



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL PIER WORKSHOP  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
115 US HIGHWAY 17 NORTH, SURFSIDE BEACH, SC  
MAY 13, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Childs called the workshop to order at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmember Courtney were present. Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino, and Samples were absent. A quorum was not present. Others present: Administrator Fellner, and Town Clerk Herrmann.

Ms. Fellner presented a PowerPoint, a copy of which is on file. Mayor Childs opened the floor for public comments:

Mr. Bud Joins, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, said he wants the pier rebuilt and would like for the town to use concrete, if possible, and also make the pier longer. I think walkers on the pier spend about \$100,000 a year. I like the idea of using that money for pier maintenance. Ms. Fellner said the revenue is actually closer to \$70,000 per year.

Mr. Brady Simpson, Lone Oak Lane, said he's been fishing on the pier for over 50 years and has met many nice people there. As he said at the two previous pier workshops, he wants the pier rebuilt, and would like to see it rebuilt as it existed before the hurricane. He thought we could add on to the existing structure so people could use it now, and would be the cheapest way to go. The pylons and braces are solid.

Ms. Betty Lowery, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, said she would like to see the new pier with a more substantial base, concrete pilings, and a wider deck to allow more walking room. She suggested allowing memorial plaque sales to fund the reconstruction, possibly in a fish shape. In her opinion, the town needs to consider the long term cost versus spending more money now. A meeting room at the pier was suggested, along with several funding options, including donations in change jars and selling memorial benches. Ms. Lowery asked how much it cost to insure the pier. Ms. Fellner said \$106,000 a year for comprehensive coverage.

Mr. John Wolf, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North said we need the pier. He did not believe concrete was necessary, but thought the pier should be wider at the ocean end, and longer. The pier should be inspected annual and maintained. Use the pier fund for repairs and upkeep. He did not support adding an arcade or bar and said that Garden City pier has those functions, and hire off-duty police officers to manage them.

Mr. Leonard Krassick, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, said we need to rebuild the pier so it will last a while. We also need to insure the pier, and inspect and maintain it.

Mr. Lawton Murray, Dogwood Drive North, said the pier should be rebuilt, He asked if the existing structure was stable. Mayor Childs said the engineer will report on structural integrity. Mr. Murray asked why it is taking so long to determine this. Mayor Childs said government agencies are very busy; we're not on the top of their lists. Not a day goes by that Ms. Fellner doesn't do something towards getting the pier started. We've hired an engineer, so things should move along faster. Mr. Murray said if the current structure was stable, then it should be rebuilt as it existed, which would save a lot of money.

Mr. Joe Luzzi, Waterbridge Contractors, repeated his comments that were made at the last two pier workshops about selling bronze plaques as a fund raiser, and using recycled components that would qualify the town for other grants.

Town Council Pier Workshop  
May 13, 2017

53 Mr. Ott thanked everyone for attending and said we appreciate your comments. Everything Ms.  
54 Fellner presented in the PowerPoint is true, and that is the information the public should rely upon. The  
55 bottom line about reconstruction will be based on what the town can afford, but there will be a pier.  
56

57 Mr. Courtney said thank you for coming. Be careful of rumors going around about the pier. If you  
58 have questions, please contact us. The pier has been destroyed three time. The design will be based on  
59 cost, and how much money the town can get from FEMA. If there is a way for us to get the pier  
60 operating, we will. If the structure is sound, I don't see any need to go any further.  
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62 Ms. Fellner said within six to eight weeks a meeting should be held with the structural engineer.  
63 Once the scope is determined, we can move forward with workshops to bring the information to the  
64 public for comments. She hoped all negotiations would be done within the next two months, but FEMA  
65 has until October to decide. Mr. Courtney said we cannot move forward until we hear from FEMA. Ms.  
66 Fellner said replacement does not include the buildings; it does include the ramp going up to the pier that  
67 starts in the parking lot and continues out towards the ocean at the end of the pier.  
68

69 Mr. Guy Lanham, Hickory Drive, suggested putting the walking admission fees into a fund to  
70 maintain the pier. He thought memorial plaques were a great idea, and that the town should make  
71 donations with a board for the donors' names. If we just rebuild the pier as it existed, would FEMA pay  
72 the whole cost? Ms. Fellner said only 75-percent.  
73

74 Mr. Ott said that the town has to pay the full costs and then FEMA would reimburse us. Whatever  
75 funding mechanism is used has to be for the full amount and then FEMA would reimburse us.  
76

77 Mayor Childs said we will get the pier opened as quickly as possible. We're not dragging our feet.  
78 If you think it isn't moving fast enough, remember we're dealing with federal agencies. We want it open,  
79 because it is costing money while it's closed. Thank you all for coming today.  
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81 **ADJOURNMENT.** Mayor Childs adjourned the workshop at 10:41 a.m.  
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83 Prepared and submitted by,  
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87 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

88 Approved: June 13, 2017  
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91 Robert F. Childs, Mayor  
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94 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore  
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94 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council  
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97 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council  
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96 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council  
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99 Julie M. Samples, Town Council  
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97 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council  
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102 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not intended to be a complete  
103 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  
104 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  
105 media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers.  
106 Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org) and the marquee.