



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 12, 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, and Finance Director King.

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

A. Invocation: Councilmember Johnson gave the invocation, because Reverend Wood could not attend.

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

Mayor Samples said the Runoff Election is April 19<sup>th</sup>. He asked candidates to introduce themselves.

Special Election Runoff: Tim Courtney. Vicki Blair was absent.

General Election Runoff: Mark Johnson, Mary Beth Mabry, Ron Ott, Randle Stevens.

**3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**4. MINUTES APPROVAL**

**Regular Meeting March 22, 2016.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the March 22, 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

There were no public comments.

**6. COMMUNICATION - Administrator's Report**

Ms. Fellner reported:

**Budget Preparation.** We are in the final review stages of the budget process. Budget notebooks for councilmembers will be available early next week any time after 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

**BikeFest 2016.** Final plans for the spring BikeFest events are in place and the last meeting with the county and other municipalities is scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**P25 Radio Purchase.** The Police and Fire Chiefs and I are meeting with the county on Thursday to discuss the timeline and implementation for the P25 initiative. I will report back to council at the next meeting.

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56           Pet Fair. Just a reminder to please bring your dogs to the pet fair for their vaccinations this Saturday at  
57 Passive Park from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Rabies shots are \$10. Other vaccines are available at regular pricing.  
58 There will also be rescue groups with adoptable dogs at the pet fair. This event is for dogs only. Cat owners,  
59 however, may bring their felines to Ark Animal Hospital between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on the same day and  
60 they will also receive their rabies shot at the \$10 price.

61  
62           Election Day. Lastly, please come out and vote this coming Tuesday. Elections are won in this town by  
63 such a small margin that every vote could literally be the deciding one. So, please mark your calendar and remind  
64 your family and friends.

65  
66           Consensus Items. There were no consensus items.

67  
68           Responses to questions from the last town council meeting.

69  
70           *Comment:* Will a sidewalk be put on Glenn's Bay Road.

71           *Response:* Yes, the plans currently call for sidewalks on both sides and according to Steve Gosnell, at the  
72 county, they will run the entire length of Glenn's Bay Road.

73  
74           *Comment:* A business owner asked why the town wants to get involved in the restaurant business during  
75 festivals.

76           *Response:* There are two primary events for which the town has food vendors. One is the BBQ Festival,  
77 which is a competition for which the food stuffs and other goods and services (e.g., food, drinks, paper goods,  
78 trophies, cash prizes, staff, including police, etc.) are paid for by the town and the proceeds go to defray the cost of  
79 the event. The other major event is the Family Festival for which food vendors pay a registration fee of \$60 per  
80 space and the net profits, after taxes and Hospitality fees are theirs to keep. The town does not break even on either  
81 event so this is not a profit center for our events department. In addition, this is explained to every competitor or  
82 vendor prior to registration.

83  
84           *Comment:* The same business owner asked what the definition of a temporary sign is and how this applies  
85 to a banner.

86           *Response:* The response is that portable signs and special event signs (including fluttering ribbons,  
87 pennants, banners, streamers, and inflated or tethered balloons) are prohibited in all zoning districts as permanent  
88 advertising devices; however, these signs may be permitted as a temporary use subject to the conditions imposed by  
89 Sections 17-208 and 17-654. According to Section 17-208, under (c) temporary uses, the code enforcement official  
90 is authorized to issue a temporary certificate of zoning compliance for carnivals, circuses, or fairs for a period not to  
91 exceed seven (7) days, subject to the approval of the town council, and also for portable and special event signs in  
92 accordance with section 17-654. Section 17-654 states that portable and temporary special events signs may be  
93 permitted for religious meetings, fund-raising events for local nonprofit organizations in nonresidential districts and  
94 for special sales promotion events for local licensed businesses. They require a permit and have specific limitations  
95 with regard to placement, size and length of display. Each certificate of zoning compliance shall permit a special  
96 events sign no more than ten consecutive days and no more than 6 certificates authorizing such signs shall be issued  
97 per lot within a calendar year.

98  
99           *Comment:* The same business owner wanted changes to be made right away as it had already been three  
100 months since a couple of incidents had occurred.

101           *Response:* Town Council asked the business committee to review the signage ordinance and propose  
102 changes to the Planning Commission for review. This is because state law requires any changes to Chapter 17 be  
103 reviewed by the Planning Commission and a public hearing be held prior to submission of their recommendations to  
104 council for approval. By law there are no shortcuts to this process.

105  
106           Mayor Samples asked Mr. Stevens when he expected the business committee to make  
107 recommendations. Mr. Stevens replied that some recommendations were already sent to the planning  
108 commission. Ms. Fellner said others would be forthcoming; the committee is reviewing the entire sign  
109 ordinance. An attorney is assisting the committee pro bono.

110

111 Mayor Samples said the State Law states in respect to the planning commission, once council  
112 directs that they review something in Chapter 17, they have 30 days in which to act, otherwise council may  
113 go ahead and act under State Law on its own. As Mayor Samples understands the process, it was still at  
114 the business committee review level. Ms. Fellner said a set of recommendations came out of a recent  
115 meeting that were sent to the planning commission and should be on its next planning commission  
116 agenda under discussion.

