



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 ♦ 6:30 P.M.  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Town Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.**

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

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

A. Invocation: Pastor Steve Fairchild from LC3 Community Church gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

**3. AGENDA APPROVAL.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Samples second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. MINUTES APPROVAL. A. Executive Session and Regular Meeting September 13, 2016, and B. Special Meeting September 15, 2016.** Mr. Ott moved to adopt the September 13, 2016 executive session and regular meeting minutes as submitted and to adopt the September 15th special meeting minutes with one amendment to correct line number 90 by removing the words "Grand Dunes," and inserting the words "North Beach Plantation." Mr. Courtney and Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only.** (3-minutes per speaker). There were no comments on agenda items.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Employee Awards: Tom Nophsker, 30 years of service in public works.** Mayor Childs presented Mr. Nophsker with a service pen, plaque, and awards check. Mr. Nophsker said he had another 30 years to go, and thanked everyone. He received a standing ovation.

**B. Department Reports.**

**i. Events.** Supervisor Ellis congratulated Mr. Nophsker and presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Stevens said that Ms. Ellis and the senior citizens committee did a great job on the senior fair. It went well and he thought it would be even larger next year.

Mr. Ott commended all the people that participated in the beach sweep. They picked up 75 pounds of trash, but the beach looked pretty clean when they started. There was stuff all over the place. Ms. Ellis said the children liked to dig. Mr. Ott said that was a terrific event. Thank you.

Mayor Childs believed the fire house worked out well for the senior fair. Everyone had a lot of space.

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53 Mr. Courtney said he looked forward to the Family Festival in October. He hoped there would be  
54 a good turnout, and hopes everyone shows up.  
55

56 **ii. Finance.** Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.  
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58 Ms. Samples welcomed Ms. King back saying it was good to see her at the podium. She asked  
59 when council would be briefed on the audit. Ms. King said perhaps within the next month, but as soon as it  
60 was completed.  
61

62 Mr. Ott asked for an explanation of the seven licenses issued to businesses located outside of  
63 town. Ms. King did not have the specific names, but said those businesses would be like Carolina Cool  
64 that has an address outside of the town and works in town. Anyone who works in town is required to  
65 have a business license. Mr. Ott said thank you; that was good information to see.  
66

67 Mr. Johnson said he appreciated the no-nonsense report and that is typically the case. Thank  
68 you.  
69

70 **iii. Fire.** Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.  
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72 Mr. Courtney said he still wanted Chief Otte to meet with the organizational committee to work  
73 on getting more firefighters for next year. He asked him to get with Ms. Fellner to schedule as soon as  
74 possible. Chief Otte said certainly. Mr. Courtney said thank you, and asked Ms. Fellner to make note of  
75 that.  
76

77 Ms. Samples said the number of calls was very high for automatic aid. Council has had these  
78 conversations before, and asked if 550 automatic aid calls year to date included EMS calls. Chief Otte  
79 said they were combined. Ms. Samples asked if there was a written agreement with the county since so  
80 many calls are answered outside of town. Chief Otte said there is an agreement; copies were supplied to  
81 previous councils. The new county fire chief wants to meet with Chief Otte, and he looked forward to  
82 that meeting to discuss the town's agreement with the county. The meeting was delayed, because Chief  
83 Tanner has had some health issues. Ms. Samples asked if there is any cost to the county for the town's  
84 many trips taken outside the town. Chief Otte said the county provides two emergency medical  
85 technicians (EMT) per shift to man the ambulance who respond to calls with the department; an  
86 ambulance; supplies for the station, including medical supplies and other products used in the station;  
87 training programs used by all career and volunteer staff that also tracks emergency medical service  
88 assignments to renew EMT licenses. Ms. Samples said for clarification, supplies, training, and two bodies.  
89 Chief Otte said yes, but it was two EMTs per shift.  
90

91 Mr. Pellegrino asked Chief Otte if he would talk about reimbursement to the town for the calls in  
92 the county when he meets with Chief Tanner. He has been on council for 2.5 years, and this has been  
93 mentioned several times. He heard the county is working on a plan to accommodate for that with its  
94 municipalities, but nothing has ever come of that. Chief Otte said that was probably coming in the  
95 future. He had heard that the county was reviewing all of its agreements and meeting with the  
96 municipalities to standardize them. He was operating pursuant to an agreement authorized prior to his  
97 tenure. The county is supplying the town pursuant to the agreement. Mr. Pellegrino asked Chief Otte to  
98 please bring this up when he meets with the county. He was glad Ms. Samples brought this up, because  
99 there is a huge gap between the town's service calls in the county, and the county's contribution to the  
100 town. The county will have the two ambulance drivers regardless. He knew they helped in the fire  
101 department towards accreditation, but we are not getting much for our service. Chief Otte said the auto-  
102 aid agreement with the county helped the department achieve its ISO-1 rating, even though a dollar  
103 amount was not attached. Mr. Pellegrino said the ISO-1 rating was great, but it was not really being  
104 leveraged to help our economy or bring in businesses. There are two sides to that. Please bring up  
105 compensation for those calls so it can move forward. Chief Otte said absolutely; yes, sir.

106  
107 Mr. Johnson asked Chief Otte to bring the logistics of not supplying the county with mutual  
108 agreement as far as the ISO-1 classification after he speaks with Chief Tanner. Chief Otte said he would.  
109

110 Mr. Courtney said he understood that having the paramedics crossed trained as fire fighters was  
111 to our advantage, and that was part of the mutual aid agreement. Chief Otte said that was correct.  
112

113 **iv. Planning, Building & Zoning.** Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of  
114 which is attached hereto.  
115

116 Mr. Courtney noted there were 177 inspections, and asked how many people did inspections.  
117 Ms. Morris said 1.5; the building official, and the code enforcement officer helps when needed. Mr.  
118 Courtney said there were 243 complaints, and they were answered in the month. Ms. Morris said that  
119 was correct. Mr. Courtney said it seemed the department was back-logged. He hoped the public  
120 understood how busy the department is. The report clearly shows that when there are over 30 homes  
121 being built, there is a lot of work being done. He commended the department staff on their work. Mr.  
122 Courtney said there were some planned developments that had faulty storm drains during the recent  
123 rain, and asked if that had been addressed. Ms. Morris said certified letters were sent to one violator;  
124 the other development does not have a homeowners association. Each owner is being sent a letter,  
125 because they are all responsible. We have asked them to meet with staff, because no maintenance has  
126 been done on their stormwater system, which obviously led to the flooding of other homes in the area.  
127 Mr. Courtney asked if that was a contributing factor to the flooding on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Ms. Morris  
128 said absolutely it was. Mr. Courtney asked if it would be corrected. Ms. Morris said yes.  
129

