



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019 ♦ 10:00 A.M.**

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5 **1. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Childs called the special meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mayor
6 Childs and Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. Mayor Pro
7 Tempore Pellegrino and Councilmember Ott were absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Town
8 Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King, and Planning
9 Building & Zoning Director Morris.

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11 **2. PUBLIC HEARING** regarding adoption of Ordinance #19-0903 to set the tax millage for the
12 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. Mayor Childs opened the public hearing at 10:00 a.m.

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14 Mr. Larry McKeen, 6th Avenue South, said the tax increase appeared to be 3.6% based on his
15 understanding of the mil rate. He personally did not oppose an increase, but many councilmembers
16 campaigned and commented that they would not support any type tax increase. The increase didn't
17 impact him very much, but those with rental properties will pay more. In addition, the recently adopted
18 stormwater utility fee is effectively a tax increase, but residents with flooding problems deserve to have
19 them fixed. However with the utility fee, his taxes have increased 11.52%. For those who pay taxes on
20 lower assessments, the percentage would be higher based on the utility fee. He wanted people to realize
21 that residents are getting one big tax increase this year.

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23 There were no other public comments. Mayor Child closed the public hearing at 10:03 a.m.

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25 **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION** Pursuant to the Freedom of Information act §30-40-70(a)(2) to
26 discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements (specifically, Atlantic Restaurant
27 Group, LLC). Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 10:04 a.m. Mr. Dietrich and Ms. Scoles
28 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Dietrich moved to reconvene regular session at
29 10:29 a.m. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Child stated for the
30 record that no action was taken during executive session.

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32 **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS.** (3 minutes).

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34 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North, said there were rumors that the town bought the new
35 parking lot property at a higher price, because a deal was made with the owner. She wanted to ensure
36 the councilmembers were aware of this and asked them to please address that publicly so the rumors
37 could stop.

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39 **5. BUSINESS**

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41 **A. Second Reading of Ordinance #19-0903 to set the tax millage for the 2019-2020**
42 **Fiscal Year, and to amend Exhibit 1 of Ordinance #19-0895.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second
43 reading of Ordinance #19-0903. Mr. Dietrich second. Ms. King presented the decision paper and
44 ordinance, copies of which are on file. She explained current millage is 46.3; millage based on
45 reassessment would be 41.5, but staff is recommending 43 mills, which represents a 1.5 mil increase that
46 will add \$112,500 to revenue. The 43 mills will be effective with the October 2019 tax billing. All voted in
47 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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49 **B. 212 Surfside Drive Development Plans, Director Morris.** Mr. Stevens moved to proceed
50 with development of the new public parking lot with removal of trees as per the arborist report presented
51 by Ms. Morris, and further that this lot shall be a paid lot only with no permit or decal parking at this
52 facility. Mr. Dietrich second. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. She
53 noted that the Americans with Disabilities Act requires one handicapped space for each 25 parking

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54 spaces, and one of those must be van accessible. Ms. Morris said many of the trees must be removed
55 due to neglect. They are infested with ants and/or have hollowed cores, which make them structurally
56 unsound and creates a safety issue. The existing commercial building requires an asbestos inspection
57 before a Department of Health & Environmental Control will issue a demolition permit; that should be
58 completed in the next ten days. Ms. Morris said staff received email messages regarding parking lots in
59 the Public Land District (PL). The proposed PL District allows parking lots. Both properties are currently
60 zoned C3, which also allow parking lots. There are no setback requirements for parking. Mr. Stevens
61 asked how many parking spaces would be made. Ms. Morris said 40 spaces, which may include some golf
62 cart spaces. Mr. Stevens said the gravel would comply with the stormwater plan, and said these spaces
63 will all be paid spaces, which will generate revenue for many years to offset the cost of the property. Mr.
64 Pieper reminded councilmembers that while the pier is being constructed, the pier parking lot will be
65 closed. The new lot in close proximity will help a lot. Mr. Stevens said he recently read that Horry County
66 is growing at a rate of 400%. Those individuals will be coming to our beach. By providing parking, the
67 town will gain revenue. He supported the project. Ms. Scoles asked if there would be just one
68 handicapped parking space. Ms. Morris said there would be two. Ms. Scoles asked where they would be
69 placed. Mr. Pieper said the final design will include the proper number of handicapped spaces constructed
70 with required smooth surfaces and situated near the sidewalks. Mr. Dietrich asked if Lanier Parking had
71 been contacted regarding enforcement. Mr. Pieper said yes. Lanier recommends using Park Mobile in this
72 lot, by which users would use their telephones or computers to pay using the internet. Mayor Childs
73 asked Ms. Morris if she was clear with the arborist's recommendations. Ms. Morris said absolutely. All
74 voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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76 **C. MOTIONS OR DIRECTIONS RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION.** There were no
77 motions or directions.

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79 **6. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m. Mr. Dietrich
80 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

81 Prepared and submitted by,

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83 Approved: August 27, 2019 _____
84 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

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87 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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91 Absent 08/05/2019 _____
92 David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore Bruce Dietrich, Town Council

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94 _____
95 Absent 08/05/2019 _____
96 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council Ron Ott, Town Council

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99 Debbie Scoles, Town Council Randle Stevens, Town Council

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