117  
118 Mr. Stevens said the attorney helping the committee said he had never seen such a confusing sign  
119 ordinance. Recommendations are being made so a layman can understand the code.

120  
121 Mr. Johnson called *point of order* saying this was not a discussion item, and discussion was being  
122 held. Mr. Johnson moved to suspend the rules to allow the discussion. Ms. Mabry second. All voted in  
123 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

124  
125 Mr. Johnson asked who the attorney is that is helping the committee. Ms. Fellner said the  
126 individual preferred to remain anonymous.

127  
128 Ms. Mabry understood that the sign ordinance was reviewed by an attorney prior to adoption.  
129 Ms. Fellner said that was correct. Ms. Mabry asked if it was correct that instead of brining the entire code  
130 to planning commission, the business committee wants to piece-meal it. A small part, but not all of it has  
131 been done. Ms. Fellner said that was correct. Doing the entire sign code is a large scope of work. The  
132 feeling was that certain sections needed immediate attention. The planning director was on-board with  
133 the changes proposed, which would really help with enforcement. Ms. Mabry said she was only speaking  
134 about the sign ordinance, and it was ready to go to planning and zoning. Ms. Fellner said just some parts  
135 of the sign ordinance; the issues that were most problematic for the business committee and businesses in  
136 town were the ones the committee wanted sent to the planning commission immediately as instructed by  
137 council. Ms. Mabry asked if the town attorney would also review the changes. Ms. Fellner was sure  
138 before it was all over he would.

139  
140 Mr. Stevens said the committee was not doing a piece-meal review of the sign code. It is doing its  
141 due diligence, being very careful to consider every part of the sign ordinance. The goal was not to tear  
142 down the sign ordinance, but to make it fair and simple so that a layman can understand it. The  
143 attorney's recommendation was to make it easy to read and understand for both the businessmen and  
144 citizens. The attorney's contribution does not cost the tax payers any money.

145  
146 Mr. Johnson asked if the pro bono attorney's name would be mentioned. It concerned him that a  
147 town committee was receiving legal advice from an attorney that did not want his or her name mentioned.  
148 Ms. Fellner said this particular attorney would prefer to give assistance to the committee rather than  
149 doing this on a legal basis. That is why the town would need to have the ordinance changes reviewed. Mr.  
150 Johnson said okay and moved to reconvene regular session. Ms. Mabry second. All voted in favor.  
151 **MOTION CARRIED.**

152  
153 **7. BUSINESS**

154  
155 **A. First Reading of Ordinance #16-0823 to accept 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South from SCDOT,**  
156 **Administrator Fellner.**

157  
158 Mayor Samples asked if this was for the portion of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South from Business Highway 17 to  
159 Poplar Drive. Ms. Fellner said that was correct and presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of  
160 which are on file.

161  
162 Mayor Samples said there was a conditional approval for revitalization of this portion of 3<sup>rd</sup>  
163 Avenue South granted by Town Council conditioned upon the State providing funds for the revitalization.  
164 Town Council never voted to fund the renovation of the roadway. Ms. Fellner said that was correct.  
165 Mayor Samples said for the record, "The Town Council made a conditional agreement, were we successful  
166 in getting \$300,000 or more from the General Assembly that we would pursue that revitalization. There  
167 is nothing budgeted for that revitalization." Ms. Fellner said that is correct.

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Mr. Childs understood that help from the State is going to be awarded. There doesn't seem to be at this point any hang-ups. It is going through the regular process of committees, but no decision has been made at this time.

Mayor Samples understood that, but he wanted it for the record "that it was gonna be State monies used to revitalize it, and not town taxpayers' money."

Mr. Childs moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #16-0823 to accept 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South from Highway 17 Business to Poplar Drive from SCDOT as presented. Ms. Mabry second.

Mayor Samples said it would sure be nice if we could get that money from the State to revitalize 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South between Highway 17 Business and Poplar Drive.

Mr. Stevens asked whether staff had any knowledge of whether the funding is being voted on at this time. Ms. Fellner said Mr. Childs just explained that it is moving through committee at this time.

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

**B. First Reading of Ordinance #16-0824 to amend FY2015-2016 Municipal Budget, Director King.**

Mayor Samples asked if there was any urgency in adopting the budget amendments. Ms. King explained that the proposed amendments were to move funds between line items, and those transfers were already set forth in the FY16-17 Budget that was being presented at the end of the month. Most of the changes were in reserve balances so the beach renourishment funds would be easily identified. Ms. King proceeded to present the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file.

Mayor Samples understood Ms. King to say fund balances were reduced, including beach renourishment. He asked if beach renourishment would be accounted for during this fiscal year. Ms. King said on the portion paid, \$60,000. Because the various funds were spent, the law requires the budget amendments.