130 Ms. Samples asked how many out of the 243 complaints made in August were from citizens or by  
131 the code enforcement officers seeing issues. Ms. Morris said it was a combination; many of the  
132 complaints were email messages from citizens who preferred to remain anonymous asking if neighbors  
133 have a permit, or were allowed to cut down trees. The code enforcement officer goes out about 8:30 in  
134 the morning and doesn't return until lunch time, and then he is out again until 4:30 p.m. Ms. Samples  
135 asked if when he observed something faulty or some illegal activity, he addressed it. Ms. Morris said  
136 absolutely.  
137

138 Mayor Childs thanked Ms. Morris for the pictures of the violations. They get better every time.  
139 Ms. Morris said thank you very much.  
140

141 **v. Police.** Chief Keziah presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. He  
142 said that on October 8 the department will co-host a community event along with Myrtle Beach police at  
143 The Market Common called "Law Enforcement and Kids Working Together" from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m.  
144 He invited everyone to bring their children and grandchildren for free food, games, and give-aways. In  
145 December another senior citizens driving class will be offered. Chief Keziah will meet with the Ralph  
146 Magliette Senior Citizens Committee at its October 31<sup>st</sup> meeting to schedule a date. The class is free to  
147 town residents.  
148

149 Chief Keziah said that at the last meeting Mr. Courtney asked him to bring some statistics on  
150 officers that left the department. During calendar years 2015 and 2016 to date, 10 officers voluntarily  
151 left the department: six left law enforcement to enter the private sector; four went to other agencies,  
152 one to a federal agency, and three to area agencies. Estimated start-up cost for hiring a new officer,  
153 sending him to academy, and training is between \$30,000 and \$35,000; depending on how quickly the  
154 officer can enter academy.  
155

156 Mr. Courtney asked if Chief Keziah would send that information in writing. Chief Keziah said  
157 absolutely. Mr. Courtney had a problem with \$35,000 to train an officer, without adding in the cost of  
158 uniforms, leather equipment, etc. We are losing valuable officers and he had a problem with that. In the

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159 long term, it is costing us more. He would rather keep the trained officers, and believes the town needs  
160 to stabilize its staff, so it was important that he get that information. Chief Keziah said he would provide  
161 a full report in the morning. Mr. Courtney said over the past few months that the accident rates in town  
162 are very high. There were 50 to 60 accidents per month. That was way too many. Many had injuries.  
163 One accident is one too many. There is a speeding problem in town. We don't have the officers to do  
164 radar enforcement, but he knew the department was doing some. He asked that more enforcement be  
165 done, whether it was a warning or a citation at the discretion of the officer. He was very concerned  
166 about the accidents and speeding in town. He also noticed that there were many fireworks complaints;  
167 62 on the beach. We need to do something like notify the realty companies and hotels so their tenants  
168 can be informed. It seems to be tourists that bring fireworks in and set them off. Fireworks complaints  
169 also tie up the officers from performing more important work. Chief Keziah said absolutely. Mr. Courtney  
170 asked where the department was doing foot patrol. Chief Keziah said throughout neighborhoods,  
171 especially the Ocean Boulevard area. There are some target areas where kids and teenagers are doing  
172 mischief. The officers deploy at night and are checking car doors to see if they are locked, and the effort  
173 has been very successful. It is good exercise and offsets all the donuts and sweets the community brings  
174 to us. Officers are interacting with the citizens during their walks and have received very positive  
175 comments. Mr. Courtney said there are 28 open criminal investigations on the report. He asked if they  
176 were carried over from the prior month. Chief Keziah said correct; most of the month was spent on the  
177 big cases. We keep up with the victims and they know the status of their cases. Mr. Courtney asked if  
178 both detectives were back in the unit. Chief Keziah said yes; one is full time, and one is working a shift  
179 and assisting the detective. We hope by the next rotation in October there will be two full time  
180 detectives.

181  
182 Mayor Childs asked if at one time an officer was on the beach for a couple of hours after dark to  
183 monitor fireworks. Chief Keziah said yes, from 9:00 p.m. until midnight during the summer months.

184  
185 Mr. Ott said the Family Festival is this weekend. He wanted to see the K9 dogs there. Chief  
186 Keziah said the Surfside Beach K9 Association, a private organization, would have at least one of them  
187 there at their booth. One of the K9 dogs does not do well in crowds.

188  
189 Ms. Samples asked if the \$30,000 to \$35,000 cost was just for training. Chief Keziah said yes,  
190 just for training. That number was derived by estimating six months of training; the number could be  
191 higher, because three months at the academy, and three months of training on the road. If an academy  
192 slot was not available for two months, the six months becomes eight months. That includes salary, and  
193 benefits, transportation cost, and meals during travel. The academy is provided by the state. Ms.  
194 Samples referred to the Mayor's comment about beach patrol in the evening and nighttime hours, and  
195 asked if that was only done during tourist season. Chief Keziah said yes, for the dedicated officer. The  
196 officers that drive the 4-wheel drive trucks at night will make two to four passes on the beach, depending  
197 on the tide. Over the summer, many cases were made between 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.

198  
199 Mr. Johnson asked if tourist season was Memorial Day through Labor Day. Chief Keziah said yes.  
200 Mr. Johnson asked how many officers are on the beach at night during the season. Chief Keziah said  
201 one. Mr. Johnson asked if there were two officers in the past. Chief Keziah said that was prior to his  
202 tenure. Mr. Johnson said it was difficult when a fireworks report came in at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, and the  
203 officer was at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. By the time the officer arrives, the offender is gone. Chief Keziah said  
204 that is the problem they have. Many times a call will come in at 15<sup>th</sup> South, and the officers find out the  
205 fireworks are actually being discharged south of Melody Lane. The same thing happens at the north end  
206 where fireworks are being discharged in Ocean Lakes. Mr. Johnson said there were events coming up  
207 where additional beach patrol could be discussed, if Chief Keziah wanted to discuss it further.

208  
209 Mayor Childs said Chief Keziah was right; people on the north end think the fireworks are on our  
210 beach, but they are actually at Ocean Lakes.

