



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 27, 2018 ♦ 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: Interim Administrator Duckett; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris; Police Chief Hofmann; Public Works Director Adair; Fire Captain Carter, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Pastor Tim Harmon, Christian Support for Emergency Services, gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

Mayor Childs invited the 2018 Election candidates to introduce themselves: Mary Nell True, Debbie Scoles, Bruce Dietrich, Cabel Young, Carol Cook, David Pellegrino, and Tim Courtney responded.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the agenda as presented with an amendment to enter executive session before committee appointments were made. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the January 6, 2018 workshop minutes; January 29, 2018, February 1, 2018, and February 12, 2018 special meetings minutes, and the February 13, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Mr. Stan Wrobel, 3rd Avenue South: My comments relate to agenda item 8A. Approval of Chief Hofmann's plan for a one time lump sum for police officers needs to be done a.s.a.p. You just can't anyone a badge and a Glock and say, 'you're hired as a police officer.' This lump sum or bonus is cited as only a short term, immediate fix, but a needed one. Make the hard decision you were all elected to do, and make it happen. You also need to find the money to implement his overall salary adjustments for police officers for the budget year, if not sooner. Thank you.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South: I didn't know she was back there, but I just wanted to congratulate Officer Kim Decker on making officer of the year for us. She's officer of the year every year. A super, super lady. Thank you.

Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: I'd like to address 6.B. Department Reports, number I Events by Supervisor Ellis. Last January 24, 2017 Mr. Courtney said that a contract needed to be negotiated for the future. It should not be done at the end of the season. Mr. Pellegrino said that we need a fair compromising contract and he agreed with Mr. Courtney that they should continue with the old contract for the last baseball season. By fall a new contract should be in place that's fair to everyone. I would like to know since Mr. Ellis's report talks about the agreement with the softball league, has a new contract been agreed-upon? Are we still going to spend another \$40,000 this year to groom fields? Are we still going to continue to pay for background checks on the officials and the coaches? Every meeting we talked about needing money for the pier needing money, needing money for infrastructure. I would like to know if anything has been done about that money that we spend. Thank you.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Employee awards, Chief Hofmann. Mayor Childs and Chief Hofmann recognized Officer Robbie Pinto as police officer of the year. Sergeant Lee Black was recognized as supervisor of the year. Both awards were nominated by department staff. Chief Hofmann said Officer Pinto is in his first year with the department, but has already proven himself by writing the most driving under the influence tickets of anyone on staff. Sergeant Black

57 has been with the department over eleven years, and is well respected in the department and the community.
58 Sergeant Black is a staunch supporter of his troops, and never hesitates to help when he is called upon. Mayor
59 Childs said both rewards were well deserved.

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61 **B. Department Reports.**

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63 **i. Events.** Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Over 300
64 children have registered for the spring baseball program with the Surfside Beach Youth Association. She also said a
65 beer truck will not be at this year's BBQ Festival, because they vendor barely broke even last year. Ms. Samples
66 said since Ms. Cook brought it up, I understand that the contract signed with the Surfside Beach Youth Association
67 continues until cancelled. Ms. Ellis indicated that was correct. Ms. Samples said unless there are changes to the
68 contract, nothing has to be done. We have heard a lot of numbers being thrown around about Huckabee and how
69 much it costs the Town of Surfside Beach to maintain Huckabee. The numbers that we've heard are around \$40,000.
70 Assuming that number is accurate, that \$40,000 will have to be paid for Huckabee whether or not baseball is played.
71 The league is self-sustaining. They pay for their own uniforms, equipment, and supplies, and even pay for the
72 electric bill. My statement is to clear up the misinformation going on and on. As of the last discussion by Town
73 Council wants to keep the Huckabee property. There is no interest in selling it. We see it as a town asset. Mr. Ott
74 and Mr. Courtney agreed. Mr. Ott asked if Ms. Ellis would set up a meeting for a few councilmembers to meet with
75 the Youth Association management. Ms. Ellis said yes. Mr. Courtney said he would like to see the actual cost for
76 operating Huckabee. Different amounts were given to council as the season went on, so we really don't know where
77 we stand as far as how much it's costing us to maintain this. Mr. Ott said most of that money is for general
78 maintenance. Mr. Johnson recalled that the information was correct. The Youth Association bears the brunt of its
79 expenses for uniforms, etc. The town still has an obligation to maintain the facility.

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81 **ii. Finance.** Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Ms. Samples
82 asked Ms. King to share the latest a-tax (accommodations tax) reform being discussed in Senate. Ms. King said if
83 the bill is adopted, it will allow municipalities to us a-tax revenue for stormwater projects, among other things. That
84 will be huge for all the coastal communities. They are also talking about making the proviso year round instead of
85 just May bike events. Ms. Samples said this is important to the town because we do receive a-tax money. We need
86 to be mindful when we are doling out those a-tax dollars that now a-tax and hospitality could potentially be used for
87 stormwater. Mayor Childs said Ms. Samples was absolutely right, if there was anything that needed to be funded, it
88 was stormwater. Mr. Ott said were almost done paying ourselves back for the pier. Ms. King said yes, we are almost
89 done; the balance is \$122,000. Mr. Ott said that it was good thing.

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91 **iii. Fire.** Chief Otte was absent on medical leave. Captain Carter presented the written report, a copy of
92 which is attached hereto. There were no questions or comments.