Ms. Mabry moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #16-0824 as presented. Mr. Childs second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**C. Resolution #16-166 2016 General & Special Municipal Election Results, Administrator Fellner.**

Mayor Samples asked the clerk to read the resolution. Mr. Childs moved to adopt Resolution 16-166 to declare the 2016 General and Special Municipal Election Results. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**D. Committee Appointments – This item may be deferred to executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1).** i. Planning & Zoning Commission (1 vacancy) Volunteers: Ms. Janet Gambino, Ms. Carol Lucas, Mr. Larry McKeen, Mr. Stanley J. Wrobel, and Ms. Judy Kidd. ii. Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority Advisory Board (1 vacancy) Volunteer: Mr. Mark G. Knight. iii. Parking Committee (1 vacancy) Volunteer: Mr. John McGee.

Mr. Johnson moved to defer committee appointment to executive session pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1). Ms. Mabry second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

**A. Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Recommendations for Memorial Trees, Councilmember Childs, Liaison.**

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226 Mr. Childs said the beautification committee requested to Palm trees and two plaques, in in  
227 memory of Councilmember Ralph Magliette, and one in memory of the former vice-chairman and Master  
228 Gardner, Ian Gray, of the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee. The MOM's Club would like to plant  
229 two additional trees that would be purchased by that club with plaques.  
230

231 Mayor Samples said some concern was expressed by some staff members regarding ground rules,  
232 or guidelines for memorial plaques. He thought the offer was wonderful, and he thought the town would  
233 certainly want to accept the trees. However, council has discussed memorial items in the past. There is  
234 no policy or procedure in place, so he asked if councilmembers believed there should be a policy.  
235

236 Ms. Mabry believed it was a good idea to have a policy. Anytime a tree is planted, everyone in the  
237 audience knows I will be all for that. But on the other hand, we don't have any policies or procedures.  
238 Who will take care of the plaques when they start looking bad? Will it be the committee, the donor, or the  
239 town? Will the town be responsible for replacing the trees should they die or fall by the wayside? It  
240 sounds like a good idea, some rules and guidelines must be in place, because people pass in this town all  
241 the time. I understand that people want a memorial. But who pays for them, how are they maintained?  
242 Certainly the town will have some responsibility, because once the tree is planted, it would belong to the  
243 town. She did not believe a 20-page policy was needed, but some guidelines to go by are necessary so the  
244 trees are well maintained and that people are satisfied, and everyone gets a fair shot. Without any  
245 objection from councilmembers, if policy and procedures could be put in place, she then thought the  
246 donations would be a good idea.  
247

248 Mr. Johnson agreed. This situation came up previously when there was a request to place a  
249 memorial bench on the pier. The town needs some policy in place, before donations are accepted [for  
250 which long term impacts have not been considered.] If staff could present a policy, he would appreciate it.  
251 After the policy is adopted, he would be willing to consider the donations.  
252

253 Mr. Childs ask if this should be deferred until staff presents a policy for council's consideration.  
254 Mayor Samples and other members said yes. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.**  
255

256 **B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.**  
257

258 Mayor Samples asked if Ms. Herrmann would research the Town Code to determine whether the  
259 Election Codes needed to be updated to reflect the value of write-in ballots. Ms. Herrmann said a revision  
260 to the Municipal Election Code was already started to address several outdated sections, which have not  
261 been updated since 1969. The draft will be sent to the town attorney for review, and will be presented  
262 once the full council is seated. Mayor Samples said this election was handled differently from any  
263 previous election. Ms. Herrmann said yes. Mayor Samples said he believed that would eliminate any  
264 confusion in the future.  
265

266 Mr. Stevens said the town would revisit the CRS Code [Flood Plain Management] in the near  
267 future. He got a copy of the permitting process and found that part of that process is that a resident must  
268 sign a covenant that is filed with their deed that says the owner, successors and assigns will maintain the  
269 stormwater facilities and improvements on the property. It also states if the stormwater facilities are not  
270 maintained in good working condition, the town can go onto your property at your expense to repair  
271 them. He is a pro-property rights person, and sees this as something the town needs to review. Mr.  
272 Stevens said he had a good discussion with Ms. Mabry about this. The town hall property is a commercial,  
273 low risk property. The average insurance claim would be \$90,000; the average premium is \$1,925. The  
274 property would qualify for a preferred risk policy. The estimated annual premium cost runs from \$647 to  
275 \$4,918. He just assumed, because we said this would be a 25-percent savings, the actual savings is only  
276 10-percent around Highway 17. Using the highest benefit, a 10,000 square foot building cost \$100,000  
277 divided by 20-percent equals \$481 on a premium of \$1,995. The payback to recoup your money is 207  
278 years. Using the higher premium of \$4,918, a 25-percent savings would be \$1,229.51. Payback would be  
279 81.33 years. Mr. Stevens hoped that we address CRS very severely [sic], and look at it from every aspect.  
280 He and Ms. Mabry disagree on a few things, and he thinks we need to look at this and make sure we do the  
281 right thing.