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212 Mr. Stevens said thank you for having the driving school again. He asked if another police  
213 academy would be held. Chief Keziah said several requests have been received. We are planning a class  
214 in December or January, after the department is fully staffed.  
215

216 Mr. Ott asked in light of the change in attitude about police officers across the nation have our  
217 officers had any special directives or procedures; not that we expect any problems. Chief Keziah said  
218 there haven't been any changes. Fortunately, our officers are professionals at all times. With the  
219 additional security of the body cameras and the car cameras rolling all the time that is an extra layer of  
220 protection for not only the public, but also our officers and the town. Mr. Ott said that perhaps a town  
221 watch should be looked into more. There are people that stroll on the beach that could make reports,  
222 because everybody has a cell phone.  
223

224 Mr. Pellegrino asked how long K9 Viking has been with the town. Chief Keziah said Viking is in  
225 his second year. Mr. Pellegrino asked because when the council voted to bring K9 Viking on, he voted  
226 no. He thought the town would end up paying for his expenses. That has come true. Are funds coming  
227 into the K9 fund, and when do you expect the fund to pay 100-percent of the K9 expenses? Chief Keziah  
228 said funds come in steadily. There was a problem with the initial K9 Association, but it has been  
229 reorganized, and set up as a 501(C)3 not for profit corporation through an attorney. The board of  
230 directors was named, and the first meeting was held. The association has plans to be at the Family  
231 Festival, and other plans to raise funds for the K9 dogs. He expects that within the year, the association  
232 will pay for all of the K9 expenses.  
233

234 Mr. Courtney asked how many officers were involved in the citizens police academy. Chief  
235 Keziah said one or two officers each night depending on the subject matter. Over the course of the six  
236 week academy a total of 12 or so officers. Mr. Courtney asked how many classes were held in the past  
237 two years. Chief Keziah said three. Mr. Courtney was concerned that the officers were not tied up with  
238 the classes until the department is fully staffed. Chief Keziah said that is why the academy is not being  
239 planned until December or January.  
240

241 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached  
242 hereto. He noted that the stormwater committee would have a booth at the Family Festival to provide  
243 educational materials to the public about best management practices that could be implemented easily at  
244 their homes.  
245

246 Mr. Ott said the recent tropical storm was an eye-opener for us all. It was a warning that bigger  
247 storms do come through. We were not prepared in certain areas. We have a plan to inspect the storm  
248 drains every six months or year to ensure flooding does not happen when the big one comes. Mr. Adair  
249 said as part of the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) requirements, the town is required to  
250 inspect and maintain the drainage system and its components at least once a year. We have a new Vac-  
251 Tron trailer that was purchased last year that makes the process a little easier. The issues the town  
252 faced during the September 2<sup>nd</sup> event were not a fault of the system not working properly. There were  
253 some clogs here and there; some ditches that need to be cleaned a little better. But mostly it had to do  
254 with having six inches of rain in about three hours that just overwhelmed the system. Municipal systems  
255 are not designed for that kind of rain event. They are designed for a 25- or 50-year rain event. The  
256 intensity of rain in the short period of time was the problem. The department is investigating complaints  
257 and taking corrective action when problems are identified. During the October 2015 rain event, there  
258 was more rain, but no street flooding; again it was the intensity of rain that caused the September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
259 problems. The departmental procedures are being reviewed to identify proactive actions to minimize  
260 street flooding in the future during intense rains. Mr. Ott said the September rain showed the system's  
261 weaknesses. He hoped we learned from that, and can keep the system wide open. It will happen again,  
262 we all know that. Mr. Adair said without question; we are doing our absolute best. All the staff in public  
263 works are making every effort to ensure we are prepared as best we possibly can. Mr. Ott said if Mr.  
264 Adair needs any assistance in that, please ask Town Council.

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Mayor Childs said he saw that a lot of work was done at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North where the flooding problem existed. He was sure that alleviated a lot of that water that was over there. Mr. Adair said that was a critical corner at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North and Cedar where a lot of water passes. There are three different drainage systems that were constructed at different times. Diversions were made to equalize the flow and that should help that area avoid future flooding. Mayor Childs believed that would help. He was glad the problem was discovered.

Mr. Stevens said citizens spoke during previous meetings about a 10 foot ditch that was closed in with a 2 foot pipe, which shrunk the volume of water that could flow. Common sense tells you that will create all kinds of problems. He asked if larger pipes would be placed in that area. There were two six foot pipes between Surfside Drive and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. He thought citizens should have the benefit of the same size pipes. Mr. Adair explained that those 6 foot pipes were the main conveyance for the Myrtle drainage system that comes all the way from Sandy Lane. Every area of town has different engineering. A north side drainage project began a few years ago and is still underway. The next phase of that project is 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenues North, and a small part of Cherry Drive. Projects that were already completed include Melody Basin, Floral Basin, and some parts of Myrtle Basin. The systems include redundancy that allow water to flow two different ways. It is misleading to say a larger pipe or ditch did a better job than what we have in the ground in certain cases. With the engineered system, water has multiple ways to flow. Our system is pretty good for such a small town. Mr. Stevens asked what would be done at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Mr. Adair said 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue would take pressure off 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. It will be sized according to the engineering plans. The plans are based on how many cubic feet per second need to be moved, not by pipe size. Mr. Stevens said 33 people signed a petition requesting that the dog parks be improved. Problems like lack of seating, lawn care, more trees, the ramp, entry ways, and lack of space were listed. Mr. Adair said he received a copy of the email message and had a conversation with the administrator about it. It is very difficult to grow grass in the large dog park, especially at the entry way. The large dog park was hydro-seeded last spring; grass was growing well, but it is already "wiped out." Artificial turf prices are \$10 per square foot. The price is \$80,000 for the large dog park, and \$60,000 for the small dog park. About five years ago, dog park patrons asked for a piece of play equipment. A ramp was built, but then there were complaints about the open space under the ramp. The space was closed in, and now there are complaints that it was closed. A picnic table was put in the park for seating in the shaded area at the large dog park. There is not much you can do at the small dog park. Mr. Stevens asked if the grass could be seeded more often. Mr. Adair said the cost was about \$2,000 for hydro-seeding, and it could be done annually. Seeding would not help.

Mayor Childs suggested that Mr. Stevens meet Mr. Adair at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North so he could see how the drainage system works. He thought the work done there really helped Mr. Kawa with his situation at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, and it might help Mr. Stevens to hear how the water was diverted.

Mr. Johnson said the sanitation pickup schedule was changed on Ocean Boulevard and asked if there was a plan to change the residential areas go back to the original pickup days. Mr. Adair said the rest of the town will stay on the current schedule: R3 and C3 have Saturday pickup during the winter; the north side of town is Wednesday, and the south side is Tuesday. Monday is bulk pickup town wide. Friday is recycle day town wide.

Mr. Courtney was very concerned about stormwater. Since 2008 he had never seen Poplar Drive under water. During the September 2<sup>nd</sup> rain, he brought to Mr. Adair's attention the fact that 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue was completely covered with about two feet of water. He was very upset that nobody was manning the telephone according to reports from the community. It was a business day in the afternoon. Those phones should have been manned. During the storm event, if there is nobody to man the phones, they need to be switched to the fire department. There must be a means of communication for people to report problems. Many residents' homes were flooded, including many of the new homes on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Many homes in Ocean Pines I and II were flooded. These people want answers.

