the larger units that
225 contribute to the problem should be charged more. Personally, he did not think so, and hoped to hear
226 other opinions.

227

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228 Mr. Pellegrino said this was discussed at length during the workshop. To be up front with
229 everyone, after the workshop he was given some information that some people believed he had a conflict
230 of interest because he owns a rental property in the R3 district, and it was a possible ethics violation. Mr.
231 Pellegrino said, "I'm not going to recuse myself from this vote, because if I sold my house tomorrow, I
232 would still vote the same way, and I still, from the time I campaigned until now, represent all the
233 customers of Surfside Beach, full time residents, part time residents, second home owners, and
234 businesses." Mr. Pellegrino said those present at this meeting were residents, but he also represented all
235 the people who were absent that were second home owners. He agreed 100-percent with Mr. Johnson.
236 The scheduled was changed so no extra cost would be incurred. If an extra pickup day was necessary
237 because of problems, as he said at the workshop, he does not believe that should be charged to the second
238 home owners. Obviously, they are already paying taxes at a higher rate than others, and he feels the town
239 should absorb any extra pickup expense.

240
241 Mr. Stevens said there was a problem with the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) dump only staying
242 open until 2:30 on Saturdays. He was making some progress on having the dump opened later on
243 Saturday, which would solve many of the town's problems according to Mr. Adair. We have to keep in
244 mind as councilmembers and also our citizens that the R3 district brings in quite a bit of revenue for the
245 town. It is important that we keep our beaches clean. We certainly don't need articles saying we have rats
246 and garbage all over the place. The four or five realty companies he spoke with have no problem with
247 having additional carts at the larger homes, which would alleviate a good bit of the trash. Picking up that
248 trash on Saturday and delivering it to the landfill on Saturday will definitely make a big dent in the trash
249 problem along the boulevard area. We are looking at Saturday, Monday, and Thursday pickup for the R3
250 district, which would change residential trash on the north end from Monday to Wednesday, and the
251 recycling to Friday. Do you want to bite the bullet? He had no problem with the change. He lives on the
252 north end. We have great sanitation services. That's the question that has to be answered. It's simple.
253

254 Mr. Childs said during the workshop he had an amendment regarding the start time for trash
255 pickup on Saturday. He thought summer rollout curb service should not begin before 9:00 a.m. on
256 Saturday. He would not offer the amendment, but he hoped that if the SWA agrees to keep the landfill
257 open later in the day, that pickup would begin later. That would allow time for tenants to empty their
258 garbage and get the carts curbside.
259

260 Ms. Mabry was concerned because this was not a staff recommendation. The council's job is a
261 legislative board. She said that at the workshop, and wanted to repeat it. Council is not supposed to give
262 direction on anything as far as how somebody does their job. That is just not the law. Now, we are telling
263 somebody what days to pick up trash. I have an issue with that. It may be the best plan in the world. It
264 may alleviate all the problems. Ms. Mabry reiterated that this is not staff's recommendation. The council
265 chose to set this schedule itself. If it fails, it is on Council. She already received two complaints from
266 residents that did not want their days changed. They felt they were being disrupted, whether anyone else
267 feels this way or not, they did, because of eight weeks in the R3 district. She understood their opinion,
268 and also that something had to be done. She personally felt that we should have given directions, and
269 [staff] come up with their own plan, and bring it to [council.] If we wanted to accept it; good, and if we
270 didn't; good. But, we're accepting our plan, not staff's plan. That to her is not what the law says. She
271 does not know whether this is a good plan, because she is not a trash expert. She said, I do know that
272 there is a concern about keeping that beach clean, and that is legitimate on every level. We do have to
273 make sure that our beach is pristine. They pay 68-percent of our business licensing and fees. So, let's not
274 forget the real money aspect. Saturday is the changeover day. There is a lot activity on the boulevard with
275 people checking in as early as nine in the morning. Checking out as early as six in the morning. Getting
276 those trucks in and out is not an easy task on Saturday. If council wants to do it, that is fine, but I am
277 going to have to say if it fails, this council is responsible; not John Adair and not Micki Fellner.
278

