

## SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES REGULAR MEETING MAY 8, 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 Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmember Courtney was absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Councilmembers-Elect Dietrich and Scoles; Interim Administrator Duckett; Town Clerk Herrmann; Police Chief Hofmann, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation:** Rev. John Gambrell, First Baptist Church Surfside, gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Special Meeting April 19, 2018 and Regular Meeting April 24, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the special meeting and regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED

5. ELECTED OFFICIALS INAUGURATION. Town Councilmembers-Elect Oath of Office.

i. The Hon. David Pellegrino, Charge by Mrs. Elizabeth Pellegrino. Incumbent Councilmember David Pellegrino was charged for his second term of office by his wife. The written Oath of Office was executed, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

ii. The Hon. Bruce Dietrich, and iii. The Hon. Debbie Scoles, Charge by Town Clerk Herrmann. Both Members-Elect Dietrich and Scoles were charged by Clerk Herrmann. The respective Oaths of Office were executed, copies of which are filed with these minutes.

# 6. MAYOR PRO TEMPORE ELECTION

Mr. Stevens moved to elect Mr. Johnson Mayor Pro Tempore for the 2018-2020 session. Mr. Ott second. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Johnson and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Pellegrino, and Scoles voted against. **MOTION FAILED.** 

Ms. Scoles moved to elect Mr. Pellegrino Mayor Pro Tempore for the 2018-2020 session. Mr. Dietrich second. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Pellegrino, and Scoles voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Johnson and Stevens voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Ott congratulated Mr. Pellegrino.

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

8. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator's Report. Mr. Duckett said I knew when I agreed to act as interim administrator there would be three major events during the short time that I would be here: the first was the election and fortunately the administrator had nothing to do with elections, except stay out of it, and I think I was successful in doing that; the second thing, and maybe the most important thing in my mind, was to help this council find a permanent administrator, and I think we're on our way to doing that. I think everybody will be pleased when that does happen, and the third thing is to help prepare a budget, and as you all know, by law every council in every city has to pass a balanced budget. So at your next meeting will be the first reading of the budget for next year, and before the next meeting, there will be a budget workshop on the 17th of this month.

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**9. BUSINESS.** All business was deferred until the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting.

# 10. DISCUSSION.

61 A. Public Information Drop-In re: Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance, Councilmember Ott. Mr. Ott said as 62 we all know, we have an ordinance in place for plastic bags and I'm asking council for consensus to instruct our 63 administrator to set up a half day in council chambers within the next two weeks where he would instruct his staff to 64 get communication out to the business community and the public so they can get information and ask questions 65 about the single-use plastic bag ban ordinance. Councilmembers could attend if they wish. Some residents don't 66 think they can clean up yard waste with the plastic bags. Everybody needs to understand exactly how unrestricted it 67 is to the residents. Mr. Johnson agreed and said there are several issues that have not been addressed, like the 68 Farmers Market and other situations that are going to arise. It's easy to dictate to the major supermarkets, which may 69 or may not be here in a month or two, but you do have some restaurants that were not notified. Mayor Childs asked 70 if Mr. Duckett knew how to notify the businesses. Mr. Duckett believed notices could be sent through the business 71 license office. Mr. Pellegrino agreed, and believe this was a good idea. Ms. Scoles asked how the residents would be 72 informed. Many of them do not have Internet or use computers. Mr. Ott said maybe the word can be spread by word 73 74 of mouth. We can publish in the newspaper, and send an email message to the subscription list. **Council CONCURRED.** 75

76 Mr. Pellegrino said I noticed in Garden City and also in Georgetown County continuing construction on the 77 Greenway Bike Path. There's a gap in it in Surfside Beach. We had an opportunity many years ago to pursue this, 78 but we didn't. I'd like to get consensus from council to direct the interim administrator to contact the government 79 agency that provides grant funds for the Greenway to see if a grant is still available so we can pursue that so we 80 aren't the only ones on Grand Strand with a gap in the bike path. Mayor Childs recalled the town lost a \$400,000 81 grant many years ago, because the bike path was unable to come through the town because of the exits and entries 82 along Ocean Boulevard. We discussed using the frontage road, but that wasn't a good choice. Mr. Pellegrino said 83 the town has other options; there is a sidewalk going all the way down Hollywood Drive. That's what we need to see 84 if a grant is available so we can talk about it, get the citizens involved and see what the best way to proceed is. Mr. 85 Johnson said the biggest obstacle was that the right-of-way is so small in certain areas of Ocean Boulevard that it 86 wasn't feasible to put a large Greenway path. There were several options. One was to place it under the power lines 87 just outside of town to connect with Garden City. Mayor Childs said Hollywood Drive sounds like a good option. 88 Mr. Ott asked if the Greenway was only for bikes. Mr. Pellegrino said bikes and pedestrians on an 8 foot wide path. 89 Mr. Ott agreed that this should be checked. 90

