



**PUBLIC NOTICE:** Surfside Beach Town Council will hold a workshop meeting on June 29, 2020, to discuss communication at 10:00 am.

**TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020, • 6:30 pm.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Hellyer called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mayor Hellyer, Mayor Pro Tempore Scoles, Councilmembers Pellegrino, Holder, and Keating were in attendance. Others present Town Attorney Crosby, and Town Clerk Sheri Medina. Absent: Councilmember Drake and Dietrich.

2. **INVOCATION; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- A. Invocation: Dr. Nathan Sweet, Surfside Baptist Church, gave the invocation.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance: The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. **PUBLIC HEARING**

**THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF LAND LISTED AS 10' ALLEY SITUATED BETWEEN PIN # 461-03-01-0042 AND PIN # 461-03-01-0043.** Mayor Hellyer stated just to give a little background, that piece of property came before Council, probably a couple of months ago where the landowner wanted to purchase the land that was in-between their two lots. They had an evaluation and appraisal done on it, the land does not have any value to anyone, but those people. They brought it before Council, we all agreed to a price on it and gave the town administrator the ability to negotiate that price. We put it on the agenda, we had the first and second reading of it, and there was an allegation that the public hearing was not correct. So, we're doing the public hearing again today before we have the second reading again later on in the agenda.

**Public comment:** Judy Henion, 611 11th Ave North, the only comment and I have, is there an easement on that Alley? I believe it was put there so that the town would be able to put utilities, natural gas lines, sewer water, through there without having to purchase the right of way. So, when the town sells it, are you going to consider putting in the deed transfer or the right that in the event that it needs to pass through that, you maintain that right of way. And just put that as a deed restriction, or has that been considered? Would it be the only thing that I would ask? Thank you.

The Mayor stated If I remember correctly when we were talking about the sale of it in executive session, that I believe somebody had already taken a look at it and said that there wasn't any use for it and that we didn't have a future use for the property.

Director Adair stated there's a couple of small right of ways that run through that block, Eighth and Ninth Avenue, North Dogwood, and Palmetto Dr. I looked at the historical records, there's been no post use. I can only assume they, both the town up into lost that was reserved as possibly being used for drainage at some point. But it hasn't to this point. There are no plans to use it for drainage. Gas lines will typically run in the right of way eighth and Ninth Avenue, that is not that long of a span corner to corner, so I don't see any reason why another utility would want to come through there. I have no plans for public use of that property.

4. **MOTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA**

Mayor Hellyer stated I would like to make a motion to add to communications that we have a short discussion on the Cove at 19 and the effects it's having on the town, and any possible things that we may precautions we may need to take. Councilmember Keating seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

5. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

- A. June 9, 2020
  - B. June 16, 2020 - workshop meeting (Chapter 17)
- Councilmember Keating made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for June 9, 2020, and June 16, 2020, for the workshop on Chapter 17. Councilmember Scoles seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

*This agenda is published pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-80(A) and (E). The public is invited to attend all meetings and events.*

57  
58 **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only**

59 **A.** Judy Henion, 11th Avenue North. The discussion of the pier that is on the agenda tonight. This is one of  
60 the biggest things that's happened in Surfside Beach. It's the most expensive thing that has been going on in  
61 this town. The pier bids have come back. It took four years to get the pier bids back. So there's no haste in  
62 awarding the contract without a proper review. There are a few things that need to be considered. One happens  
63 to be the law. The law does not state that it has to go to the lowest bidder, because you need to take into  
64 consideration the qualifications of the bidders, and also the specifications and the scope of work by each bidder.  
65 Then thoroughly vet within each bid, and it needs to be properly reviewed. There hasn't been enough time to do  
66 that. Understand that there might be some haste to approve it, and the approval process needs to take longer.  
67 It doesn't need to be rushed because the town has a finite amount of money that it can invest and there's not I  
68 would hasten to say that there are not that many residents in this town that are so excited about getting the pier  
69 that they would be willing to have their taxes raised. That being said, I would caution and urge each of you to  
70 allow the Pier Bid Review Committee to do their job. We have engineers who are looking through it. And from  
71 just as a casual observer, a little bit more casual, I think the most, those bids need to be thoroughly vetted and  
72 reviewed before anyone deciding what to do. So I would encourage each of you to allow that process to play its  
73 way out because it's going to mean so much to this town and this town's future.  
74

75 **7. COMMUNICATIONS –**

76 **A. EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS:** Mayor Hellyer presented Employees Service Awards to John Adair, for 10  
77 years of service and also Kenneth Hofmann for 10 years of service.  
78