318 Many residents were cleaning out the drains. He wanted to see the department start cleaning out the  
319 ditches over the course of the winter. This should not have happened and he wants to see action taken  
320 on it. He understands that the volume of water was intense, but that problem did not exist until the  
321 houses were built. If the stormwater plan was by the builder, so be it. But it is the town's responsibility  
322 to ensure that water drains properly. Mr. Adair was in total agreement with Mr. Courtney. He thought  
323 making sure the town's segments of the system flowed properly was of utmost importance. Mr. Courtney  
324 said stormwater was coming off the commercial properties, and he wanted Mr. Adair to inspect them,  
325 because the water was running into the development. Mr. Adair said he would look at whatever needed  
326 to be. Mr. Courtney asked Ms. Fellner to make note that during storm events that someone had to man  
327 the phones, especially on business days. Ms. Fellner said changes were already ordered on the town hall  
328 phones and they will be making the same accommodation in public works.  
329

330 Mayor Childs said after his conversation with Mr. Courtney and the administrator that telephones  
331 would be switching at the close of business to the fire station so that someone would be available to  
332 answer the call. Mr. Adair said that normally during emergency situations the emergency operations  
333 center is activated and someone would man phones around the clock. The September 2<sup>nd</sup> event took the  
334 town totally by surprise.  
335

336 Mr. Pellegrino stopped by the garbage debris truck on the way to Conway recently. He said  
337 obviously between labor, gas, wear and tear, and landfill costs we spend a lot of money on that. He  
338 asked if a cost study had been done to determine whether using the Scipio property would be less  
339 expensive. Mr. Adair had not. The town is not permitted to use Scipio as a transfer station, which is  
340 what South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) would classify the  
341 property. Unless it was an emergency like a hurricane or ice storm, we need special authorization to do  
342 something like that. He would look into the possibility and advise council. Mr. Pellegrino asked if there  
343 were any options for creating mulch or chips that could be given to the public and would recycle the  
344 debris. Mr. Adair said that had not been considered. The town pays a reduced tipping fee of \$16-\$17  
345 per ton for yard debris, instead of \$30 per ton for trash. Mr. Pellegrino said that was a long drive to the  
346 landfill and it was a huge cost. Mr. Adair understood, and he will look into the options.  
347

348 **C. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is  
349 attached hereto. In response to the discussion with Chief Otte regarding auto-aid with the county, Horry  
350 County is in the process of evaluating all of its agreements. She had a discussion with District 5  
351 Representative Tyler Servant. She will speak with Mr. Servant, who is checking with the public safety  
352 committee, again and report to council. We are not asking for anything that the county is not already  
353 providing to other municipalities. All municipalities should be treated equally.  
354

355 Ms. Samples said *for the record*, "Ms. Fellner, the comment about Ms. Morris taking back to the  
356 planning commission on the subject of relaxing that 35 foot height limit; what concerns me about that,  
357 and it's fine, and I certainly don't mind hearing what the planning commission has to say about it, but  
358 many of us on council have made it pretty clear that we don't support changing the height limit for any  
359 reason." Ms. Fellner said yes, council is always free to accept or reject any recommendation from the  
360 planning commission.  
361

362 Mr. Ott said we are probably close to 85-percent build out in town. Everybody has adhered to  
363 the height limits. I bet we have over 30 houses being built right now that adhered to that. I always say  
364 that less is more in this town. We're going to finish the rest of the town with that ordinance in place. I'd  
365 like to say that Lake Elizabeth is the second largest retention pond. Lake Dogwood and it have never  
366 been dredged. I know Lake Elizabeth is full of trash. There are bottles, cans, large chairs, and all kinds  
367 of things in it. There are a lot of batteries in there, too. About 20 years ago, somebody threw a lot of  
368 batteries in there. I don't know if we could get some kind of help to dredge that lake, but the 70:30  
369 agreement with Horry County should help since most of that trash came from the county side of Highway  
370 17. We should always remember that and look for financial help from grants or the county. Ms. Fellner

371 said Horry County installed a filter on the drainage pipe several years ago. Mr. Adair said he inspected  
372 the filter a few days ago. It is clean, but in deference to Mr. Ott, it was an open ditch at one time. The  
373 filter was installed in 2008 or 2009. Since the filter was installed things have been much better. Mr. Ott  
374 said as a persistent citizen, he met with Steve Gosnell and Tom Gerigan from Horry County, and that was  
375 why the ditch was screened and the pond was built on the county side. We are in for a big surprise  
376 when that lake is dredged. Ms. Fellner said yes, and that is a big lake. Mr. Ott said it would not be  
377 pumped out easily and we need to remember that.

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379 Mr. Courtney thought it was important to dredge the lake as Mr. Ott pointed out. He was  
380 concerned that hazardous materials were in some of the retention ponds. He thought we should look for  
381 grants to start dredging some of the lakes in the future, especially with the stormwater issues. Ms.  
382 Fellner said she would. The dredging process is very expensive. Mr. Courtney understood and said that  
383 was why he said it was important to determine whether there was hazardous materials in the lakes, there  
384 may be grants available. Ms. Fellner said Mr. Courtney was right. That is what retention ponds are  
385 designed for, so that heavy metals can sink down. Mr. Courtney was talking about materials left behind  
386 in the past, like batteries, and other debris dumped over the decades.

387  
388 Mr. Ott said former public works director Radford pulled about 30 batteries out of Lake Elizabeth  
389 that were near the bank. A resident who lived on the lake had an automotive repair business, and he  
390 threw the dead batteries in the lake. Ms. Fellner said in the next few weeks they could explore what  
391 grants were available for dredging at the state and federal levels.

392  
393 **7. BUSINESS - Second Reading Ordinance #16-0833 to Grant Franchise to Frontier**  
394 **Communications, LLC, Administrator Fellner.** Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper and  
395 ordinance, copies of which are on file. Franchise agreements are granted by the State of South Carolina,  
396 and this ordinance was a formality so that the town could receive its portion of the franchise fees  
397 collected. First reading was adopted at the September 13, 2016 meeting.

398  
399 Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #16-0833 to grant a franchise fee to  
400 Frontier Communications as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## 401 402 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

403  
404 **A. Section 17-727. Guidelines for removal of Landmark Trees, Councilmember**  
405 **Pellegrino.** Mr. Pellegrino said he wanted this brought up, because there is a big gap in the tree  
406 ordinance. Contractors basically mow down all the oak and other big trees for new construction.  
407 According to the ordinance, if the tree is in the footprint, the trees can be cut down. Many of the trees  
408 are landmark trees that are hundreds of years old. Contractors can go to the zoning board of appeals for  
409 a variance, which holds up the process for three weeks or more. Obviously, the contractor will not want  
410 to wait. The change that he would like to have the planning commission review is to give the building  
411 official the authority to adjust setbacks up to 20-percent to save a landmark tree just as the official has to  
412 adjust setbacks for non-conforming lots. The discussion paper is on file.