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94 **iv. Planning, Building & Zoning.** Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is attached
95 hereto. Mayor Childs said he talked to the manager of the restaurant on 10th Avenue and he told me they will open
96 during March. Mr. Courtney said your report mentioned the Pickled Cucumber. Is it cleared by the fire department
97 to open because it shows that they failed [inspection?] The fire and PBZ reports contradict each other. Ms. Morris
98 said the Pickled Cucumber is temporarily going to locate in the old Stadium Club. The fire issues have been
99 resolved. We are waiting for them to deliver the engineering and architectural plans for review for the existing
100 burned out building. How much does a permit cost to replace and HVAC system? Ms. Morris said anything less than
101 \$5,000 is \$50. Permits are issued the day requested, and the inspection is done the next day if the work is finished.
102 Mayor Childs said in defense of staff, sometimes people are impatient with your department about permitting, but
103 getting some of these permits when they have to go through engineers and architects is a very long and costly,
104 especially on commercial buildings. I know people think you're holding things up, but that is not the case at all.

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106 **v. Police.** Chief Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. The department
107 recovered approximately \$12,000 from the City of Myrtle Beach in regards to one of our police officers. The police
108 department answered 21,000 calls for service in 2017. During those calls for service, we had over 10,000 citizen
109 contacts that resulted in three citizen complaints against the officers. Of those three complaints, one was exonerated,
110 one was rescinded by the complainant, and one was closed out with no violation. So we had no sustained complaints
111 in over 10,000 contacts with community. There is a downward trend in vehicle pursuits. The three year trend is ten
112 in 2015; six in 2016, and 3 in 2017. Use of force incidents are also down and that is credited to the de-escalation

113 techniques used by our officer. Mr. Courtney said it was amazing that the department handled about 1,286 calls this
114 month, which is the off-season. That is averaging approximately 44 calls a day; 20 calls per shift. It's a lot of work
115 for winter months. The calls usually double during the summer. Chief Hofmann said we expect the number to
116 increase significantly as we go into the tourist season, and quickly since Easter is April 1. Mr. Courtney noted that
117 there is a staff shortage, and there was also a shift in operations because of the weather. Chief Hofmann explained
118 that when weather events occur our officers shift from an enforcement mode to a safety mode, especially when roads
119 are icy. We are down two police officers that need to attend academy. One officer is out on medical leave, and
120 Officer Pinto will be going out to a couple of days as he and his wife are expecting a baby anytime now. We will
121 actually be down 50-percent of our line officers starting next week, but not to worry, supervisors are stepping in.
122 Your captain was on patrol today. We will get the job done. Mr. Courtney said good job. The department had a lot
123 of activity that included averaging 44 calls a day; 247 car stops, and 122 summonses, in addition to 42 arrests. It's
124 pretty impressive. Thank your staff for the good job they are doing. Mr. Stevens said I want to congratulate you and
125 your staff on catching the two armed robbery situations. There were two in each particular event. That shows if you
126 break the law in Surfside, you can't get away. Chief Hofmann said the officers efforts were formally recognized in
127 their employee files.
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129 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Thank
130 you to Surfriider Foundation team members for soliciting and receiving donated materials for the 13th Avenue South
131 handicapped ramp, and thank you to Oslin Construction for its donation of all the hardware. The only expense to the
132 town will be labor. Ms. Samples asked if there was handicapped access to Passive Park. Mr. Adair said yes, to the
133 pathway. The exercise equipment at the Life Trail stations are designed for people with limited mobility and the
134 older population. Ms. Samples was concerned that access is limited during events like the Farmers Market when
135 many vendors park their trucks around the park. Mr. Adair said there is no specific handicapped parking around the
136 park. The spots of Surfside Drive are open to everybody. Most vendors set up around the pathway, so I don't think it
137 is a huge hindrance. Ms. Samples asked if the fleet maintenance division did repairs to town-owned vehicles only.
138 Mr. Adair said yes, just town-owned vehicles. Mr. Courtney asked when mosquito spraying would begin. Mr. Adair
139 said mosquito spraying usually starts in April, depending on the weather, and continues to November. Mr. Courtney
140 asked if lake spraying was done from a boat. Mr. Adair said yes. Mr. Courtney said the mosquitoes will be under
141 control this year. Mr. Adair explained spraying is done town-wide twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays early in
142 the morning. The vehicle is an ultra-low volume fogger that sprays about a 250-swath along the road into the right-
143 of-way. The spray does not penetrate backyards as many people believe. Aerial treatment would be necessary to do
144 that, but it is about \$10,000 per year. Mr. Ott said on July 1st everybody will be required to put their lawn trimmings
145 in a brown bag. Where are they available? Mr. Adair said from the home improvement stores, hardware stores and
146 the like. Area stores were notified of the new regulations and asked to stock up on the paper lawn bags. Mr. Ott said
147 the Crêpe Myrtle trees that were transplanted off the highway to replace the Bradford Pear trees, terrific job. Mr.
148 Adair explained that next winter Highway 17 improvements through GSATS will be started. The trees and
149 shrubbery the town planted in the median are being transplanted throughout the town. Mayor Childs had a call from
150 a lady that lives near the 14th and 15th Avenues North ditch where the large ditch passes through. He asked if that
151 ditch would be cleaned soon. Mr. Adair said right now staff is looking to clear pipe ends where debris and dirt have
152 accumulated that stops water flow, and normal catch basin cleaning program. The goal is to have full capacity if a
153 storm event occurs so there won't be any flooding. That ditch will eventually be maintained, but it is a long list.
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155 **C. Administrator's Report.** Mr. Duckett introduced himself saying it was his tenth day on the job. Very
156 briefly, my idea of what a town administrator does is a handle day-to-day operations. They are an advisor to council.
157 We give good advice, but councils don't always take it. We understand that; we have a different role. Thirdly, is to
158 be an employee advocate. One thing that we don't do is we don't get involved in elections. We have nothing to do
159 with elections. We have no opinion about candidates. People that operate that way usually come out all right. I
160 remember from being at Surfside before, and having lived here, that Surfside seems to have three "P's". The first is
161 parking. It's always been an issue as long my memory goes, something like eight years. I have a consensus item
162 tonight on parking and that involves Ms. Grissett, from the Horry County Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).
163 (Ms. Grissett was asked to stand.) You have a handout that was placed on the dais. VITA is requesting permission to
164 park the BB&T bus in the two hour parking area at Surfside Library, March 2, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Their
165 volunteers can help our residents with tax preparation free of charge. **Council CONCURRED to allow an**
166 **exception to the 2-hour parking as requested.** Ms. Grissett was thanked for her service and excused from the
167 meeting.
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169 Mr. Duckett said the second “P” is pay. Council met on this past Thursday for about five hours for the
170 vision workshop. You heard about \$5 million worth of requests, which all won’t be funded. This request today is
171 just a one-time expenditure from this year’s budget. I plead with you to approve the bonus for our police officers.
172 Our police officers have been understaffed, and those working have stepped up to ensure the town is covered. That’s
173 why there is money left over in their payroll account from this year. I think they need some love. Myrtle Beach is
174 giving their police some love, and I think the county is also. This is not gonna cost anything next year. This money
175 is just for now. It’s the here and now. We are talking about \$58,500 and all that all of the police department full-time
176 employees, certified and civilian, will get a one-time bonus. **Council CONCURRED.**