79 Councilmember Pellegrino stated A lot of the service awards come up, and I don't work directly with the people  
80 who get them.. I've talked to Mr. Adair and the Police Chief quite often, and I do appreciate them. Mr. Adair is  
81 very knowledgeable at what he does, and he gets us many grants. He's the manages projects well and has been  
82 very responsive. When I have questions, he keeps us in the loop, and gives me the information I need. As far as  
83 Chief Hofmann, he truly has the public's safety and the community at heart, and he works every day to make  
84 sure that our community is safe. I always talk to him about training. I'm always so impressed in how he trains  
85 these young men to be so professional, and it's not easy to do in today's society, but if you look at how young  
86 our police force is and how professional they maintain themselves, it's pretty impressive. So I appreciate your  
87 work with that. Thank you to both of you.  
88

89 **B. Finance Report** – Director King gave the Financial report.  
90

91 **C. Communication Workshop** – Councilmember Keating stated we have a workshop scheduled to talk about  
92 the town's communication strategy, it's re-branding, reinvigorating marketing efforts, and so forth. I just felt that  
93 with the evaluation for the pier and how much time that is taking, I didn't have the time to dedicate to prepare  
94 properly for this workshop. So that is why I was going to recommend that this be rescheduled until after the  
95 completion of the evaluation for the pier. I have talked to a few other people about engaging and trying to do  
96 some of the heavy lifting to prepare for this, reaching out to local universities, and so forth to see if some of their  
97 students would like to have some internships or projects that that could help in their marketing and  
98 communication kind of curriculum. But, as of right now, there's just not enough time in the day to prepare for  
99 both that and the bid evaluation. So, I want to recommend that we reschedule that workshop for a later date.  
100

101 Councilmember Holder stated I understand Mrs. Keating's side, but, I thought it was going to be first of several  
102 workshops on the communication, I thought this would be for us to brainstorm, to get started before we can  
103 include even students or anything else. We need to brainstorm and talk about some ideas or what we like, not  
104 just open it up and one person taking the lead. It should be a group of us working in a workshop to brainstorm  
105 and get it started. And for that reason, I think we should keep it.  
106

107 Councilmember Pellegrino asked when Mrs. Keating is recommending the workshop be delay until.  
108

109 Councilmember Keating stated since we have 30 – 45 days for the evaluation of the pier, maybe switch out the  
110 July 20 Workshop instead of doing Chapter two. Do the first of the communication workshop then, and postpone  
111 chapter two since there's no real level of urgency on reviewing that ordinance at this time. Since we already have  
112 one scheduled, postpone it a month.  
113

114 Councilmember Scoles stated I like the idea that Mr. Holder had the Council brainstorming before we start  
115 bringing insiders and so that we know what we want them to look at and maybe make proposals to us or bring  
116 ideas to us. I don't think we've talked in-depth about what we're expecting out of this workshop other than  
117 improving our image and maybe greater communication. Maybe we can meet and have the workshop so that we  
118 know what we're going to bring forth, or someone else to join in, and maybe give some advice or opinions on.

119 Councilmember Holder stated I'd like to go ahead with it.

120 Councilmember Pellegrino stated I agree with what Ms. Scoles and Mr. Holder mentioning. If we want to get  
121 together with this, Council first, with a game plan, together we can always tie that to an existing Town Council  
122 meeting, and then have the actual workshop at a later date.

123 Councilmember Keating stated I was also envisioning, for those of us that went to Columbia, there were several  
124 towns within South Carolina made some presentations about their journey in rebranding and marketing, and how  
125 they set their strategic objectives, and how they embarked on their journey, and what they did, and what they  
126 pulled together, and so forth. So, I was hoping one of those towns would come and just share with us their  
127 lessons learned, their experience, and how they approach that initiative. Because right now, we're kind of sitting  
128 back blind, saying, we need to do something. We're not doing an outstanding job of it, as is. I was hoping that  
129 the first meeting would be a kickoff to the initiative and that they would share their experience and their lessons  
130 learned their knowledge, and who all they reached out to, who were their resources to help them through the  
131 strategic planning process. To do that and to kick it off right, you have to have a directive on what you're  
132 brainstorming about instead of just everywhere, and that would kick off and organize the initiative's such that it's  
133 a little bit more focused and controlled if you will.

134 Councilmember Pellegrino stated I like that idea, and that's a good way to kick it off, to find some smaller town  
135 that has had revitalization, and do that. But we need to give the administrator directive to communicate with  
136 someone and try to schedule that. Maybe that's what we should do tonight because we could try to get the guy  
137 from Greenville or somewhere like that. They certainly did a nice job out there, but it's not apples to apples. The  
138 Administrator has a lot of experience with many people throughout the state, and he can find many communities  
139 like ours that have had revitalization and schedule something with them to come and present.

140 Councilmember Keating stated I just think that's going to take a little bit more organization. Especially, because  
141 of the COVID-19, just postpone it to July. That's my recommendation.

142 Councilmember Scoles stated I like the idea of doing some background work and see if we have a town that's  
143 similar to ours in size and maybe just get an idea if they'd be willing to come. Maybe in July.