413  
414 Ms. Morris said currently the ordinance allows staff to grant certain variances up to 20-percent.  
415 The current ordinance states a 20-percent variance can be granted on the spot for anyone that has a  
416 non-conforming lot of record. She thought that Mr. Pellegrino was asking that same authority be  
417 extended to save a landmark tree. There have been many landmark trees removed recently. There were  
418 several builders who came in recently to apply for permits. Out of all of those, we tried to save the trees,  
419 but were only successful in saving one tree. Many more landmark trees could have been saved, if staff  
420 had authority to grant the 20-percent variance on the spot without going to the board of zoning appeal.  
421 Staff always encourages contractors to go before the board of zoning appeals to save landmark trees.  
422 They generally would be willing, but they do not want to delay their construction timeline. State law  
423 requires that board of zoning appeals meetings be advertised at least 15 days in advance in a local paper.



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424 The lot has to be posted, and that delays construction. The concerns that staff has are that the R3  
425 district lots are very small; 3,000 square feet. Obviously, a contractor wants to build the largest home  
426 possible on those lots with a pool behind it, so it would be more difficult in the R3 district to save  
427 landmark trees. Basically, Mr. Pellegrino is asking that the 20-percent setback variance be allowed to  
428 save a landmark tree, in addition to the nonconforming lots of record. There are only three landmark  
429 trees in town: Live Oak trees, Laurel Oak trees, and Cypress trees, all of which must be over 24 inches in  
430 diameter.

431  
432 Mr. Ott said after spending 11 years on the board of zoning appeals, and knowing that Horry  
433 County and Myrtle Beach allow special exceptions, the board can make rulings on these landmark trees.  
434 If we take the quasi-judicial laws away from the board of zoning appeals, and give them to the director  
435 we are looking for a lot of problems. It is well worth allowing the process to continue the way it is now.  
436 I would trust Ms. Morris and our administrator, but they will not always be here. Right now we have a  
437 group of citizens that make that ruling. Anyone can appear before the board; offer their case, and they  
438 will all be treated fairly. I guarantee that.

439  
440 Mr. Johnson suggested that we go through the proper channels of sending this to the planning  
441 commission to get its recommendation for council. Whether council needs to enact a moratorium  
442 remains to be determined. Ms. Morris said this can be added to the planning commission agenda for  
443 discussion on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The commission would act on the recommendation at the November meeting.  
444 If council does not want staff to grant a variance, the planning commission could recommend that  
445 anyone with a landmark tree with sufficient land to move the structure to save the tree would be  
446 required to appear before the board of zoning appeals for a variance. This would slow down  
447 construction, but not stop development.

448  
449 Mr. Ott said the only restriction is the 15 days advertising. Ms. Morris said that was correct. Mr.  
450 Ott said the contractors could wait 15 days for a hearing. The state requires that advertising. Ms. Morris  
451 said the matter would be put on the planning commission's next agenda for discussion.

452  
453 Mr. Courtney said changing the ordinance now with only about 14-percent of the land left to  
454 develop is a little bit too late. He was concerned about areas where lots are smaller and houses are  
455 [closer to] each other. If we start granting variances and creating new setbacks, fire could be an issue  
456 jumping from one building to another. Ms. Morris certainly agreed and said she would have issues with  
457 the side setbacks, as well. Sometimes landmark trees are on the sides of the lots. Her concern was a  
458 variance on the side, because there are only 5 foot setbacks on the R3 smallest lots and 10 foot setbacks.  
459 The majority of trees seen lately are either on the very rear of the property or right at the back edge of  
460 where the house would be situated. If the board of zoning appeals would grant a variance for the front  
461 setbacks that would save those trees. Mr. Courtney said that was why this issue goes to the board of  
462 zoning appeals.

463  
464 Mr. Ott added at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North near the large dog park you could see where the board of  
465 zoning appeals allowed a variance to save a landmark tree that is front of the house. Ms. Morris said  
466 there are not many lots left, but there are not many landmark trees left either. We certainly will not see  
467 them again in our lifetime.

468  
469 Mr. Stevens said there may not be many lots left, but there are many old homes that will  
470 eventually be razed and new homes built. We may not have a lot of vacant lots, but there are many  
471 properties that will be redeveloped. We need to consider future redevelopment.

472  
473 Mr. Pellegrino agreed with Mr. Stevens. Obviously, on Ocean Boulevard that are no landmark  
474 trees, but even down the next road, Dogwood Drive, there are many large oak trees on properties with  
475 little cinderblock houses that will eventually be razed and the property redeveloped with possibly two or  
476 three houses. Those 200 to 300 year old trees will be cut down. He understands the board of zoning

477 appeals process, and agrees that the board should be involved in this decision. However, an individual  
478 that is going to live here and oversees their home construction may wait 15 days. But, a contractor  
479 building a spec house will just cut down the tree. We will be in the same place we are now. Mr.  
480 Pellegrino would like for this topic to be on the planning commission agenda for discussion and a  
481 recommendation to council.  
482

483 Mayor Childs thought all councilmembers wanted to save as many landmark trees as possible.  
484 We ought to work out something that would encouraging saving them. He has seen trees "go by the  
485 dozen" in his neighborhood. With just some small adjustments, half of those trees could have been  
486 saved.  
487

488 **B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.**  
489

490 Mayor Childs said he would like to discuss removing the recreation use encumbrance on the  
491 Huckabee ball fields located on Glenns Bay Road.  
492

493 Ms. Fellner said the entire 10 acres owned at Huckabee had a recreation use encumbrance  
494 attached for a \$19,000 grant. In order to remove the encumbrance, if council desires to do so, the town  
495 would be required to identify multiple properties equaling a dollar to dollar highest and best use. A  
496 special appraisal would have to be ordered as was done for the library conversion, which cost between  
497 \$4,000 and \$6,000, because it required specific details not usually required for an appraisal. It would  
498 take about six months to go through the process, and multiple documents would have to be submitted to  
499 accomplish the conversion. The properties that would be smart to encumber in place of Huckabee would  
500 also have to have a highest and best use appraisals. She anticipated that Huckabee was worth between  
501 \$900,000 and \$1 million. The park at Willow Drive is being offered as it is not encumbered now, and the  
502 town would never want to change that park. Ms. Fellner said she had been reading deeds, but many  
503 encumbrances are not recorded on the deeds. Because so much time is involved in working this out, she  
504 wanted council to advise her as to whether she should move forward. Conversions can be done, which is  
505 how the town got the library.  
506

507 Mayor Childs asked for an explanation of how a conversion works. Ms. Fellner said for instance  
508 the highest and best use for the Huckabee property appraisal is for \$1 million. The town could have to  
509 offer other property worth \$1 million that would be acceptable to the Department of Interior (DOI) upon  
510 which the encumbrance could be transferred. Ms. Fellner said DOI confirmed that separate parcels  
511 would be acceptable, as long as the property was for recreational uses. For instance, beach accesses,  
512 while they are not buildable, provide access to the beach for the public, and the town would not want to  
513 change that use. There is also property at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South where the pond was filled. Ms. Fellner said  
514 the average operating cost at Huckabee ranges from \$35,000 to \$40,000, including background checks  
515 for coaches; water; sewer; electricity; labor for preparing fields, and turf care, which is about \$15,000  
516 alone. Other councils were disturbed that so few town children actually play ball. Mayor Childs said a  
517 county representative told him when they were building its Scipio Lane Complex that the town had done  
518 its part for many years, and he thought it was time for the county to step up. There are half-a-dozen ball  
519 fields within five minutes of Huckabee. The county fields do not have lights, but that could probably be  
520 arranged.  
521