279 Mayor Samples said there was no question about it, the staff recommendation was to continue
280 with the schedule used last year, which was to add the fourth pickup that incurred costs that was paid by
281 the town last year. Frankly, there was some misunderstanding on some members' part as to who would
282 pay the cost. The staff proposal was going to charge an additional fee for everyone in the R3 district,
283 whether or not they needed the additional service. That did not make sense to him. We do not like
284 change; none of us like change. But, he talked to some people who said as long as they can remember

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285 these days have been in place, at least the R1 pickup on the north end. I think we have to recognize that
286 we have been successful in promoting our beach town. You probably have noticed that on the south end
287 one house was razed and two will be built. So, the work load increases. In his personal opinion, council
288 should step up to make the change. If we need to modify it, we can. Checkout time many places is eleven
289 o'clock. Mayor Samples said hopefully, the tenants throw out most of the trash. The maids clean out what
290 was left. Hopefully, we can get to the dump before it closes so the trucks are set for the next pickup, which
291 would be on Monday under the proposal.

292
293 Mr. Johnson referred to the amended ordinance and asked if there was any additional cost. Ms.
294 Fellner said no, there is not. Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session. Ms. Mabry seconded. All
295 voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

296
297 Mr. Pellegrino moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #16-0818 to amend §7-12 and §7-25,
298 Summer Sanitation. Mr. Johnson seconded.

299
300 Mr. Stevens wanted to make sure the extra charges were eliminated for residents in the R3
301 district. He thought that was one of the biggest problems for citizens; being charged for something they
302 would not use. Ms. Fellner referred to Section 7-12 in the draft and noted that the language was crossed
303 out and would not be included in the ordinance. Mr. Stevens said no extra costs for citizens in the R3.
304 Ms. Fellner said that was correct.

305
306 Mr. Childs said asked Mr. Adair again to keep in mind the later pick up time if possible for
307 Saturdays, if the SWA keeps the dump open. Mr. Adair said staff would be scheduled accordingly based
308 on the dump availability.

309
310 Mayor Samples asked if the town still retained the right to add additional carts when staff
311 determined they were needed. Ms. Fellner said yes. Mayor Samples asked if there was a supply of carts.
312 Ms. Fellner said yes. Mayor Samples said it seemed to him that the job could be done in three days with
313 no increase in the number of service days.

314
315 Mr. Childs said if this does not work, council can always adopt another plan and work with public
316 works to resolve the issues that might arise.

317
318 Mayor Samples agreed, because the days of dumping a barge of trash offshore are long gone.

319
320 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

321
322 **ii. #16-0821 to Codify Bike Weeks Trailer Storage Policy, Administrator Fellner.**

323
324 Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file.

325
326 Mr. Childs moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #16-0821 to codify bike weeks trailer
327 storage policy. Mr. Stevens seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

328
329 **B. First Reading Ordinance #16-0822 to amend Section 9-9 Charges [for parking],**
330 **Administrator Fellner.**

331
332 Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file.

333
334 Mr. Childs moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #16-0822 to amend Section 9-9 Charges for
335 parking. Ms. Mabry seconded.

336
337 Mr. Pellegrino said parking prices were raised last year, also. Keep in mind that visitors that
338 come back to town yearly will see this increase and have a sour taste in their mouths.

339
340 Ms. Mabry asked if these rates were in line with other similar municipalities. Ms. Fellner said
341 they were.