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178 Ms. Samples fully supported the request, but in addition thought it would be incumbent upon all of the
179 department directors to scour their budgets before the year is out to where they can find some extra monies to
180 reward their employees. She said I believe that all of our town employees are worthy of a bonus. They’ve all worked
181 hard. I brought up during the vision workshop that I thought all employees should be considered. I commend the
182 chief for suggesting that extra payroll monies be used for his people. If we do not invest in our people, then we are
183 making the number one mistake. You must invest in your people. Would council concur for other department
184 directors and the interim administrator to review budgets before the year is out to see if what we can find for our all
185 of our employees. They’ve gone through a difficult time. We have some moral issues. I think this is an important
186 time to do this. Mr. Johnson said I totally agree with the presentation and with some of what Ms. Samples. I don’t
187 agree with moral, but I would like department directors to look at their budgets to determine whether there are any
188 funds that could be used for bonuses by the end of the year. **Council CONCURRED.**

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190 Mr. Duckett said as the employee advocate, he was sometimes criticized. I think employees need to come
191 to work to work. But I think they need to look forward to coming to work. They need to be able to laugh, and have a
192 good time. I always do and I’m the loudest. I like to have a good time and I hope that those of that aren’t having a
193 good time will start having a good time.

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195 Mr. Duckett asked what was left out of the three P’s. Several members responded the pier. We anticipate
196 having a final project worksheet agreed to, reviewed by FEMA and our consultant at some point on Wednesday or at
197 the latest Thursday of this week. Once signed off, we will have a firm up obligation of approximately \$9.5 million to
198 rebuild the pier. FEMA headquarters has affirmed that the project qualifies for mitigation funding under their
199 alternative procedures program, which is what the town has been seeking for a while. I would like to have consensus
200 of council tonight to authorize the interim administrator to sign the Sub-grantee Public Assistance Application, as
201 well as the Participation Agreement and the Pilot Program once received to eliminate the need for special meeting
202 later this week. **Council CONCURRED.**

203 204 **7. BUSINESS.**

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206 **A. First Reading Ordinance #18-0864 to amend Chapter 14, Flood Damage Prevention, Director**
207 **Morris.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0864. Mr. Ott second. Ms. Morris presented the
208 decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Ms. Samples asked if the CRS (Community Rating
209 Service) Committee had any changes to the SCDNR (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) model
210 ordinance. Ms. Morris said just a few clerical changes made for clarification. Ms. Samples said the changes to the
211 code were dictated by SCDNR. Ms. Morris said that is exactly right. Ms. Samples asked what was different about
212 this ordinance presented today from when it was presented on January 9. Ms. Morris said there were several changes
213 to that document; things were taken out and required language was omitted. All this ordinance includes is exactly
214 what DNR had required, except in two different places we changed the wording just for clarification. The January
215 9th version omitted several items like fill dirt that we do not recommend. Ms. Samples referred to page 18, paragraph
216 six regarding fill and said that different from what was in the January 9th document. Ms. Morris said yes, that was
217 taken out completely on the January 9th document. Ms. Samples said what we’re adding doesn’t change the intent of
218 fill. Ms. Morris said that’s exactly right. This is actually the section that I was going to mention. This is just for
219 clarification. The appeal that was lost by the town, the staff at that time said it was not clear, so we added the
220 wording from another section to make it very clear. We did not change the intent. Mr. Ott said I thought DNR
221 visited because there was a specific complaint by a resident. Mr. Morris said DNR makes visits anytime they change
222 their model ordinance. Generally it’s every two to three years. DNR visits all the municipalities and the counties to
223 compare their ordinances and to see they’re working with their community flood ordinance to ensure they meet the
224 requirements. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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B. First Reading Ordinance #18-0865 repeal Section 2-187(a)(4)(iii) Indigent Defense Funds, Director King. Mr. Johnson moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0865. Mr. Stevens second. There was no discussion. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

C. Accommodations Tax Recommendation for Police Department Bobcats, Chief Hofmann. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the resolution of the accommodations tax committee to purchase two Bobcat utility vehicles for the police department. Mr. Courtney second. Mr. Courtney said this was discussed at the vision workshop. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. Committee Appointments. i. Accommodations Tax Committee (1 vacancy) Mr. Phil Vassar, Ms. Eileen Weiss; ii. Municipal Election Commission (1 vacancy) Ms. Sandra Elliott, Ms. Darlene Rose, Ms. Nancy Roper; iii. Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful (2 vacancies) Ms. Karlene Barton. Mayor Childs called for a motion pursuant to Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(i) to enter executive session. Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Johnson moved to appoint Mr. Phil Vassar to the Accommodations Tax Committee; Ms. Nancy Roper to the Municipal Election Commission, and Ms. Karlene Barton to the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

A. Employee Bonuses, Interim Administrator Duckett. Town Council concurred to give one time bonuses to full time police officers and civilians during the administrator's report. (See Item 6.C.)