144 Councilmember Pellegrino stated I recommend that we request and see if the Administrator, and with COVID,  
145 who knows what's going to happen? That could schedule someone for July 20 to come and speak to us.

146 Councilmember Keating stated I have a few of the names that were presented in Colombia in February, get those  
147 to the Town Administrator.

148 Mayor Hellyer stated I think that some studies were done in the past for Surfside. Coastal Carolina came in and  
149 did their branding at one time. I don't know whatever happened to that and also HGTC did something for the  
150 50th anniversary. I don't know what the results of that was, where it went, I don't know if we'd be able to do  
151 that with a student project now that the schools are closed, but it's something that we could look at. I guess we'll  
152 ask the town administrator to do that, and we'll set a date for the meeting at a later date.

153 **C. Pier Reconstruction project budget and evaluation process.** Councilmember Keating stated we've been  
154 working hard with the pier review committee on evaluating where we are and getting some questions together.  
155 We need to be sensitive to the fact that we are using primarily federal funds for this project. And as such, we are  
156 going to be held accountable to specific regulations, audits, et cetera. And many of the Code of Federal  
157 Regulations stipulates different factors in how you come up with determining the most responsive bidder. It's not  
158 always just based on price. You also have to consider what are some of the assumptions that are going into these  
159 quotes. For example, there's one bidder, they're assuming that the town will supply or make available to them all  
160 of our parking lots for their laydown areas. That's a cost to the town. That's lost revenue, so that should be

171 factored into equating the prices. There are other scope differences or how they anticipate handling things. We  
172 need to take our time and really vet out each supplier, understand their risk profile, understand their past  
173 performance, what their historical safety records are, and their quality records. It's not something that is so easy  
174 just to say, well, \$13.4M is less than \$13.7M, especially when they're as close as our three bidders are. There are  
175 so many things in each one of these bids, and in the documents themselves, that we really owe it to the residents  
176 and our taxpayers, not only residents and property owners, but are tourists and so forth, because that's who's  
177 going to be funding this project'. to understand what our budget, our true budget is, how we can bring this  
178 project, and deliver it within that budget, and on time. Right now, I don't know what each of these bidders is  
179 considering for contingency. Do they have a 10% contingency? Do they have zero? I've got about a list of 20 or  
180 25 questions that I would like to have each bidder come in and do a presentation of their bid. Present to us why  
181 they're the best bidder, and ask them, so we can then go back and evaluate each bidder, and normalize each  
182 bidder's scope, their risk, and price, based on critical components in the project. As Mrs. Henion said, this is the  
183 biggest project Surfside has undertaken in quite some time. If we go by the financial evaluation that was done in  
184 2016, or 18, we had approved a \$4 million bond, and it was felt that the town would spend two million on the  
185 buildings. The remaining two million would be held to accommodate cash flow between the time we have to  
186 make the expense and the time we get the reimbursement from FEMA. If we look at, we have nine million from  
187 FEMA, and we have two million want to spend, that's \$11 million. None of these bidders are within \$11 million.  
188 So, we need to be able to understand what is in their numbers, how their assumptions were made, and how that  
189 contributes to their cost components, and what can we do differently that can bring this within our desired  
190 budget.

191  
192 I've been working with Ed on the pier committee and making sure that we understand what's in the bid  
193 documents. We have our list of question, and we have our concerns. Right now, we do not know what the total  
194 cost of this project is going to be. There are certain items in these bid documents that are the responsibility of  
195 the town that are not cheap items. We are going to be responsible for the abatement and removal and disposal  
196 of any hazardous materials, PCBs, asbestos. I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm pretty sure those  
197 buildings have asbestos in them. Do we have a bid for that? Do we know what that's going to cost the town?  
198 What's the extra cost of the All Risk builders' insurance? We've also got a boiler and machinery policy we need to  
199 buy, that's an added cost. Until we have an understanding of what is the total cost to the town of each bidder's  
200 proposal, like I said, one bidder, one wants to take up all of our parking lots for two years. That's a loss of  
201 revenue that has to be factored into the total cost of that particular bid. Being that none of the bidders right now  
202 are within our desired budget, I think we've got homework to do before we rush into a bid award, as Mrs. Henion  
203 said, it's been four years, I don't think another month is going to hurt. We have a lot of criteria that we've set  
204 out on how to normalize the bids. We've got the questions that we would like to ask of each of the bidders so  
205 that we can normalize the bids and understand what our total cost is going to be going forward. And if anybody  
206 would like help with any of those evaluations, we'd be happy to take more volunteers.

207  
208 Councilmember Pellegrino asked the Administrator, from what I understand, only two of the three contractors  
209 have supplied marine construction certification. Do we expect the third vendor to supply this, and are they  
210 disqualified if they don't supply it?

211  
212 Mr. Pieper stated they said they're going to produce it and should by the pre-construction meeting.