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342
343 Mr. Johnson pointed out that this is first reading. Council has ample time to consider the
344 amendments and to do investigative work.
345

346 Mr. Stevens referred to paragraph (f) that limits parking on Surfside Drive to one hour. He
347 believed that needed clarification, because the C2 business district should not be limited. Ms. Fellner said
348 that could be amended, if council desired. Mr. Stevens asked if a resident living on Surfside Drive could
349 only park for one hour in front of his home. Ms. Fellner said that was not the intention; any vehicle with a
350 decal could park as long as they wished. The language would be clarified for second reading.
351

352 Mr. Childs believed this was discussed during the vision meeting. Ms. Fellner said council did.
353 Mr. Childs said the reason for the one-hour parking on Surfside Drive was to prevent visitors from
354 parking on Surfside Drive instead of parking at the Yaupon parking lot. The intent was always that
355 residents with parking decals would park free on Surfside Drive. Ms. Fellner said that was correct.
356

357 Mr. Johnson asked if parking was restricted to one hour in the business district if he wanted to
358 visit one of the restaurant. If he had only one hour to eat in the restaurants, he would not have enough
359 time. He asked who would be enforcing the one-hour parking.
360

361 Mr. Childs said the commercial district should not be included.
362

363 Mayor Samples said Mr. Johnson was on target. Ms. Fellner will present clarification by
364 eliminating the words "without meters." Ms. Fellner thought the ordinance should also stipulate that
365 decal parking was exempt, and cite the C2 business district as exempt. The enforcement issue will be a
366 discussion with Lanier Parking as the current contract only covers up to Dogwood Drive. The Lanier
367 budget is almost ready for presentation to council.
368

369 Mr. Stevens asked if someone visiting a restaurant in the business district would be limited to one
370 hour parking on Surfside Drive beside Harrison Park. Ms. Fellner said the intent of the ordinance is to
371 prevent beach visitors from using Surfside Drive parking instead of the Yaupon lot. After the beach day is
372 over, it will not be a big issue. After seven o'clock, there would be no problem. If you parked at six
373 o'clock, you could stay as long as you wanted. If a problem develops from overnight parking, then council
374 would need to address that. Mr. Stevens wanted it spelled out in detail.
375

376 Mayor Samples and Councilmembers Childs, Johnson, Mabry, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor
377 Pro Tempore Pellegrino voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**
378

379 **C. Resolution #16-165 Establish an Anti-Fraud Policy, Administrator Fellner.**
380

381 Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper and resolution, copies of which are on file.
382

383 Mr. Johnson moved to adopt Resolution #16-165 to establish an Anti-Fraud Policy. Ms. Mabry
384 seconded.
385

386 Mr. Stevens asked if this was the recommendation of the auditors. Ms. Fellner said yes, Greene,
387 Finney and Horton, CPA, recommended adoption of an anti-fraud policy.
388

389 Mayor Samples asked if the labor attorney had reviewed the policy. Ms. Fellner said yes.
390

391 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
392

393 **D. 10th Avenue North, request to South Carolina Highway Department (DOT) in**
394 **regards to safety for the Senior Center, Director Adair.**
395

396 Mayor Samples said at the last meeting council discussed that 10th Avenue North is a state owned
397 road. The town did speed testing, which he appreciated. There is a lot of traffic on 10th Avenue North.
398

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399 Mr. Adair said DOT has jurisdiction over the road. He presented concerns outlined in the
400 decision paper, a copy of which is on file. Chief Engineer Welsh from DOT Conway office was asked to
401 meet with him at 10th Avenue North to make suggestions to improve safety. DOT has budgetary
402 limitations, so he would like to know what could be done before approaching DOT.
403

404 Mayor Samples said there was another request involving a state road, Poplar and 15th, making it a
405 4-way stop. He understood that had been requested previously. Mr. Adair said about a year ago. DOT
406 told staff a 4-way stop was not needed; stop signs should not be used for speed control. He will ask that
407 DOT examine the area again. Mayor Samples asked Mr. Adair to keep council informed when the request
408 was made.
409

410 Mr. Childs said years ago DOT was asked to replace the yield signs on the frontage road with stop
411 signs. The request was denied, because DOT thought the police should do more traffic enforcement.
412

