



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 22, 2019  
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING AT 6:30 P.M.  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order.** Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. 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, and Town Clerk Herrmann.

**2. Executive Session.** Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss the appointment of a person or persons to a public body, specifically the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee. Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session at 6:15 p.m. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Childs said for the record that no action was taken during executive session. Any action will be taken during the regular meeting under item 7.C. Business.

**3. Adjournment.** Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

**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; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

*Clerk's Note: Audio was not recorded for items 1 through 5, and began with Item 6, Events Report. Minutes for these sections were based on notes taken during the meeting.*

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation:** Pastor Okey Landers from 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 amended agenda as presented and to amend to defer item 7.A.iv, first reading of Ordinance #19-0885. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Executive Session and Regular Meeting January 8, 2019.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the January 8, 2019 executive session and regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only.**

Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, asked why there were no minutes from executive sessions.

Mr. Gary White, discussed bathrooms along the beach, and suggested the pier bathroom renovation might need to be deferred until after the pier was rebuilt.

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**6. COMMUNICATIONS.**

**A. Department Reports.**

**i. Events.** Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

**ii. Finance.** Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Ms. King said after the pier is rebuilt, the remaining book value will have to be written off, which will be a significant amount. Mr. Stevens complimented Mrs. King on her dedication and work ethic, saying that he often saw her office lights on after hours as he passed town hall. Mr. Johnson asked for an explanation of the FEMA money received. Ms. King said last year funds were received from Hurricane Irma; the year before it was from Hurricane Matthew, and from an ice storm. All funds were related to disasters.

**iii. Fire.** Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

**iv. Planning, Building & Zoning.** Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mayor Childs asked if the burnt house would be rebuilt. Ms. Morris said the department determined the house is over 49 percent destroyed and would have to be razed, but the owner could appeal, if the insurance company contradicts that evaluation.

**v. Police.** Chief Hofmann was absent due to vacation. Mayor Childs said council could ask questions about the report next week when he returned.

**vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Adair said most of the Crepe Myrtle trees were removed from Highway 17, and he anticipated that a total of about 50 trees will be transplanted before the Highway 17 project begins. Mr. Ott asked about the transition to paper yard debris bags. Mr. Adair said well for the most part; those still using plastic bags are being notified of the new regulations that were imposed by Horry County Solid Waste Authority.

**C. Administrator's Report.** Administrator Pieper said on January 15<sup>th</sup> he and about 75 staff members attended Municipal Association Defensive Driving class. He attended a US Highway 17 project meeting, during which the county reported that funds are not available to complete the portion between the town's northern limit and Ocean Lakes, so that will be taken out of the plans. He attended the accommodations tax committee meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The committee's recommendation for the current year amendments are on the agenda this evening. He worked with the business committee on a grant application in anticipation of council funding a façade grant for the next fiscal year. The United Way VITA staff asked again to park its bus on Surfside Drive, March 8, from about one o'clock until eight o'clock. Council allowed that last year; VITA assisted about 20 individuals with tax return. Town Council **CONCURRED to allow bus parking on March 8<sup>th</sup>**. There is a South Carolina Disaster Hazard Mitigation meeting on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 to which councilmembers are invited. Mr. Adair will attend to represent the town. Mr. Ott asked if Mr. Pieper received any phone calls or requests from residents this week. Mr. Pieper replied, yes, many questions, telephone calls and email messages.

**7. BUSINESS.**

**A. First Readings of Ordinances**

**i. #19-0882, Chapter 13, Permits, Reviews, & FOIA Disclosure, Director Morris.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0882 as presented. Mr. Ott second. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. She recommended that the time frame for a response mirror the time allowed for stormwater review; however, that could be up to

107 council. After discussion, she was asked to provide the amendments for council's review at second  
108 reading. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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110 **ii. #19-0883 Easement to Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority (Authority),**  
111 **Director Adair.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0883 as presented. Mr. Ott  
112 second. Mr. Adair presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Council was  
113 concerned with the safety because of limited vision on the roadway. Mr. Adair was asked to bring a  
114 revised drawing to second reading, and ask the Authority to place the fence as far off the road as  
115 possible. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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117 **iii. #19-0884 to Prohibit Residential Use in C4, Director Morris.** Mr. Ott moved to adopt  
118 first reading of Ordinance #18-0883 as presented. Mr. Johnson second. Ms. Morris presented the decision  
119 paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Ms. Morris noted that existing residential uses in the  
120 district are grandfathered nonconforming uses and could be rebuilt if destroyed. All voted in favor.  
121 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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123 **iv. #19-0885 §14-52(8) accessory structures 200 sq. ft. or less, Director Morris.** This  
124 item deferred by approved motion. See item 3, Agenda Approval above.