282  
283 Ms. Mabry said the permitting process when you build a house in Surfside at this time you have to  
284 have your own stormwater management system. We've always done it in R3 and R2, because we have so  
285 many more people moving into town, we now do it in R1. We've never had any complaints about it.  
286 Everybody does it. If you fail to keep it up and your water flows into your neighbor's yard, floods their  
287 home, we're going to come in and you're going to fix it or the town will fix it. That is normal everywhere.  
288 We can't let your water destroy somebody else's property. That's just being irresponsible. The CRS, we've  
289 heard it to death. Of course, we are very proud that we have gone from a 9 to hopefully a 5. They are  
290 telling us we are going to get a 5 in May; 25-percent savings on the beach, which is our biggest business.  
291 That is huge for them. But, remember the savings of the money is a by-product. We want to be a storm  
292 resilient community. Although we are going to have a meeting, we will relax some of the rules. I think  
293 some of them can be and still maintain our great rating. Now that the new flood plain maps have come  
294 out, we have some options. We prepared for the worst, and now that we know that we are in better shape,  
295 we will be able to relax some, I'm sure, and not go up. We still want to stay a 5. This is not scary. This is  
296 not going to impede anyone building here. We've had one request to build slab on grade. I don't think  
297 anybody out here wants that. I've lived in that house and I got flooded in it. We moved. But, I will tell  
298 you, we are going to be reasonable. We are going to have the meetings. This is not a scare tactic. We  
299 want to be a resilient community. We want to do the best. Everybody in this room knows that we live on  
300 the coast about as close to the water as you can get. So, you need to be using best practices, and we're  
301 going to continue to do that, I hope, and I pray. It matters what your community is like. Remember the  
302 rain storm; Mount Pleasant and Surfside Beach had nothing! We were so blessed, and we did that  
303 because we kept our eye on the ball all the time. Stormwater management is not the answer to everything.  
304 We would like to think we could just do everything with stormwater. We had no wind. We had no driving  
305 wind. We had a normal high tide. So, if you have a hurricane, you will not be in the same ballgame as you  
306 were then. We try to prepare in every way we can with trees, shrubbery, stormwater, with a myriad of  
307 things. CRS is one of the tools we use. It's not scary. It's not gonna cost you anything, but the new people  
308 will have to be aware that we are using the best practices now. So thank you for listening to me. I have a  
309 little bit of a rebuttal of my friend over here, but yes, we do disagree on this [sic.]  
310

311 Mayor Samples remembered that the town has three flood plain managers. Ms. Fellner said yes.  
312 Mayor Samples asked if they were reviewing and approving engineered drawings. Ms. Fellner said  
313 stormwater reviews and inspections were being done by staff. Mayor Samples said, as he said in 2002, it's  
314 great to be safe, but he doesn't want the town to support professional welfare industry in town. He did  
315 not then, and he doesn't now. He was very concerned that the requirements placed upon ordinary people  
316 make it unaffordable for them to improve their [older] properties. He had said it on the dais at least twice  
317 during his public comments, and there were no takers. We are chasing people out of town. Good people  
318 that don't have a lot of money, but they like living here. That's what makes this the family beach. It is not  
319 a resort. It is a beach town. Mayor Samples said it seemed to him if there were three qualified flood plain  
320 managers, some of them could take a single-family lot and if someone wants to put a 400-square foot  
321 garage on their property; in the county you can do your own drawing. In the Town of Surfside Beach you  
322 have to hire an engineer. Then you have to hire a stormwater engineer. He believes that should be looked  
323 at by your elected officials carefully, and give consideration to the people who work and live in town.  
324 Many of these people, frankly, are on fixed incomes. Maybe council will get to it.  
325

326 Mayor Samples asked when the budget meetings were scheduled. Ms. Fellner said Thursday and  
327 Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Samples encouraged interested residents to  
328 attend. You will learn something.  
329

330 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)  
331

332 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: Twenty-two years ago, I was a lieutenant in the  
333 New York City Police Department (NYPD) assigned to Highway Unit #4 as commanding officer. I  
334 supervised approximately 40 officers. Although the majority of the officers were very good, there were a  
335 handful that were below standards that were disciplined for various infractions. People who know me  
336 know that I'm not afraid to speak out or take action on things I don't feel are right. That doesn't sit well  
337 with people I'm calling out. One day an anonymous call was made to the NYPD Internal Affair Bureau  
338 alleging I was a Peeping Tom. After a lengthy investigation by four agencies: the Manhattan District