522 Ms. Samples asked if the intent was to unencumber Huckabee so it could be sold. Mayor Childs  
523 said that would be correct. A lot of maintenance is done there; it is mostly for county residents. Ms. Ellis  
524 said over the past 18 years the teams were comprised of an average of 15-percent residents and 85-  
525 percent nonresidents.  
526

527 Mr. Pellegrino agreed with pursuing this. He did not see any benefit owning Huckabee when it is  
528 not connected to the town. You have to drive down a busy road to get there, so it is not convenient like  
529 Martin Field where kids can walk or ride their bicycles to the park. If you have to get in your car, you

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530 might as well sit through another light and go to Scipio Lane. He was surprised the expenses were only  
531 \$40,000 a year. He did not know whether that also included insurance. Huckabee is just one extra  
532 expense that does not really benefit residents. I have four kids and they have never been to Huckabee,  
533 except for my youngest who went to one Easter Egg Hunt at Huckabee. But that event has been moved  
534 to the passive park. He supported unencumbering the property.  
535

536 Mr. Courtney asked how much the cost to maintain Huckabee per year was. Ms. Fellner said the  
537 material cost and labor are \$40,000, but insurance, etc. was not included. Mr. Courtney asked if those  
538 amounts could be determined. Ms. Fellner said if council chooses to move forward, she will get a much  
539 closer cost number.  
540

541 Mr. Johnson said it concerned him, because he did not know what the exact intent was. This is  
542 the first time he heard about it. Before he made any decision, he wanted to see the number of residents  
543 versus county participants for the past ten years; town fees versus county fees, as long as Scipio has  
544 been operational, and the amount of county recreation money given to the town over the past ten years.  
545 He promised if Huckabee was sold, it would be a while before he would support on it. He wanted to  
546 have every "i" dotted, and "t" crossed, because we may be able to use that property as something else.  
547 Not necessarily ball fields, but maybe as leverage in other situations. He wanted to understand every  
548 option available.  
549

550 Mayor Childs said past councils have discussed this during his tenure on council. To answer his  
551 statement that this was the first he heard of this, this is actually the first time it was brought up with this  
552 council, which is why it was under discussion.  
553

554 Mr. Stevens asked if the town had to provide 10 acres to replace the 10 acres at Huckabee. Ms.  
555 Fellner said that was one strategy; but, the town does not have 10 acres together. Because of that, the  
556 town has to do a dollar for dollar for highest and best use trade. Ms. Fellner said this had been  
557 mentioned to her several times. She has no interest either way, but will be happy to move forward if  
558 council so desires.  
559

560 Ms. Samples said she was not excited about the prospect of losing the asset. She wished that  
561 more could be done with it. She understood that 85-percent of use was by county residents. At this  
562 time she did not favor moving forward. She would be hard pressed to support a sale, if council desires to  
563 move forward.  
564

565 Mayor Childs asked if there was enough support to move forward.  
566

567 Mr. Ott had no problem looking into this, but he did not support selling. He asked if the property  
568 could be used for other functions. Ms. Fellner said only for outdoor recreation-based activities now;  
569 youth or senior centers would not be acceptable.  
570

571 Ms. Samples asked if the property were unencumbered could the town use that property for  
572 other purposes. Ms. Fellner said yes, ma'am. Ms. Samples thought that was the important question.  
573 She retracted her non-support, and said as long as the town can keep the asset unencumbered so it  
574 could be used for a youth center or similar purpose she supported moving forward. Even though that  
575 adds work for Ms. Fellner, she would love to see that property unencumbered.  
576

577 Mr. Pellegrino agreed with using the property for other uses. He just thought it was an unused  
578 asset now. He put the challenge to Ms. Fellner to determine whether the property can be  
579 unencumbered. We are moving towards the visioning meeting in January and we can discuss a better  
580 use for the property.  
581

582 Mr. Courtney was also interested in a better use of the property. In the past, the town has spent  
583 a lot of money doing background checks and [maintaining the property.] He definitely thought Ms.  
584 Fellner should move forward.  
585

586 Mayor Childs believed there was a consensus to move forward and bring a report to the visioning  
587 meeting. Town Council **CONCURRED**.  
588

589 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)  
590

591 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. I feel like I need to defend public works a little bit. There is  
592 a drain grate right at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Cedar Drive. It was covered with mulch. I see  
593 houses where people have raked their yards and they pile leaves up beside the road. I see all kinds of  
594 stuff out there that isn't supposed to be out there in the form that it is. They can pick up trash, but  
595 leaves are supposed to be bagged. We're going into the fall season. That stuff is washed with every rain  
596 into the drains. Somebody lost all their pine straw in my front yard. I didn't even know who to call to  
597 give it back. Things like that block up the ditches and the drains. A comment made after the last  
598 meeting was that a 5 gallon bucket was found in a tube one time. Individuals have to take some of the  
599 responsibility for what goes into those tubes. Staff can clean it out, but if we are not paying attention,  
600 things that we don't think about wind up in them. Ms. Lowery, continued saying, I'd like to speak about  
601 the dog park. I realize that the 33 people who signed that email message probably had the best  
602 intentions. I had a dog that was 75 to 85 pounds. You can plant all the grass you want in the big dog  
603 park, but when you put between five and 21 big dogs in there, the first time they go in and kick off to  
604 chase each other or a tennis ball, unless your grass has 5 foot deep roots, it's not gonna stay there. You  
605 can plant every few weeks; but it wouldn't make a difference. The dog park was graded, and we are  
606 grateful the mud puddle is no longer there. I understand the other owners who are concerned that their  
607 dogs are getting dirty. Life goes on. Wash the dog! (*Speaker's emphasis. Laughter*) I hate to be callous  
608 about it, because I really like the dog park. I'll get another dog and I'll be back in the dog park again.  
609 You've got to be rational at some point. The picnic table is wonderful, and greatly appreciated. Putting  
610 the concrete under the benches was wonderful, because they were sitting at half-mast. Some of the  
611 dogs liked to play king of the mountain on the ramp, some didn't. The smaller dogs ran underneath it to  
612 escape from other dogs. You are never going to do something that is going to please everybody. You  
613 can't expand that dog park. If anybody goes into the passive park and stands there looking into the big  
614 dog park, you [can see] an extreme change in topography. Any rain that comes into the passive park is  
615 going to flow like crazy through the big dog park and through those fences. It's not quite so bad where  
616 the little dog park is. I don't think you need to do anything about it. You're not going to get grass to  
617 grow there, and it is very sweet of you to even consider it, but it isn't going to happen. If you want to  
618 take some big drainage tubes and set them up for an obstacle course for the dogs to play with, that  
619 would be nice. But, it would create problems mowing what grass there is and maintenance. The dog  
620 park is appreciated. I love it. Do what you can. Mayor Childs said he was sorry to hear of her dog's  
621 passing.  
622