B. Declining Business License Rates, Councilmember Pellegrino. Mr. Pellegrino said we talked about this about six months ago. Horry County has declining business rates, which means that over time business license rates can actually decrease as an incentive to bring new businesses in. I think that's a real advantage for them. Right now you see in Garden City and other places in Horry County a lot a lot more new businesses on Highway 17. For the next year that would be a cost of \$35,000 of loss in revenue, but that is an investment, because we do have a lot of empty storefronts. We have a lot of opportunity for business growth and expansion. This could be a key component for incentive for that. I'm asking for consensus for the administrator to move forward to bring an ordinance to establish declining business license rates. Mr. Stevens said this actually was brought up several years ago. After we started the business committee; I don't know why it's never been brought up. This is one of things we wanted to do, i.e., get some type of incentive for major businesses to come into town. I'm glad we're looking at the same direction to bring major business and major corporations into the town. Mr. Courtney this is been brought up several times. Last summer it was brought up by Mr. Ott, because there was a piece of property on here on Business 17. I think we've [discussed this] over the last two years. Mr. Ott went to a lot of trouble and did a lot of research, and they were going to build a Trader Joe's. They were turned away, because the town couldn't do anything for them. That's the problem with having a week overlay. I don't know where got dropped, but it did and they walked away. Consensus Construction still has that vacant lot today. Mr. Ott said we spoke with about this extensively along with the mayor and the previous administrator. There was a major round grocery store that wanted to move on the south side here. The only thing we could do was offer about \$144 a year in deductions. Ms. King explained that declining business license rates only affect businesses with sales over \$4 million. The number will be relatively low until you reach that \$3 to \$4 million sales level. Some people will only receive a \$30 discount. This wasn't brought to council before because it shouldn't be adopted until licenses are renewed. The renewal period begins April 1. It would be adopted this time of year for the next business license renewal period. There are 50 businesses that are qualified right now. There are about six businesses that would get over \$1,000; everybody else will be under \$1,000. It just doesn't do as much as you think, unless you have a huge amount of sales. Mr. Courtney asked how Horry County does this. Ms. King said Horry County has a much higher ceiling; it's a different structure. I need to check, before I speak too much on that. You can only imagine what the sales are in the big box stores, which the town will never have. Retail stores and restaurants get the cheapest rates, which is what the town mostly has. The three hotels pay a higher rate. Doctors and lawyers pay the most. Mr. Courtney said this wouldn't work. Mr. King said it would work, but it won't be a big number. Mr. Courtney asked if there were any other incentives that could be done. Ms. King said that is up to council. Mr. Ott suggested the Mayor could meet with Horry County to see if they could help us by adding something to an incentive package. The Horry County tax is the high tax. Ms. Samples said I support

281 this suggest, and I think it's just the beginning of the discussion that we need to have about incentives for increasing
282 our businesses in town. We're a small town and so I think instead of being talking about the big box stores which
283 aren't going to come here, we would be better off to talk about those types of businesses that are viable that are
284 strong that really have a place within the Town of Surfside Beach. I think declining rates is important to offer as an
285 option, because it begins the discussion that this council needs to have about more things we can do to increase the
286 businesses in town. Hopefully, we can come up with some additional options and opportunities for businesses. I
287 don't know why we wouldn't want to do it, even though we recognize that the return is not going to be huge. Mr.
288 Courtney asked if the town could afford that kind of impact. Ms. King said if revenue is taken from one place, you
289 get it from another place. Mr. Ott said yes, I wish it could work. As the financial director says if you're not
290 generating \$3 million, you're getting chump change. Ms. King said council could adopt it and see how it goes.
291 Declining rates don't start until sales are \$1 million. Many of the town's stores are at the \$900 thousand level. Mr.
292 Stevens said I remember talking to the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Council about what they will
293 bring to us. A company that represented several major corporations all over the United States was looking to come
294 in town, but unfortunately that got squashed before I ever knew about it. We have to think outside the box. I asked
295 Crabby Mike's how much do you spend a year on crab legs. He said around \$2.5 million. All we have to do is have
296 somebody like that come into town. Hopefully, Crabby Mike's will always stay here. We need to bring in other
297 businesses like that one. We've been talking about this a long time, but we haven't done anything in the last 50
298 years, and have never had any major corporation move to the Town of Surfside Beach. We need to start working on
299 that. Mr. Duckett said when you compare cities and counties, you're comparing apples and oranges. Funding for
300 cities is predicated on very different things than funding for counties. The reason that people build in the county is
301 because business license fees are not collected in many counties, or they are much lower than city rates, and they
302 also have less enforcement in the county. It is just a different lifestyle. That's why you want to live in a town like
303 this one where there's not a lot of density, then you don't bring in as much money. It was decided 50 years ago to
304 limit high rises, so that makes this a destination for certain kind of visitor. It doesn't make it a destination for
305 Walmart. Ms. Samples agreed and said before I was seated on council, council talked about a light industrial district.
306 There was a lot of debate and discussion about it; but, I don't know whatever happened with that. That just seemed
307 to go away as some things do. That may be something to check. I'm not sure why it went away. I know the planning
308 commission reviewed it, and it was supposed to be brought back to council. Not sure why it wasn't brought back to
309 council, but that is there some things that I think we need to follow up. Mr. Courtney said we talked about light
310 industrial on Sandy Lane. I think Mr. Duckett is right. Living in a small town like this we're not going to have the
311 big box stores. I agree with Ms. King, as well. We have to be careful what we do, because the impact could be huge.
312 But, it's definitely something that this council should look into, because we never decided whatever happened with
313 light industry. My personal opinion is I don't think a major corporation or big store will come to Surfside. Hopefully
314 I'm wrong. I'd love to see happen, but I just don't see anything happening on Sandy Lane.