213  
214 Councilmember Pellegrino stated realistically; we may only have two bids to decide from, and if we don't get it,  
215 that as an indication to take into consideration.

216  
217 Councilmember Keating stated this is why you have bidder interviews so that you can get out your questions, and  
218 you can get answers, and you can get a complete understanding of what their proposal is. Because right now,  
219 we've got a summary piece of paper that it's nothing but numbers. It doesn't tell us what went into those  
220 numbers. And the fact that we've got breakout prices that are astronomically apart, clearly different assumptions  
221 are being made between the bidders. One bidder has less than \$2 million in buildings and the highest bidder and  
222 they're building prices are \$5 million. Somebody is making some crazy assumptions about something. And we  
223 need to understand where that fits in. Because as we go forward and we try to value engineer the project such  
224 that we can deliver it within budget, and understand we still need to retain some level of contingency because  
225 things happen. You're going to get change notices, and you're going to have delays. We will live through two  
226 hurricane seasons before this is over. You have to anticipate some of those things. And right now, we can't fund

227 that as is. We don't have assurances that we can because we don't know what's in these bids to start with. I  
228 think that's a significant risk to the town, to the taxpayers when you're talking about a \$15 million contract.  
229

230 Councilmember Pellegrino stated, I agree with you, there are many doubts. We have paid half a million dollars to  
231 an engineering and architecture firm that has a lot of these answers. . If you have questions when you  
232 communicate with them, they've already done a lot of research and due diligence.  
233

234 Councilmember Keating stated we paid for it, but that's not what we're getting. We got a recommendation that  
235 told us \$13.4 million is less than \$13. 7 million. They did no evaluation underneath that. I've asked the question,  
236 and I got no answer.  
237

238 Councilmember Pellegrino stated I would have to think that maybe they didn't communicate the answers yet, but  
239 they have the answers to all of your questions.  
240

241 Councilmember Keating stated I'm not willing just to take a letter that says this price is less than that price at  
242 face value and subject this town to the unforeseen and unknowing risk.  
243

244 Councilmember Pellegrino state we're asking you to talk to them face to face instead of going back and forth.  
245

246 Councilmember Keating acknowledge that I've sent an email to both the architects and the engineers to request  
247 that we schedule bidder interviews so they can make presentations, and we can ask questions. I've asked Troy to  
248 give me a time that he can talk.  
249

250 Councilmember Scoles stated the information that we've been provided, not only in the bid packages that each  
251 one of these people bid for, but the additional information that was given to us, I think, it addresses all of that in  
252 there. You've just got to take some time and go through it.  
253

254 Mayor Hellyer stated we had multiple questions in the very beginning when Ms. Keating and Mr. Drake and I  
255 came on about the pier and what was going on. Everybody was saying that the engineers are doing it. The  
256 engineer has its design. So, we waited from December until February for the engineers who finally came out with  
257 their package. We went, and we had a meeting with the architects, and we went out, and the architects showed  
258 us pictures of what they were doing, and they specifically told us that they were making separate bids. They  
259 were making a bid on the pier and a bid on the buildings and that we had the option of building the pier and not  
260 building the buildings. And, that was something that was going to be addressed to us. When I read bids, the  
261 prices of the building, the prices of whatever, they were different things in there. Today a package was delivered  
262 that says they want us to award this bid to this person because we need to get the financing done. We need to  
263 get this moving on, and a letter from the engineers, nobody said anything. What about our option to build the  
264 pier and not the buildings? What about not going into debt to try to get this done? If we look just to build the  
265 pier, we have the money through FEMA to build the pier based on what they're telling us. We haven't vetted all  
266 the options, we haven't had this discussion yet, but now, somebody's asking us to go ahead and push this  
267 through. I'm just not satisfied, and I, by no means think that I'm qualified to vet the people that are building the  
268 pier. That's not my expertise. We had people with expertise to look at it, and we had two people on our pier  
269 committee, Mr. Ed Carey, and also Brian Distefano. Mr. Distefano tells me that when he wanted to get some  
270 information, they wouldn't give it to him, and so he quit. I think the bids need to be looked at carefully before I  
271 put my name or my vote on something that's going to be this much an expense to the town. And the money that  
272 we are going to have to borrow or bond for.  
273

274 Councilmember Holder stated I'm listening to what everybody is saying today, and I know that this is a lot of  
275 money. There's no question about it, but what we need to do is just select one of the two companies that we  
276 have that are marine contractors, give them all the information, and we need to be moving forward on this as  
277 fast as possible. If that means getting with the engineer, we can do that. I don't want to wait 30 days; I want to  
278 do this as quickly as possible.  
279

280 Mayor Hellyer stated that we thought that when we got the bid, that it was going to be 30 days, and that was  
281 two weeks ago. Mayor Hellyer asked the Administrator when we requested from you before to check on our  
282 FEMA funds, you told us that FEMA funds were still available until 2022. Mr. Pieper stated yes, but you need to  
283 start the project. You have 60 days to award the bid.

