



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 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 Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Johnson, Ott, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmember Dietrich was absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann; Police Chief Hofmann, and Public Works Director Adair.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Pastor Oakie Landers, Pine Drive Gospel Church, gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Executive Session and Regular Meeting October 23, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the October 23, 2018 executive session and regular meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only. There were no comments.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

Mayor Childs said that Proclamation #18-122 was published to announce Arbor Day December 7th in the town. This proclamation is done annually as part of the town's participation in the Tree City USA.

7. BUSINESS.

Stormwater Utility Fee Assistance, Director Adair. Mr. Stevens moved to approve the contract with Thomas & Hutton in the amount of \$14,900 as presented. Mr. Ott Second. Mr. Adair presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. Mr. Ott asked if the contract price would be amended as work progressed. Mr. Adair explained the cost includes the scope of work set out in the contract, which is customary for professional proposals. If council decides to change the scope of work, then the price would change. Mr. Ott asked if the information collected would be public. Mr. Pieper said only that information that is already public. Mr. Johnson asked if the fee could be charged to just new businesses. Mr. Adair said that would not be equitable and would not be upheld by court. The fee must be applied across the board to ensure it is defensible. Mr. Johnson said previous a council chose to reduce the millage dedicated to stormwater, and asked if this was the only way to fund stormwater operations. Mr. Adair said yes; stormwater projects, like lake dredging, are costly. As improvements are made, however, it may eliminate the need for anticipated projects in some other areas. Mr. Stevens wanted to ensure the utility fee would not be expropriated. Mr. Adair said the ordinance would stipulate allowable uses. Mr. Pieper said revenue would be managed through an enterprise fund like the pier and sanitation. Mr. Pellegrino said this is an unbudgeted item, and asked which fund would be used. Mr. Adair said funds are available in the stormwater operations account into which monies are budgeted for miscellaneous work. Mr. Pellegrino said the last recommended fee was \$64 for a single family house. This would be an on-going fee. There are many retirees on fixed incomes. Council needs to consider that. He personally would like to see what could be done with millage before adopting a utility fee. Mayor Childs said three workshops are scheduled for public input, and council can hear comments. Mayor Childs, and

54 Councilmembers Ott, Scoles and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino and
55 Councilmember Johnson voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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57 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.**

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59 **A. Residential Use in the Entertainment District, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino and**
60 **Councilmember Ott.** Mr. Ott said the entertainment district is supposed to be a business district and in
61 his opinion, residential uses should not be allowed. Mr. Pellegrino agreed saying the district was designed
62 to attract tourists. Mr. Johnson also agreed that residential houses should not be allowed. Mr. Stevens
63 concurred with them. Mayor Childs called for consensus to bring this as a business item on the next
64 agenda. **Town Council CONCURRED.**

65
66 **B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.** Mr. Ott believed the town's
67 elections should be changed to November when all other towns hold them. Mr. Pieper said an ordinance
68 is already being prepared and would be presented at the next meeting.

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70 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.**

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72 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, thanked the councilmembers working for the town.
73 She supported the council's opinion to prohibit residential use in the entertainment district, and moving
74 Election Day to November.

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76 Mr. Larry McKeen, 6th Avenue South, said the residential properties were already blocked out
77 from the entertainment district. In the past, the town administrator responded to questions asked during
78 public comments. He would like to see that done again, because the public deserves answers.

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80 Mr. Al. Lauer, Harbor Lights Drive, asked council to consider the planning commission's proposal
81 that was adopted at first reading. In his opinion, it solved most of the problems that have come up.

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83 Ms. Maureen Deegan, Pine Drive, said she moved here 5 years ago because of the community
84 spirit. Recent events surrounding the pier and entertainment district compelled her to speak. She cited
85 several meeting dates during which no action was taken. She asked if plans were submitted to FEMA so
86 the environmental study could begin. Regarding the entertainment district, the planning commission's
87 recommendations were changed by council by 20 amendments on Exhibit A, without discussion. Some
88 councilmembers publicly stated they did not consider the impact to the town. Council's inability to be
89 transparent is unacceptable and further delays development of the pier. Mayor Childs told me personally
90 that the hold-up on the pier was FEMA; the blame is with council. The losses experienced at the pier this
91 season were \$266 thousand. If the pier is completed in 2022 as predicted, the total losses will be \$1.3
92 million in lost revenue, which is unacceptable. The blatant disregard and disrespect for residents'
93 objections has awoken a new spirit of interest. Do what is right and compromise on a plan that will help
94 meet the residents' wishes, while promoting safe business growth.