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316 **C. Stop Signs, Councilmember Samples.** Ms. Samples said I put this on the agenda, mainly because we
317 get so many emails and hear comments and concerns from town residents about stop signs. Most recently comments
318 are that we need to stop sign on 5th Avenue North or on Melody Lane. What many people don't understand is that
319 we, as a town, can only put stop signs on street that we own. Most of the town roads are owned by the state, and
320 only the state can determine whether there is a need to put a stop sign up on its roads. We get asked that question a
321 lot, 'I want to stop sign here.' I know in the past, Mr. Adair has helped determine when a stop sign can be installed.
322 He's been very quick to say, 'Hey, all we can do is ask.' I understand that the proper procedure is for you to contact
323 SCDOT (South Carolina Department of Transportation), if it is a state road. If the road is a town road, the resident
324 can appeal to the town, correct. Mr. Adair said generally, when someone asked me about stop signs the first step is
325 to contact the police department to initiate a speed study to see if there is an accident history or a speed problem on
326 the road. Public works would follow the police department's recommendation. There is a piece of equipment that
327 can measure traffic speed over a couple days or a week to determine if there is a speeding problem. SCDOT will tell
328 you that stop signs are not to be used for speed control. Ms. Samples said I know that the chief has recently done
329 speed studies that he shared with council. One of those was actually on 5th Avenue North. Now we understand the
330 process of getting a stop sign on a town-owned road: citizen contacts town hall; a police study is done;
331 recommendation made to Town Council; public works installs approved sign or signs. In doing research on the state
332 roads in town, I talked to Horry County and the SCDOT district office. Mr. Michael Bethea indicated that anyone in
333 town, any town residents, can submit a request for stop sign. That was a surprise to me. So, if we had a collective
334 group of people, say on 5th Avenue North, or Melody Lane, or any other state road, who have some real concerns
335 and really want to stop sign, then they may contact the SCDOT district office in Florence to obtain a form to
336 complete to request a stop sign. Then SCDOT comes out and does a review. I'm also told that it is very rare that

337 SCDOT will support putting up a stop sign. Mr. Adair said I agree with that. Ms. Samples said that SCDOT is slow
338 to put up stop signs, just because we requested one. Mr. Adair said it has been my experience that a lot of people ask
339 for them for speed control, and that is contrary to their way of doing business. Ms. Samples said certainly when you
340 look at it logically, you could certainly see how a stop sign on 5th Avenue North would slow the traffic
341 tremendously; it's either that or speed bumps. I think it's important that residents know what they can and cannot do
342 and how they go about getting what they want. SCDOT says that if we put up stop signs that they have not
343 approved, we would be liable if there was an accident, or if there is a problem. Do you know that to be true? Mr.
344 Adair said I would assume that to be true for state road. Ms. Samples said so if we put up stop signs that have not
345 been sanctioned by SCDOT, and there's an accident, the town would be held liable. When people are reaching out to
346 council, it's constituent services, in my opinion, and I need to be able to give a responsible answer. I just don't want
347 to say it's a state road and we can have nothing to do with that. Can you tell me how many times you have reached
348 out to SCDOT for stop sign in the past five years? Mr. Adair said just a half-a-dozen or less. Mr. Courtney said I had
349 a lot of experience with SCDOT. It's very hard to deal with them. It's not because they're uncooperative or they just
350 don't want to deal with you, it's just that they're overwhelmed, and they prefer to give away the road than to allow
351 you to put a stop sign up. Mr. Adair said that is a very insightful statement. They really want you to take over the
352 road. Mr. Courtney said so they will do everything they can to try to give you that road before they will give you
353 that stop sign. As far as town roads that it's up to the town to decide to put the stop signs up, and after proper speed
354 studies, as I've done in the past with state roads, it takes approximately three years to get anything done. You have
355 to do a minimum of three speed studies, and a lot of begging, going back and forth with SCDOT. When it comes to
356 the town road, we have jurisdiction to put a sign up. If we do put a stop sign on a state road, we have to have speed
357 studies in place. Also, they're going to push the road on you. SCDOT doesn't refer to them as stopping devices.
358 They are traffic calming devices. They have offered speed bumps in the past. Speed bumps are dangerous. As you
359 can see on Surfside Drive, where speed bumps are located you can see gouge marks in the concrete. It's not slowing
360 down the traffic, but when it comes down to town roads, I think the question is can we you authorize to put stop
361 signs up on our town roads. It's our jurisdiction, correct? Mr. Adair said correct. Under state law you have the right
362 to control your own roads. Mr. Courtney asked if traffic studies from the police department could be submitted with
363 a request. Mr. Adair said yes, the town would have to comply with the process. Mr. Courtney said if this council
364 believes that there should be as traffic calming device implemented at an intersection, there should be no questions
365 asked if chief Hoffman conducted a study and shows probable cause for traffic calming devices to slow down traffic
366 any means necessary other than causing cars to be ejected into houses from speed bumps. I think stop signs are a
367 good thing, but I would say if it's a town road, go-ahead and ask your councilmembers to push it through.
368