413 Mayor Samples said perhaps a new, updated request would receive a more favorable response
414 from DOT. DOT has worked with the town on a number of matters, including the pier way finding sign on
415 Highway 17 Business.
416

417 Mr. Stevens said the problem on 10th Avenue North was created when the property next door to
418 the Senior Center sold. The new owner blocked access through his property to the back of the center. He
419 liked the idea of parking across the street. He asked what speed limit was recommended. Mr. Adair said
420 the street is not posted, which automatically defaults to a 30 miles per hour (mph) speed limit on a local
421 road like this. He was sure an enhanced traffic speed study would have to be done, if a lower speed is
422 recommended. The 85th percentile speed according to the town's traffic study was 29 mph. The area
423 might be perceived as a speed zone, but the traffic count did not support that. He asked if parking would
424 be placed on the south side of 10th Avenue. Mr. Adair said that would be discussed with DOT.
425

426 Mayor Samples said the various turning points for the Senior Center, Harbor Lights, and road
427 connections slow traffic. Perhaps some signage for pedestrian traffic would be helpful.
428

429 Town Council **CONCURRED to have Mr. Adair contact DOT regarding 10th Avenue**
430 **North.**
431

432 **E. Charity Fundraising Events by Brigadoon Golf Store during Taste of Surfside**
433 **Beach and during Autism Month, Councilmember Stevens.**
434

435 Mr. Stevens explained that Brigadoon would host charity fundraising events. The fund collection
436 process would comply with Town Code; writing receipts for donations and daily fund collections being
437 delivered to Director King.
438

439 Ms. Fellner said she discussed this with Mr. Stevens. Last year council approved the business
440 committee collecting money for charities. There was no authority given from council for the town to
441 collect for specific charities. She can grant a permit for the event, but Town Council needs to give
442 direction for handling funds.
443

444 **Clerk's Note: Audio recording failed. This portion transcribed from notes:**
445

446 Ms. Fellner said the public has to be notified whether the donation is tax deductible, and a
447 decision should be made as to whether the town will deduct expenses before payout to any charity, and
448 referred to the approved funding for the Taste of Surfside Beach and Autism Month, \$2,500 and \$3,000,
449 respectively.
450

451 Mr. Johnson had reservations saying there were many potential problems. He would be willing to
452 consider a clearly defined plan.
453

454 Mr. Pellegrino supported Mr. Stevens's efforts, but he also believed the details should be
455 determined before council moved forward.

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Mayor Samples said conceptually, he believed council liked the plan, but Mr. Stevens should meet with Ms. Fellner to finalize details for council to consider. Because council already agreed to the expenditures for the Taste of Surfside Beach and the Autism events, he believes all funds collected should be distributed to charities.

Ms. Mabry believed the town should budget money for autism training, as donations to autism-related charities is not handled the same as other charities. Mr. Stevens said Ms. Large from the business committee could explain.

Mayor Samples asked Ms. Mabry to work with Mr. Stevens on the autism donations. Ms. Fellner said she had enough instructions to move forward.

F. Business Committee Appointment (2 Vacancies) – Volunteers, Mr. Chris Fisher, Mr. Daniel Sitter, and Mr. Cabel Young, Councilmember Stevens, Liaison.

This item deferred until the next meeting. See agenda item 3 above.

Clerk's Note: Audio resumed at this point.

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION – Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

There were no matters to discuss by Town Council.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker)

Mr. Ron Ott, 7th Avenue North. I don't think anybody's confused Surfside Beach with Disney World, yet, or ever. But, if you look at the money, the tax, the tourist dollars, we're all in competition for vacation dollars. Similar. And if you go to Disney World, one of the things you notice is they have condos. They have hotels. They have single family houses to rent. They have duplexes for rent. If you go to the single family houses, the duplexes they collect that trash off your front every day, and there's a reason for that, because they want you to come back, and the high-rises, they do it a couple of times a day, they're dragging the trash out of there. I think our town is just as worthy as they are, and we need to do these things. People come here and they get the big stink. Well, they don't come back. Simple as that. Maybe you should look at these things. Take care of that beach front down there. It'll cost us a little bit to, to clean that up...so be it. But, let's be, follow Disney World. They know what they're doing. Thank you.

Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North. I've got three things that I'd like to bring up, so I'm gonna have to talk kind of fast. First of all, my granddaughter is autistic. She's on the spectrum and we're very fortunate that she is high-functioning. My daughter-in-law is the co-founder of Surfing for Autism in the Outer Banks at Jeannette's Pier. The children pay nothing whatsoever for the weekend, except for some place to stay. Thank you so much for designating Surfside as an autism friendly town. But, please don't let it stop with the label. If every person in this room decided to sing their favorite song, while Chief Keziah went back there and switched the lights off and on as fast as he could, you'd get a taste of what it's like for a child to walk into a restaurant. You've got all these noises; they are overwhelmed. Parents don't come on vacation, because they get dirty looks, ugly comments from those around them. Please help to educate not just the people who own the businesses, but the people who frequent the businesses so they know what these parents and children are going through. Secondly is a question. I don't understand why we don't have more of a selection for cable services within the town. If I didn't want to use Time Warner, I have really no other choices other than satellite. A thousand years ago when I tried [satellite], I was told I could get it, but I'd have to cut down my neighbor's tree. You know, that wouldn't have gone over well with my neighbor. I don't have television. I have an antennae. I no longer have their telephone service. I have a cell phone, and I recently have gone to DSL, so I no longer have to deal with Time Warner. But, why do I not have the choice of HTC? I know it's a business thing. I just don't know what it is. So, please look at that and consider that, and she if we can get more options. Third is the election thing. [Ms. Fellner] brought that up earlier; the mailings. During the last election, there was a mailing that went out produced by some very altruistic group. Looked like something that might have come off of a used car lot

513 with all the bright colors. It was trash in it, and just an example, a business in Surfside was closing. It
514 belonged to some friends of mine. The letter accused Surfside of running the business out. Surfside had
515 nothing to do with it. It was the cost of replacing antiquated equipment, and increased competition. But,
516 yet, it was supposed to be all Surfside's fault, because they're so ugly to businesses. There was a young
517 lady who was accused of constantly voting for big government. This lady had never even held an elected
518 office. So, I'm not quite sure how she was able to do that. I mean, it's trash. When I get something like
519 that in my mailbox, my first reaction is to go out with the Clorox Clean-up and sanitize it. **Clerk's Note:**
520 **audio failed to pick up Ms. Lowery's final comments.**
521

522 Ms. Diana Taylor, 7th Avenue North. Hi, and I totally agree with her last comment. I only want
523 positive things coming to me. This is just an opinion. I think in one general area it's confusing to have
524 free parking next to an area that charges two dollars an hour. I also worry with Mr. Pellegrino that two
525 dollars might be a bit excessive considering last year's fees. Thank you.
526