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126 **B. Intergovernmental Agreement to transfer Elections to Horry County, Attorney**  
127 **Crosby.** Mr. Stevens moved to authorize the town administrator to execute the agreement. Mr. Ott  
128 second. Ms. Crosby presented the decision paper and agreement, copies of which are on file. The Horry  
129 County Election Commission has agreed to accept the transfer. She explained that approving this  
130 agreement is the first step in transferring the town's election function to Horry County. An ordinance is  
131 drafted and will be forthcoming. Mr. Ott asked how this would affect residents. Ms. Crosby said election  
132 days will be in November; there are no anticipated changes in precincts; candidates will continue to file in  
133 the town clerk's office. The county will manage all other aspects of the election. All voted in favor.  
134 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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136 **C. Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful (KSBB) Appointment (2 vacancies): Ms. Gail King;**  
137 **Ms. Missy Schilling, and Mr. Bernard Murray.** Mr. Johnson moved to appoint Ms. Missy Schilling and  
138 Mr. Bernard Murray to KSBB. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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140 **D. Accommodations Tax Recommendations to Amend FY2018-2019 Budget, Director**  
141 **King.** Mr. Stevens moved to approve the recommendations as presented. Mr. Johnson second. The  
142 decision paper and resolution from the accommodations tax committee are on file. All voted in favor.  
143 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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145 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.** There was no council discussion.

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147 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.**

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149 Mr. Dean Sizemore, Harbor Lights Drive, spoke about the entertainment district asking whether  
150 studies were completed by police, fire, and public works to address increased service calls.  
151 Councilmembers will be responsible to individuals that are harmed by failure to do so. This town is a  
152 family beach resort; why do we need to draw more people? As a former risk manager and safety director,  
153 he asked if the risk manager was consulted to determine impact to fire and safety ratings. He said  
154 attorney's advice should be used as guidance; councilmembers should do what is right in their heart. He  
155 urged council to consider the E district as it was originally presented so as to not harm the town. He  
156 asked if the easement to the Authority met the MUTC regulations; a triangle line of sight is required. The  
157 E district with zero setbacks violates lines of sight requirement. He hoped and prayed each member  
158 would consider changes in the E district.  
159

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160 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, was concerned about the timeframe for transferring  
161 the elections to the county in time for a November 2019 election. We are going to need more police  
162 presence in the E district, and also more firemen to ensure safety; a salary increase is also necessary for  
163 these first responders. Failures will reflect on councilmembers and may even result in "legalities."  
164

165 Mr. Larry McKeen, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, asked whether the county would also handle special  
166 elections. He supported giving police and fire salary increases, and said his taxes could be raised to fund  
167 those increases. He reiterated his request to have the administrator respond to questions made during  
168 public comments and asked why that wasn't being done, because based on council comments at the last  
169 meeting he thought it would be.  
170

171 Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard, thanked council for deferring the accessory  
172 structure ordinance and those who responded to her email message. In her opinion, the individuals to  
173 whom her message was addressed should respond to her; not staff. She didn't understand why the town  
174 did not consult with state and federal agencies in advance to ensure the CRS rating would not be  
175 impacted by ordinance amendments. Please be more transparent and respectful so you can get the same  
176 in return.  
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178 Mr. Hal Sharp, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, said he was trying to install a 100 square foot shed on his  
179 property and asked for clarification since the ordinance was deferred. Mayor Childs asked him to speak  
180 with the administrator after the meeting.  
181

182 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**  
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184 Mr. Ott thanked Ms. Magliette for her question about the executive session minutes. He would  
185 find out about that. [Just about] everybody in town has a shed. We are going to ask the planning director  
186 to provide all the information about sheds so council can make a rational decision.  
187

188 Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for attending. He did not believe that executive session minutes  
189 were legal, although more times than not the discussions are made public before council gets out the  
190 door! That was another issue. God bless you. See you next time.  
191

192 Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for coming. Thank you for comments and input through the  
193 week. I spoke to Ms. Kohlmann a couple of times this week, and to Ms. Morris. It's good to have  
194 information from citizens, because many times you may be more informed than we are. I consider all the  
195 information; don't always agree with it, but I do consider it in my decisions. Thank you for being involved  
196 and passionate about what is best for the town.  
197

198 Ms. Scoles thanked everyone for coming, their comments and concerns about the town. We have  
199 those same concerns, and I appreciate you bringing to light anything we may have overlooked. Have a  
200 good evening.  
201

202 Mr. Stevens thanked everyone for coming. Have a good week, and thank you for your time.  
203

204 Mayor Childs said to address Mr. Sharp's comment that this all started because someone wanted  
205 to install an 8 x 8 shed. I don't know where the 200 square feet came from. We hope to work those  
206 differences out and we appreciate your problem.  
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208 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Ms. Scoles  
209 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**  
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Prepared and submitted by:

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Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: February 12, 2019

**Surfside Beach Town Council**

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Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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Debbie Scoles, Town Council

Absent  
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Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

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Ron Ott, Town Council

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Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and is 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](http://www.surfsidebeach.org) and on the town LED marquee.