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SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL PIER WORKSHOP TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS MARCH 9, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. Mr. Pellegrino was absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner and Town Clerk Herrmann.

Ms. Fellner gave a PowerPoint regarding considerations for the pier rebuild, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Ms. Samples said before we start discussing what we as councilmembers perceive to be our vision, I would love to hear what the stakeholders have to say, as the purpose of the meeting is to hear them. It is your pier. It is owned by the Town of Surfside Beach and its residents. If council would so agree. Several members agreed.

Mr. Brady Simpson, Lone Oak Lane: Mayor Bob, I know you very well. I think you're one of the nicest persons that I've met since I've been fishing on the pier, because you always come out with a smile and you always welcome everybody out there. I was so glad you got [elected] as Mayor of Surfside Beach. I work for you very hard, even though I don't live in Surfside. I live in Caropines, the slum section of Surfside. But anyway, that's what it was called one time, you know, by some of the councilmembers. Not y'all, but them. Mayor Childs: Not this group here. Mr. Simpson: But anyway, what I've got say, Brother Bob, I worked in the tackle chop after I retired in Charlotte. I came down and worked in the tackle shop for 13 years. I met some of the finest people that I've ever met in my life working in there. I loved to work in there. I didn't need it for the money. I just liked to work in there. Anyway, what I got to say, I know, I'm 80 years old, Bud's 80 years old, there's a lot of us old. Why I would love to see the pier built back, I would love to see the pier built back because anything you could build back, like maybe go ahead and finish the ones already out there, or maybe build a whole pier like it was, that suit me so fine. I get so many calls out of Charlotte, and other places, because I worked there so long. The first thing they ask me, how's things in Surfside? I say, oh, things in Surfside are fine. What they're really calling me about is 'how's the pier?' The pier is very, very important Surfside Beach. I may not know, I've heard tell of people that don't want to build it back. But, I think that would be the worst thing that ever happened to Surfside Beach. I think we need a pier, and I think we need it as quick as we can get it. Whatever it costs as you know, if you want to build the cheapest thing, that's okay. I don't care. I would love to see it built back as cheap as you can get it built back. But, I would love to see a pier built back out there as soon as you can, because people are very, very upset. You know, I love Surfside been here for over 26 years now, and I spend 90-percent of my time in Surfside. Brother Bob, you know that every time you come out there, I was out there. I'm a born-again Christian, and I love everybody. I always got along with people and I have the finest people I ever met on that pier. So, I want y'all to think about what I say, and just do what you can. You know, as I said, we got some old folks out there, and that's our life. You know, that's what's keeping us alive; going out there and fishing. So, think about what I said. I appreciate it the time you've given me.

Mr. Joe Luzzi, Waterbridge Contractors: Good evening, everyone. Thank you for your service to the board. I'm a salesman for a company called the Waterbridge Contractors right here in Garden City, and that's where I'm from in Garden City, also. We're marine contractors. I did a little bit of research and I appreciate your visions that you have and leaving that open to the public. In my research and the piers under construction that I have done over a short amount of time that I've been working for this company, I found one thing is most important. The foundation for most of these piers that are constructed needs to be strong. In the case of, I have some photos here of two piers, the Huntington pier in California, and the Jacksonville Beach pier. If I would be allowed to approach and show them to you? (Mr. Luzzi took pictures to the dais.) The important thing about this first pier that you have a photo of there, is the Jacksonville pier. During Hurricane Matthew they lost 320 feet off the end of that pier, but the foundation

remained intact. You'll notice in that photo that it's concrete pilings that are there, so it's a recommendation that whatever company that you seek to rebuild the pier, that you use concrete pilings. The other recommendation is that not to put any structure above, except for that decking material that you see there. (Samples given to the administrator.) Now along the lines with that decking material, I've done further research that there is a grant program. This is a federal grant from the National Science Foundation for structural and architectural engineering of materials. Within this grant some of the criteria is that you use an abundance of recycled materials. Those samples that I have given you are made out 94-percent recycled materials. The city of Surfside would have to apply, of course, for this grant, but under the description of this grant, first of all, will be the concrete foundations may also help you by working with the National Science Foundation to go ahead and get that that federal money for you. It can be, if you're just looking to do repairs, I'd say to so maybe consider just doing the concrete foundations all the way up on the front with the repairs, but then also if you going to redesign the entire pier, all the pilings should be made out of concrete. The railings can also be made of that composite material; recycled materials. In similar projects that we've done along the beach, in particular, Pawleys Island, we had built a promenade. It's about a 400 foot promenade that we have built there. I believe it was 8 feet wide. So what I was proposing that if the Council will consider also a boardwalk going from Scotty's restaurant, under the pier, and over to River City. You may also qualify for funds under that same grant by protecting the dunes and the beach by putting a boardwalk there. I did leave my card there, if any of the councilmembers have any other questions about that. My company would seek to put a bid, when the bid process is ready to be done. I would encourage you to bring that grant to the attention of your engineers to see if they can work that into the plans for rebuilding and repairing to see if you might qualify for these funds. Thank you for your time. Have a good evening.