# 11. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker)

Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North: Some battles are never won. If you're going to put a Greenway in, you better realize that a lot of people aren't gonna want it in front of their house, and Hollywood Drive the sidewalk is not wide enough, so just don't push it on people who don't want it.

96 97 Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: I have a lot of things to say. I'm gonna reserve them for a later time. 98 (\*\*) mention about the gap, Surfside Beach being a gap. How many more beaches along the Grand Strand allow 99 tents? Bike path is a really good idea, but you know, being a gap is the least of the problems. Actually, this town 100 doesn't even allow horses on the beach, and the rest of the Grand Strand does. So, we're gonna be a gap no matter 101 what we do. Maybe we should actually change the name of our, the seal to say not just the family beach, but we're 102 the gap. We have a gap in integrity. We have a gap in competence, and confidence. We really need to work together, 103 and it's gonna take a lot to do that. A lot, and I sure hope we can come together as a town, because I don't see 104 anybody winning right now. Sadly to say, but I wish the town, I wish the townspeople, and I do wish this council 105 good luck, because you're gonna need it, and I hope to gosh the town survives, because we're all divided. 106

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South: At the last meeting I talked about my fear is that the building height limit in the pier area would be raised for developers to put up high-rises. Mr. Pellegrino said he would not vote to raise the height limit in the R3 District. After the meeting, I spoke to him about not only R3, but also C3, and I hope it doesn't ever happen, but the E District. He told me and Mr. Johnson he would never vote to raise the height limit and R3, C3 and the E District. I would like him to state that publicly tonight for the record. Never trust a politician. At the last meeting, I also asked for background checks on our new council people. I think I can honestly say most

113 people do not know them, and I am once again asking for these checks. If you are going to hire a nanny for your 114 child or grandchild, I am sure that you would ask for a background check. Well, you council people are our nanny. I 115 for one want to know what my nanny, whether my nanny can be trusted. I don't know you. I would also request that 116 the town administrator and future department heads live in our town. They make huge financial decisions, but have 117 no vested interest. They pay no taxes here. It does not affect their wallet like it affects my wallet, and everybody else 118 that lives in town. They should be asked to live in our town. Welcome back, Sabrina, what a pleasant difference it 119 has been already, and finally, what's up with the no motor vehicle sign that's on Melody Lane just west of Ocean 120 Boulevard? If there is no motor vehicles on allowed on Melody Lane, somebody ought to check it.

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122 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: Well, it was a rough election, but congratulations and God 123 bless everybody who's sitting up there tonight. May you have a wonderful four years. So we have something good 124 on a flyer for our election. We had one of our people who got reelected, congratulations, had on his election flyers 125 that I stand for the police and the fire department, and I think it would be good considering that were starting budget 126 talks that we finally, as he said, it was from two years ago, that we finally, finally see some action on this for our 127 police men, giving them a raise, because Myrtle Beach is like, I think, giving them 40,000 a year, and there was 128 another flyer from another person who is newly elected that said he stands for public safety, and I think that between 129 the two of them and the rest of the council we can really, like within this month, like within our budget talks see fit 130 to give our policemen their raise and give our firemen their two more full-time firemen to maintain our ISO number 131 one rating. We have a very little town. We have a little population, and yet for the summer time, the town grows 132 monumentally, hugely. Very important that the backbone of our town is the safe family beach; safety. We hear it all 133 the time during bike week that Surfside Beach is a good place to be. Well, summer's coming. We really need to 134 have the police force amped up. We really need to have enough police that they can keep things going smoothly 135 without, God forbid, having just three police on shift at one time. We really need to have firemen, because to count 136 all volunteers isn't necessarily going to work, but we're a beach town and our firemen play a huge integral part in 137 the safety of anybody at the beach. So you can see my concerns. You can see that they're reasonable. That they're 138 honorable for everybody who visits our town. We get a lot of financial gain from our visitors. We have people who 139 have been loyal to living in this town. Us [sic] residents want safety, too. It's an honorable thing to ask and more so 140 to support our wonderful police department and our fire department and the fact that we have an EMT parked right 141 in our firehouse garage, and to respect the mutual aid agreement that we share with the county. It's because of that 142 that we have that EMT device parked. Whenever you call for police, fire, or EMT they're there in like maybe two 143 minutes, most often less. So please, let's just not consider this. Let's put our money where our mouth is and let's do 144 it, especially in particular because were planning an E District. We really need to have our backbone of our town our 145 safety, our police, our firemen, our EMT settled in before we add even more to the pier district and to Surfside 146 Beach. Thank you for hearing me out and I pray that it's going to be real soon this happens, particularly starting our 147 budget discussions. 148