284  
285 Councilmember Pellegrino stated \$14 million is the edge of the money that we had allotted for this. I said all  
286 along; I didn't want to spend more than \$12 million. After all, I thought we would only need two million for the  
287 buildings. Now after we do award a bid, we can negotiate and go through these things because there are still  
288 some findings. I'm fine with your recommendation to have each of the contractors present; We need to do that  
289 sooner than later. We don't need to wait weeks to do that. We should do this by the end of the week. I think we  
290 need to give the administrator directive to try to set that up quickly and see what he can do.

291  
292 Councilmember Scoles asked what do you think these contractors are going to bring that we haven't already been  
293 provided. What information are you looking for that we don't have already?

294  
295 Councilmember Keating stated we have a summary of the price, and we don't have a summary of their  
296 assumptions, their schedule commitments, thei are conflicts.

297  
298 Councilmember Scoles, how do you mean, conflicts?

299  
300 Councilmember Keating stated other contracts they may be working on. How available are they to start this  
301 project and be dedicated to it? How much of it is going to be self-performed versus subcontracted?

302  
303 Councilmember Scoles stated, I think, that was in those bids as I read them. They said if they were going to  
304 contract, and who, they were going to contract, all that's in there.

305  
306 Councilmember Keating clarified they told us who their subcontracts are for three components, they didn't tell us,  
307 what their other scheduling commitments may be.

308  
309 Councilmember Scoles stated that scheduling commitment, I am not understanding what you're, meaning by  
310 scheduling commitments.

311  
312 Councilmember Keating clarified they say they're not sitting back twiddling their thumbs, waiting for us to say,  
313 please build our pier. They do have other work. I'm sure they have other scheduling commitments that they that  
314 we need to understand. We need to know how that has a potential impact on our project? When are they going  
315 to be ready to start? What are the other risk components to the project? What are their assumptions behind their  
316 prices? Did they assume that it's going to take X amount of time or two X amount of time to do something? Is it  
317 going to take 60 people? Is it going to take 40 people? When, in reality, it takes 120 people. We need to  
318 understand what is behind the bid, how they built their scope to come up with their price, and what their  
319 assumptions were. How many people they have, those people cost money.

320  
321 Councilmember Scoles stated we're going to award on based what they presented us, so if it costs more than  
322 that's on him. He should have thought about that when he bid the job, Right?

323  
324 Councilmember Keating stated this is why it end up costing more. Again, what was his assumption for  
325 contingencies? I don't know that any of these bidders have any contingencies here, and if they don't, that's  
326 something we're going to need to set aside on ours when we do our bonding. There's not a project of this caliber  
327 out there that doesn't have 10 to 20% contingency in it. If these are rock bottom numbers of these contractors,  
328 then that \$13 million becomes \$16 million, really quickly.

329  
330 Councilmember Pellegrino Yes, I agree with you on that. But the contingencies are not our responsibility, that can  
331 be according to your contract with them. If they didn't put a 10 or 20% contingency in here, they probably  
332 shouldn't be quoting jobs because there are always unknowns. But regardless, again, I'm sure we all have a  
333 better understanding if they presented it, but that's something we should push to do this week. I think I'm sure if  
334 they want the job they're going to trip over themselves to get here to presented to us. So, that's something we  
335 should do quickly.

336  
337 Mayor Hellyer stated I think that we need to have a meeting with each one individually and ask the same  
338 questions.

340 Councilmember Scoles stated I don't think it's necessary to meet with them. What I was going to propose tonight  
341 is that on Friday at nine o'clock, we come in here and award this bid to someone so we can start moving forward.  
342 Because if you read through all of this and read what they gave you, it's there.  
343

344 Councilmember Keating stated the packet I received today only has one bidder, where's the other two?  
345

346 Councilmember Scoles stated It's all in their bid packages. And if you start looking at it and comparing apples to  
347 apples, you'll see what the differences are.  
348

349 Councilmember Keating stated the package that showed up today was for one bidder, that you've decided among  
350 yourselves, whomever you are, because I'm not part of you, you've decided who the bidder is going to be.  
351

352 Councilmember Scoles stated I have not decided anything I've decided to contract on Friday. In my mind, I think  
353 I know which one I would like to go with. I know I don't want someone that will not provide a Marine  
354 Certification and has been asked for it twice and still will not provide it. The town does not need to do business  
355 with someone like that, and FEMA is not going to allow that. So, in my mind, we have two viable vendors here.  
356

357 Councilmember Keating asked, what's their safety history? Councilmember Scoles stated why should I be  
358 concerned with their safety history for their employees?  
359

360 Mayor Hellyer asked about the engineers putting in the bid to have the building separate from the other,  
361 whatever happened to that. How come we never got a choice on that?  
362

