



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2019
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:30 P.M. and REGULAR MEETING AT 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Executive Session – 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order. Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann, and Police Chief Hofmann.

2. Executive Session. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss the appointment or release of a person or persons to a public body, and pursuant to §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements regarding house of inmates, and Ordinance #19-0891. Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Scoles and Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Scoles 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 8, Business.

3. Adjournment. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:30 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 Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris; and Police Chief Hofmann.

Mayor Childs welcomed Boy Scout Troop 891 from Socastee United Methodist Church, and invited them to lead the Pledge after the invocation. He presented each member with a town lapel pin. The audience gave them a standing ovation.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Fire Chaplain Carmen Carella gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Boy Scout Troop 891.

3. PUBLIC HEARING. Mayor Childs opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. to hear public comments on the adoption of Ordinances #19-0889 Hospitality Tax and #19-0890 Local Accommodations Tax. There were no comments. Mayor Childs declared the hearing closed at 6:35 p.m.

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

5. MINUTES APPROVAL. February 26, 2019 and March 5, 2019. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the minutes of February 26, 2019 and March 5, 2019 as presented. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only. There were no public comments.

7. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator's Report. Mr. Pieper reported:

- 54 • The new Veterans Memorial Wall is completed and plaques are being installed
- 55 • Staff expects the FEMA Environmental Study for the pier reconstruction to be completed
- 56 within the next few months
- 57 • The pier architects are completing the final details and the package will be ready to let
- 58 for bids as soon as the FEMA Environmental Study is complete. Once construction begins
- 59 it may take 16 to 18 months to complete.
- 60 • He has been meeting with department directors on FY19-20 budgets and staff continues
- 61 work to develop a balanced budget for presentation to Town Council
- 62 • Bids received on the fire department pumper truck will be presented at the next meeting
- 63 for approval
- 64 • The BBQ Festival was very successful. Several vendors sold out of food
- 65

66 Mayor Childs said any active or retired service member may purchase a plaque for the wall for
67 \$50. The weather was great for the BBQ Festival and it was the biggest crowd ever.

68 **8. BUSINESS.**

69 **A. Second Reading Ordinance #19-0889 Hospitality Tax, Administrator Pieper.** Mr.
70 Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0889 as presented. Mr. Orr second. Mr. Pieper
71 presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Johnson asked if this
72 ordinance impacted Interstate Highway 73. Mr. Pieper said no, the town did not have an agreement
73 regarding I73. Town Council will need to decide how to manage the funds. This ordinance allows the
74 town to collect the statutory limit. Mayor Childs said the county wants to assign a committee to decide
75 how to handle the funds. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

76 **B. Second Reading Ordinance #19-0890 Local Accommodations Tax, Administrator**
77 **Pieper.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0890 as presented. Mr. Ott
78 second. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

79 **C. First Reading Ordinance #19-0888 Amend §14-51 Stormwater Definitions, Director**
80 **Morris.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0888 as presented. Ms. Scoles and
81 Mr. Ott second. Mr. Pellegrino recused as he owns a business in town that this ordinance affects. His
82 written recusal is attached hereto. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of
83 which are on file. Mr. Ott said this is a good example of why ordinances should be reviewed after
84 adoption. Mr. Johnson asked if the current ordinance was approved by council. Ms. Morris said yes. Mr.
85 Stevens asked for clarification that the amendments would allow upgrades and maintenance without a
86 stormwater plan as long as the footprint didn't change. Ms. Morris said yes. Mayor Childs, and
87 Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, Scoles and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino
88 recused. **MOTION CARRIED.** *Note: Ms. Morris left at 6:50 p.m.*

89 **D. First Reading Ordinance #19-0891 Lease Extension Pier Outfitters, Inc.,**
90 **Administrator Pieper.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0891 as presented.
91 Mr. Ott second. Mr. Pieper presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. He
92 explained that this is a month-to-month lease that is valid until the existing structure is razed. All voted in
93 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

94 **E. Stormwater Committee Appointment (1 vacancy). Volunteers: Ms. Yvette Hellyer**
95 **and Ms. Tabitha Mull.** Mr. Johnson moved to reappoint Ms. Mull to serve another term on the
96 stormwater committee. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

97 **F. Motions and/or directions resulting from Executive Session.** Mr. Pieper noted that an
98 agreement would be forthcoming for council's consideration.

99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106

107 **9. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.** There was no discussion.

108
109 **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.**

110
111 Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South, said thank you for fixing the microphones. We can now hear.

112
113 **11. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

114
115 Mr. Johnson said unfortunately I was not at the last meeting, and I was disappointed that council
116 adopted an ordinance that allowed a person who only lived in town 30 days to run for office. I know we
117 got an attorney's opinion and some other documentation. We are a small town. I just think you need to
118 live here more than 30 days before you know exactly what's going on. We originally mandated five years;
119 30 days in my mind is ludicrous. Thank you for coming out. Thank you to the Boy Scouts for showing up.
120 God bless you all.

121
122 Mr. Ott said at this point the town belongs to the residents. We all live here. There are
123 comments; there is work that is done on boards, commissions and committees that is extremely
124 important to the town. It always has been. Thank you.

125
126 Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for coming and said to follow up on Mr. Johnson's comments, I
127 hope that anyone who only lived here 30 days wouldn't get any votes, so it won't be a problem. Have a
128 great night.

129
130 Ms. Scoles thank you to everyone for coming out this evening. I hope you have a good week.

131
132 Mr. Stevens implored the citizens to shop at the town businesses. Don't forget they pay 85
133 percent of our property taxes; \$1.5 to \$2 million in business license fees; hospitality tax and
134 accommodations tax. I just recently learned that the town businesses pay 70 percent of the sanitation
135 fund that enables us to buy new garbage trucks to keep the town clean. Spend your money in town so
136 our businesses can benefit from our patronage. They keep us afloat; if we didn't have them, we'd
137 probably fold up as a town within three to four months. Thank you for coming out. I hope all of you have
138 a good week. Looks like good weather for the rest of the week. Take care of yourself.

139
140 Mr. Dietrich said good evening everybody. There are people here tonight that were kind enough
141 to come to see me when I was ill a few months ago. Thank you very much. God bless you all. I may not
142 remember you being there, but I know you were, because you told me so. Thank you for coming out
143 tonight. God bless you all.

144
145 Mayor Childs thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

146
147 **12. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Mr. Stevens
148 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

149
150 Prepared and submitted by:

151
152
153
154
155 _____
156 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

157 Approved: March 26, 2019

158

159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180

Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

Ron Ott, Town Council

Debbie Scoles, Town Council

Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary 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 and the town's LED marquee.

APPROVED



Recusal Statement

Member Name: DAVID PELLEGRINO

Meeting Date: 3/12/19 Agenda Item: BC

Topic: 19 - 0 888 STORM WATER DEFINITIONS

The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be a conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37.) A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

Justification to Recuse:

Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

Other: _____

Date: 3/12/19



Member Signature

This document shall be included with the meeting minutes and shall become part of the permanent record.