Mr. Lawton Murray, Dogwood Drive North: I've been here a couple of years. I've really enjoyed the pier, even if I'm just walking out there. I've met a lot of good people out there. I have a question. Is the pier left sound? Mayor Childs: the answer to that we don't know yet, until he engineers they're getting to that process right now. Mr. Murray: I personally would be satisfied with just a replacement. But, I believe if we can, we should go with the concrete. I'm like the guy that was up here before. Why couldn't we add on to what we got, if it's sound, and in the future come back and do that part? What I understand, concrete will stay there through these category four or five storms, and you just have to put back the top part. I also understand the fishing is improved with those concrete piers. Thank you. Mayor Childs: Thank you. I think pretty much all of us agree the concrete pilings is certainly the way to go. We could build it with wood, and two years later Mother Nature comes and just like it did with Hurricane Matthew, we're back to square one again.

Mr. Kevin Fitzmaurice, Ocean Palms Drive: I would like to see the pier done again in concrete. It's my understanding next year, the town will clear the note for the pier and we'll own it entirely. So, if we're going to fix it, let's fix it right. It's not going to get cheaper in the future. It's only going to get more expensive. We're not, not going to get hurricanes. We live on the ocean. So spend the money now while it's cheaper. Do it right, and not have to deal with is going into the future. Also, I would like to see the town, perhaps, go out Marshwalk [in Murrells Inlet] sell decorative plaques to people, commemorative plaques. Raise a little money to drop in the bucket get enough drops in the bucket, the buckets fill. It would be a nice way to kind of tie people to the pier, and again, raise a little bit of money. Sell them for, I don't know, \$100 or \$150. It could work, but thank you for taking the time to take the input.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard. I was here a little late, so I don't know if anyone else brought this up. I wasn't a big fan of the pier. I'm not a fisherman. All I see is pigeon poop, and fish guts. I've been to the pier three times in eight years. But if you're going to have a pier, let's have a really good pier. Let's do it right. Concrete may be the way to go. I'd also like to see something possibly on the end of pier. Something like an entertainment venue; get a little money from it. Like the gentleman said, the Marshwalk, let's have like a little Marshwalk here. Maybe have vendors on the pier selling wares and stuff. Maybe have it similar to the Garden City pier, where it extends out onto the street and you might be able to have a restaurant or two, or a bar. I'm not talking about anything wild, anything crazy. The Surf Diner serves liquor. I don't think we've ever had a problem there. So you know, you could have possibly music. We have a great venue on Sunday, Sunday Serenades. Why not on Friday and Saturday night having some local or local group, not a big rock band, but someone out there singing and somebody have

a couple cocktails. I'm not talking about wild, crazy times. But some way we can make a little bit of extra money to make the pier better. Thank you.

Mr. Michael Large, Myrtle Drive South: I just want to remind Town Council, Mr. Mayor, that we're not really doing this here today for the people that are in this room. We're doing it for our children. I have two boys that are in middle school. They enjoy the pier. They're going to grow up here. It's iconic. This pier's been here since the 50s, and so you have to keep in mind that we should do this right. Let's expedite it. I agree with that. Concrete, great. I mean the presentation in and of itself raised more questions than I could ever even begin to address here tonight, and I don't envy everybody to have to make those tough decisions. But do it right. Remember, this is, this is something that's going to go on for generations, hopefully. I absolutely think that should be rebuilt or done in a way that makes it bigger, brighter, more beautiful, and stands out for what Surfside really is.