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339 Attorney's office, the NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity [sic],  
340 and the New York City Corporation Council. Each agency independently found that I was clear of all  
341 charges and exonerated. About two years after the finding was made, I went before a Career  
342 Advancement Review Board that consisted of several three-star chiefs, and a female civilian from the  
343 police commissioner's office, to determine whether I was worthy of the rank of captain. Not only was I  
344 approved to be promoted to captain, but one of the reviewing chiefs asked that I be assigned to his bureau  
345 when the promotion was made. After being promoted, I was assigned as a commanding officer of five  
346 different elite commands while captain and was eventually promoted to deputy inspector. In the almost  
347 27 years as a police officer, although several allegations were made against me, I was always exonerated  
348 and was never disciplined for anything. I had an exemplary career and because of my management style,  
349 I was sought out by the department's higher ups, including the police commissioner, to fix problem  
350 commands. Now some of you must be wondering why after 20-years and being cleared of any wrong-  
351 doing, I would bring up this terrible allegation made against me. Well, let me tell you. About a week ago,  
352 my wife received a private message on Facebook via wife of a councilman, and this is what it said, but I'm  
353 gonna leave out the name of the messenger: *Since you like posting goofy pictures of my husband having*  
354 *fun on the beach, why don't you post the New York Times article about your husband being a Peeping*  
355 *Tom when he was a lieutenant on the New York City police force? Yes, Beth, a lot of people have seen it.*  
356 Well, being the victim of a Peeping Tom is terrible. But, being wrongfully accused is also terrible. But,  
357 being slandered around the town by vile people about a charge that I was totally cleared of is disgusting.  
358 How low can some people in this town go? And, why would she do this? Why would she dig up an article  
359 from 20-years ago which spoke of the allegations and spread it around Surfside Beach, but fail to mention  
360 that I was cleared of any wrong doing? I think she did it just to intimidate my wife and myself from  
361 speaking out about, in my opinion, her husband's lack of dedication, attendance, participation, and  
362 knowledge while on the Town of Surfside Beach council. That he has probably missed, in my opinion,  
363 more meetings than all the councilmembers combined. That he seems to me to be so unprepared on so  
364 many topics, that he's rarely made a motion of any importance. Yet, he always ready to move to approve  
365 the minutes or the agenda. That he can't make special meetings in town for an hour about an important  
366 topic, but he's available to go out of town with his wife for extended stays on the taxpayers' dime to go to  
367 seminars and meetings. All the above can be checked by reading the minutes and checking the records.  
368 So, no, my wife and I will not be intimidated by people who whisper lies in the shadows, but will continue to  
369 stand up proud and express our opinion on things we feel are important, as we have done our entire life.  
370 So, no, Carrie Johnson, we will not be intimidated by the likes of you and the evil people who stay in the  
371 shadows spewing their venom. Thank you.

372  
373 Mayor Samples said it works both ways, Harry.  
374

375 Mr. Ron Ott, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North: I am running still as the non-incumbent for Town Council's 4-  
376 year seat. It's been an opportunity and it's been a privilege to be able to walk from one end of this town to  
377 the other end of this town and meet so many nice people. I say that because unless you're running for  
378 Town Council, you really can't go around knocking on peoples' doors and leaving a piece of paper in their  
379 doorway (*laughter.*) At first, I didn't think I would like it, but I actually enjoyed meeting so many people  
380 and being invited in their homes and talking to them. I have so many more friends now than I've ever had  
381 in my whole life. Also, from my vision, I thought the election went very well with all my neighbors that  
382 have been in my completion, all of you up here that are in it and the other ones that were here, it's been a  
383 terrific chance to show who we were and what we represent in this town. I believe that there was; I didn't  
384 see any, in our ranks, I didn't see any problems at all. Anybody doing anything to anybody; calling people  
385 names or anything like that. So, I thank everybody. I thank everybody that has been in the election and is  
386 still in the election. I hope everybody in this town gets to come out for the next election, and at that time,  
387 I'm gonna say yes, that sign ordinance, I'm gonna bring up the sign ordinance. Was it difficult to read,  
388 because I've come across it quite a few times on the board of zoning appeals. Yes, it was. But, remember  
389 one thing, it was okayed by the Town Council. We should've seen it at that point. Your job as Town  
390 Council is not easy. You need to really see these things and try to read what's gonna happen to the  
391 residents and the businesses when you ordain an ordinance into action. Right in that ordinance on one  
392 page it shows you that a business the size of the Family Dollar was not able to put a sign on the front of  
393 their store bigger than two-foot by four-foot. It's right out there. So, let's say we learned from this as the  
394 council, we learned from this. We just can't say okay, somebody looked at it, so we're gonna say it's okay.

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395 Really dig into it from now on and see how the businesses and the residents are affected by these  
396 ordinances, and we become a better town when we do. Thank you.  
397

398 Mr. Tom Dodge, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North: Thank you, Mr. Kohlmann, Lieutenant Kohlmann, very well  
399 spoken and very on the spot. People that know me know that I am not a fan of our mayor. However, I got  
400 this in the mail (*holding up yellow flyer*) during the election period. It's apparently written by employees  
401 of the town, although it doesn't really say that. But, I was born at night, but not last night. So, I think it  
402 was written by employees of this town. It has the town seal on it, which makes it appear that it has come  
403 from the town. If we have employees that feel this bad about their job, they should quit. I think Town  
404 Council should hold an investigation to see who wrote this. This is not the kind of thing that should come  
405 out during the election cycle, when our seemingly employees are trying to push an election toward one  
406 person. I hope the town does an investigation on this, and I don't care how high up you have to go.  
407 Something should be done about this. Our elections here are getting worse and worse. Signs are being  
408 stolen. I had two stolen out of my yard. That means that somebody trespassed into my property. I know  
409 of nine of this individual's signs that were stolen. It's bad. Somebody up here ought to do something,  
410 especially about this kind of garbage that comes out. Nobody from this town, employed by this town,  
411 should try to influence an election, and I would hope that Town Council has the, no I won't say that, has  
412 the guts to do something about this.  
413