363 Mr. Pieper stated the numbers that I was provided, breakout numbers, were merely for us to be able to track for  
364 accounting purposes for FEMA. This project proceeds you, me, and everybody up there, other than a few of you.  
365 Those are valid questions. I've gone over all the information, including the bond and everything else.  
366

367 Mayor Hellyer stated I don't have the qualifications to run this, but I do need to depend on people that can.  
368

369 Councilmember Pellegrino stated one other comment about the buildings. I was on Council when this started, we  
370 had long discussions about the buildings, but we want to build the buildings because even if we have to spend  
371 more on the buildings, they will be paid off in 6 to 8 years and then we make money after that. That's a  
372 significant revenue-generating in a town with no revenue growth, over many, many years. That's a big  
373 opportunity, and the funds go into an Enterprise Fund even though we are limited on what we can do with it, but  
374 it can pay for self-insuring the pier, and can pay for all kinds of different things; that is something to consider. I  
375 say we start by getting the engineer and the architect here, asking them the questions, and I would have to think  
376 that, after working on this, for all these years, the engineers and architects can answer all of our questions.  
377

378 Mayor Hellyer stated the Town Administrator is going to get the engineers together, and we're going to have a  
379 meeting, and we're going to discuss this.  
380

381 **D. COVID 19 discussion** Mayor Hellyer stated if anybody read my Mayoral Update today, two things were in  
382 there. The COVID numbers are rising, and there are different ways that people could talk about why they're  
383 rising. It's because we're doing a lot more testing. There was also something in there that says that Murrell's  
384 Inlet, Waccamaw hospital did a drive-thru testing at the Inlet Mall on Friday, and now they got to a bunch of  
385 people in the hospital over there. This is something they didn't anticipate. Here, again, I'm not a person that's  
386 qualified to say that we should do this, or we should do that. I know that you know, there are a lot of people that  
387 buck over restrictions, but we have a dedication to take care of our residents and their public health and safety.  
388 So the question is, what do we do? We are still in a state of emergency for another 30 days, and do we need to  
389 take further precautions right now? I have talked to the Town Administrator. He sent something out before telling  
390 me that Conway opened up on June 1 by appointment only. In the first week, eight of their employees tested  
391 positive. We haven't had any employees that I know of based on our daily activities that have come up positive.  
392 So, what do we do to protect our employees? We closed our town hall. The biggest complaint that we had for  
393 closing, our town hall, was that people couldn't get their parking stickers. We've been open for a month, and  
394 everybody has gotten parking stickers. All the time that our town hall was closed, that our permit was closed, and  
395 that our public works office was closed, we still provided all the services to the town. My question and the reason  
396 that I'm having this discussion tonight is just to ask you is there anything that we need to do to take precautions.

397 I'm not out asking to mandate anything like everybody wears a mask. Everybody knows that everyone can wear  
398 a mask and everyone knows that they should wear a mask if they feel compromised. And if you go someplace  
399 where people aren't wearing a mask, and you wear a mask, you probably shouldn't go there. I'm not going to  
400 preach on that. I'm going to say, what do we need to do as a town to change, if anything, to move forward.  
401

402 Councilmember Keating stated I think by now we all have probably been exposed at one time or another. We all  
403 need to take accountability. I'm like you said, and I don't know that we have had any impact on town operations  
404 from Town hall's perspective. We do have the Plexiglas shields up now and so forth. So. I would leave that to the  
405 employees of the town hall how they feel about it?  
406

407 Councilmember Scoles stated Yes, I think we need to protect our Town employees. I would like to see us close  
408 Town hall again, appointment only, and handle the business licenses, if we have any the same way. To be honest  
409 with you, I am even uncomfortable meeting in here, who comes in here and sanitize after we leave here? Wwho  
410 else is in that building before we come back in here again? I take it very seriously, and this is the only place I  
411 have come into without a mask on, the only place. I'm not willing to jeopardize my family's health. I have a  
412 daughter that's about ready to go under the knife for another reason. And I've got to keep my immune system  
413 up, and she is staying with me, and I'm taking care of her. So this was going to be my last night coming in here.  
414 I was going to teleconference from now on, and I think we owe that to our town employees.  
415

416 Mayor Hellyer Stated that everybody still has the ability to teleconference. Instead of closing down Town Hall, do  
417 we do by appointment only?  
418

419 Mr. Pieper stated we certainly could do that. We have issued all the parking stickers, and business licenses have  
420 gone out. Mr. Pieper stated I do have staff that has folks in their families that have tested positive, and they have  
421 had to be out. We are cleaning and sanitizing every day. It's a lot of work. After this meeting, this room will be  
422 sanitized again.  
423