95
96 Ms. Meg Perrino, North Cedar Drive, said [there is only one more] council meeting before the
97 Christmas Tree Lighting. The Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee has worked diligently to engage
98 residents and businesses in the It's a Wonderful Life in Surfside Beach project to light the town with
99 Christmas Lights. This project will create a shoulder season for the town, and she thanked council and
100 staff for supporting the project. The movie, It's a Wonderful Life, will be shown on November 15th at
101 Martin Field.

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103 Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard, said South Strand Helping Hand has made a major
104 impact [for flood victims] in Horry and Marion Counties with the help of many who are in attendance.
105 Glen Forest School children from Columbia came down and had hands-on experience working with the
106 victims, and they will partner with them for future events. Chief Hofmann met with the students to share

107 how his department is involved. She suggested that council have a meeting to discuss Exhibit A to have
108 each member explain why he or she supported it. In her opinion, that would help clear up some of the
109 controversy. She believed the planning commission did a great job, and it was rude for council to ignore
110 its recommendation.

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112 Ms. Diana Taylor, 7th Avenue North, said service from Spectrum Cable TV is the worst service I
113 have ever had, and many of my neighbors and friends feel the same way. Council should allow other
114 cable companies in town so residents have options.

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116 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

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118 Mr. Stevens thanked everyone for attending. After the last meeting, I was told my comments
119 were wrong. This is from the October 23rd approved minutes, finance report section: "Ms. King said town
120 residents pay about 20 percent of property tax revenue and businesses pay about 80 percent of property
121 tax revenue." As citizens we need to understand without businesses paying taxes we would cease to
122 exist. In response to Ms. Taylor, Spectrum bought out Time Warner Cable. We need business investors
123 on Highway 17 in town; we need that revenue to keep taxes low.

124
125 Ms. Scoles appreciated everyone attending and the comments. Council will take them into
126 consideration. She thanked Mr. Adair for the presentation tonight and for the stormwater tour, during
127 which she learned a lot about the town's system. She also thanked the administrator, and other
128 departments for their respective work.

129
130 Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for attending. Ms. Kohlmann was thanked for leading Helping
131 Hand. They have helped many people during the recent floods and storms. It is a great and important
132 community service. At the last meeting, he was not clear about accepting campaign contributions. In the
133 2014 Election, he accepted contributions, but then learned how that created a sense of obligation. So, in
134 the 2018 election, he did not accept contributions, and never will again. He sincerely apologized that his
135 statement was not clear; he had no intentions of misleading anyone.

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137 Mr. Ott thanked everyone for attending and for their comments. The storms are over, but people
138 are still homeless because of flooding. The town is so lucky. We want to put our problems to bed. There
139 are still areas in town that take on water, and we need to get them fixed. That is what the utility fee is
140 for. Regarding the pier, I refused to vote on second reading of the entertainment district until I saw an
141 artist rendering. It could be up to another year before FEMA [is finished with the environmental study.]
142 We have a great town and we can keep it great.

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144 Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for attending. I do not agree with every decision made by council,
145 but I respect each member. Don't forget about the Christmas Tree Lighting (November 29th at 7:00 p.m.)
146 and the Christmas Parade (December 8th, at 2:00 p.m.) If you can, please decorate your homes for
147 Christmas. We want Surfside Beach lit up. God bless you. Have a safe trip home.

148
149 Mayor Childs said in response to Ms. Deegan that the town waited almost two years for FEMA to
150 make a decision on the grant application, which resulted in a \$10 million grant. This town has not held up
151 the project. The architects and engineers continue to work on the designs. In fact, many letters,
152 meetings, and phone calls were made with the Congressional Delegation, our Congressman, Senators,
153 and Representatives to ensure the process moved as quickly as possible.

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155 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Mr. Stevens
156 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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Town Council Regular Meeting
November 13, 2018

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Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: November 27, 2018

Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

Debbie Scoles, Town Council

Absent
Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

Ron Ott, Town Council

Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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 posted on the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org and the marquee.