414 Ms. Lisa Burgess, Willow Drive South: I've been a resident of Surfside Beach for 30 years, and I  
415 work for Horry County Schools. I've been Teacher of the Year for my school three times. I've been a  
416 regional Teacher of the Year. I try to talk to my students about elections and things, and what has been in  
417 the news about Surfside has been so embarrassing. What the gentleman just spoke about, I received  
418 several mailings that said from an organization concerned citizens for Surfside Beach. No return address.  
419 No name. It's sort of like there's talk today about the attorney that doesn't want to be spoke [sic], have his  
420 name revealed. I do not appreciate getting mail that has no return address or name on it. If you do not  
421 have the cajones to tell me who you are when you're trying to influence my vote, then that should not be  
422 allowed to be mailed. When I mail things, I've been told by the post office that you have to have a return  
423 address so they can be followed back to who sent it. So, I agree. Something needs to be checked into  
424 about this. I think this is very embarrassing for the town. It's embarrassing for me to live here and have to  
425 explain this to people who see it on the news what's going on here. And, the gentleman who spoke  
426 about the Facebook post, I saw what was posted beforehand and I think what he got was a response to  
427 something he had done. So, if you're going to put something bad out there, you may get something bad  
428 back.  
429

430 Mr. Steve Shore, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North: My stuff's minor compared to what's already been said.  
431 (*Laughter.*) So, I would like to thank all the people of Surfside who came out to vote. I was running for  
432 election for a Town Council seat. I'm not discouraged by not getting seated, in no way. In my recent  
433 campaign, I had a lot of people, I had a chance to talk to a lot of people. Most of the people that I talked to  
434 they were ordinances that were unclear. Not specific, okay, and I have since went back [sic] researched  
435 certain ordinances, and one of them is the sign. But, there's other ordinances beside the sign ordinances  
436 that needs to be revisited, because this is 2016. I'm sure these ordinances were written five years or better  
437 ago, and need to be revisited. But, anyway, I implore the council and the citizens of Surfside Beach to  
438 work together as one for our common good in the future, because anytime we work together, we can get  
439 things accomplished. But when we're working against one another, there's nothing gonna get done.  
440 Things don't get accomplished, and bickering don't get it. I mean I'm just speaking for me. Okay, to the  
441 town, for me, the way I feel, and this is for the council, the city, and the future. To look and address the  
442 stringent ordinances of which we are all aware of what they are. (A) signs, which Ms. Fellner has already  
443 addressed, and I thank you very much for that. The tree ordinances. I got complaint after complaint.  
444 People calling my house, because my phone number was on my card. I believe in trees. I'm for trees. I'm  
445 not against trees. But, certain trees need to come down, if they're a threat to someone's home, and why  
446 wait until a catastrophe happens? You'll say, well we should've looked at that and it's too late. The town,  
447 I'm asking that the town look to induce ways to be more business and resident friendly. We need  
448 residents. We need businesses here. I don't know about anybody else, but I don't need higher taxes. If  
449 more business comes in here, for examples, look at 544 and 17. What has transpired in recent, you know,  
450 the Walgreens, the Popeye's, the Walmart. I mean those things, you know, I don't think this town would  
451 do without them. And 'cause [sic] I have people comment there's nothing in Surfside, but I disagree. I



452 love Surfside. I love the beach. I have plenty to do. But, anybody who's got any kids or youths, they don't  
453 have nothing to do here and I'm well aware of that. So to look at things like this and it's just the way I feel.  
454 And the administration to be more efficient and in a timely manner and when someone calls for service or  
455 whatever. Take care of the problem. Don't say, well it won't be this week or next month. That is not the  
456 right way to talk to a citizen. I don't think, not in my view, okay. So, we as citizens of the town of Surfside  
457 can be more efficient that I can. We, that's what has to be included in the wording. I hear a lot of 'I and  
458 me.' You know, the society that I entertain today is we, because we can do more than I can. And I'm  
459 asking, encouraging everyone to please vote in the special elections April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and I'd like to thank  
460 everyone for their participation. And Mrs. Mabry I'd like to thank you and I'm glad to hear to be more  
461 [residential friendly] in things that we do. The things that I had written down have been mostly addressed  
462 tonight, but that's okay. We need to stay after it. As citizens of this town and I'm concerned about this  
463 town. I care about this town and that's what I want to do. Be involved, I'm on the senior citizens  
464 committee and any other thing that I can do to help the people of this town. Thank you.  
465