149 Mr. Don Reed, 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South: I'd like to remind the council up here that four of the members up here 150 agreed that this was the first step was to pass the plastic bag issue and you were going to go on to other things. At 151 the last meeting, it seemed that we were getting buyer remorse setting in relative to the plastic bag ordinance. I applaud Mr. Johnson for his honesty, insight and concern. However, I do not believe a step backwards is a solution. 152 153 I applaud you for what you did in getting the initiative to proceed with this. It is an opportunity to forge ahead and 154 actually make a difference for our beaches. Ordinance 18-0863 addresses the 17 Corridor and the suppliers of plastic 155 bags. The public comments and concerns for this ordinance were focused on the proliferation of plastic bags and the 156 concerns the plastic bags have on the beach environment and the beach wildlife. As Mr. Johnson said let's get it off 157 17 and down to the beach. As written, it does not address the issues and concerns that were presented at this issue 158 [sic.] It is directed to only the businesses, incidentally, probably one of our biggest revenue sources, and calls for no 159 mandate for public action or commitment. In fact, the exclusions listed in the ordinance ensure the residents will not 160 have to embrace the intent of the ordinance at all. Every public comment that was presented at the reading either was 161 about the proliferation of plastic bags, the micro plastic dangers, and the toxic exposure that plastic bags present to 162 the wildlife and beach environment. When you passed the ordinance, you said this was only going to be the first 163 step. There are many stakeholders in this community relative to the well-being of our beaches. The greatest 164 stockholder is not the retail businesses whom you've chosen to regulate, the greatest stockholder is the rental and 165 real estate industry of this town. These are the businesses that bring the people to our town. These are the businesses 166 that make our profits that make their profits and livelihood using our beaches. It is more than appropriate that they 167 contribute to the protection, maintenance and well-being of the beaches they use and take advantage. In the next step 168 consideration needs to solicit the assistance or require the rental and real estate businesses to promote the town's

169 concerns about the proliferation of and the harm plastic bags do to our beaches. Posting informational signs at each 170 of the rental facility registration points and in each rental unit is necessary. Distributing information bulletins, 171 notices at registration, and with the keys to pick up is necessary. Providing financing to the town for informational 172 signs for each of the town beach access or any other promotional needs the town feels is necessary. If the industry 173 will not volunteer this financing, financing could be mandated by imposing a business improvement or impact levy; 174 an annual fee for each permitted rental agency or a direct payment to the local real estate association or some other 175 means. Following the lead of the Folly Beach Ordinance 3116 and the Isles of Palms Ordinance 2015-18 the current 176 ordinance needs to include the public awareness and education facets, signage at the beaches, sponsorship, public 177 announcements, town sponsored community litter pickups, partnership with local business and civic groups and 178 educational organizations, establishment of a website similar to the ones of the two places I mentioned, and maybe 179 even possibly juvenile community service projects on the beach. The town needs not carry the burden for this task 180 alone. At the reading of this ordinance, many organizations and individuals stood up in support of the passing of the 181 ordinance, as well as providing insight into their contributions or activities and suggested that these to be addressed 182 for next steps. The supporters of the ordinance are resources for the town. Mr. Neil Gilbert from Sunset Beach 183 offered as president of the Brunswick Environmental Action Team as an environmental resource and marine 184 biologist to help. Mrs. Donna Grimes from Garden City from the South Carolina United Turtle Enthusiast's is a 185 resource and offered to help. Mrs. Carolyn Brander from Georgetown representing the Coastal Conservation League 186 and I called her, is very happy to assist in any way as you reach for the next step. Coastal Carolina has an 187 undergraduate and graduate program that can be coordinated with the town education programs through projects and 188 assignments for the students. One of those students was here and represented and spoke for the favor. Mr. Auburn 189 Hooker from the Grand Strand Surfrider Foundation (time ended) offered the resources of the Worldwide Network 190 of the Surfrider Foundation. This is the group that also has their name on all the total informational plaques along 191 the town, and finally Mrs. Corrine Hilliard also from the South Surfrider Foundation who has assumed the 192 leadership role in the anti-plastic program for that organization offered assistance in education and transition into the 193 non-plastic bag era with anti-plastic programs and materials through the Surfrider website. She has already done 194 training at Coastal Carolina, Horry County... (\*\*noncommittal noises because time ended) Mayor Childs: I'm 195 stretching it as much as I can. Mr. Reed: Okay, as you know you can go back and look at the minutes to find all the 196 resources you have available. Mr. Ott: I'd like to hear Don Reed's name on that list to help us. Mr. Reed: Okay, 197 final thing, if I may. All we need to do, to have done here is prevent bags from being distributed on the beaches. 198 That's all we have to try to do, so we need to educate people to do it. 199