623 Linda Reeser, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. My husband and I purchased a property there the end of June  
624 2015. We were there at the beginning of this little community that we have. Things weren't too bad  
625 until October. In October 2015 when we had the storm, we had a foot-and-a-half to two foot of water  
626 around our house. We were devastated. After living in Florida for 30 years, and dealing with coastal  
627 storms, we knew the risk of living on the coast. But, we never expected to have two-and-a-half feet of  
628 water underneath our house. Was there backup? I don't know. But, it wasn't the deluge that was here  
629 in September that came down overnight and a day and a night of it. It was dark. We looked out and we  
630 could see water flooding around our house. We were the only ones there. The other houses next to us  
631 were vacation houses, and our neighbor works at the hospital all night. It was very scary. We didn't  
632 know what to expect. We contacted the contractor and I asked what we are going to do about this. Mr.  
633 Buchanan told us it wasn't his problem. It was a town problem. It was a drainage issue. We called the  
634 building inspector's number, and Mr. Farria said we would have to contact Mr. Adair. We called

635 numerous times and left messages for Mr. Adair. Finally, one day out of the blue, Mr. Adair came to our  
636 house. He walked around the house with my husband, looked into the drainage areas, and said it's your  
637 problem, it's not ours. What a shame that no one listened to us at that time, because maybe some of  
638 that flooding could have been nipped in the bud. I understand it's coming from the commercial property,  
639 but it's coming from all around us. This is new construction. We are just amazed at how we could come  
640 into such a nice, small town, a beautiful community, and it's just not been a happy place for us. So, we  
641 just want to go on record as letting you know this just didn't happen in September. It happened in  
642 October, as well, and it's going to happen again. The next time it will be our house, because we were six  
643 inches from the insulation. It can happen.

644  
645 Ms. Nancy Roper, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. A lot of the issues I was going to bring up tonight was  
646 about the September 2<sup>nd</sup> flooding. A lot of these issues are being addressed. I'm very happy to hear  
647 that. Mr. Courtney brought up a lot; I've heard a lot of good things tonight. I really hope that you look  
648 into it as soon as possible. I've lived there 12 years. There are over 200 residences between Ocean  
649 Pines I and Ocean Pines II. I sat there in horror watching water almost getting into my front door. I  
650 called the public works department. I left a message. I never got an answer. I called Mr. Courtney,  
651 because traffic was going down the street 30 or 40 miles an hour creating wake. The water did get into  
652 two residences; almost into several others. We had a river. So it's just a very serious situation. I  
653 appreciate your looking into it. I hope we can get it resolved. I've never seen it happen before like this,  
654 and it very, very scary.

655  
656 Mr. Wes Sparks, North Dogwood Drive. Just the topic of Huckabee. If you do choose to  
657 unencumber Huckabee and divest the town of the property, I would certainly hope that there would not  
658 be a net decrease in park and recreation assets, but that the town would consider adding another  
659 property. I know there are some good ideas that can be done, but the fact that the location is really bad  
660 and really inconvenient to get to, and quite unsafe for a kid that's is not being transported in a vehicle  
661 should be factored in as to whatever use you determine.

662  
663 Ms. Nicole Mastrosante Martin, Poplar Drive South. I am a new resident here in May. (\*\*) We  
664 were very shocked when the storm happened. I understand that some of the departments were out  
665 there checking everything out. My concern is I do have experience in stormwater pollution prevention  
666 and drainage. I didn't see (\*\*) view blockages. When you do your inspections, how are you inspecting  
667 them? I crawled down into drains. If I wasn't able to do that, then we used cameras or organic dyes.  
668 The houses across 14<sup>th</sup> from our small community were not flooded. The storage community across 15<sup>th</sup>  
669 was not flooded. So, I'm highly concerned that the proper inspections of the drains are being done and  
670 the correct (\*\*). I do appreciate the town coming out and taking a look at it, and I hope that it goes  
671 further, because I'm concerned that the one business and the cul-de-sac of homes is not the only  
672 problem where things can still keep happening in the future. There are a lot more things that have gone  
673 wrong that could be more proactively addressed, as well.

#### 674 675 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

676  
677 Mr. Ott: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. As for the discussion about removing the landmark trees, and  
678 there may be an opening if we could get our planning and zoning director to take a look at special  
679 exceptions to see if there is some way we can hasten the system. I know there is a 15 day  
680 advertisement required, but if the hearing is for trees, then maybe the council could make a ruling on  
681 those as a special exception. As for the flooding, the flooding belongs to the town. It is all of our  
682 problem. We are all going to look at it, and it is not going to be any single person's problem. We are  
683 going to try our best to correct everything we have. As I said, it was an eye opener and there was a lot  
684 of water that showed our weaknesses. Good things are going to come from this. Just as looking at  
685 Huckabee. I believe there will be good things coming from that, too. Thank everybody for their  
686 comments. Thank you for your opinions. Thanks for coming out.

687

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688 Mr. Courtney: I want to thank everybody for coming out. I'm sorry, Mr. Adair, I don't want to  
689 beat up on staff, but I really need to stay on top of the issue that we have. I'm not here representing  
690 the contractors. I represent the people; residents of this town are my main concern. They come first.  
691 So, whatever we do in the future really impacts the residents and that's what is important to me. Thank  
692 you.

693  
694 Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. First of all, I would just like to thank Tom Nophsker. He  
695 exemplifies the Town of Surfside Beach employees. He's been here for forever, and he's everywhere,  
696 doing everything. If he's not working a festival, he's down on the beach doing something, or he's  
697 chasing the police chief around or whatever. Tom is a great guy, and the next time you see him, you  
698 need to thank him for his service to this town. As far as the flooding goes, I've lived here for more than  
699 30 years. I don't want to downplay the flooding, but my question is and nobody has said anything about  
700 the tide levels at the time of the flooding in certain areas and whether that had a play in the flooding or  
701 not. That was an event that was this past September. The last one was in October 2015. We are going  
702 to get a lot more events. I assure you that our public works staff will get to the bottom of the problems  
703 and take care of them. As far as the dog park goes, I looked at that petition and I really think that the  
704 people in Pawleys Island and Conway that signed that petition should pay for the improvements at the  
705 dog park. *(Laughter)* Not the town residents. That's just my opinion. As far as dredging the lakes,  
706 Elizabeth and Dogwood, the expense is going to be huge. The reason we did not dredge those two lakes  
707 previously was because all the other lakes cost so much. To dredge those two lakes would be an  
708 astronomical cost, even if grants were awarded. Maybe we need to tighten up our belts even more. We  
709 are spending emergency money here and there, and I live on one of those lakes. I'd love to see it  
710 dredged. But that's really not our priority at this time. Thank you for coming out, and that's my two  
711 cents worth.