369 **D. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.**
370

371 Mr. Ott said I hope everybody council got a chance to take a look at that emergency beach vehicle that was
372 here. After looking at it, I can see why we could really use that, and it was approved by the a-tax committee. I would
373 like to have council consensus to bring it back into the business section for the next meeting, or open this up right
374 now for further discussion. Mr. Stevens said I talked to the fellow from Midway Fire Department. He said that
375 machine is seven years old; it was bought in 2011. We were talking about putting one on the beach all the time.
376 Midway takes that on Pawleys Island, or Litchfield Beach probably two or three times a year. They have it available
377 to go down to the beach in case of rescue. So if we follow Midway's policy and keep it near the beach where we can
378 go and rescue somebody, but don't have it on the beach so it's not rusted out all the time, then we can probably get
379 seven or eight years just like they did. I don't have a problem with the consensus to bring it back, but I think it
380 doesn't need to be on the beach all year long. Ms. Samples said if we put it on the agenda to bring it back as a
381 discussion item, I don't have a problem with that, but as I brought up in the vision workshop, I need somebody to
382 explain to me what the function really is. I get having that nice vehicle on the beach for safety, but the intent is to
383 bring a person off the beach to the rescue squad that is waiting on Ocean Boulevard. How far is that to get that
384 vehicle off the beach to the rescue squad? I'm still not sure why we need it. If it is brought back as a business item, I
385 certainly would like for that to be explained. Mr. Ott said I believe now we transport a victim off the beach in the
386 back of a pickup truck. Ms. Samples said we have Bobcats on the beach that could transport individuals to the street.
387 The question was asked the vision workshop how many instances have we had during the past two or three years.
388 Mr. Ott said we only need one incident. Luckily, as of now there has not been one. Mr. Johnson believed this request
389 was for the next fiscal year budget. Mr. Courtney said it is for this fiscal year and was approved by the a-tax
390 committee. I used Bobcats when I worked Marine Services in my former job. There is always a problem lifting
391 patients off the beach. Extremist like having an ambulance on the beach. Many times when an ambulance responds
392 to an intersection or location there is not an emergency ramp. You have to get patients through the alley way to the

393 ambulance. When the patient is wet and sweaty, it's very hard to move them and it's very difficult to lift the patient.
394 The protocol is to stabilize and immobilize a patient, child or adult, who had a surfing or other accident with spinal
395 injury. That Bobcat will pay for itself, if it saves one life. You don't want any spinal injury patients bouncing around
396 in the back of a pickup truck. You will never experience anything as rough as riding in the back of a pickup truck on
397 the beach. When we transported patients, the guys had to hold the patient down to stop him from coming out of the
398 truck bed. The fire department requested this last year. Council deferred it. I believe this is the third time the request
399 was presented. The Bobcat will have a defibrillator on it and make it easier to meet an ambulance at an emergency
400 access, and also provide proper patient care. I think Ms. Samples request for information on incidents was good.
401 Chief Otte and I already discussed using longitude and latitude to track incidents on the beach, instead of house
402 addresses. If this is in the budget, I think we should roll with it. Mayor Childs said I remember the argument going
403 back a few years now. The chief's argument was that it would stabilize the patient on the beach. We all know how
404 rough the sand is. The Bobcat has the right suspension so the ride for the patient will be a lot smoother and safer.
405 Mr. Pellegrino supported bringing the item back and said I really would like him to come explain it a little better
406 with actual statistics that were requested so we can make a more informed decision. Mr. Stevens supported bringing
407 the matter back, and said if we buy this vehicle that stabilizes a person that we're bringing off the beach and that
408 saves their life, it could be your family members. That's when the value will be realized. **Council CONCURRED**
409 **to bring the matter back as a business item.**

410
411 Ms. Samples said at our last meeting Mr. Stevens brought up having a discussion or workshop about term
412 limits for council. We had consensus to have a workshop to discuss term limits; council and mayor's pay; form a
413 government; election filing fees and several other items. I wanted make sure that Mr. Stevens still wanted to do that.
414 Mr. Stevens said sure. Mayor Childs asked the clerk to contact everybody to schedule a meeting. **Council**
415 **CONCURRED.**

416
417 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker)**

418
419 Mr. Bill Kinken, North Dogwood Drive: I looked at that piece of equipment, and I know we do, we're
420 bringing a pickup truck down putting people on it. Why can't we do the same thing to the pickup truck that's on that
421 thing? We already have the pickup truck. You're talking about minor modifications to put a latch for a carriage on
422 there that clamps down. You can put a defibrillator; you can put rows of first aid equipment on there and it wouldn't
423 cost us \$20,000. I just think we ought to look outside the box a little bit and see if we can't do it. I think we need a
424 piece of equipment that can go on the beach and safely remove people. But, I just don't know that for once or twice a
425 season that we can't modify a truck to do the same thing that we already have. Thank you.

426
427 Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: I attended your vision meeting last week. My take-away from the
428 meeting was that the town, the Town of Surfside Beach and this board is very lucky to have inherited the staff of
429 directors and administrators. They show vision, knowledge, responsibility and leadership capabilities. A truly
430 professional staff. A sign of an honest, dedicated staff like this is a result of effective selection, leadership, and a
431 nurturing work environment. Maybe their previous boss had some redeeming praises after all. It is unfortunate that
432 not respecting a single micro-managing town councilman has resulted in the loss of this history, experience and
433 knowledge without an orderly transition. For the record, I am not burdened with Surfside Beach historical baggage.
434 This is my first impression, and this is what I've seen in the last two months. I think a little less micromanagement
435 by some town councilmen and a little more trust and listening to your board of directors and your administrators will
436 make this council a far better, and effective council. I also thank you tonight like you did tonight [sic] and I thank all
437 of you for doing your homework. This was a very professionally run meeting tonight. I appreciate it. Thank you.
438 Now also at the vision meeting, I know you do a five, 10 or 15 minute [sic] year objectives, but many short-term
439 objectives were all discussed at that meeting, so I feel it's appropriate to mention this. Is it telling, it is telling that
440 your promise you made to this community back in July was not even mentioned. Nor was it mentioned tonight with
441 the concerns of the council. At the time of the first and second reading of the 18-0863 you said this was the first
442 step, and that's the plastic bag. It seems now that you have your bumper sticker. You're content to do no more. For
443 all the reasons stated by the community in support of this ordinance, except for the one about the bumper stickers
444 about getting rid of big oil companies, and I still have no idea what [t]hat meant, you promise to address other
445 concerns of the community: the proliferation of plastic bag littler, the micro-plastic dangers, the toxic exposure
446 plastic bags present to our community and wildlife. The next steps needed include public awareness and education. I
447 have to commend director Adair. He is taking the lead on this for you. He's putting these changing to paper bags and
448 stop plastic bags for trash, and he's also going to inform the public of the new rule and why with brochures. That's