424 Mayor Hellyer stated there's a new program; the governor talked about it today. Palmetto Priority Program where  
425 the all the restauranteurs have gotten together. And there's also the Welcome Back Horry County, and the Grand  
426 Strand Is Now Open, where it's asking residents and also, businesses to take a pledge. If you took the pledge,  
427 which says, those restaurants will sanitize after everything, they'll social distance and tables are spaced, that they  
428 get a sticker to put on their door. People know that if they're going out someplace to eat, this establishment has  
429 taken the pledge and their logo will be there. I believe River City has taken it, and if you're going to look for  
430 someplace, you can go to River City and be assured that they're practicing this. That's something that we can do,  
431 that's something that everybody can do. I'm not asking to make any overall things and lock it down or be  
432 restrictive, but I think that we do have a mission to protect our residents and our employees.  
433

434 Mr. Pieper stated the most significant challenge for us, is that we have an extremely small staff. Should one of us  
435 get this, it could wipe out any one of our departments.  
436

437 Councilmember Pellegrino stated that he would support the Administrators decision.  
438

## 439 8. BUSINESS

440 A. **SECOND READING – ORDINANCE # 20- 0223 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE**  
441 **BEACH TO ADOPT THE 2020-21 FISCAL YEAR MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND TO SET THE TAX MILLAGE**  
442 **FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021,** Director King – Councilmember Keating made a motion to  
443 approve the second reading of Ordinance 20-0223 for 2020 to 2021 fiscal budget. Councilmember Holder  
444 seconded.  
445

446 Director King stated, as you all know, this is a bare-bones budget, and I will remind you all again that there is  
447 nothing in this budgeted for the pier. The only thing budgeted here is \$100,000 for consultants, just as a  
448 placeholder, and the \$400,000 right off of the asset we have now. So whatever we do, there's going to be a  
449 budget amendment to build the pier.  
450

451 Councilmember Keating asked we have nothing about the bonding cost, or the effort to obtain the \$4 million  
452 bond is in this current budget?  
453



454 Director King stated, yes. There isn't anything in here. We will have to do all that. This bare-bones budget still  
455 leaves the tax millage at 43 mils plus there's still the storm water fees. We had our public hearing, we had a  
456 budget workshop, and I hope that things come in much better than we have budgeted. I was very conservative,  
457 as you all know. No tax increase.  
458

459 Mayor Hellyer being conservative, is going to protect us. We could have another surge. We could have another  
460 thing that businesses could be shut down.  
461

462 Director King stated, When I did this, we didn't think we would even open until September, so then things got  
463 better. And when things changed, I did not go back and make changes, and I left it that way. This was a starting  
464 place. No tax increases is the excellent news, but there still is the storm water fee. All voted in favor. **Motion**  
465 **Carried.**  
466

467 **B. SECOND READING - ORDINANCE 20-0220 THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF LAND LISTED AS 10'**  
468 **ALLEY SITUATED BETWEEN PIN # 461-03-01-0042 AND PIN # 461-03-01-0043.** Councilmember  
469 Keating made a motion to accept the second reading for Ordinance 20-0220 for the sale of the 10-foot alleyway  
470 right away between the two listed pin numbers. Councilmember Holder seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion**  
471 **Carried.**  
472

473 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Town Services or Business Conducted**

474 1. Mayor Hellyer read a comment via email from Mike and Carol Holt, 220 North Yaupon. Dear Mayor Hellyer,  
475 please ask Mr. Adair to give an update on the lift station on North Dogwood at 4th Ave. His report attached to  
476 the agenda does not include any updates. When will the project be completed, and what was the outcome of the  
477 meeting regarding the fence around the lift addition? Thank you.  
478

479 Mayor Hellyer stated just in case anybody wants to know; there was an issue before about where that pump  
480 station is, that you couldn't back out of the parking lot because a brick wall was in the way. Grand Strand Water  
481 is getting bids on it, and they're going to get it done, but it's going to take a couple of months to get it resolved.  
482

483 **10. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND/OR COMMENTS**

484 **A. Councilmember Holder** – I'd like to thank everyone for coming out. The agenda was very fast and nice to  
485 be done in an hour. I do think the pier is very vital and that we move forward and get the work done. I would  
486 like to see that done as soon as possible. I am concerned about the Corona virus. I don't like seeing the  
487 numbers go up. But also, it's amazing how much testing has been done. I believe a lot of the testing comes from  
488 people who had it in the past and have shown up now. When they had testing down at Murrell's Inlet, they  
489 planned on testing 1500 people. Within an hour, they had already passed more than that. Weren't doing so much  
490 testing, that's making a difference in the way the numbers look now. We didn't do these test before, so we don't  
491 know what the numbers were. I Hope everybody will take all the precautions, because I do want to see us keep  
492 moving forward. I think it's nice to ride down on Ocean Boulevard and see the houses are full. And we need that.  
493 I know we're going to miss some of the hospitality tax from some of our restaurants, not being able to serve their  
494 full capacity, but that I think we're moving as best as we can right now. So thank you all for coming tonight.  
495