712  
713 Mr. Pellegrino: I'm glad Mr. Johnson mentioned Mr. Nophsker. When he came up for his 30 year  
714 award, it was very refreshing. He was smiling ear to ear. I've never met him before, but he seemed so  
715 appreciative to have his job. Seems like he loves his job. Seemed like he wasn't even thinking about  
716 retirement. Isn't that refreshing in today's society? You rarely see that, so I thought that was great. As  
717 far as the stormwater, obviously, there are a lot of opportunities. I had sump pumps running in my  
718 rental property on Dogwood Drive. There was a foot of water in my driveway, and the pool deck was  
719 eight inches under water. The water was about one inch before going in the house. I know why my  
720 house almost flooded. The two houses behind me built eight inches above grade, so my house is like a  
721 pool. We have issues we need to solve with this stormwater system. We also have these new houses  
722 being built and the engineers have to submit a stormwater plan. In my opinion, the stormwater plans  
723 are useless, because we get the engineered plan and it doesn't work. There is a house on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
724 North that built feet above the next door neighbors. I don't care what kind of stormwater plan you have,  
725 if it rains hard that house next door to the elevated house will be a pool. We really need to look at that.  
726 I mentioned this to planning and zoning. We really need to look at the stormwater plans. The new  
727 neighborhood was built that many of the audience spoke about had stormwater plans submitted with the  
728 construction plans. A stormwater plan has to be incorporated with the town's plan so they work  
729 together. Somehow the interaction and communication between the town and the builders and the  
730 engineers didn't work. There is a big opportunity here. It's something that we really need to look at.  
731 It's a big challenge for planning and zoning, but that has to be a focus area or we will never solve this  
732 problem. We're going to have a lot more construction for many more years. There are only 15-percent  
733 of the lots left, but like Mr. Stevens said, people are going to knock down old houses and rebuild. If we  
734 don't get real stormwater plans that really work, then we're going to get worse and worse as the years  
735 go on. So, I challenge planning and zoning with that. Other than that, thank you very much for coming,  
736 and have a great night.

737  
738 Ms. Samples: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I really appreciate all the hard work of staff. You all  
739 continue to amaze me with all the hard work that you do every day. I know that sometimes we have lots  
740 of questions and the public has lots, but that does not negate your hard work. We are so appreciative of

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741 that. I agree with Mr. Ott's comments about flooding. It is our problem. I agree with all of Mr.  
742 Pellegrino's comments about stormwater. It just isn't working for some reason, and we need to find out  
743 why. It is good to see everyone. I hope y'all have a lovely evening. Thank you.  
744

745 Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank everybody for coming out. To the lady that sent the  
746 email about the dog park; I did my job, and I mentioned the dog park for her as I promised I would. As  
747 far as the flooding, I'm a lifelong resident of Horry County. Surfside Beach flooded way back in the  
748 1950s before it was even a town. The problem that we have is we're getting water from everybody else.  
749 When it rains, the water from the county comes right through Lake Elizabeth, and down on the south  
750 end. There's not much we can do about it. The county, I think, needs to step in and help us out. They  
751 should have put a big stormwater retention pond in Deerfield to take care of some the water that comes  
752 into town. Mr. Ott used to tell me about seeing couches floating in Lake Elizabeth. I don't doubt it. I  
753 saw stuff float before they ever filled the ditch in and put the pipe with a screen there. One thing you  
754 have to think about, if we do something about flooding and stormwater, we have to figure out how to  
755 pay for it. That comes down to you may have to come out of your pocket as a taxpayer for a stormwater  
756 fee or stormwater impact fee, or whatever you want to call it to pay for the stormwater projects. Sooner  
757 or later the big one [hurricane] is going to come. The whole town will be in a heck of a mess. So, think  
758 about that. If you want it, tell us. If you don't want it, tell us. Thank y'all for coming out and have a  
759 good evening. Have a good week, too.  
760

761 Mayor Childs: Everybody up here has brought up some good points. But before I even got here,  
762 I understand the south end used to literally be underwater. The town has made great strides in solving a  
763 lot of the stormwater issues. You look at towns down the coast that were literally flooded. We do have  
764 some hot spots and the council is very aware of that. We're going to continue to work on these. But, it  
765 was not long ago, like I told the press, these stormwater projects are not \$500 or a \$1,000. These  
766 projects are hundreds of thousands of dollars. I hope we don't see anything soon, but if we get these  
767 big hurricanes and it damages our infrastructure, here we go. We're back to square one on our  
768 stormwater, again. We are always going to have a stormwater project. Somebody mentioned about the  
769 engineering. I think somewhere up around 14<sup>th</sup> that the engineer designed the stormwater system, but  
770 the builder did not follow it. But, I'm of the mind, if an engineer draws the plans and they are accepted  
771 by the building department as a good plan, I think the engineer ought to sign off on it when it's  
772 completed. That way, once he designs it, and the builder doesn't put it in the way he is supposed to,  
773 nobody is going to sign off on something like that and put the liability on themselves. I would like to see  
774 it go back to the engineers and let them sign off on the project stating that it was done correctly. I think  
775 there is an issue now, because an engineer said that was not his design. I think council should look into  
776 this and hold some people responsible. We will keep working on the stormwater issues. Mr. Stevens had  
777 a good point. We are about the only town along the coast that does not have a stormwater fee. The  
778 amount would not be monumental per household. One of the most expensive ones I think is about \$100  
779 yearly. To help with the stormwater projects, I don't think that anybody would object to something like  
780 that. We are stretching a dollar as much as we can and doing what we can for stormwater. I thank  
781 everybody for coming out.  
782

783 Mr. Courtney: Mr. Mayor, can I just add one thing? Mayor Childs: Go ahead, please. Mr.  
784 Courtney: Can I get some oil for this chair, please? *(Laughter.)* Mayor Childs: Mr. Courtney, I would  
785 like to add that we did have some money in for new chairs, but there were three people that killed that,  
786 so I don't want to...there would've been no squeaking chairs? Am I right, Ms. Fellner? *(Laughter)* Mr.  
787 Courtney: Just a little oil. Mayor Childs: So, we have to work in the squeaking chairs.  
788

789 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Mr.  
790 Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**  
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Town Council Regular Meeting  
September 27, 2016

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Prepared and submitted by,

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Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: October 11, 2016

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Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

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Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

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Julie M. Samples, Town Council

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Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a flash drive. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org) and the marquee.

APPROVED