527 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard. I just wanted to thank you very much for making
528 a tough decision. The problem has been going on for over four years. Honestly, staff really didn't do
529 anything, even though they had the tools to do something about it. They really didn't accomplish the task.
530 Hopefully, this will work. If it doesn't, we can change it. We had to do something. What was alarming
531 though is that one of you got up there and said, well, staff recommended then we have to do it. Well, it's,
532 that's not what your job is. Your job is to represent us. Your job is to keep an eye on staff. To keep an eye
533 on the budget. To keep an eye on taxes. To keep an eye on what they're buying and what they need, and
534 their manpower. It's not to take their word as it's written in stone right from the Lord himself. That's why
535 you're up there. It's very, very disturbing. I give you an example, I mean, Ocean Boulevard parking
536 meters; \$56,000 you lost. The parking committee said don't do it. Staff said let's do it; \$56,000. The
537 pier, Nibil's, same thing. Administrator at the time wanted to get rid of Nibil's. I think we were getting
538 \$72,000. Now, I think we're getting, I don't know, maybe \$25,000. I might be off a little bit, but it's
539 close. So, please by all means, do not take; 90-percent of the time, 99-percent of the time, staff is right on
540 the ball. But, don't always take it like it has to be done. Don't be a rubber stamp. If you're a rubber
541 stamp, we don't need any of you up there. We'll just have the administrator run the town, and get it done.
542 Also, the police department is doing a great job, but you know what, I'm pretty close with the police
543 department. But, I really don't recognize many police officers anymore. You've had such a turnover right
544 here. Diana King's son; he's gone. Good, good cop. Great cop. Very active. He's gone. There's a number
545 of other officers that were very, very, very good cops. They're gone. That's an asset. We're losing these
546 cops. Why? I don't think we pay them enough. We have to look at the salaries of our police officers, if
547 they're moving on to other departments. We have to be competitive. To have an officer here, train him,
548 get him up there, get him to know what he's doing, knowing the area, know who the criminal are, and then
549 losing him two or three years later is not a good thing. So, you have to look, you have to look at your
550 manpower, if it's appropriate in public works, in the police department, the fire department, and figure
551 out what you really need to pay for. To lose police officers is not a good thing. Thank you.
552

553 Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North. At the last meeting there were two young ladies talked [sic]
554 about a mailing they got. If it was this mailing, (*held up a printed document*), I totally agree with it.
555 Much of it is that I know of it factual, and I have heard about parts of it from the people involved, so I
556 assume it is factual. I don't know who wrote it. If I did, I'd thank them. The Mayor mentioned that we
557 have a lot more money than we used to. Well, that's easy to figure out, folks. Our taxes were raised 11.2
558 mils in the last two years. We should have more money. And, the Mayor was talking about change. I
559 think change can be very, very good. That's why we have elections.
560

561 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

562
563 Ms. Mabry: Well, first of all when I say that we do something that's not quite lawful, it doesn't
564 matter. It's still not lawful. (*Laughter.*) It doesn't matter. We did make a change. I did vote for it. I hope
565 it works. I really do. Every time staff brings us something, it is not always rubber stamped in. We give all
566 this a lot of thought. We often send things back two or three times. That's what we should do. That's
567 what you're supposed to do when you're up here until we all can agree what is best for the town. That's
568 normal procedure. But, I did want to say that this time we took it away from staff, and we made the days
569 ourselves. That's a completely different thing altogether. The increase in fees, I think [Ms. Fellner]

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570 mentioned as much as; wasn't the increase going to be something like \$50,000 to the town? Ms. Fellner
571 said they should actually be a little bit more than that. We are still waiting for the numbers from Lanier
572 Parking Solutions. Ms. Mabry: I always like to go low. So, let's just say \$50,000. Let's not go a little
573 higher. Clearly that money can do a lot for us. We need it. There's no doubt. We managed in four years
574 to raise \$1.2 million to be ready for beach renourishment. That usually takes a town ten years. But when
575 we came on council, we did not have a line item for beach renourishment, so there wasn't anything in it.
576 So, we had to kind of scramble and get that \$1.2 million ready. But, on September 30 we will be ready to
577 write that check. So that is huge, and we will get our fair share of the sand. We will be ready for beach
578 renourishment. So that is a big thing. Second thing is, I agree 100-percent we do not pay our police
579 enough to keep 'em here, and it cost a lot of money to train our officers only to have them go to another
580 police department. So, I hope that we will be able to sit down and work on that. We have been doing that.
581 I believe that we have a meeting coming up fairly soon. We are looking into it. And again, it's, it's money
582 constraints, but I can assure you that what's foremost in all of our minds is to make sure our officers get
583 paid, paid well. We also have areas where we are deficient in in public works. Some of our laborers make
584 very, very little money. Not enough to live on. So, we want to correct that and we're working on that.
585