# 10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.

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202 Mr. Ott: Thank you, Mr. Reed, for your statement and when we do set up this educational program that 203 we'll do and it will be a few hours, not one hour, I'm hoping it's gonna be five or six hours that we'll be open and I 204 would, I would like to have your participation as you seem to have done your homework pretty well on that. It's 205 going, it's going to take a while, because I remember sitting in here for a year hearing about how bad the smoking 206 ban was until everything got ironed out, and Rome wasn't built in a day, but we'll make this plastic bag ordinance 207 work very well for this town. Believe me, there's a lot of people who are going to help, and we had a good 208 ceremony tonight, and I welcome our new councilmen, and our new mayor pro tem, and it's really great to have this 209 town the way it is. Thank you.

211 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you very much for coming tonight. Just in response some of the comments, we have 212 been talking about raises for public safety in the budget process, and continue on the 17th in a workshop. Hopefully, 213 we can make decisions on that. As far as the building height, just like I told Mr. Dodge two weeks ago, R3, 214 Entertainment District, C3, I won't go for anything over 55 feet. I think that is something very positive that this town 215 has done over many years, and that prevents us from being like Myrtle Beach, and surrounding communities. I say it 216 all the time that our maintenance of our height of 55 feet and 35 feet and also our lack of debt makes this town 217 different than everywhere else, and that gives us flexibility. It gives us the opportunity to be better, and give better 218 services, and also make better decisions for the future. Finally, I just once again want to thank Ms. Samples and Mr. 219 Courtney for their service over the last two years, and welcome aboard Ms. Scoles and Mr. Dietrich. Welcome to the 220 fun. (Laughter.) Have a great night. 221

222 Mr. Stevens: Thank you everybody for coming out tonight and there were some good comments from our 223 citizens here. I agree with Ms. Wescott, let's be careful. Let's not put anything out there that citizens don't want. I 224 know that they've done that in the past. Mr. Sadler talked about gaps in the integrity, gaps in confidence, and wished

225 us good luck. Well, I wish our new councilmembers good luck, and that they have made a huge step and I'm going 226 to give them a word of advice. Whenever you get something thrown at you, just be a duck. Let it roll off your back. 227 Just forget about it. It'll be alright. I agree with Mr. Dodge and Mr. Pellegrino. We don't need to raise the height. We 228 have a family beach. As a matter of fact, we're second safest, excuse me, the third safest town in the State of South 229 Carolina, because we have a fine police department. Public safety, public fire [sic,] is one of the things that we need 230 to make sure that we take care of, and I've been talking with Sabrina Morris and she is actively working on a lot of 231 good things for the town. So, I'm glad she's back. As far as the plastic bags, Mr. Reed, if you could, it would 232 probably help us if you would email all that information you talked to each one of the councilmembers. You can 233 send it to Ms. Herrmann. She will disseminate it to all of us and that way we can get all that information. I'm one; I 234 don't like see plastic bags floating in the river and in the inlet or on the beach; see 'em anywhere, and obviously, we 235 need to take care of that. We, we've got; right now we're using plastic bags on the beach to pick up dog waste and 236 things like that, and at the dog park. So the town's got to set an example, at the same time. Once again, I want to 237 welcome all of, Mr. Pellegrino back to the council and welcome our two new council persons, and I hope that we 238 can work together in harmony for the next two years, and then we can accomplish a lot of great things. God bless 239 y'all all [sic.] Thank you for coming and have a great week. 240