466 Mr. Tim Courtney, South Poplar Drive: Good evening residents, council. I want to begin to say  
467 thank you. I had a positive experience. I had a positive experience with everybody that I met. This is  
468 such a great community. I have a big investment in this town. I have a 9 and 15 year old. I didn't really  
469 have any negative things to say. I met so many great people out there. So many of you as I said, I spent a  
470 great deal of my time talking to people. I learned a lot, so I had a (\*\*\*) a great experience. If I get elected, I  
471 won't let anybody down here. I promise you that. I think that we need to move forward and think  
472 positive and stop looking behind us. And looking forward. So I want to thank all of you and I want to  
473 thank council. Thank you all, bless you.  
474

475 Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North: Hello. I just want everyone to know what a wonderful job  
476 our town clerk did working with the elections. Thank you. *(Applause)*  
477

478 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**  
479

480 Mr. Childs: I'd like to thank everybody for coming out the other day and voting. I'd particularly  
481 like to thank those that supported me. I'm sure when everything is said and done, we can all get together.  
482 And I encourage everybody, please, runoff elections are hard to get people to come out. And please come  
483 out the 19<sup>th</sup>, get all your neighbors to come out. We need every vote. You saw how close this election is  
484 and sometimes people say well my vote doesn't count. Well you can see right now it does. So I encourage  
485 everybody please come out and vote the 19<sup>th</sup>. And once again, thank you so much.  
486

487 Mr. Stevens: I want to thank everybody for coming out. You know, I also want to thank Doug  
488 Samples for the service he has given the town for the last 14 years. I've known Doug since our kids were in  
489 preschool and he's always been a fair guy to me. I appreciate watching Doug, Mayor Samples, and I thank  
490 you for my 14 years of service. In other things, we have election coming up on April 19<sup>th</sup>. I'm going to ask  
491 you to vote for me. I stand for the people. I stand for the businesses. I try to look out for the people and  
492 the businesses, because you're only loaning me this job. That is all you are doing. It's been a pleasure to  
493 serve you for the last 4 years. I hope that you will vote for me. We've got a lot of things to do in this town.  
494 I hope that we can work on the CRS thing and get it fixed out. I'm sure Mrs. Mabry is going to work with  
495 me. We had a long conversation about it, we have some disagreements, but we disagree very agreeably.  
496 We did work, we were laughing about, she would point out one thing, I'd point out, that's the way  
497 government is supposed to work. We have a democracy that's what make America so great. We can work  
498 things out and we can pass laws and hopefully pass laws that will help the people and help the businesses.  
499 And don't forget that our business pay around 85% of our income for this town. They do a lot for us. I'm  
500 sure that everybody out here is looking for next week. I am. I wish all the other candidates all the best of  
501 luck. I hope I have the best luck, but I wish them the best of luck. Thank you for coming out. Y'all have a  
502 very good week and thank you for coming out to our council meetings and sitting out here in this audience  
503 and listening to us and seeing how government works. Thank you very much.  
504

505 Mayor Samples: Since there is an electioneering going on, I'm gonna allow that for the other  
506 candidates. That means you don't get to, [Mr.] Pellegrino!  
507

Town Council Regular Meeting  
April 12, 2016

508 Ms. Mabry: I want to thank everybody for coming out. It makes it so much easier for me  
509 personally when I look out there and see you. It just, I relax more. I enjoy my process more. So, on a very  
510 selfish note, I enjoy having everybody in the audience. I'm not gonna do a whole lot of campaigning up  
511 here. I sent over 800 booklets out to everyone. I hope you got it. My name was on everything. I didn't  
512 hide who I was. For the school teacher, I have college students. I have grown children, and I have young  
513 children that I have to answer to, and it is difficult when it gets so out of hand, and when they see their  
514 mother portrayed as a monkey, or their grandmother portrayed as a monkey. It is hard to explain, but  
515 you do it, and this is South Carolina, and everyone knows that in South Carolina politics is a blood bath.  
516 However, I will have to say, it went a little too much this time. I was actually refusing to go to the mailbox.  
517 I didn't want to see what else they pulled. (*Laughter.*) We all have things in our closet that we don't want  
518 to come out. There's not a person sitting out here that's perfect, and this person sitting here talking right  
519 now is probably the least perfect. But I do think I do a good job. I do my best job here. If you want to pull  
520 up dirt, have at it. I'm not a perfect mother. I'm not a perfect wife. I'm not a perfect Christian. I'm not a  
521 perfect anything. So you can have a pretty good field day. But, you just have to come and ask me  
522 anything. But my job is just to help run this town the best I can. I specialize. I think we all have our  
523 specialties, which is great for any council. We're not gonna be perfect at anything, but we're good at some  
524 things. I think I'm very good at the finances. I think I'm maybe not as, and I of course want out town to  
525 be stormwater resilient. I do appreciate the process, even with everything that has gone on. I still  
526 appreciate the process, because I know the citizens of Surfside Beach are above it. So, I really don't have a  
527 whole lot to say about the people. It's just a few. It's less than one percent. I'll betcha there wasn't five  
528 people involved in everything. So do they really matter? Not really. So, you know, you just have to look  
529 at it that way. Hold your head up. I don't think anybody in this room did anything, so, or I hope so, I  
530 hope they didn't, but it is the process and the people of Surfside Beach deserve that. So thank you again  
531 for coming out, and we'll see you on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We're gonna have a great time, and everybody come out or  
532 I'll come and get you.  
533