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449 what you need to do for your ordinance. I think it would be; you would do a great service to our community, and for
450 the preservation of our beaches and wildlife for this council to review the Folly Beach Ordinance 13-16, and
451 especially the Isles of Palms Ordinance 2015-18. You should pass a meaningful ordinance that includes education
452 and awareness. Thank you very much.

453
454 Ms. Carrie Johnson, Harbor Lights Drive: I would just like to thank the fearless four who turned wrong
455 into a right and brought back our planning and zoning director. It takes a lot of moral fortitude to put aside politics,
456 and sometimes unfortunately friendships, to do what is right. But the four of you that voted to bring her back did just
457 that, because you chose to stand for what was right. Now hopefully, our town can get back on track, because it has
458 certainly veered way off in the last few months. Again, thank you, because unfortunately, there are not a lot of
459 people left in this world that are willing to stand for what is right, especially if they feel it will hurt them in any way.
460 So you four need to be commended for number one, researching and finding out the facts of her dismissal, and then
461 doing what was the right thing to do for this town. We need more councilmen that are willing to do that. Thank you.
462

463 Mr. Gary White, Lakeside Drive: I've just got a question as I was listening to everybody about businesses.
464 My wife and I went out to go to McDonalds the other day. We were sitting at the Surfside one at McDonalds, and
465 they said they're building another McDonalds by Popeye's. Now that's in Myrtle Beach. If they're building one in
466 Myrtle Beach some of the employee there thought they might be setting down one here in Surfside Beach. That
467 could be a lost business. You should look into that. I don't know if that's totally true, maybe they'll have 'em both
468 places, but it's something that you should definitely consider.
469

470 Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I just want to say thank you to the police department and
471 fire department, and staff members that took the time out of their day on their day off on Saturday, many of them, to
472 come to South Strand Helping Hands' event that was done with St. James High School Future Business Leaders of
473 America. Mr. Duckett even stopped by to check us out. Thank you for coming in. Blessing bags were made; over a
474 hundred of them to be given out to people in need. Everything that was used was donated and it was a great event.
475 We had very young children there. We had teenagers there. Middle-aged people there, and we had some of our
476 senior citizens, and the fire department was very accommodating by moving the trucks so that we didn't have to
477 worry about the stairs for these people, and the extra bags all went up to community kitchen in Myrtle Beach,
478 because we try to work the whole county when we can so when our town need some assistance, we don't have a
479 problem going up and asking for it. Also, I know you can answer the question, but is the Bobcat with a-tax money?
480 Can I get a nod? (Some councilmembers responded in the positive.) I just want everybody to remember if you look
481 back over the years on some of the things we purchased with a-tax money, we've purchased a lot of things. This is
482 about life and death, and I know, I understand your concerns. I think it's gonna be a hard time to get those numbers
483 of how many people are brought off the beach, because it's county and Surfside fire department respond, sometimes.
484 I know being that I'm there a lot on the beach, I have seen them carry people off the beach. I don't want to see my
485 family member carried off the beach like that. Unfortunately in life sometimes people don't understand the situation
486 until it happens to them. So you really need to put yourself in other people's shoes before you can make decisions
487 sometimes. It could be your wife or your husband that is there with a spinal injury. My kids surfs. I don't want them
488 in the back of a pickup truck if they hurt their backs surfing. I just don't. So I agree, it only takes one time. It's like
489 when you tell your kids don't drink and drive. Please be careful driving, and that one time they get in an accident and
490 they don't come home; you can't go back and change that. So just try to remember that and look back on a-tax
491 spending over the years and what you've done with that and that's all I have to say, except I agree a 100-percent with
492 everything Carrie Johnson said. Welcome back, Mr. Duckett, and welcome back Ms. Morris. Thank you.
493

494 Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: It's been a quite meeting. What happened? Just listening to what's
495 going on this evening, I heard a lot of things that open my eyes and reminded me of things. When it comes to any
496 kind of vehicle on the beach in the sand, getting a person who has been injured up to a point of retrieval by the
497 ambulance or whatever, and having equipment on board to maybe facilitate somebody having a heart attack, some
498 child getting injured, do you really want to know if we need it? Just go grab a 20 pound bag of potatoes. Now I
499 know some of the councilmembers are more athletic than others. It's probably not that big a deal, but go out there in
500 high tide. A short trip, but it's gonna be a long trip. That sand gets soft. Sand gets rough, and if you have two people
501 carrying a 20 pound bag each keeping together, I'm not even saying with a body, a person's, a human body, a child,
502 if you're carrying that child and trying out not to injure them up from the beach, now at water's edge at low tide, it's
503 a longer distance of travel and in a pickup truck. I've been in back of pickup trucks. It ain't much fun anymore. As a
504 kid it wasn't bad. It was kind of cool bouncing around that hard [bed], back then wooden decks in those pickup truck

505 beds. But now they're metal and there's nothing to hold on to. Ow, to say the least. Something else that we heard
506 this evening was comments about how Huckabee and how much it cost. Well, I would like to hear a report on how
507 much it cost. I would like to know whether or not we're buying any equipment for those teams, and if so, why? I
508 mean what does the contract say? I'm sure it will be explained and I think it would be an interesting conversation
509 that I could listen to and learn about, because it is important. We need to know this stuff. We need to know what
510 kind of money the town is putting out and for what purposes. I personally love kids. I love to have 'em have a good
511 time, but you have to ask at what cost, and who should be paying. That's all I have to say. Y'all have a great
512 evening.