Mr. Larry McKeen, 6th Avenue South: I've never been on the pier, believe it or not, even though I vacationed in this town for 20 years before I moved here. However, I think the pier should be rebuilt. It's just a symbol of the town, and in fact, I think it should be put on our little circular thing back there [referring to town seal.] We should redo that with a little pier in there. As for water and concrete, I'm usually the kind of guy who wants to build it right. However, having come to council meetings here for the past year, we hear our residents choking over gnats of little bits of money for this project and that project. I can't imagine how they're going to swallow a couple extra million dollars to build concrete pier. However, I'm happy to help pay for it, you know, as much is my taxes can. You want to raise them a little bit to pay for that? I think it's worth it, and I think the town's residents should look at it in that manner. That's all.

Mr. Gary Denbraven, 13th Avenue North: I've been in the town 43 years. I've fished off the pier for over 50 years. So I've got the history in my head, if I can get it out at my age. Actually, the original pier was steel and [Hurricane] Hazel took that out, and for many years we had remnants of steel. So when talking about what kind of piers, I haven't heard anybody mention steel. But, I would not be for that. The concrete is a fine idea and it will last many years, but if anybody is paying attention to what the Department of Transportation is worrying about now on the roads with the concrete bridges, over a period of time, the moisture works its way. Depending what they using for rebar or stressed steel cables, or whatever, they expand, they cause cracks; opens up, more moisture goes in. I've been fishing the wood piers for years. I'd rather see you put, stick with the wood, and go with the 20 or 25 years. The cost is probably half what you talk about in the concrete pier. I think you'd still get the usage out of it. I think FEMA would probably back you on that. More people in the town would I think back you on that, if the cost was more reasonable. I think the fishermen, okay, would back you on that. I wish you'd hurry because I'm 86, and you know I'd like to fish there instead of the state parks. So I like to see you do it. and one other comment, the gentleman that mentioned about the plaques, if you paid attention to Green Bay Packers, they built the whole stadium with bricks that people paid for. I think that's an excellent idea. It would be, tourists might even be interested in things like. You would sell them in the tackle shop; give the right to have a plaque put up in somebody's memory or name. And maybe I'd do it for some of the old-timers that aren't there anymore. I like to do it myself. So that's good, valid thought. I think that you might be surprised how many people would be interested in doing just that. I thank you for your time, and I hope you hurry. I can't peddle my bike (**). Also the people that I run into, do want the pier. I only found one person in my conversations that wasn't interested in spending the money for the pier. Thank you.

 Ms. Carrie Johnson, Harbor Lights Drive: I definitely think we need to rebuild the pier. It is the focal point of this town. However, I do think we need to do it bigger and better. I do think we need concrete pilings. I would like to see it you split off into two sides, and one side for fishing, and the other side for entertainment, as it was mentioned. Selling the plaques is a good idea, bonds is a good idea, and you can even raise my taxes some. I'd be willing for that, as well. I do think that it needs to be rebuilt, but I would like to see it bigger and better. Thank you.

Mr. Joe Luzzi: I did want to add, though, instead of putting a structure on the end of the pier, it can be constructed with power and water to go out to the end of the pier, and then you bring out temporary structures. So if you want to put together a bar or separate huts that can be rolled out there in the spring and summer when it's appropriate, let's say we do have a hurricane coming, those can be

rolled back off the pier, but you have will all the infrastructure out there with outlets for individual vendors to use. So, I strongly recommend that you don't put any structures on there right now, but build it to the point and strong enough so that in years to come, when you do have the funds to build a restaurant out on the end, or some type of a structure. You can go up many stories, as long you have that strong foundation. Thank you again.

Mr. Simpson: (**speaking from audience.) It's like to be 20 or 30 years before the pier is blown away again. I've taped and boarded the windows up many times for hurricanes. This is third pier in over 50 years that I've seen rebuilt. So there's not really a bad danger of a hurricane tearing the pier up. (**) pier is the way to go, and I'm sticking to it.

Mr. Denbraven: Everybody's talking about putting a bar in. we did have a bar at the pier, and it didn't go, just so you know. They went down to Garden City. It did not go. There was one on there. Ask me anything about the history and I can tell you.

Mr. Ott: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I would like to have the council and staff look at building the best structure we could down there. It is the keynote [sic] of our town. The beach is actually what brings everybody here. We want people to come here and look at that and say, wow, I'm glad I came here. I would like us to look at making it into a Mercedes, and the, if we need to, pull it back a little bit for funding and whatnot. But let's see what it would cost for doing it up the best we could, and then see what we can actually afford, and what it would cost us. But for us not to rebuild, and for us not to make this the best structure available would be a mistake for the town for our children, and for the next generation. Thank you.