534 Mr. Pellegrino: Thanks for coming tonight. I can guarantee I won't campaign. You know, we  
535 talked about ordinances up here on the dais a little bit tonight. Mr. Shore and Mr. Ott also mentioned  
536 ordinances and I've mentioned in recent meetings that I do think we're overregulating in a lot of areas.  
537 Many of the ordinances are unclear and pretty restrictive. The sign ordinance, the CRS ordinance, tree  
538 ordinance, you know we have these. It's one thing having a policy. We talked about a policy when we had  
539 first reading for a policy where it gives simple direction. That's very different from a multi-page lawyer  
540 talk type document that someone can go look and really not know, cannot get the right direction from. So,  
541 we do need to review ordinances. We do need to look at how it restricts residents, homebuilders,  
542 businesses, and that is a priority for me and I think for all of us here. So once we get through election  
543 thing and get everyone seated, and people actually want to do something again, then we can certainly  
544 focus on these, and it's good to hear, because there is movement. The sign ordinance is being reviewed by  
545 committee and it's being moved to the planning commission. The CRS ordinance is going to be reviewed  
546 in May, so there certainly is movement. The tree ordinance, we already looked at several times, because of  
547 issues of residents recently, and we are looking at that also. So, that's positive, but we need to move  
548 forward. We need simplify and we really need to look at what's hindering our residents and our  
549 businesses to grow and prosper. So that's a positive point. Also, please go out and vote. We only have 25-  
550 percent of the voters vote in this last election. So, please get out there on the 19<sup>th</sup> for the runoff and my  
551 theory has always been if you don't vote, you can't complain. So, don't come here and complain if you  
552 didn't vote. Have a great night.  
553

554 Mr. Johnson: Thank you for coming out. First of all, thank you for voting on April 19<sup>th</sup>. I had a  
555 lot of notes that I took tonight that I was gonna speak about, but I'm gonna take the high road, and that's  
556 what a councilmember should do. We sit up here. We do our jobs, we get blasted. People put Facebook  
557 garbage on the internet and mailers out every other week, sometimes twice a week, but you know what?  
558 I'm a strong man. I can take it or else I wouldn't be sitting up here. I have a strong family, and they can  
559 take it, too. So if you want to bring it on, bring it on. And I'm just you know, hey, God bless you, but I'm  
560 here to run, try to run the town as best I can and I hope to be reelected and work with council the way I  
561 have worked in council for the past eight years and that's been a very good thing, and I look forward to  
562 working with the new mayor. Thank you very much for your vote, God bless you. See you tomorrow.  
563

Town Council Regular Meeting  
April 12, 2016

564 Mayor Samples: I do feel obliged to say this, in my experience, really was the dirtiest, lowest,  
565 campaign that I have seen in 25 years. It may only be a few people, but I can tell you, I put out two  
566 mailings and those two mailings cost me over \$3,000, and so when somebody is putting garbage in your  
567 mailboxes, they're spending money. I don't know who's spending the money, but they don't sign their  
568 name, so in my book they are anonymous cowards. I do feel as if the town is under attack. I understand  
569 we're going through a transition. I understand we're going through a transition [sic], but there's a right  
570 way to do it. I wish the future council and the future mayor good luck. Rest assured there are many,  
571 many good people who live in this town. We're gonna be watching. We have brought transparency in  
572 under the last four years. You may not like what we brought, but we didn't do it in back rooms. We did it  
573 out front and everybody had the opportunity to get up and speak. We did set up committees of citizens to  
574 try to get them involved. To try to get them to understand. You know, it's not quite as simple as you may  
575 think it is, because we are temporary stewards of the greatest little town this side of, well, should I say,  
576 Charleston. We allow people to actually live their lives here. We don't want a gated community. That  
577 isn't why we moved here, I don't think. Gated communities are in Georgetown. God bless you all.

578  
579 **EXECUTIVE SESSION (Business Item 7.D. Committee Appointments.)**

580  
581 Ms. Mabry moved to enter executive session at 7:54 p.m. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor.  
582 **MOTION CARRIED.**

583  
584 Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 8:18 p.m. Ms. Mabry second. All voted in  
585 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

586  
587 Mayor Samples said for the record that no action was taken during executive session.

588  
589 **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

590  
591 Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Ms. Mabry second. All voted in  
592 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

593  
594 Prepared and submitted by,

595  
596  
597 \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

598 Approved: April 26, 2016

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601 \_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas F. Samples, Mayor

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David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Robert F. Childs, Town Council

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Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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Mary Beth Mabry, Town Council

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Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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611 \_\_\_\_\_  
Vacant Seat

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