513
514 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

515
516 Mr. Johnson: Best news I've heard I a long time came from Mr. Duckett from FEMA and I really do
517 appreciate town staff for all that they did to keep on that and to get the funds that we did, that we are going to
518 receive. I certainly sincerely appreciate it. Also, I just want to make a mention, I don't believe we have a
519 McDonald's in the Town of Surfside Beach town limits. I think that one up there is out of the town limits. I'm not
520 really sure. I think that's the case. Anyway, thank you guys for coming out. I know you have better things to do
521 tonight, and you know, we were trying to keep it civil, as we always do, and thank you for coming out.

522
523 Mr. Courtney: Thank you all for coming out. Again, I want to thank staff for everything they did. [Mr.
524 Adair] I appreciate the guys that didn't understand what they've been doing is moving the trees from off of business
525 US 17. There's some beautiful Crêpe Myrtles. Staff has been working very diligently to get them off of that before
526 they start the construction in September, so thank your staff on doing that. Those beautiful trees are being placed
527 throughout the town. They're doing a great job. All the departments are doing a great job. I appreciate every one of
528 the department heads; every single one of you. Our new administrator; I'm very pleased. Thank you for the great
529 news. You're doing a fantastic job, and I don't micromanage. I haven't dealt with Mr. Duckett. This was the first on
530 the spoken to him since our last meeting, and very informational and communicates very well. So I thank you and
531 your staff. You're doing a great job.

532
533 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming tonight. I'm also very excited to hear about the pier, and I want to
534 thank Mr. Adair for taken that the task on and following through with FEMA and everyone involved with that. Also,
535 the administrator. Obviously, he's been involved since he's been here a short time. So thank you for all the work that
536 went into that and that's a great result. Now, we need to go build it. Also as mentioned about our staff today, and I
537 agree a hundred percent, we do have a good staff. Our town for the most part runs pretty well. I mean everything we
538 expect every day is pretty much done properly, so we have a very capable staff and a very knowledgeable staff. So I
539 do appreciate that, and it's great for the town. I just want to say what was mentioned, community service and
540 volunteerism, I just want to give a thanks to everyone who invests their own time in community service, because it's
541 very necessary in our society, and I do appreciate that.

542
543 Mr. Ott: Thank you everybody for coming out. Your comments, they're greatly appreciated, every one of
544 them. The pier, this is just the beginning, now. We have the blessing from FEMA and now we have to figure out
545 how we're gonna bond that; have to get the money for that. We also have to build the buildings on there, so it's not
546 cut and dry that it's done. It's going to be a lot of work by our financial director coming forward. She's going to have
547 to open up that bag of tricks and pull some money out of their somehow for us. But, a lot of things that happen in
548 town we don't downgrade people. We don't try to make rumors. I don't like rumors, and not speaking with many
549 people on the council; I hardly speak with any anybody on the council during the week. But, we are congealing very
550 well together and we will continue to do that, and I wish everybody luck that is in this race. Thank you for coming
551 out.

552
553 Mr. Stevens: I want to thank you everybody for coming out. I think some people said some good things.
554 They've all; I like the comments that I've heard. We have to work together, whether it's a tough time. Sometimes,
555 you make, if you're on council sometimes you have to make the hard calls, and that's anybody that's running for
556 council needs to understand that when you get on this seat. I'm not doing this for money. I ain't made anything other
557 than \$455.67 a month. I haven't benefited anywhere. I don't get paid by anybody anything. I haven't been bought off
558 by special interest or anybody like that. I do what I do; I vote my conscience and that's what I've always done. This
559 is the thing that you have to do when you're on council. Big money can be thrown at you every day. But, I don't
560 accept big money. I've turned it down, and I always will turn it down, because I represent the people. The people are

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561 what counts. Just remember, this is a tough job, and if you get on council, you will be criticized. I don't care what
562 you do. That's just the nature of the beast. I want to say one thing in closing, the pier, \$9.5 million. Good night, y'all
563 have a good weekend.
564

565 Ms. Samples: To staff, thank you again for all your hard work, and an appreciation to Mr. Phil Vassar, Ms.
566 Nancy Roper, and Ms. Karlene Barton who have offered to serve on our committees. That is most appreciated. Good
567 night. Thank you.
568

569 Mayor Childs: Well, for everybody that was patient, I knew the time would come when FEMA would get
570 around. It's just dealing with the federal government. It's been a long, long journey, but we finally succeeded. I had
571 no doubt we would. I want to thank Mr. Duckett for his couple of weeks, I think, of coming here is the reason I was
572 so much in favor of bringing you, Mr. Duckett, you're doing a good job, and I'm sure you will continue to do so. I
573 hope everybody's noticed that we had speakers here so we don't have any complaints about being able to hear. I
574 hope the back row can hear alright. (Several audience members indicated they could hear well.) Okay, good. I want
575 to thank everybody for coming tonight.
576

577 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Mr. Courtney
578 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
579

580 Prepared and submitted by:

581
582
583 Approved: March 13, 2018

584 _____
585 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Surfside Beach Town Council

587 VOTE: Yes No

588

589 _____
590 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

591

592 _____
593 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

594

595 _____
596 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

597

598 _____
599 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

600

601 _____
602 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

603

604 _____
605 Julie M. Samples, Town Council

606

607 _____
608 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council
609

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