496 **B. Councilmember Keating** – Likewise, I'd like to thank everybody for being here, and also all of those that  
497 called in on the line. Again, we all know the significance of the Pier project, and you've heard my opinions, that  
498 there is no reason to rush a decision. We don't want just to let it fester and not address, but we have to do our  
499 due diligence. We owe it to FEMA, we owe it to all of our taxpayers. So I'm going to do everything I can, and I  
500 appreciate all the time and the energy and the input that Mr. Carey has been dedicating to our cause as well. It's  
501 been invaluable in evaluating the reams and reams of paper and the different positions that the bidders have  
502 taken in response. I do want to thank Ed for being here and for supporting the town in this project. It's a very  
503 significant effort, so I appreciate that. Other than that, we will still be looking at improving communications. It's  
504 not that that's going away, either. We are just going to take a little bit of a breath and have little extra time to  
505 prepare in, figure out where we want to lead that project to be, so stay tuned for more on that. Also, as always,  
506 I thank everyone on Facebook and from the private messages, text messages and phone calls I get for their kind  
507 words and their appreciation for the information about the business of the town and where we're headed. so I  
508 appreciate that as well. So, with that, thank you very much, Stay Safe, stay healthy, and we'll see you back in a  
509 couple of weeks.  
510

511 **C. Councilmember Pellegrino** – Thanks for coming and thanks for listening for the ones online. Again, we had  
512 an employee service awards today. I always enjoy those because we, for what we pay in taxes, which the  
513 average taxpayers somewhere between \$400 and \$500 a year, we get excellent services, and they're managed  
514 professionally, and our staff is second to none. If you look at what we get for that \$500 a year, it's quite  
515 impressive. I appreciate that. Our leadership is key to that. We have an administrator, and we have good  
516 directors, and they train their people well, and everyone knows their job. They supply excellent service. That's  
517 why it is a great community to live in. Thank you. Have a good night.  
518

519 **D. Councilmember Scoles** – I'd like to thank everyone that came, and also the ones that call in. I would like  
520 to say a special thanks to all of our employees. I appreciate everything that you do, and that's why I want to  
521 keep you safe. We need to keep you here. I hope that everyone in town will stay safe. I know we have a lot of  
522 tourists and visitors here that are not taking it as seriously as most of our town employees. I've gotten a lot of  
523 complaints from some of the restaurants not practicing the table distancing to their staff, not wearing masks,  
524 when they're serving, and everything else. I'll look forward to being able to award this bid to one of these people  
525 because I think we need to move forward. I get constant emails from residents wanting to know when we're  
526 going to move forward and why there's so much opposition against it. I am hearing people don't even want the  
527 peer anymore, it's such an asset to the town. So, I agree with them. It is an asset. I enjoy it, my family enjoys it,  
528 and our tourists enjoy it. So, I think we need to move forward cautiously. I'm not saying that we need to do it  
529 haphazardly. I've read all of this numerous times. I've done my homework on it. And I think we're pretty close to  
530 making a decision on someone to be able to award this bid to. Everyone, please stay safe and take care of  
531 yourselves. Thank you.  
532

533 **E. Mayor Hellyer** - First thing I want to tell everybody that make sure that you're at the beach sweep this  
534 weekend on Saturday, Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful is putting on a beach sweep, and it's from 9 o'clock to 10  
535 o'clock at the pier parking lot. They're going to be having a raffle for Hyena Pizza gift cards. So, if everybody  
536 wants to do that, that's your way as a resident of doing it. I'm pleased that we have 37 people that are calling,  
537 then the people that don't like coming to the meetings, they can still sit at home and listen to what's going on,  
538 and I'm all about having the residents involved. In my Mayoral updates that I put out every day, I ask everybody  
539 to email me if they have any questions. I want everybody to email me. If you have any questions, I try to get  
540 back to everybody. I've had a whole lot of complaints about cigarettes on the beach and dog waste on the beach.  
541 I've considered that, and as far as dogs on the beach, we're going to review that. There's a sundown clause that  
542 allows us to review that in September. If you'd like the dogs on the beach, let me know, if you don't like the dogs  
543 on the beach, let me know. We're going to consider all that in September. The last thing I'll say is Michael Drake  
544 is not here tonight because he's having medical issues. His family wants it to be private right now. Hopefully, he  
545 will be back, and I hear that he's dialed up and listening to the meeting tonight, so let's wish him well and hope  
546 that he's back soon, and I thank you all for coming out and have a good evening.  
547  
548

549 **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

550  
551 **12. ADJOURNMENT** Councilmember Keating made a motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm. Councilmember Holder  
552 seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**  
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554  
555

## 556 **Surfside Beach Town Council**

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Robert Hellyer, Mayor

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David L. Pellegrino

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Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

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564 \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Keating, Town Council

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Michael Drake, Town Council

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Debbie Scoles, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Paul Holder, Town Council

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