241 Mr. Dietrich: Thanks for coming out tonight. Thank you for allowing me to serve this community. It's an 242 honor and privilege, and I will work very hard. I assure you of that. To address Mr. Dodge, I have no problem if the 243 chief would like to do a background check on me, and I will sit down with him and provide him with any 244 information he needs; both my personal careers and my financials. It doesn't matter to me. There's nothing out there, 245 but Chief [Hofmann], if you and I would like to get together, I have no problem with it. Mr. Reed, I couldn't agree 246 more. You brought this up at the last meeting, and it's a good point. Passing the ordinance is one thing; educating the 247 public about it is another, and we need to move forward with that. We really do. Thanks for coming out folks. Have 248 a great night. 249

Ms. Scoles: Good evening, everyone. I want to thank you for coming out this evening. I also want to go on record being known that I, too, am against any height being raised on our buildings. I do not want to see anything going above 55 feet, and as far as the plastic bag ban, I totally agree [they] need to be abolished, but we've got to educate these people on how we're going to do that and we've gotta take the first step. Like Mr. Stevens said, we still have plastic bags on the beach for the dog waste and at the dog park. So we need to set the first example. I look forward to working with everyone on council, and hope that it's going to be a good four years for all of us. Thanks again for coming, and I hope you have a great week.

258 Mr. Johnson: Thank you all for coming out again. It's a virtual ritual; two times a month. We love that you 259 guys come out. I would like to welcome back Councilmember Pellegrino and the new Councilmembers. I would just 260 offer you a little advice, education is key, and I know that you both are intelligent, but municipal government is 261 monster in itself. I think everyone up here can attest to that. But, thank you. Welcome. I would like to thank Mr. 262 Reed for your comments and suggestions. I truly thank you for that. As far as the height restrictions, I don't want to 263 go over 55 feet. I mean that's ludicrous. If you go offshore, go 10 or 15 miles offshore, you can always tell where 264 Surfside Beach is, because Myrtle Beach is up here, and Garden City is up here, but Surfside Beach is down here 265 (indicated upper and lower heights with hands). It's great. We have a great community, and I want to keep it that 266 way. Thank you, again, for coming out. 267

Mayor Childs: I do want to welcome both of our new members to council. Congratulations on your election. I think everybody here seems to be in agreement on the 55 foot height limit. I look forward to a new session here and everything running smoothly.

#### 13. Executive Session.

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A. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, or the appointment of a person or persons to a public body (town administrator).

Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor.
 MOTION CARRIED.

		d to reconvene regul	lar session at 8:21 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor.
Ma	yor Childs said	for the record, "No	action was taken during executive session."
<b>B.</b> ]	Motions or dire	ections resulting fr	om Executive Session.
			administrator to negotiate a contract with Candidate A for the All voted in favor. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b>
			n administrator effective July 1st, 2018 to eliminate the full
time position	n discussed in ex	xecutive session. Mi	r. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
			noved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All
			Prepared and submitted by:
			Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk
Approved: May 22, 2018			
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VOTE	Vas	No	Surfside Beach Town Council
VOIE.			
	_		Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor
			David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore
	$\Box$		
			Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council
			Mark L. Johnson, Town Council
			Wark E. Johnson, Town Council
			Ron Ott, Town Council
			Debbie Scoles, Town Council
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			Randle M. Stevens, Town Council
Clerk's Note	e: This docume	nt constitutes minute	es of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not intended to
	MOTION ( Ma B. Mr position of t Mr time positio 14. voted in fav Approved: VOTE:	MOTION CARRIED. Mayor Childs said B. Motions or dire Mr. Johnson movee position of town administrat Mr. Pellegrino mov time position discussed in ex 14. ADJOURNMI voted in favor. MOTION C Approved: May 22, 2018 VOTE: Yes UOTE: Yes	MOTION CARRIED. Mayor Childs said for the record, "No B. Motions or directions resulting fr Mr. Johnson moved to direct the town position of town administrator. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Pellegrino moved to direct the town time position discussed in executive session. Mr I4. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson r voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes 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

334 posted on the town website at www.Surfside Beach.org and the marquee.