Ms. Samples: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, First, I want to thank everyone for showing up and providing your comments. Your input is very important, and we have a lot of decisions to make. We certainly don't want to make without your input. I want to rebuild the pier. No question about it, and I'm with you, the sooner the better. We are losing revenue, because that pier is not there. I'm concerned about this summer and people coming to visit and that pier not being there for them. So I hope, I'm hopeful that we can make our decisions right and quick, and the pier back up my next season. However, I'm not interested in going into debt to build the pier, quite frankly. I'm just not. I'm all about paying as you go and I don't want to see our taxes go up just to rebuild it. I like the idea of concrete, but it's going to be a lot of money to build it. The initial information we've gotten so far is it's going to be a lot of money. So I'm concerned about that. On the other hand, sea levels are rising, and that is a fact. We know that the ocean surge could take that pier again, if were not careful in how we do rebuild it. I love the idea of expanding it and making it more, making it more than entertainment type area. The problem that we have with that is logistically were not a big town, so we don't have parking. We do not have a lot of space, so the option of making it bigger and better is great, but we certainly need to have a vision that goes a little bit further than just the pier then, and how that's going to impact not only are tourist and our space, but also our residents that enjoy that pier and look forward to using it year-round, not just the summer months. So I want to keep it simple. I love the idea of the boardwalk. Some other council people and I have talked about doing a boardwalk, and adding more vendors, more businesses down there and making it more of a walking area. So, therefore, parking would not be, hopefully, as big of a problem. I love the suggestions, I'm open to more, but that pier does have a history. I want to honor that, and so I like the idea of having a fishing pier in the family beach. The sooner we can get it built, the better, but we do need to be careful in how we're going to go about funding it, and remember that FEMA will reimburse us, if we build it back pretty much the way it was. So, that has to be a consideration. Those of us who have to make those decisions have to look at all of that information and that's the elephant in the room. The pier rebuild is the elephant in the room. If we do nothing else as a Council, we have to concentrate on rebuilding that pier sooner than later. So we've had this meeting tonight. We're going to have two more. We're going to solicit more information. I, for the record, Mr. Mayor, will not be here for the next two meetings. So I appreciate the opportunity to have my say tonight. I look forward to hearing from others in the community about how they perceive the vision of the pier to be for them. Thank you. I really sincerely appreciate your input.

Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Like Councilmember Samples said, we're having two more meetings. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend and give their input, as well. I may be the

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only person on council now that still has scars from the fact that the town purchased the pier. I voted for that simply because it is a town icon, and I do not want it to go away. I still don't want it to go away. I want to rebuild it. Definitely want to rebuild it. How we rebuild it is anyone's guess at this point. You know, it's going to be a monetary issue. There's no doubt about it. We can replace it as it was, allegedly through FEMA's reimbursement, or we can make it better somehow through funds. I don't know if we could use parking funds that we just increased, because those funds are designated for land purchases, and so on and so forth. Don't know if we can use that or not. There were just so many questions up in the air now, but rest assured that I want to see the pier rebuilt as soon as possible, just like everyone else in this town. It's unfortunate, and I was at a meeting with Ed Piotrowski a couple weeks ago, and that the strongest category one hurricane we've seen in a long time, and it did what it did. Obviously, it took out of our pier. Our pier had issues. Don't get me wrong, I mean, it had issues. We had been maintaining it for a while. So, whether concrete pilings are the answer, or whether it's wood pilings, we don't know. This is just the, at this point it's just like, golly. If we all had the answer, it would be easy, but we don't. We need to meet with FEMA and see what they will give us funding wise. I do want the pier to be rebuilt in some form or fashion. Preferably, bigger and better. We'll just have to see. I really do appreciate you guys coming out and giving your input. Thank you.

Mayor Childs: Mr. Johnson, I was here with you on that vote, and I still defend that. I think it was a good vote that we did.

Mr. Stevens: I'm going to speak as a Horry County native. I've been here all my life. First trip I ever came to Surfside Beach was 1954. The pier was there then. I went fishing on the pier with the father. The pier has been destroyed three times by hurricanes. So it definitely would be nice to build it back with some type of structure that would last for a long time. It's obvious that the town would like to see it built back. Of course it's a centerpiece for the whole town. So that's basically what would have to happen is I think is the pier would have to be built back. It's the main part of the town. Ralph Magliette and David Pellegrino and I met with the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce. We talked one time about a boardwalk down there. That would be nice to put bands down there, and other businesses down there, too. That was discussed and we thought about bringing it to council at one time. Then, of course, the pier got damaged. But if we did all at one time, it would be a nice thing. Unfortunately, I may not be able to vote on this. Mr. Luzzi works for Waterbridge. I also work for Waterbridge, so I might have to leave it up to the people here, the other six people, unless y'all want to nominate somebody to vote in my place. (Laughter.) Thank you.

