



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 28, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, Scoles and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmember Johnson was absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann, and Finance Director King.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Pastor Nathan Sweet, 1st Baptist Church Surfside, gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

3. MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA.

Mr. Stevens moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Dietrich second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. May 14, 2019.

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the May 14, 2019 minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

Finance. Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. She noted that no invoices were received yet for the street improvements at 3rd Avenue South. Mr. Stevens asked what was budgeted to be received from business licenses. Ms. King said about \$730 thousand for local licenses, plus the Municipal Association collects fees from insurance companies.

7. BUSINESS.

A. Second Reading Ordinance #19-0895 to adopt FY19-20 Municipal Budget, Director King.

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #19-0895 as presented. Mr. Dietrich second. Ms. King presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. She noted that there is no tax increase at this time. Mayor Childs and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, Scoles and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. First Reading Ordinance #19-0896 to amend §2-187 Fund Balance and to establish Stormwater Management Utility Fund, Director King.

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0896 as presented. Mr. Dietrich second. Ms. King presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mayor Childs

53 and Councilmembers Dietrich, Ott, Scoles and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Pellegrino
54 voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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56 **C. Auditor RFP (request for proposals) Award, Administrator Pieper.**

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58 Mr. Pieper said RFPs were properly let and recommended that Town Council award the RFP to
59 Greene Finney, LLP. Mr. Stevens moved to approve the administrator's recommendation. Mr. Dietrich
60 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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62 **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Town Services or Business Conducted. There were no comments.

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64 **9. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS.**

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66 Mayor Childs asked for consensus to support Mr. Carl Schwartzkopf as the South Strand nominee
67 to the Solid Waste Authority Board. Town Council **CONCURRED.**

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69 Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for coming and explained his opposition to the budget adoption
70 and the fund balance changes was because he believed there were ways staff could make additional
71 cuts. For instance, funding two or three positions that were vacant for several years. The stormwater
72 utility fee was a 16-percent tax increase on average, and he believe funds should continue being placed
73 in reserve for beach renourishment. The town is very close to having to adopt an increase taxes. In his
74 opinion, the town can offer its current services at a lower cost. The pier will be a huge expense; using
75 government contractors always cost more than expected. Reserves should be increased to provide funds.
76 Adding \$400 thousand to the disaster fund in this budget is approaching the \$1.2 million goal. We
77 hesitate to adopt a budget that is close to actual expenses; with reserves on hand, council could make a
78 decision to amend, if expenses exceeded the budget. He believed fees were simply another tax and they
79 were too easy to add.

80
81 Mr. Dietrich thanked everyone for coming. He rode with beach patrol yesterday until 10:15 last
82 night. It concerned him that the officers were not armed. He spoke with Chief Hofmann today, and the
83 situation is resolved. We need to analyze how we do business and ensure it is necessary. God bless you
84 all for being here.

85
86 Mr. Ott thanked everyone for coming out to the first early session. Some of the businesses along
87 Highway 17 are improving their façades and it is starting to look good, especially between 2nd and 5th
88 Avenues North. Compliments to Mr. Pellegrino for the improvements to his auto repair shop located in
89 town.

90
91 Ms. Scoles thanked everyone for coming and asked council to consider recognizing the Boy Scout
92 Troop that helped with clean-up and power washing the Senior Center. **Town Council CONCURRED to**
93 **recognize the Scouts.**

94
95 Mr. Stevens said the State is improving Highway 17. The pier reconstruction and the Entertainment
96 District will generate lot of new revenue and be good for the town. There are many things to be thankful
97 for. The town didn't have any flooding during recent events. The stormwater fee will cost less than a penny
98 an hour and the revenue is dedicated only for stormwater projects. The town has \$3 or \$4 million in
99 stormwater projects coming up in the future. During the past ten years, the town was in the top ten safest
100 cities and it has a fire department with an ISO-1 rating. We have many good things to look forward to. This
101 is a great town. An election is coming up this [November.] I hope some young people will run for office.
102 Thank you for coming. Have a great week. God bless you. Remember our veterans.

103
104 Mayor Childs said summer season is coming. There are many golf carts on the roads with little kids
105 in them. If you see a golf cart being driven by young children, please call [the police department

Town Council Regular Meeting
May 28, 2019

106 843.913.6368.] We are fortunate that there has never been a bad accident, but it will happen eventually.
107 Golf cart operators should have a valid driver's license.
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109 **10. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. Mr. Ott second.
110 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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Prepared and submitted by:

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Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

118 Approved: June 25, 2019

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Surfside Beach Town Council

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Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

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Absent

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Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

Ron Ott, Town Council

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Debbie Scoles, Town Council

Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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