586 Mr. Childs: I just want to thank everybody for coming out tonight.
587

588 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you very much for coming out tonight, and I do think we made a good
589 decision with the sanitation. I know it causes a domino effect in changes that will affect the entire town.
590 But, that's a step in the right direction, and 99-percent of the time I agree with staff's recommendation,
591 and we can move forward with it. But, there's other times when I don't. It's our job when we don't to try
592 to use staff and council and the public to get the best result, the best solution. I think that's what we did.
593 We had a workshop with people from the public here. We had administration here. We had council here.
594 We massaged it, and talked. Came up with a consensus in the end. So, I think that we responsibly went
595 through that process. That's just my opinion. Anyway, thank you very much for coming. Have a great
596 week.
597

598 Mr. Johnson: First of all, thank you all for coming out this evening. It's always good to see
599 everyone out here. I want to give kudos to Mr. Kohlmann, and I had written on my notes I appreciate
600 Chevis Ridgeway and the 5-years that he has put into our police department. It is difficult to keep good
601 employees in the town based on a variety of situations, in particular, salaries. So, my kudos goes for all
602 the police employees. I also want to mention the stormwater plans that we have had for years and Mr.
603 Adair mentioned them up on the north end. Well, we started this project years ago on the south end, and
604 our ultimate goal was to move north. So it's not like the north end was getting slighted at all, but that was
605 our main plan all along. So, I just want to let you know that. Again, thank you all for coming out. I'll see
606 you next time.
607

608 Mr. Stevens: I want to thank everybody for coming out. I want to mention a couple ... ***Clerk's***
609 ***Note: Audio recording failed. This portion transcribed from notes:*** The Taste of Surfside
610 Beach is going on until March 15th. Many businesses offer a discount with a passport. The cost of the
611 passport goes directly to local charities. Buy local. That is what this is all about. The Meet N' Greet
612 breakfast is tomorrow morning at the Golden Egg Restaurant at 7:30 a.m. The senior citizens committee
613 is working on a defensive driving class with Police Chief Keziah, and they also have some other projects
614 going on. Regarding sanitation, Town Council has to look for common sense decisions and solutions. He
615 hopes the plan works. He has been in touch with the SWA and is making progress on the landfill closing
616 time. He will keep everyone abreast of the situation.
617

618 Mayor Samples said ditto to all comments. We've got good people serving, running, and on the
619 committees who pay attention. He feels blessed to live in the Town of Surfside beach. There is nowhere
620 else he wants to live. We have great neighbors, a great environment, beach, and people spend their hard-
621 earned money to come here for a week. The town is in good financial shape. We better be, because we did
622 raise taxes. The first budget adopted after he was elected mayor had a total of zero dollars and cents set
623 aside for beach renourishment. He was taught by a pervious mayor that you always set aside for the beach
624 renourishment, because you have to match funds. Without matching funds there is no renourishment.
625 From 2008 to 2012 no money was set aside for beach renourishment. In fact, those accounts were raided
626 when the economy was bad. In his personal opinion, previous Town Councils did very little to control

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627 costs and hold expenditures in line. The first budget adopted under his administration cut spending by
628 2.5-percent. It doesn't sound like much, but cutting government spending isn't easy. We're on the right
629 track. Residential construction is experiencing a mini-boom. Last year was the best year the town has
630 had in many years. He hopes this year is the same.

631
632 **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

633
634 Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Ms. Mabry seconded. All voted in
635 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

636
637 Prepared and submitted by,

638
639 _____
640 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

641 Approved: March 8, 2016

642
643 _____
644 Douglas F. Samples, Mayor

645
646 _____
647 David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

648
649 _____
650 Robert F. Childs, Town Council

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652 _____
653 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

654
655 _____
656 Mary Beth Mabry, Town Council

657
658 _____
659 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

659
660 _____
661 Vacant Seat

662 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded.
663 Contact the town clerk for appointments to hear recordings. Bring a flash drive to obtain a free copy. In
664 accordance with FOIA §30-4-80, meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and
665 subscribers on the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the town website and the
666 entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the Town marquee.