Mr. Courtney: Yes, thank you for being here. I just want to say, unfortunately, we are in the early stages of this. We still have to wait to hear back from FEMA, and see what they have to say when it comes to dealing with the pier. This is a wood pier. It came down three times. What does that tell us? That it's not working. The wooden pier is not working. They're coming down. I'm strongly for concrete, if we're going to do it, we're going to do it right. I'm concerned about bonding out for this pier. But, I do see as a family man, and walking up on that pier; I do go on appear quite often, is that I do bring my children out there. We do use it. We don't fish off of it, but a lot of times we go to Garden City pier, because there are all the places, all the things to do on that pier as in the arcade, and drinks, and food. I think that with good thought put into this, and we do it right, it would be a positive thing. When we get into the cost, we're talking about wood versus concrete, \$2 million versus \$4 million. You're talking a lot of money here, so if you're going to do it, you've got to do it right. To have it come down three times is a clear message. It's going to come down again. Do I believe the pier was maintained? No, I don't to be quite honest with you. I'm not going to sit up here and lie to you. I don't believe it was maintained. We saw the pier; we were watching prior to the storm. A lot of the crossbeams were damaged, and it really did need some work. As far as the raising taxes, yes, it's gonna cost the taxpayers money. The taxpayers are going to have to pay for this. Is it going to be worth it? So if we're going to do it, again, we are going to have to do it right. I'd like to see more things on the pier other than just fishing. I'd like to see something more for families and for tourist to come here, and do something. I'd like to see an extension of a boardwalk coming further inland, so we can have families that go out there. If you've gone out to the pier, I know some of you said that they've never used the pier, some of you said you use the pier a lot, but when you walk out there with family members, and kids, and you're walking in you are a tourist here; before I moved here and before I bought my house 2008, we used to come here and visit all time. When you're walking with children, the

first you've got to teach them to do is be careful, because there're casting lines off the pier. So I believe, you know, we do have to take that into consideration when we do rebuild this. We want to make it friendly for everybody to use. We want to get the best out of this pier. I do believe that we can do what Garden City's doing. The last time I was up at Garden City pier was this summer. We went up there many times. Councilmember Ron Ott went with me. We saw the Garden City pier doing great. They had fishermen up there, they had dancing up there, and they had an arcade up there. To be honest with you, the cash register wouldn't stop opening and closing. They were making money. So again, it's in the early stages. We still got a long way to go until we hear back, and will have to wait to see what FEMA is going to give us back on this. So again, I'd like to make sure if we do this, we do it right. We don't want to come down. Three times is a sign telling us it's way too many times coming down. It's gonna come down again. To put it out there in wood. It's proven. So let's see what happens with FEMA. Let's see what comes back. Hopefully, we will get the funds that we need. And we need a little bit more input. I think these workshops are great. I think that we can get more of them, and get a lot more feedback from other people, and see how we go; carry on from here. I thank you for coming out, and I look forward to the next workshop. Thank you.

Mayor Childs: What I understand, what I've gathered from tonight's workshop is everybody's in favor of the pier in some form or fashion. So I think that's undoubtedly the direction we will go in. There are two more meetings. So if you think about anything tonight, and think oh, my goodness. I forgot to say that. You've got two more opportunities to do it. We are going to have three meetings. We want to make sure everybody [can attend.] The next will be in the morning, so somebody might not like to come out late at night, and the last one will be on Saturday. So somebody who is working, they've got the opportunity to come on Saturday. We've tried to cover everybody, so we don't have anybody at all say that they missed the meeting; weren't given an opportunity. So we look forward to your input. Bring your friends. I'm big on these workshops and before anything comes before Council we can hear what you like. It's better to hear before than afterwards. So please, give your input, and I sure appreciate everybody coming out tonight. Thank council for their input and is there anybody else that would like to speak?

ADJOURNMENT. Mayor Childs declared the workshop adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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	Prepared and submitted by,
	Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk
Approved: March 28, 2017	
Rober	t F. Childs, Mayor
Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore	Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council
Mark L. Johnson, Town Council	David L. Pellegrino, Town Council
Julie M. Samples, Town Council	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 new, unopened 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 and the marquee.